

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) Division of Public Health (DPH)	INVITATION FOR BIDS NO. 30-270072-DPH Offers will be publicly opened: October 8, 2026 Promptly at 02:00 PM ET Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/244384422336322?p=DrmxNyLDTtRBqGNpfi Meeting ID: 244 384 422 336 322 Passcode: h8T2YJ2c
	Need help? System reference Dial in by phone +1 984-204-1487,,834432736# United States, Raleigh Find a local number Phone conference ID: 834 432 736# Join on a video conferencing device Tenant key: ncgov@m.webex.com Video ID: 119 064 473 4 More info For organizers: Meeting options Reset dial-in PIN
	Issue Date: September 29, 2026 Rev. October 5, 2026
	Commodity Number: 811620 Description: Smartsheet Business Plan Plus Premium Support Using Agency: Division of Public Health
Refer <u>ALL</u> inquiries regarding this IFB to: Angela Childress Angela.Childress@dhhs.nc.gov	Requisition No.: RQ294559
See page 4 for offer submittal instructions.	

OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE

The State seeks offers for the software and software support described in this solicitation. The State's acceptance of any offer must be demonstrated by execution of the acceptance found below and any subsequent Request for Best and Final Offer, if issued. Acceptance shall create a contract having an order of precedence as follows: In cases of conflict between documents comprising the contract, the order of precedence shall be (1) Best and Final Offers, if any, (2) special terms and conditions specific to this solicitation, (3) specifications, (4) Department of Information Technology Terms and Conditions of this solicitation, and (5) the agreed portions of the awarded Vendor's offer. **No contract shall be binding on the State until an encumbrance of funds has been made for payment of the sums due under the contract.**

EXECUTION

In compliance with this solicitation and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned offers and agrees to furnish any or all Services or goods upon which prices are offered, at the price(s) offered herein, within the time specified herein. By executing this offer, I certify that this offer is submitted competitively and without collusion.

Failure to execute/sign offer prior to submittal shall render offer invalid. Late offers are not acceptable.

OFFEROR:		
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
CITY, STATE & ZIP:	PHONE:	
NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING:	E-MAIL:	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:	

Offer valid for sixty (60) days from date of offer opening unless otherwise stated here: ____ days

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER

If any or all parts of this solicitation are accepted, an authorized representative of Department of Health and Human Services shall affix their signature hereto. A copy of this acceptance will be forwarded to the successful vendor(s).

FOR STATE USE ONLY

Offer accepted and contract awarded _____, as indicated on attached certification,
by _____ (Authorized representative of DHHS).

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1.0 INTENT, USE, DURATION AND SCOPE

The purpose of this Invitation for Bid (IFB) is to obtain pricing for and procure Smartsheet Business Plan Plus Control Center and Dynamic View Applications Premium Support for the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health (DPH). Products and Services will be provided in accordance to the terms and conditions of this IFB.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 VENDOR QUESTIONS

All inquiries regarding the solicitation specifications or requirements must be addressed to the contact person listed on Page One of this solicitation via the Ariba Sourcing Tool's message board. **Vendor contact regarding this Solicitation with anyone other than the contact person listed on Page One of this Solicitation may be grounds for rejection of said Vendor's offer.**

Written questions concerning this Solicitation will be received until **October 5, 2026 at 02:00 pm Eastern Time**. They must be submitted to the contact person listed on Page One of this Solicitation via angela.childress@dhhs.nc.gov. Please enter "Questions Solicitation XXXX" as the subject for the message. Questions should be submitted in the following format:

REFERENCE	VENDOR QUESTION
Solicitation Section, Page Number	

2.2 ADDENDUM TO SOLICITATION

The Agency will issue an Addendum to provide a response to all questions received in accordance with Section **2.1-VENDOR QUESTIONS**, above.

The Agency may issue additional Addenda as needed to modify the specifications, requirements, terms and conditions, etc. **Critical information may be included in these Addenda.** It is important for Vendors to periodically check the website for any and all Addenda that may be issued prior to the bid opening date.

All Addenda will be posted on the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP) website at <https://evp.nc.gov> and will become Addenda to this solicitation.

2.3 ELECTRONIC OFFER SUBMITTAL

Due Date: **Thursday, October 8, 2026**
Time: **BEFORE 02:00 PM Eastern Time**

Sealed offers, subject to the conditions made a part hereof, will be received by the time and date specified above and then opened for furnishing and delivering the commodity as described herein. It is the Vendor's sole responsibility to submit its offer by the specified time and date of opening.

The Vendor shall bear the risk for late electronic submission due to unintended or unanticipated delay including, but not limited to, internet issues, network issues, local power outages, or application issues. No offers are able to be uploaded in Ariba after the deadline/bid opening date and time.

- a) Submit **one (1) signed, original electronic offer via the Ariba Sourcing Module**. The Vendor to **include the Execution Page 1 WITH the remaining pages of the solicitation in one PDF**. The Execution Page 1 must be signed and dated by an official authorized to bind the Vendor's firm. Failure to return a signed offer shall result in disqualification.

- b) File names should identify the Vendor, solicitation, and document in that order (Vendor Name – Solicitation Number – Offer, etc.).
- c) Files must not be password protected. They must be in .PDF, .DOC or .XLS format and capable of being copied to other sources. The Vendor's offer may be deemed non-responsive if the Agency is unable to open the file(s).
- d) If the offer contains any confidential information (as defined in the NCDIT Terms and Conditions, "**CONFIDENTIALITY**" Section), the Vendor must provide one (1) redacted electronic copy in addition to the original copy.

Tips for Using the Sourcing Tool

- 1. Vendors should review available training and confirm that they are able to access the Sourcing Event, enter responses, and upload files well in advance of the date and time response are due to allow sufficient time to seek assistance from the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk.
- 2. Vendors may submit their responses early to make sure there are no issues and then submit a revised response any time prior to the response due date and time. The State will only review the most recent response.
- 3. Vendors should respond to all relevant sections of the Sourcing Event. Certain questions or items are required in order to submit a response and are denoted with an asterisk. The Sourcing Tool will not allow a response to be submitted unless all required items are completed. The Sourcing Tool will provide error messages to help identify any required information that is missing when response is submitted.
- 4. Simply saving your response in the Sourcing Tool is not the same as submitting your response to the State. Vendors should make sure they complete the submission process and receive a message that their response was successfully submitted.
- 5. Only Bids submitted through the Content Section of the Ariba Sourcing Event will be considered. Bids submitted through the Message Board will not be accepted or considered for award.

Questions or issues related to using the Ariba Sourcing Tool itself can be directed at the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk at 888-211-7440, Option 2. Help Desk representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM EST to 5:00 PM EST.

2.4 BASIS FOR REJECTION

Pursuant to 9 NCAC 06B.0401, the State reserves the right to reject any and all offers, in whole or in part; by deeming the offer unsatisfactory as to quality or quantity, delivery, price or service offered; non-compliance with the specifications or intent of this solicitation; lack of competitiveness; error(s) in specifications or indications that revision would be advantageous to the State; cancellation or other changes in the intended project, or other determination that the proposed requirement is no longer needed; limitation or lack of available funds; circumstances that prevent determination of the best offer; or any other determination that rejection would be in the best interest of the State. Vendor contact regarding this IFB with anyone other than **Angela Childress** may be grounds for rejection of said Vendor's offer.

2.5 LATE OFFERS

Regardless of cause, late offers will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be the Vendor's sole risk to ensure delivery in the designated manner by the designated time. Late offers will not be opened.

2.6 NON-RESPONSIVE OFFERS

Vendor offers will be deemed non-responsive by the State and will be rejected without further consideration or evaluation if statements such as the following are included:

- “This offer does not constitute a binding offer”,
- “This offer will be valid only if this offer is selected as a finalist or in the competitive range”,
- “Vendor does not commit or bind itself to any terms and conditions by this submission”,
- “This document and all associated documents are non-binding and shall be used for discussion purposes only”,
- “This offer will not be binding on either party until incorporated in a definitive agreement signed by authorized representatives of both parties”, or
- A statement of similar intent.

2.7 NOTICE TO VENDOR(S)

The State objects to and will not be required to evaluate or consider any additional terms and conditions not previously agreed to by the State and submitted with an Offeror’s response. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the Offeror’s response. By execution and delivery of this IFB and response(s), the Offeror agrees that any additional terms and conditions, whether submitted purposely or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect.

2.8 E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The State utilizes the NC eProcurement (NCEP) system to process requisitions and issue purchase orders. See <http://eprocurement.nc.gov/> and General Terms and Conditions, Electronic Procurement for more information.

- a) It is the Vendor’s responsibility to read these provisions carefully and to consider them in preparing the response. By signature, the Vendor acknowledges acceptance of all provisions related to NCEP.
- b) The transaction fee addressed in General Terms and Condition, Electronic Payment (currently at 1.75%) applies to the purchase of goods only. It does not apply to Vendor Hosted Solutions, IaaS, PaaS, SaaS, software maintenance/support services, or any other type of services.
- c) If not already registered in NCEP, the Vendor must register within two (2) days after notification of contract award.
- d) The Vendor must be current on all NCEP fees prior to submitting a response. Otherwise, the State may disqualify the Vendor from participating in this solicitation.

2.9 DISTRIBUTORS AND RESELLERS

“Resellers” as used herein, refers to businesses that routinely sell or distribute Vendor’s Products, and may include “Distributors”, “Value Added Resellers” (VARs), “Original Equipment Manufacturers” (OEMs), Channel Partners, or such other designations. These businesses must be approved by the State prior to placement of any orders. Any contract established will be subject to this solicitation and any resulting Agreement(s), and to the terms and conditions of the State’s competitive bidding process.

The Agency acknowledges that the Reseller has merely purchased the Third-Party Items for resale or license to the Agency, and that the proprietary and intellectual property rights to the Third-Party Items are owned by parties other than the Reseller (“Third Parties”). The Agency further acknowledges that except for the payment to the Reseller for the Third-Party Items, all of its rights and obligations with respect thereto flow from and to the Third Parties. The Reseller shall provide

the Agency with copies of all documentation and warranties for the Third-Party Items which are provided to the Reseller. The Reseller shall assign all applicable third-party warranties for Deliverables to the Agency.

Is the Vendor an authorized reseller for the SMARTSHEET products as listed in Section 4.0 Furnish and Deliver? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, the State may request an authorized reseller letter. If requested, the Vendor must provide a copy of the authorized reseller letter from the OEM within seven (7) calendar days of request. Failure to provide the authorized reseller letter within the stated timeframe may result in rejection of the bid, at the discretion of the State. Bids from Vendors that are not authorized to resell the products or services in this IFB may be rejected at the discretion of the State.

2.10 POSSESSION AND REVIEW

During the evaluation period and prior to award, possession of the bids and accompanying information is limited to personnel of the issuing agency, and to the committee responsible for participating in the evaluation. Vendors who attempt to gain this privileged information, or to influence the evaluation process (i.e. assist in evaluation) will be in violation of purchasing rules and their offer will not be further evaluated or considered.

After award of contract the complete bid file will be available to any interested persons with the exception of trade secrets, test information or similar proprietary information as provided by statute and rule. Any proprietary or confidential information which conforms to exclusions from public records as provided by N.C.G.S. §132-1.2 **must be clearly marked as such in the offer when submitted.**

2.11 BEST AND FINAL OFFERS (BAFO)

The State may establish a competitive range based upon evaluations of offers, and request BAFOs from the Vendor(s) within this range, e.g. "Finalist Vendor(s)". If negotiations or subsequent offers are solicited, the Vendor(s) shall provide BAFO(s) in response. Failure to deliver a BAFO when requested shall disqualify the non-responsive Vendor from further consideration. The State will evaluate BAFO(s), oral presentations, and product demonstrations as part of the Vendors' respective offers to determine the final rankings.

2.12 AWARD

It is the general intent to award this contract to one (1) Vendor. As provided by statute, award will be based on Best Value Analysis, Lowest Price Technically Acceptable Source Selection Method in accordance with 09 NCAC 06B. 0302 Information Technology Procurement.

2.13 POINTS OF CONTACT

Contact by the Offeror with the persons shown below for contractual and technical matters related to this RFQ is only permitted if expressly agreed to by the purchasing lead named on page 5, or upon award of contract:

For Vendor completion:

Vendor Contractual Point of Contact	Vendor Technical Point of Contact
Name of Vendor:	Name of Vendor:
Street:	Street:
City, State, Zip:	City, State, Zip:
Email:	Email:

State Contractual Point of Contact	State Technical Point of Contact
Name of State Agency:	Name of State Agency:
Street:	Street:
City, State, Zip:	City, State, Zip:
Email:	Email:

3.0 SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 VENDOR STANDARD AGREEMENT(S)

The terms and conditions of Vendor's standard license, maintenance or other agreement(s) applicable to Software and other Products acquired under this Agreement may apply to the extent such terms and conditions do not materially change the terms and conditions of this Agreement. In the event of any conflict between the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the Vendor's standard agreement(s), the terms and conditions of this Agreement relating to audit and records, jurisdiction, choice of law, the State's electronic procurement application of law or administrative rules, the remedy for intellectual property infringement and the exclusive remedies and limitation of liability in the Terms and Conditions herein shall apply in all cases and supersede any provisions contained in Vendor's relevant standard agreement or any other agreement. The State shall not be obligated under any standard license and/or maintenance or other Vendor agreement(s) to indemnify or hold harmless the Vendor, its licensors, successors or assigns; nor arbitrate any dispute, nor pay late fees, legal fees or other similar costs.

3.2 VENDOR UTILIZATION OF WORKERS OUTSIDE U.S. – DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the Statewide Information Security Manual (SISM), the State restricts the location of information systems that receive, process, store, or transmit State and Federal data to the United States which includes the following areas: US States, US Territories, US Embassies, and US Military installations (stateside or overseas). This restriction applies to the Vendor and to any subcontractors engaged to provide Services under this Agreement or with access to State Data. The Vendor must ensure that its subcontractor agreements contain the same restrictions and will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing subcontractor compliance at all times.

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143B-1361(b), the Vendor must complete and return this Disclosure Statement herein with its solicitation response. The Vendor may attach additional pages to its response if needed. The State of North Carolina will evaluate Disclosure Statement Information for additional risks, costs, and other factors associated with its service prior to making an award for any such Vendor's offer. The Vendor must provide the following information in its bid response:

Vendor to complete a.-e. in their offer:

- a. **The location of work performed under a state contract by the Vendor, any subcontractors, employees, or other persons performing the contract and whether any of this work will be performed outside the United States.**

Vendor to enter text here to answer this disclosure question:

- b. The corporate structure and location of corporate employees and activities of the Vendor, its affiliates or any other subcontractors.

Vendor to enter text here to answer this disclosure question:

- c. Vendor agrees to provide notice of the relocation of the Vendor, employees of the Vendor, subcontractors of the Vendor, or other persons performing Services under a state contract outside of the United States in the event such relocation occurs during the contract term.

Does Vendor agree to provide notice as defined above? ☐ YES ☐ NO

- d. Vendor agrees that any Vendor or subcontractor providing call or contact center Services to the State of North Carolina shall disclose to inbound callers the location from which the call or contact center Services are being provided.

Does Vendor agree to provide disclosure as defined above? ☐ YES ☐ NO

- e. Will any work under this contract be performed outside the United States? ☐ YES ☒ NO

The use of resources or workers located outside the United States is a critical security exception that must be escalated to the State Chief Information Officer for review pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143B-1376(c) and §143B-1320(c). These critical security exceptions are approved only in rare and extenuating circumstances. Vendor should account for this when preparing its response.

3.3 E-VERIFY

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143B-1350(k), the State shall not enter into a contract unless the awarded Vendor and each of its subcontractors comply with the E-Verify requirements of N.C.G.S. Chapter 64, Article 2. Vendors are directed to review the foregoing laws. Any awarded Vendor must submit a certification of compliance with E-Verify to the awarding agency, and on a periodic basis thereafter as may be required by the State.

3.4 BRAND SPECIFIC PRODUCT

Manufacturer(s) name and product descriptions used in this solicitation are product specific. The items offered in response to this solicitation must be the manufacturer and type specified. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in rejection of offer.

3.5 SECURITY SPECIFICATIONS

3.5.1 SOLUTIONS NOT HOSTED ON STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Agency (named on page one (1)) has designated this solicitation to receive and securely manage data that is classified as:

Agency has selected:

☒ **Restricted** - Restricted data represents the highest risk to the State, State Agencies, and constituents if it is disclosed or compromised. This information is likely to be regulated by State or Federal law, and access to it is restricted to a limited audience (e.g., State and Federal Tax

Information [FTI], Payment Card data, Protected Health Information [PHI], Criminal Justice Information [CJI], Social Security Administration provided information, etc.)

- ☐ **Confidential** - Includes information that is limited to a small audience with a need-to-know or legitimate business case (e.g., State employee personnel records, trade secrets, student records, sensitive public security information, etc.). If exposed to unauthorized parties, data from this category will cause high impact consequences such as regulatory fines, inability to recruit talent, loss of confidence, and/or damage to vendor relationships. This is not a complete list and is subject to legislative changes.
- ☐ **Internal** - This is information typically used within the agency and not for public sharing. Most documents are classified as Internal within the organization, and most State employees would have access. This type of data, if exposed to unauthorized parties, would have a very limited impact on an agency's reputation, compliance requirements or ability to achieve strategic goals. Internally classified data does not contain direct identifiers. Often, the effects of the loss of data can be recognized in very subtle ways and may not lead to clear negative consequences causing confusion due to lack of context or minor reputational harm.
- ☐ **Public** - Data that is open to public inspection according to state and federal law, or readily available through public sources.

Refer to the North Carolina Statewide Data Classification and Handling policy for more information regarding data classification. The policy is located at the following website: <https://it.nc.gov/document/statewide-data-classification-and-handling-policy>.

To comply with the State's Security Standards and Policies, State agencies are required to perform annual security/risk assessments on their information systems using NIST 800-53 controls.

This requirement additionally applies to all Vendor-provided, agency-managed Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), and Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions which will handle data classified as Internal, Confidential, or Restricted.

- (a) To comply with the State's Security Standards and Policies, cloud products are required to comply with applicable FedRAMP or GovRAMP security requirements, including but not limited to, continuous monitoring, incident response, and data classification as outlined in GovRAMP documentation.
- (b) To streamline and standardize this requirement the State has adopted GovRAMP which is a Risk and Authorization Management Program that provides a standardized approach to security assessment, authorization, and continuous monitoring for cloud products and services. GovRAMP's security verification model is based on NIST 800-53 Rev. 5 (or current).
- (c) The required GovRAMP verified status will depend on the sensitivity of the data and processes supported by the solution as defined in the Statewide Data Classification and Handling Policy.
- (d) For purposes of this solicitation, in accordance with the North Carolina Department of Information Technology Statewide Information Security Manual, a GovRAMP verified status of **Authorized** is required. At offer submission, if the protected system does not currently hold a validated GovRAMP status, the Vendor will be required to provide their GovRAMP Security Snapshot Score and upon request, the complete Snapshot Matrix. If awarded the contract, Vendor shall have an interim period from the effective date of the contract to achieve the verified GovRAMP status outlined above. The interim time periods for each data classification that requires a verified status are further described below. The Vendor shall provision access to the State to their continuous monitoring packages at a [standard] or [elevated] access level within fourteen (14) days of contract award, and seven (7) days of any subsequent GovRAMP status changes. If a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) is

required by the Vendor, a copy of the NDA must be uploaded with the response and executed by the Vendor and the State at the time of contract award.

- a. Public - For third-party cloud services where the highest category of information to be processed is Public data, the Vendor must submit an updated score for the product annually throughout the contract duration that meets or exceeds the original score at time of contract award. Products with GovRAMP Core, Ready, Authorized or Provisionally Authorized statuses or FedRAMP Rev. 5 authorization also satisfy the security requirement.
- b. Internal - For third-party cloud services where the highest category of information to be processed is Internal data, the Vendor must either achieve the status of GovRAMP Core prior to award, or agree to achieve GovRAMP Core status within an interim time period, no later than twelve (12) months from the effective date of the contract.
- c. Confidential - For third-party cloud services where the highest category of information to be processed is Confidential data, the Vendor must either achieve a status of GovRAMP Ready, or agree to achieve GovRAMP Ready status no later than fifteen (15) months from the effective date of the contract.
- d. Restricted - For third-party cloud services where the highest category of information to be processed is Restricted Data, the Vendor must either achieve a status of GovRAMP Authorized, or agree to achieve GovRAMP Authorized status no later than twenty-one (21) months from the effective date of the contract.

Upon contract award, Vendor's who submitted a GovRAMP Security Snapshot Score will be required to enroll in the GovRAMP Progressing Snapshot program prior to any data being transferred, stored or processed. The Vendor must complete their first Progressing Snapshot within ninety (90) days of award, with the expectation that progress will be made on a quarterly basis and access to progress reports must be provisioned to the State. Products must maintain their participation in the Progressing Snapshot program and continued access to progress reports must be provisioned to the State until such time that they have achieved the minimum verified status outlined above. The State will review the Vendor's progress on a quarterly basis and, in its sole discretion, may determine that the Vendor is not making satisfactory progress in the Progressing Snapshot program. Satisfactory progress shall be a material requirement of the contract.

- (e) If the Vendor holds a FedRAMP Rev. 5 authorization at time of award, this authorization can be accepted in lieu of a GovRAMP authorization. Authorizations obtained via the FedRAMP 20x Pilot Program will not be permitted.

If the Vendor's cloud product currently holds a FedRAMP Authorized designation, at the time of award, the State may require the Vendor to initiate and actively pursue, within thirty (30) days of award, the GovRAMP Fast Track Process, to achieve a GovRAMP Provisionally Authorized or Authorized status in order to satisfy Statewide continuous monitoring requirements.

Additional Security Documentation. Prior to contract award, the State may in its discretion require the Vendor to provide additional security documentation, including but not limited to, vulnerability assessment reports and penetration test reports. The awarded Vendor shall provide additional security documentation upon request by the State during the term of the contract.

Refer to: <https://it.nc.gov/documents/statewide-glossary-information-technology-terms> for descriptions of the Application Criticality categories.

Refer to: <http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/FIPS/NIST.FIPS.199.pdf> for descriptions of NIST system confidentiality, integrity, and availability categories.

3.6 ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE SPECIFICATIONS

3.6.1 ARCHITECTURE DIAGRAMS

The State utilizes architectural diagrams to better understand the design and technologies of a proposed solution. The two diagrams are Network Architecture and Technology Stack. Details on these diagrams can be found at the following link: <https://it.nc.gov/resources/statewide-it-procurement/vendor-engagement-resources#Tab-Architecture-1192>

The provision of these two diagrams is preferred at offer submission. If they are not supplied at that time, the State will formally request this information from the Vendor and if it is not supplied within one (1) calendar week, the offer will be considered non-responsive and will not be evaluated.

There may be additional architectural diagrams requested of the vendor after contract award. This will be communicated to the vendor by the agency as needed during the project.

3.6.2 SOLUTION ROADMAP - RESERVED

3.6.3 IDENTITY AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT - RESERVED

3.6.4 INTEGRATION APPROACH - RESERVED

3.6.5 DISASTER RECOVERY AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY - RESERVED

3.6.6 DATA MIGRATION - RESERVED

3.6.7 APPLICATION MANAGEMENT - RESERVED

3.6.8 ACCESSIBILITY - RESERVED

ENTERPRISE, SERVICES, AND STANDARDS

Agencies and vendors should refer to the Vendor Resources Page for information on North Carolina Department of Information Technology regarding architecture, security, strategy, data, digital, identity and access management and other general information on doing business with state IT process.

The Vendor Resources Page found at the following link: <https://it.nc.gov/vendor-engagement-resources>. This site provides vendors with statewide information and links referenced throughout the IFB document. Agencies may request additional information.

3.7 SPECIFICATIONS

- 1. Smartsheet Business Plan with Premium Support Package** for fifty (50) paid users
- 2. Dynamic View** up to 500 configurations
- 3. Smartsheet Control Center** up to 5,000 Active Projects
- 4. Data Shuttle per workflow**

NOTE: The Agency is currently using the Smartsheet plan listed above. The need for implementation and configuration services is not anticipated.

3.8 DELIVERY

Successful Vendor will complete supply of the delivery of software access within five (5) consecutive calendar days after receipt of purchase order electronically to the location designated in the Notice of Award.

If circumstances beyond the control of the contractor result in a late delivery [or installation], it is the responsibility and obligation of the contractor to notify the Purchasing Agent listed on the purchase

order, in writing, immediately upon determining the delay of shipment. The written notification should indicate the anticipated delivery date.

3.9 **CONTRACT TERM**

A contract awarded pursuant to this IFB shall have an effective date of OCTOBER 23, 2026, unless otherwise stated in the Notice of Award. The term shall be SIX (6) MONTHS unless otherwise stated in the Notice of Award, or unless terminated earlier. The State retains the option to extend this contract at its sole discretion.

4.0 **FURNISH AND DELIVER**

SIX-MONTH TERM:

ITEM #	QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST	EXTENDED COST
1	50	Each	Business Plan plus Premium Support Package – Paid User Part #: SMAR-004 Subscription Period: Six (6) Months	\$ _____	\$ _____
2	1	Each	Dynamic View up to 500 configurations Part #: SMAR-145 Subscription Period: Six (6) Months	\$ _____	\$ _____
3	1	Each	Smartsheet Control Center up to 5,000 Active Projects PART #: SMAR-25-05-028 Subscription Period: Six (6) Months	\$ _____	\$ _____
4	10	Each	Data Shuttle – per workflow PART #: SMAR-US-25-09-074 Subscription Period: Six (6) Months	\$ _____	\$ _____

Total Offer Cost SIX (6) MONTHS \$ _____

5.0 DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS

- 1) **READ, REVIEW AND COMPLY:** It shall be the Vendor's responsibility to read this entire document, review all enclosures and attachments, and comply with all requirements specified herein.
- 2) **DEFINITIONS:**
 - **NCDIT:** The North Carolina Department of Information Technology, formerly Office of Information Technology Services
 - **NCDIT CONVENIENCE CONTRACT:** A contract that is used for the procurement of IT goods or Services. These contracts are in place for the convenience of the state and use of them is optional.
 - **OPEN MARKET CONTRACT:** A contract for the purchase of goods or Services not covered by a term, technical, or convenience contract.
 - **TERM CONTRACT:** A contract in which a source of supply is established for a specified period of time for specified Services or supplies; usually characterized by an estimated or definite minimum quantity, with the possibility of additional requirements beyond the minimum, all at a predetermined unit price
 - **THE STATE:** Is the state of North Carolina and its agencies.
 - **VENDOR:** Company, firm, corporation, partnership, individual, etc., submitting a response to a solicitation.
- 3) **PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNTS:** Vendors are urged to compute all discounts into the price offered. If a prompt payment discount is offered, it will not be considered in the award of the contract except as a factor to aid in resolving cases of identical prices.
- 4) **CLARIFICATIONS/INTERPRETATIONS:** Any and all questions regarding this document must be addressed to the purchaser named on the cover sheet of this document. Do not contact the user directly. Any and all revisions to this document shall be made only by written addendum from NCDIT. The Vendor is cautioned that the requirements of this RFQ can be altered only by written addendum and that verbal communications from whatever source are of no effect.
- 5) **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION:** The State reserves the right to reject any and all offers, to waive any informality in offers and, unless otherwise specified by the Vendor, to accept any item in the offer. If either a unit price or an extended price is obviously in error and the other is obviously correct, the incorrect price will be disregarded.
- 6) **AWARD OF CONTRACT:** Responsive offers will be evaluated and acceptance may be made in accordance with Best Value procurement practices as defined by N.C.G.S. §143-135.9. Unless otherwise specified by the State or the Vendor, the State reserves the right to accept any item or group of items on a multi-item offer. In addition, on agency specific or term contracts, NCDIT reserves the right to make partial, progressive or multiple awards: where it is advantageous to award separately by items; or where more than one supplier is needed to provide the contemplated requirements as to quantity, quality, delivery, service, geographical areas; other factors deemed by NCDIT to be pertinent or peculiar to the purchase in question.
- 7) **MISCELLANEOUS:** Masculine pronouns shall be read to include feminine pronouns and the singular of any word or phrase shall be read to include the plural and vice versa.
- 8) **PROTEST PROCEDURES:** When an offeror wants to protest a contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation that is over \$25,000 they must submit a written request to the issuing agency at the address given in this document. This request must be received in this office within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the contract award, and must contain specific sound reasons and any supporting documentation for the protest. **Note:** Contract award notices are sent **only** to those actually awarded contracts, and not to every person or firm responding to this solicitation. IFB status and Award notices are posted on the Internet at <https://evp.nc.gov>. **All protests will be governed by NCAC Title 9, Department of Information Technology (formerly Office of Information Technology Services), Subchapter 06B Sections .1101 - .1121**
- 9) **VENDOR REGISTRATION AND SOLICITATION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM** The electronic Vendor Portal (eVP) allows Vendors to electronically register with the State to receive electronic notification

of current procurement opportunities for goods and services available on the eVP at the following web site: <https://evp.nc.gov>.

- 10) **DIGITAL IMAGING:** The State will digitize the Vendor's response if not received electronically, and any awarded contract together with associated contract documents. This electronic copy shall be a preservation record, and serve as the official record of this solicitation with the same force and effect as the original written documents comprising such record. Any printout or other output readable by sight shown to reflect such record accurately is an "original."

6.0 GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE (SAAS)

1) DEFINITIONS

- a) "Data" means information, formulae, algorithms, or other content that the State, the State's employees, agents and end users upload, create or modify using the Services pursuant to this Agreement. Data also includes user identification information and metadata which may contain Data or from which the State's Data may be ascertainable.
- b) "Deliverable/Product Warranties" shall mean and include the warranties provided for products or deliverables licensed to the State as included in Paragraph 7) c) of these Terms and Conditions unless superseded by the Vendor's Warranties pursuant to the Vendor's License or Support Agreements.
- c) "Services" shall mean the duties and tasks undertaken by the Vendor to fulfill the requirements and specifications of this solicitation including, without limitation, providing web browser access by authorized users to certain Vendor online software applications identified herein and to related services such as Vendor hosted Computer storage, databases, Support, documentation, and other functionalities, all as a Software as a Service ("SaaS") solution.
- d) "State" shall mean the State of North Carolina, the NC Department of Information Technology as an agency, or the agency identified in this solicitation as the Purchasing State Agency and Award Authority.
- e) "Support" includes provision of ongoing updates and maintenance for Vendor online software applications and as may be specified herein, consulting, training and other support Services as provided by the Vendor for SaaS tenants receiving similar SaaS Services.

2) ACCESS AND USE OF SAAS SERVICES

- a) The Vendor grants the State a personal non-transferable and non-exclusive right to use and access, all Services and other functionalities or services provided, furnished or accessible under this Agreement. The State may utilize the Services as agreed herein and in accordance with any mutually agreed Acceptable Use Policy. The State is authorized to access State Data and any Vendor-provided data as specified herein and to transmit revisions, updates, deletions, enhancements, or modifications to the State Data. This shall include the right of the State to, and access to, Support without the Vendor requiring a separate maintenance or support agreement. Subject to an agreed limitation on the number of users, the State may use the Services with any computer, computer system, server, or desktop workstation owned or utilized by the State or other authorized users. User access to the Services shall be routinely provided by the Vendor and may be subject to a more specific Service Level Agreement (SLA) agreed to in writing by the parties. The State shall notify the Vendor of any unauthorized use of any password or account, or any other known or suspected breach of security access. The State also agrees to refrain from taking any steps such as reverse engineering, reverse assembly or reverse compilation to derive a source code equivalent to the Services or any portion thereof. Use of the Services to perform services for commercial third parties (so-called "service bureau" uses) is not permitted but the State may utilize the Services to perform its governmental functions. If the Services fees are based upon the number of Users and/or hosted instances, the number of Users/hosted instances available may be adjusted at any time (subject to the restrictions on the maximum

number of Users specified in the Furnish and Deliver Table herein) by mutual agreement and State Procurement approval. All Services and information designated as “confidential” or “proprietary” shall be kept in confidence except as may be required by the North Carolina Public Records Act, N.C.G.S. § 132-1 *et seq.*

- b) The State’s access license for the Services and its associated services neither transfers, vests, nor infers any title or other ownership right in any intellectual property rights of the Vendor or any third party nor does this license transfer, vest, or infer any title or other ownership right in any source code associated with the Services unless otherwise agreed to by the parties. The provisions of this paragraph will not be construed as a sale of any ownership rights in the Services. Any Services or technical and business information owned by the Vendor or its suppliers or licensors made accessible or furnished to the State shall be and remain the property of the Vendor or such other party, respectively. The Vendor has a limited, non-exclusive license to access and use the State Data as provided to the Vendor, but solely for performing its obligations under this Agreement and in confidence as provided herein.
- c) The Vendor or its suppliers shall, at a minimum, and except as otherwise agreed, provide telephone assistance to the State for all Services procured hereunder during the State’s normal business hours (unless different hours are specified herein). The Vendor warrants that its Support and customer service and assistance will be performed in accordance with generally accepted industry standards. The State has the right to receive the benefit of upgrades, updates, maintenance releases or other enhancements or modifications made generally available to the Vendor’s SaaS tenants for similar Services. The Vendor’s right to a new use agreement for new version releases of the Services shall not be abridged by the foregoing. The Vendor may, at no additional charge, modify the Services to improve operation and reliability or to meet legal requirements.
- d) The Vendor will provide to the State the same Services for updating, maintaining and continuing optimal performance for the Services as provided to other similarly situated users or tenants of the Services, but minimally as provided for and specified herein. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, Support will also be provided for any other (e.g., third party) software provided by the Vendor in connection with the Vendor’s solution herein. The technical and professional activities required for establishing, managing, and maintaining the Services environment are the responsibilities of the Vendor. Any training specified herein will be provided by the Vendor to certain State users for the fees or costs as set forth herein or in an SLA.
- e) Services provided pursuant to this Solicitation may, in some circumstances, be accompanied by a user clickwrap agreement. The term clickwrap agreement refers to an agreement that requires the end user to manifest his or her assent to terms and conditions by clicking an “ok” or “agree” button on a dialog box or pop-up window as part of the process of access to the Services. All terms and conditions of any clickwrap agreement provided with any Services solicited herein shall have no force and effect and shall be non-binding on the State, its employees, agents, and other authorized users of the Services.
- f) The Vendor may utilize partners and/or subcontractors to assist in the provision of the Services so long as non-public State Data is not removed from the United States per paragraph 18) b). The Vendor shall identify all of its strategic business partners related to Services provided under this Agreement including, but not limited to, all subcontractors or other entities or individuals who may be a party to a joint venture or similar agreement with the Vendor or will be involved in any application development and/or operations.

- g) The Vendor warrants that all Services will be performed with professional care and skill, in a workmanlike manner, and in accordance with the Services documentation and this Agreement.
- h) An SLA or other agreed writing shall contain provisions for scalability of Services and any variation in fees or costs as a result of any such scaling.
- i) Professional services provided by the Vendor at the request by the State in writing in addition to agreed Services shall be at the then-existing Vendor hourly rates when provided unless otherwise agreed in writing by the parties.

3) WARRANTY OF NON-INFRINGEMENT; REMEDIES

- a) The Vendor warrants to the best of its knowledge that:
 - i) The Services do not infringe any intellectual property rights of any third party; and
 - ii) There are no actual or threatened actions arising from, or alleged under, any intellectual property rights of any third party.
- b) Should any Services supplied by the Vendor become the subject of a claim of infringement of a patent, copyright, Trademark or a trade secret in the United States, the Vendor shall, at its option and expense, either procure for the State the right to continue using the Services or replace or modify the same to become non-infringing. If neither of these options can be taken in the Vendor's judgment, or if further use shall be prevented by injunction, the Vendor agrees to cease provision of any affected Services and refund any sums the State has paid the Vendor and make every reasonable effort to assist the State in procuring substitute Services. If, in the sole opinion of the State, the cessation of use by the State of any such Services due to infringement issues makes the retention of other items acquired from the Vendor under this Agreement impractical, the State shall then have the option of terminating the Agreement, or applicable portions thereof, without penalty or termination charge and the Vendor agrees to refund any sums the State paid for unused Services.
- c) The Vendor, at its own expense, shall defend any action brought against the State to the extent that such action is based upon a claim that the Services supplied by the Vendor, their use, or operation infringes on a patent, copyright, trademark or violates a trade secret in the United States. The Vendor shall pay those costs and damages finally awarded or agreed in a settlement against the State in any such action. Such defense and payment shall be conditioned on the following:
 - i) That the Vendor shall be notified within a reasonable time in writing by the State of any such claim; and
 - ii) That the Vendor shall have the sole control of the defense of any action on such claim and all negotiations for its settlement or compromise provided, however, that the State shall have the option to participate in such action at its own expense.
- d) The Vendor will not be required to defend or indemnify the State if any claim by a third party against the State for infringement or misappropriation results from the State's material alteration of any Vendor-branded Services, or from the continued use of the good(s) or Services after receiving notice they infringe on a trade secret of a third party.

4) ACCESS AVAILABILITY; REMEDIES

- a) The Vendor warrants that the Services will be in good working order and operating in conformance with the Vendor's standard specifications and functions as well as any other specifications agreed to by the parties in writing and shall remain accessible 24/7 with the exception of scheduled outages for maintenance and of other service level provisions agreed in writing (e.g., in an SLA). The Vendor does not warrant that the operation of the Services will be completely uninterrupted or error free or that the Services functions will meet all the State's requirements unless developed as Customized Services.
- b) The State shall notify the Vendor if the Services are not in good working order or inaccessible during the term of the Agreement. The Vendor shall, at its option, either repair, replace or reperform any Services reported or discovered as not being in good working order and accessible during the applicable Agreement term without cost to the State.

If the Services monthly availability averages less than 99.9% (excluding agreed-upon maintenance downtime), the State shall be entitled to receive automatic credits as indicated immediately below, or the State may use other contractual remedies such as recovery of damages as set forth herein in writing (e.g., in Specifications, Special Terms or in an SLA) and as such other contractual damages are limited by N.C.G.S. § 143B-1350(h1) and the Limitation of Liability paragraph below. If not otherwise provided, the automatic remedies for non-availability of the Services during a month are:

1. A 10% service credit applied against future fees if the Vendor does not reach 99.9% availability.
2. A 25% service credit applied against future fees if the Vendor does not reach 99% availability.
3. A 50% service credit applied against future fees or eligibility for early termination of the Agreement if the Vendor does not reach 95% availability.

If, however, Services meet the 99.9% service availability level for a month but are not available for a consecutive 120 minutes during that month, the Vendor shall grant to the State credit of a pro-rated one-day of the monthly subscription Services fee against future Services charges. Such credit(s) shall be applied to the bill immediately following the month in which the Vendor failed to meet the performance requirements or other service levels, and the credit will continue to be deducted from the monthly invoice for each prior month that the Vendor fails to meet the support response times for the remainder of the Agreement. If Services monthly availability averages less than 99.9% (excluding agreed-upon maintenance downtime) for three (3) or more months in a rolling twelve (12)-month period, the State may also terminate the Agreement for material breach in accordance with the Default provisions hereinbelow.

- c) Support Services. If the Vendor fails to meet Support Service response times as set forth herein or in an SLA for a period of three (3) consecutive months, a ten percent (10%) service credit will be deducted from the invoice in the month immediately following the third month, and the ten percent (10%) service credit will continue to be deducted from the monthly invoice for each month that the Vendor fails to meet the support response times for the remainder of the duration of the Agreement.

5) EXCLUSIONS

- a) Except as stated above in Paragraphs 3 and 4, the Vendor and its parent, subsidiaries and affiliates, subcontractors and suppliers make no warranties, express or implied, as to the Services.
- b) The warranties provided in Paragraphs 3 and 4 above do not cover repair for

damage, malfunctions, or service failures substantially caused by:

- i) Actions of non-Vendor personnel.
- ii) Failure to follow the Vendor's written instructions relating to the Services provided to the State.
- iii) Force Majeure conditions set forth hereinbelow; or
- iv) The State's sole misuse of, or its own inability to use, the Services.

6) PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND ACCOUNTABILITY: N.C.G.S. § 143B-1340(f) and 09 NCAC 06B.1207 require provisions for performance review and accountability in State IT contracts. For this procurement, these shall include the holding of a retain of ten percent (10%) of the contract value and withholding the final payment contingent on final acceptance by the State as provided in 09 NCAC 06B.1207(3) and (4) unless waived or otherwise agreed in writing. The Services herein will be provided consistently with and under these Services performance review and accountability guarantees.

7) LIMITATION OF LIABILITY: Limitation of Vendor's Contract Damages Liability

- a) Where Services are under the State's exclusive management and control, the Vendor shall not be liable for direct damages caused by the State's failure to fulfill any State responsibilities of assuring the proper use, management and supervision of the Services and programs, audit controls, operating methods, office procedures, or for establishing all proper checkpoints necessary for the State's intended use of the Services.
- b) The Vendor's liability for damages to the State arising under the Agreement shall be limited to two (2) times the value of the Agreement.
- c) The foregoing limitation of liability shall not apply to claims covered by other specific provisions including, but not limited to, Service Level Agreement or Deliverable/Product Warranty compliance, or to claims for injury to persons or damage to tangible personal property, gross negligence or willful or wanton conduct. This limitation of liability does not apply to contributions among joint tortfeasors under N.C.G.S. § 1B-1 *et seq.* or the receipt of court costs or attorney's fees that might be awarded by a court in addition to damages after litigation based on this Agreement. For avoidance of doubt, the parties agree that the Service Level Agreement and Deliverable/Product Warranty Terms in the Agreement are intended to provide the sole and exclusive remedies available to the State under the Agreement for the Vendor's failure to comply with the requirements stated therein.

8) VENDOR'S LIABILITY FOR INJURY TO PERSONS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

- a) The Vendor shall be liable for damages arising out of personal injuries and/or damage to real or tangible personal property of the State, employees of the State, persons designated by the State for training, or person(s) other than agents or employees of the Vendor, designated by the State for any purpose, prior to, during, or subsequent to delivery, installation, acceptance, and use of the Deliverables either at the Vendor's site or at the State's place of business, provided that the injury or damage was caused by the fault or negligence of the Vendor.
- b) The Vendor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the Agency and the State and its Officers, employees, agents and assigns harmless from any liability relating to personal injury or injury to real or personal property of any kind, accruing or resulting to any other person, firm or corporation furnishing or supplying work, Services, materials or supplies in connection with the performance of this Agreement, whether tangible or intangible, arising out of the ordinary negligence, willful or wanton negligence, or intentional acts of the Vendor, its officers, employees, agents, assigns or subcontractors.

- c) The Vendor shall not be liable for damages arising out of or caused by an alteration or an attachment not made or installed by the Vendor.

9) MODIFICATION OF SERVICES: If the Vendor modifies or replaces the Services provided to the State and other tenants, and if the State has paid all applicable Subscription Fees, the State shall be entitled to receive, at no additional charge, access to a newer version of the Services that supports substantially the same functionality as the then accessible version of the Services. Newer versions of the Services containing substantially increased functionality may be made available to the State for an additional subscription fee. In the event of either of such modifications, the then accessible version of the Services shall remain fully available to the State until the newer version is provided to the State and accepted. If a modification materially affects the functionality of the Services as used by the State, the State, at its sole option, may defer such modification.

10) TRANSITION PERIOD

- a) For ninety (90) days, either prior to the expiration date of this Agreement, or upon notice of termination of this Agreement, the Vendor shall assist the State, upon written request, in extracting and/or transitioning all Data in the format determined by the State ("Transition Period").
- b) The Transition Period may be modified in an SLA or as agreed upon in writing by the parties in a contract amendment.
- c) During the Transition Period, Services' access shall continue to be made available to the State without alteration.
- d) The Vendor agrees to compensate the State for damages or losses the State incurs as a result of the Vendor's failure to comply with this Transition Period section in accordance with the Limitation of Liability provisions above.
- e) Upon termination, and unless otherwise stated in an SLA, and after providing the State Data to the State as indicated above in this section with acknowledged receipt by the State in writing, the Vendor shall permanently destroy or render inaccessible any portion of the State Data in the Vendor's and/or subcontractor's possession or control following the completion and expiration of all obligations in this section. Within thirty (30) days, the Vendor shall issue a written statement to the State confirming the destruction or inaccessibility of the State's Data.
- f) The State, at its option, may purchase additional Transition services as may be agreed upon in a supplemental agreement.

11) TRANSPORTATION: Transportation charges for any Deliverable sent to the State other than electronically or by download shall be FOB Destination unless delivered by internet or file-transfer as agreed by the State or otherwise specified in the solicitation document or purchase order.

12) TRAVEL EXPENSES: All travel expenses should be included in the Vendor's proposed costs. Separately stated travel expenses will not be reimbursed. In the event that the Vendor may be eligible to be reimbursed for travel expenses specifically agreed to in writing and arising under the performance of this Agreement, reimbursement will be at the out-of-state rates set forth in N.C.G.S. § 138-6 as amended from time to time. The Vendor agrees to use the lowest available airfare not requiring a weekend stay and to use the lowest available rate for rental vehicles. All Vendor incurred travel expenses shall be billed on a monthly basis, shall be supported by receipt, and shall be paid by the State within thirty (30) days after invoice approval. Travel expenses

exceeding the foregoing rates shall not be paid by the State. The State will reimburse travel allowances only for days on which the Vendor is required to be in North Carolina performing Services under this Agreement.

13) PROHIBITION AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES AND GRATUITIES: The Vendor warrants that it has not paid, and agrees not to pay any bonus, commission, fee, or gratuity to any employee or official of the State for the purpose of obtaining any contract or award issued by the State. Subsequent discovery by the State of non-compliance with these provisions shall constitute sufficient cause for immediate termination of all outstanding Agreements with the Vendor. Violations of this provision may result in debarment of the Vendor as permitted by 9 NCAC 06B.1207 or other provision of law.

14) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS: Any and all payments by the State are expressly contingent upon and subject to the appropriation, allocation and availability of funds to the State for the purposes set forth in this Agreement. If this Agreement or any Purchase Order issued hereunder is funded in whole or in part by federal funds, the State's performance and payment shall be subject to and contingent upon the continuing availability of said federal funds for the purposes of the Agreement or Purchase Order. If the term of this Agreement extends into fiscal years subsequent to that in which it is approved, such continuation of the Agreement is *expressly contingent upon* the appropriation, allocation, and availability of funds by the N.C. Legislature for the purposes set forth in the Agreement. If funds to effect payment are not available, the State will provide written notification to the Vendor. If the Agreement is terminated under this paragraph, the Vendor agrees to terminate any Services supplied to the State under this Agreement and relieve the State of any further obligation thereof. The State shall remit payment for Services accepted on or prior to the date of the aforesaid notice in conformance with the payment terms.

15) PAYMENT TERMS

- a) Payment may be made by the State in advance of or in anticipation of subscription Services to be actually performed under the Agreement or upon proper invoice for other Services rendered. Payment terms are Net 30 days after receipt of a correct invoice. Initial payments are to be made after final acceptance of the Services. Payments are subject to any retainage requirements herein. The Purchasing State Agency is responsible for all payments under the Agreement. Subscription fees for term years after the initial year shall be as quoted herein as optional costs for the State but shall not increase more than five percent (5%) over the prior term, except as the parties may have agreed to an alternate formula to determine such increases in writing. No additional charges to the State will be permitted based upon, or arising from, the State's use of a Business Procurement Card. The State may exercise any and all rights of Set Off as permitted in Chapter 105A-1 *et seq.* of the N.C. General Statutes and applicable Administrative Rules.
- b) Upon the Vendor's written request of not less than thirty (30) days and approval by the State, the State may:
 - i) Forward the Vendor's payment check(s) directly to any person or entity designated by the Vendor, or
 - ii) Include any person or entity designated in writing by the Vendor as a joint payee on the Vendor's payment check(s), however,
 - iii) In no event shall such approval and action obligate the State to anyone other than the Vendor and the Vendor shall remain responsible for fulfillment of all Agreement obligations.
- c) For any third-party software licensed by the Vendor or its subcontractors for use by the

State, a copy of the software license including terms acceptable to the State, an assignment acceptable to the State, and documentation of license fees paid by the Vendor must be provided to the State before any related license fees or costs may be billed to the State.

- d) An undisputed invoice is an invoice for which the State and/or the Purchasing State Agency has not disputed in writing within thirty (30) days from the invoice date unless the Agency requests more time for review of the invoice. Upon the Vendor's receipt of a disputed invoice notice, the Vendor will work to correct the applicable invoice error, provided that such dispute notice shall not relieve the State or the applicable Purchasing State Agency from its payment obligations for the undisputed items on the invoice or for any disputed items that are ultimately corrected. The Purchasing State Agency is not required to pay the Vendor for any Software or Services provided without a written purchase order from the appropriate Purchasing State Agency. In addition, all such Services provided must meet all terms, conditions, and specifications of this Agreement and purchase order and be accepted as satisfactory by the Purchasing State Agency before payment will be issued.
- e) The Purchasing State Agency shall release any amounts held as retainages for Services completed within a reasonable period after the end of the period(s) or term(s) for which the retainage was withheld. Payment retainage shall apply to all invoiced items, excepting only such items as the Vendor obtains from Third Parties and for which costs are chargeable to the State by agreement of the parties. The Purchasing State Agency, in its sole discretion, may release retainages withheld from any invoice upon acceptance of the Services identified or associated with such invoices.

16) ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

- a) Initial acceptance testing is required for all Vendor supplied Services before going live unless provided otherwise in the solicitation documents or a Statement of Work. The State may define such processes and procedures as may be necessary or proper, in its opinion and discretion, to ensure compliance with the State's specifications and the Vendor's technical representations. Acceptance of Services may be controlled by additional written terms as agreed by the parties.
- b) After initial acceptance of Services, the State shall have an obligation to notify the Vendor in writing and within ten (10) days following provision of any Deliverable described in the Agreement if it is not acceptable. The notice shall specify in reasonable detail the reason(s) a Deliverable is unacceptable. Acceptance by the State of any Vendor re-performance or correction shall not be unreasonably withheld but may be conditioned or delayed as required for confirmation by the State that the issue(s) in the notice has been successfully corrected.

- 17) **CONFIDENTIALITY:** The State may maintain the confidentiality of certain types of information described in N.C.G.S. § 132-1 *et seq.* Such information may include trade secrets defined by N.C.G.S. § 66-152 and other information exempted from the Public Records Act pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-1.2. The Vendor may designate information, Products, Services or appropriate portions of its response as confidential, consistent with and to the extent permitted under the Statutes and Rules set forth above, by marking the top and bottom of pages containing confidential information with a legend in boldface type "**CONFIDENTIAL.**" By so marking any page, or portion of a page, the Vendor warrants that it has formed a good faith opinion, having received such necessary or proper review by counsel and other knowledgeable advisors, that the portions marked "confidential" meet the requirements of the Rules and Statutes set forth above. ***However, under no circumstances shall price information be designated as confidential.*** The State agrees to promptly notify the Vendor in writing of any action seeking to compel the disclosure of the Vendor's confidential information. If an action is brought pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-9 to compel the State to disclose information marked "confidential," the

Vendor agrees that it will intervene in the action through its counsel and participate in defending the State, including any public official(s) or public employee(s). The Vendor agrees that it should hold the State and any official(s) and individual(s) harmless from any and all damages, costs, and attorneys' fees awarded against the State in the action. The State shall have the right, at its option and expense, to participate in the defense of the action through its counsel. The State shall have no liability to the Vendor with respect to the disclosure of the Vendor's confidential information ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-9 or other applicable laws.

18) SECURITY OF STATE DATA

- a) All materials, including software, Data, information and documentation provided by the State to the Vendor (State Data) during the performance or provision of Services hereunder are the property of the State of North Carolina and must be kept secure and returned to the State. The Vendor will protect State Data in its hands from unauthorized disclosure, loss, damage, destruction by natural event or other eventuality. Proprietary Vendor materials shall be identified to the State by the Vendor prior to use or provision of Services hereunder and shall remain the property of the Vendor. Derivative works of any Vendor proprietary materials prepared or created during the performance or provision of Services hereunder shall be provided to the State as part of the Services. The Vendor shall not access State User accounts or State Data except (i) during data center operations; (ii) in response to service or technical issues; (iii) as required by the express terms of this Agreement; or (iv) at the State's written request. The Vendor shall protect the confidentiality of all information, Data, instruments, studies, reports, records and other materials provided to it by the State or maintained or created in accordance with this Agreement. No such information, Data, instruments, studies, reports, records and other materials in the possession of the Vendor shall be disclosed in any form without the prior written agreement with the State. The Vendor will have written policies governing access to and duplication and dissemination of all such information, Data, instruments, studies, reports, records and other materials.
- b) The Vendor shall not store or transfer non-public State data outside of the United States. This includes backup data and Disaster Recovery locations. The Service Provider will permit its personnel and contractors to access State of North Carolina data remotely only as required to provide technical support.
- c) Protection of personal privacy and sensitive data. The Vendor acknowledges its responsibility for securing any restricted or highly restricted data, as defined by the Statewide Data Classification and Handling Policy (<https://it.nc.gov/document/statewide-data-classification-and-handling-policy>), that is collected by the State and stored in any Vendor site or other Vendor housing systems including, but not limited to, computer systems, networks, servers, or databases, maintained by the Vendor or its agents or subcontractors in connection with the provision of the Services. The Vendor warrants, at its sole cost and expense, that it shall implement processes and maintain the security of data classified as restricted or highly restricted; provide reasonable care and efforts to detect fraudulent activity involving the data; and promptly notify the State of any breaches of security within twenty-four (24) hours of confirmation as required by N.C.G.S. § 143B-1379.
- d) The Vendor will provide and maintain secure backup of the State Data. The Vendor shall implement and maintain secure passwords for its online system providing the Services as well as all appropriate administrative, physical, technical and procedural safeguards at all times during the term of this Agreement to secure such Data from Data Breach, and protect the Data and the Services from loss, corruption, unauthorized disclosure, and the

introduction of viruses, disabling devices, malware and other forms of malicious or inadvertent acts that can disrupt the State's access to its Data and the Services. The Vendor will allow periodic back-up of State Data by the State to the State's infrastructure as the State requires or as may be provided by law.

e) The Vendor shall certify to the State:

- i) The sufficiency of its security standards, tools, technologies and procedures in providing Services under this Agreement.
- ii) That the system used to provide the Subscription Services under this Agreement has and will maintain a valid third-party security certification not to exceed one (1) year and is consistent with the data classification level and security controls appropriate for low or moderate information system(s) per the National Institute of Standards and Technology NIST 800-53 revision 4. The State reserves the right to independently evaluate, audit, and verify such requirements.

iii) That the Services will comply with the following:

(1) Any NCDIT security policy regarding Cloud Computing and the NCDIT Statewide Information Security Policy Manual to include encryption requirements as defined below:

- (a) The Vendor shall encrypt all non-public data in transit regardless of the transit mechanism.
- (b) For engagements where the Vendor stores sensitive personally identifiable or otherwise confidential information, this data shall be encrypted at rest. Examples are Social Security number, date of birth, driver license number, financial data, federal/state tax information, and hashed passwords. The Vendor's encryption shall be consistent with validated cryptography standards as specified in National Institute of Standards and Technology FIPS140-2, Security Requirements. The key location and other key management details will be discussed and negotiated by both parties. When the Service Provider cannot offer encryption at rest, it must maintain, for the duration of the Agreement, cyber security liability insurance coverage for any loss resulting from a data breach. Additionally, where encryption of data at rest is not possible, the Vendor must describe existing security measures that provide a similar level of protection.

(2) Privacy provisions of the Federal Privacy Act of 1974.

(3) The North Carolina Identity Theft Protection Act, N.C.G.S. Chapter 75, Article 2A (e.g., N.C.G.S. §§ 75-65 and -66).

(4) The North Carolina Public Records Act, N.C.G.S. Chapter 132.

(5) Applicable Federal, State and Industry standards and guidelines including, but not limited to, relevant security provisions of the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (PCIDSS) including the PCIDSS Cloud Computing Guidelines, Criminal Justice Information, The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); and

(6) Any requirements implemented by the State under N.C.G.S. §§ 143B-1376 and -1377.

f) Security Breach. "Security Breach" under the NC Identity Theft Protection Act (N.C.G.S. §

75-60 *et seq.*) means (1) any circumstance pursuant to which applicable Law requires notification of such breach to be given to affected parties or other activity in response to such circumstance (e.g., N.C.G.S. § 75-65); or (2) any actual, attempted, suspected, threatened, or reasonably foreseeable circumstance that compromises, or could reasonably be expected to compromise, either Physical Security or Systems Security (as such terms are defined below) in a fashion that either does or could reasonably be expected to permit unauthorized Processing (as defined below), use, disclosure or acquisition of or access to any the State Data or state confidential information. "Physical Security" means physical security at any site or other location housing systems maintained by the Vendor or its agents or subcontractors in connection with the Services. "Systems Security" means security of computer, electronic or telecommunications systems of any variety (including data bases, hardware, software, storage, switching and interconnection devices and mechanisms), and networks of which such systems are a part or communicate with, used directly or indirectly by the Vendor or its agents or subcontractors in connection with the Services. "Processing" means any operation or set of operations performed upon the State Data or State confidential information, whether by automatic means such as creating, collecting, procuring, obtaining, accessing, recording, organizing, storing, adapting, altering, retrieving, consulting, using, disclosing or destroying.

- g) Breach Notification. In the event the Vendor becomes aware of any Security Breach due to Vendor acts or omissions other than in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, the Vendor shall, at its own expense (1) immediately notify the State's Contract Administrator of such Security Breach and perform a root cause analysis thereon; (2) investigate such Security Breach; (3) provide a remediation plan, acceptable to the State, to address the Security Breach and prevent any further incidents; (4) conduct a forensic investigation to determine what systems, data and information have been affected by such event; and (5) cooperate with the State, and any law enforcement or regulatory officials, credit reporting companies, and credit card associations investigating such Security Breach. The State shall make the final decision on notifying the State's persons, entities, employees, service providers and/or the public of such Security Breach, and the implementation of the remediation plan. If a notification to a customer is required under any Law or pursuant to any of the State's privacy or security policies, then notifications to all persons and entities who are affected by the same event (as reasonably determined by the State) shall be considered legally required.
- h) Notification Related Costs. The Vendor shall reimburse the State for all Notification Related Costs incurred by the State arising out of or in connection with any such Security Breach due to Vendor acts or omissions other than in accordance with the terms of the Agreement resulting in a requirement for legally required notifications. "Notification Related Costs" shall include the State's internal and external costs associated with addressing and responding to the Security Breach including, but not limited to (1) preparation and mailing or other transmission of legally required notifications; (2) preparation and mailing or other transmission of such other communications to customers, agents or others as the State deems reasonably appropriate; (3) establishment of a call center or other communications procedures in response to such Security Breach (e.g., customer service FAQs, talking points and training); (4) public relations and other similar crisis management services; (5) legal and accounting fees and expenses associated with the State's investigation of and response to such event; and (6) costs for credit reporting services that are associated with legally required notifications or are advisable, in the State's opinion, under the circumstances. If the Vendor becomes aware of any Security Breach which is not due to Vendor acts or omissions other than in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, the Vendor shall immediately notify the State of such Security Breach and the parties shall reasonably cooperate regarding which of the foregoing or other activities may be appropriate under the circumstances,

including any applicable Charges for the same.

- i) The Vendor shall allow the State reasonable access to Services security logs, latency statistics, and other related Services security data that affect this Agreement and the State's Data, at no cost to the State.
- j) In the course of normal operations, it may become necessary for the Vendor to copy or move Data to another storage destination on its online system, and delete the Data found in the original location. In any such event, the Vendor shall preserve and maintain the content and integrity of the Data, except by prior written notice to, and prior written approval by, the State.
- k) Remote access to Data from outside the continental United States including, without limitation, remote access to Data by authorized Services support staff in identified support centers, is prohibited unless approved in advance by the State Chief Information Officer or the Purchasing State Agency.
- l) In the event of temporary loss of access to Services, the Vendor shall promptly restore continuity of Services, restore Data in accordance with this Agreement and as may be set forth in an SLA, restore accessibility of Data and the Services to meet the performance requirements stated herein or in an SLA. As a result, Service Level remedies will become available to the State as provided herein, in the SLA or other agreed and relevant documents. Failure to promptly remedy any such temporary loss of access may result in the State exercising its options for assessing damages under this Agreement.
- m) In the event of disaster or catastrophic failure that results in significant State Data loss or extended loss of access to Data or Services, the Vendor shall notify the State by the fastest means available and in writing, with additional notification provided to the State Chief Information Officer or designer of the Purchasing State Agency. The Vendor shall provide such notification within twenty-four (24) hours after the Vendor reasonably believes there has been such a disaster or catastrophic failure. In the notification, the Vendor shall inform the State of:
 - (1) The scale and quantity of the State Data loss.
 - (2) What the Vendor has done or will do to recover the State Data from backups and mitigate any deleterious effect of the State Data and Services loss; and
 - (3) What corrective action has the Vendor taken or will take to prevent future State Data and Services loss.
 - (4) If the Vendor fails to respond immediately and remedy the failure, the State may exercise its options for assessing damages or other remedies under this Agreement.The Vendor shall investigate the disaster or catastrophic failure and shall share the report of the investigation with the State. The State and/or its authorized agents shall have the right to lead (if required by law) or participate in the investigation. The Vendor shall cooperate fully with the State, its agents and law enforcement.
- n) In the event of termination of this Agreement, cessation of business by the Vendor or other event preventing the Vendor from continuing to provide the Services, the Vendor shall not withhold the State Data or any other State confidential information or refuse for any reason, and promptly return to the State the State Data and any other State confidential information (including copies thereof) if requested to do so on such media as reasonably requested by the State, even if the State is then or is alleged to be in breach of the Agreement. As a part of the Vendor's obligation to provide the State Data pursuant to this Paragraph 18) n), the Vendor will also provide the State any data maps, documentation, software, or other materials necessary including, without limitation, handwritten notes, materials, working

papers or documentation, for the State to use, translate, interpret, extract and convert the State Data.

- o) **Secure Data Disposal.** When requested by the State, the Vendor shall destroy all requested data in all of its forms (e.g., disk, CD/DVD, and paper). Data shall be permanently deleted and shall not be recoverable according to National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) approved methods and certificates of destruction shall be provided to the State.

19) ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS: Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 147-64.7, the State, the State Auditor, appropriate federal officials, and their respective authorized employees or agents are authorized to examine all books, records, and accounts of the Vendor insofar as they relate to transactions with any department, board, officer, commission, institution, or other agency of the State of North Carolina pursuant to the performance of this Agreement or to costs charged to this Agreement. The Vendor shall retain any such books, records, and accounts for a minimum of three (3) years after the completion of this Agreement. Additional audit or reporting requirements may be required by any State if, in the State's opinion, such requirement is imposed by federal or state law or regulation. The Vendor shall allow the State to audit conformance including contract terms, system security, and data centers as appropriate. The State may perform this audit or contract with a third party at its discretion at the State's expense. Such reviews shall be conducted with at least thirty (30) days' advance written notice and shall not unreasonably interfere with the Service Provider's business.

20) ASSIGNMENT: The Vendor may not assign this Agreement or its obligations hereunder except as permitted by 09 NCAC 06B.1003 and this Paragraph. The Vendor shall provide reasonable notice of not less than thirty (30) days of any consolidation, acquisition, or merger. Any assignee shall affirm this Agreement attorning to the terms and conditions agreed, and the Vendor shall affirm that the assignee is fully capable of performing all obligations of the Vendor under this Agreement. An assignment may be made, if at all, in writing by the Vendor, assignee, and the State setting forth the foregoing obligation of the Vendor and the assignee.

21) NOTICES: Any notices required under this Agreement should be delivered to the Contract Administrator for each party. Unless otherwise specified in the Solicitation Documents, any notices shall be delivered in writing by U.S. Mail, Commercial Courier, facsimile or by hand.

22) TITLES AND HEADINGS: Titles and Headings in this Agreement are used for convenience only and do not define, limit or proscribe the language of terms identified by such Titles and Headings.

23) AMENDMENT: This Agreement may not be amended orally or by performance. Any amendment must be made in written form and signed by duly authorized representatives of the State and the Vendor.

24) TAXES: The State of North Carolina is exempt from Federal excise taxes, and no payment will be made for any personal property taxes levied on the Vendor or for any taxes levied on employee wages. Agencies of the State may have additional exemptions or exclusions from federal or state taxes. Evidence of such additional exemptions or exclusions may be provided to the Vendor by Agencies, as applicable, during the term of this Agreement. Applicable State or local sales taxes shall be invoiced as a separate item.

25) GOVERNING LAWS, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE: This Agreement is made under and shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina. The place of this Agreement or purchase order, its situs and forum, shall be Wake County, North

Carolina where all matters, whether sounding in contract or in tort, relating to its validity, construction, interpretation and enforcement shall be determined. The Vendor agrees and submits, solely for matters relating to this Agreement, to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of North Carolina and stipulates that Wake County shall be the proper venue for all matters.

26) DEFAULT: In the event Services or other Deliverable furnished or performed by the Vendor during performance of any Agreement term fail to conform to any material requirement(s) of the Agreement specifications, notice of the failure is provided by the State and if the failure is not cured within ten (10) days, or the Vendor fails to meet the material requirements and specifications herein, the State may cancel the Agreement. Default may be cause for debarment as provided in 09 NCAC 06B.1206. The rights and remedies of the State provided above shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under the Agreement.

- a) If the Vendor fails to deliver or provide correct Services within the time required by this Agreement, the State shall provide written notice of said failure to the Vendor, and by such notice require performance assurance measures pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143B-1340(f). The Vendor is responsible for the delays resulting from its failure to deliver or provide Services or other Deliverables.
- b) Should the State fail to perform any of its obligations upon which the Vendor's performance is conditioned, the Vendor shall not be in default for any delay, cost increase or other consequences resulting from the State's failure. The Vendor will use reasonable efforts to mitigate delays, costs or expenses arising from assumptions in the Vendor's offer documents that prove erroneous or are otherwise invalid. Any deadline that is affected by any such Vendor failure in assumptions or performance by the State shall be extended by an amount of time reasonably necessary to compensate for the effect of such failure. The Vendor shall provide a plan to cure any delay or default if requested by the State. The plan shall state the nature of the delay or default, the time required for cure, any mitigating factors causing or tending to cause the delay or default, and such other information as the Vendor may deem necessary or proper to provide.

27) FORCE MAJEURE: Except as provided for herein, neither party shall be deemed to be in default of its obligations hereunder if and so long as it is prevented from performing such obligations as a result of events beyond its reasonable control including, without limitation, fire, power failures, any act of war, hostile foreign action, nuclear explosion, riot, strikes or failures or refusals to perform under subcontracts, civil insurrection, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, or other catastrophic natural event or act of God.

28) COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS: The Vendor shall comply with all laws, ordinances, codes, rules, regulations, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business and the provision of Services hereunder, including those of federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction and/or authority.

29) TERMINATION: Any notice or termination made under this Agreement shall be transmitted via US Mail, Certified Return Receipt Requested. The period of notice for termination shall begin on the day the return receipt is signed and dated. The parties may mutually terminate this Agreement by written agreement at any time.

The State may terminate this Agreement, in whole or in part, pursuant to Paragraph 26) entitled "Default," or pursuant to Special Terms and Conditions in the Solicitation Documents, if any, or for any of the following:

- i) **Termination for Cause:** In the event any goods, Services, or service furnished by the Vendor during performance fails to conform to any material specification or requirement of the Agreement, and the failure is not cured within the specified time after providing written notice thereof to the Vendor, the State may cancel and procure the articles or Services from other sources holding the Vendor liable for any excess costs occasioned thereby, subject only to the limitations provided in Paragraph 7), entitled "Limitation of Liability." The rights and remedies of the State provided above shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under the Agreement. The Vendor shall not be relieved of liability to the State for damages sustained by the State arising from the Vendor's breach of this Agreement and the State may, in its discretion, withhold any payment due as a setoff until such time as the damages are finally determined or as agreed by the parties. Voluntary or involuntary Bankruptcy or receivership by the Vendor shall be cause for termination.
- ii) **Termination for Convenience Without Cause:** The State may terminate service and indefinite quantity contracts in whole or in part by giving thirty (30) days' prior notice in writing to the Vendor. The Vendor shall be entitled to sums due as compensation for Services performed in conformance with the Agreement. In the event the Agreement is terminated for the convenience of the State, the State will pay for all Services and work performed or delivered in conformance with the Agreement up to the date of termination.

30) DISPUTE RESOLUTION: The parties agree that it is in their mutual interest to resolve disputes informally. A claim by the State shall be submitted in writing to the Vendor's Contract Administrator for decision. The parties shall negotiate in good faith and use all reasonable efforts to resolve such dispute(s). During the time the parties are attempting to resolve any dispute, each shall proceed diligently to perform their respective duties and responsibilities under this Agreement. If a dispute cannot be resolved between the parties within thirty (30) days after delivery of notice, either Party may elect to exercise any other remedies available under this Agreement or at law. This term shall not constitute an agreement by either party to mediate or arbitrate any dispute.

31) SEVERABILITY: In the event a court of competent jurisdiction holds that a provision or requirement of this Agreement violates any applicable law, each such provision or requirement shall be enforced only to the extent it is not in violation of law or is not otherwise unenforceable and all other provisions and requirements of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. All promises, requirements, terms, conditions, provisions, representations, guarantees and warranties contained herein shall survive the expiration or termination date unless specifically provided otherwise herein, or unless superseded by applicable federal or State statute, including statutes of repose or limitation.

32) FEDERAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION ACT: The parties agree that the State shall be entitled to any and all rights and benefits of the Federal Intellectual Property Bankruptcy Protection Act, Public Law 100-506, codified at 11 U.S.C. 365(n), and any amendments thereto.

33) ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT: Purchasing shall be conducted through the Statewide eProcurement Service. The State's third-party agent shall serve as the Supplier Manager for this eProcurement Service. The Vendor shall register for the Statewide eProcurement Service within two (2) business days of notification of award in order to receive an electronic purchase order resulting from award of this contract.

- a) The Supplier Manager will capture the order from the State approved user, including the shipping and payment information, and submit the order in accordance with the

eProcurement Service. Subsequently, the Supplier Manager will send those orders to the appropriate Vendor on State Agreement. The State or State approved user, not the Supplier Manager, shall be responsible for the solicitation, bids received, evaluation of bids received, award of contract, and the payment for goods delivered.

- b) The Vendor agrees at all times to maintain the confidentiality of its username and password for the Statewide eProcurement Services. If the Vendor is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, the Vendor may authorize its employees to use its password. The Vendor shall be responsible for all activity and all charges for such employees. The Vendor agrees not to permit a third party to use the Statewide eProcurement Services through its account. If there is a breach of security through the Vendor's account, the Vendor shall immediately change its password and notify the Supplier Manager of the security breach by e-mail. The Vendor shall cooperate with the State and the Supplier Manager to mitigate and correct any security breach.

7.0 NCDHHS PRIVACY AND SECURITY OFFICE (PSO) TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS

The Vendor shall comply with all electronic storage standards concerning privacy, data protection, confidentiality, and security including those of federal, state, and DHHS having jurisdiction where business services are provided for accessing, receiving, or processing all confidential information.

2. NC STATE AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PRIVACY AND REQUIREMENTS

The Vendor shall implement internal data security measures, and other industry security best practices utilizing appropriate hardware and software necessary to monitor, maintain, and ensure data integrity in accordance with all applicable federal regulations, state regulations, DHHS privacy and security policies. The Vendor will maintain all Privacy and security safeguards throughout the term of this agreement. In addition, the Vendor agrees to maintain compliance with the NC DHHS Privacy Manual and Security Manual, both located online at:

<https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/departmental/policies-manuals/section-viii-privacy-and-security>

3. HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA)

If the DHHS Division or Office determines that some or all the activities within the scope of this contract are subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-91, as amended (HIPAA), or its implementing regulations, the Vendor agrees to comply with all HIPAA requirements and will execute such agreements and practices as the Division or Office may require ensuring compliance.

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

- a) The Vendor shall adhere to DHHS privacy and security policies, as well as those in federal regulations including the Privacy Rule at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164, subparts A and E , Security Standards at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160, 162 and 164, subparts A and C ("the Security Rule"), and the applicable provisions of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH).
- b) **DATA SECURITY:** In the event the Vendor obtains written consent by a DHHS Division or Office to enter into a third-party agreement to whom the Vendor provides confidential information, the Vendor shall ensure that such agreement contains provisions reflecting obligations of data confidentiality and data security stringent as those set forth in the contract.
- c) **DUTY TO REPORT:** In addition to any DHHS Privacy and Security Office (PSO) notification requirements in a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with a DHHS Division or Office, or the North Carolina Department of Information Technology Terms and Conditions, the Vendor shall (1) report all suspected and confirmed privacy/security incidents or privacy/security breaches involving unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or data destruction to the DHHS Privacy and Security Office at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/administrative-divisions-offices/office-privacy-security> within twenty-four (24) hours after the incident is first discovered. (2) If the privacy or security incident involves Social Security Administration (SSA) data or Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) data, the vendor shall report the incident within one (1) hour after the incident is first discovered. At a minimum, such privacy and security incident report will contain to the extent known: the nature of the incident, specific information about the data compromised, the date the privacy or security incident occurred, the date the Vendor was notified, and the identity of affected or potentially affected individual(s). (3) During the performance of this contract, the vendor is to notify the DHHS Privacy and Security Office of any contact by the federal Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received by the vendor. In addition, the Vendor

will reasonably cooperate with DHHS Divisions and Offices to mitigate the damage or harm of such security incidents.

5. CONTINUOUS MONITORING

- a) The Vendor shall maintain compliance with the State Chief Information Officer's (CIO) Continuous Monitoring Process mandate, requiring that Vendors hosting state-owned data outside of NC DIT's infrastructure environment work with state agencies to implement a risk management program that continuously monitors risk through the performance of assessments, risk analysis, and data inventory.
- b) Based upon NIST 800-137, "Information Security Continuous Monitoring (ISCM) for Federal Information Systems and Organizations", the Vendor shall perform security/risk assessments on its information systems using the latest NIST 800-53 controls to assess its compliance with enterprise security standards as outlined below.

Security Assessment:

- i. Vendors providing Infrastructure as a Service, Platform as a Service and/or Software as a Service for the state agency are required to obtain approval from the DHHS Privacy and Security Office to ensure their compliance with statewide security policies.
- ii. To obtain such approval, the Vendor shall annually provide both a written attestation to its compliance and an industry recognized, third party assessment report, such as the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) certification, SOC 2 Type 2, HITRUST CSF and ISO 27001. State agencies will be required to review these security assessment reports, assess the risk of each vendor, ensure completion of all findings using a Corrective Action Plan (CAP), and provide an annual certification to the Vendor's compliance to the State CIO.

The Vendor shall work with the state agency to provide a data inventory of all cloud hosted services, by assisting the state agency with completing a Privacy Threshold Analysis (PTA) documenting the data classification and the data fields hosted within the cloud, offsite, or Vendor-hosted environment. The Vendor shall review a Privacy Threshold Analysis (PTA) with the NC DHHS Privacy and Security Office annually and assist with updating the PTA when changes to the data being hosted occur.

DHHS Privacy & Security office may perform periodic independent security assessments of Vendor hosted applications on the public/private/hybrid cloud or On-Prem data centers. The Vendor must provide access to their applications' hosting environment and their key resources to DHHS designated resources and DHHS engaged vendors to perform a privacy & security risk assessment that includes vulnerability analysis, penetration testing, and risk analysis based on the latest NIST 800-53, Federal, State and DHHS requirements.

6. OVERSIGHT

- a) **RECORD RETENTION:** Records shall not be destroyed, purged, or disposed of without the express written consent of the DHHS Division or Office. State basic records retention policy requires all grant records to be retained for a minimum of five years or until all audit exceptions have been resolved, whichever is longer. If the contract is subject to federal policy and regulations, record retention may be longer than five years. Records must be retained for a period of three years following submission of the final Federal Financial Status Report, if applicable, or three years following the submission of a revised final Federal Financial Status Report. Also, if any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, disallowance action, or other action involving this Contract has been started before expiration of the five-year retention period described above, the records must be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all

issues which arise from it, or until the end of the regular five-year period described above, whichever is later. The record retention period for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and MEDICAID and Medical Assistance grants and programs is a minimum of ten years. The record retention period for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is six years. For the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA), the record retention period is seven years.

7. FLOW-DOWN

In addition to the subcontracting requirements in Paragraph 4) of the NCDIT Terms and Conditions, Attachment B, Section: (1) if a sub-vendor is used in the performance of this contract, written approval of the NC DHHS PSO (Privacy and Security Office) is also required; and (2) Vendor must include, without modification all the security and privacy terms and conditions in this Attachment C, Department of Health and Human Services Terms and Conditions in each sub-contract.