



7145 West Tidwell Road ~ Houston, Texas 77092
(713) 744-6835
www.esc4.net

Publication Date: July 31 2014

NOTICE TO OFFEROR

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: Thursday, September 4, 2014 @ 2:00 PM CDT

Questions regarding this solicitation must be submitted in writing to Robert Zingelmann at questions@esc4.net or (713) 744-6835 no later than *August 28, 2014*. All questions and answers will be posted to both www.esc4.net and www.tcpn.org under **Solicitations**. Offerors are responsible for viewing either website to review all questions and answers prior to submitting proposals. Please note that oral communications concerning this RFP shall not be binding and shall in no way excuse the responsive Offeror of the obligations set forth in this proposal.

Request for Proposal (RFP)
by

Region 4 Education Service Center (“ESC”)

For

Alternative Student Transportation

On behalf of itself, other government agencies and non-profits, made available through The Cooperative Purchasing Network “TCPN.”

Solicitation Number 14-15

Note: Envelopes must be sealed, prominently marked with the RFP solicitation number, RFP title, RFP opening time/date and name of vendor. Electronic submissions of the RFP will not be accepted. **Submissions must be received by the Region 4 ESC office at: 7145 West Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77092 no later than 2:00 pm CDT, at which time the bid opening process shall commence. Proposals will be collected in a conference room to be determined by Region 4 ESC and opened and recorded publicly.**

ATTENTION OFFERORS:

Submission of a proposal confers NO RIGHT on an Offeror to an award or to a subsequent contract. Region 4 ESC, in its sole discretion and for any reason or no reason, reserves the rights to reject any or all proposals, accept only a part of any proposal, accept the proposal deemed most advantageous to Region 4 ESC, and waive any technicalities. The issuance of this RFP does not obligate Region 4 ESC to make an award or negotiate or execute a contract. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to amend the terms and provisions of the RFP, negotiate with a proposer, add, delete, or modify the contract and/or the terms of any proposal submitted, extend the deadline for submission of proposals, ask for best and final offers, or withdraw the RFP entirely for any reason solely at Region 4 ESC's discretion. An individual proposal may be rejected if it fails to meet any requirement of this RFP. Region 4 ESC may seek clarification from a proposer at any time, and failure to respond within a reasonable time frame is cause for rejection of a proposal.

Please be advised that all information and documents submitted will be subject to the Public Information Act requirements governed by the State of Texas.

Because contracts are awarded by a governmental entity, all responses submitted are subject to release as public information after contracts are executed. If an Offeror believes that its response, or parts of its response, may be exempted from disclosure, the Offeror must specify page-by-page and line-by-line the parts of the response, which it believes, are exempt. In addition, the Offeror must specify which exception(s) are applicable and provide detailed reasons to substantiate the exception(s). Offeror must provide this information on the “Acknowledgement and Acceptance to Region 4 ESC’s Open Record Policy” form found on the next page of this solicitation. Any information that is unmarked will be considered public information and released, if requested under the Public Information Act.

The determination of whether information is confidential and not subject to disclosure is the duty of the Office of Attorney General (OAG). Region 4 Education Service Center (“ESC”) must provide the OAG sufficient information to render an opinion and therefore, vague and general claims to confidentiality by the Offeror are not acceptable. Region 4 ESC must comply with the opinions of the OAG. Region 4 ESC assumes no responsibility for asserting legal arguments on behalf of any Offeror. Offerors are advised to consult with their legal counsel concerning disclosure issues resulting from this procurement process and to take precautions to safeguard trade secrets and other proprietary information.

After completion of award, these documents will be available for public inspection.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE
OF REGION 4 ESC's OPEN RECORDS POLICY

Signature below certifies complete acceptance of Region 4 ESC's Open Records Policy, except as noted below (additional pages may be attached, if necessary).

Check one of the following responses to the Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Region 4 ESC's Open Records Policy below:

- We acknowledge Region 4 ESC's Open Records Policy and declare that no information submitted with this proposal, or any part of our proposal, is exempt from disclosure under the Public Information Act.

(Note: All information believed to be a trade secret or proprietary must be listed below. It is further understood that failure to identify such information, in strict accordance with the instructions below, will result in that information being considered public information and released, if requested under the Public Information Act.)

- We declare the following information to be a trade secret or proprietary and exempt from disclosure under the Public Information Act.

(Note: Offeror must specify page-by-page and line-by-line the parts of the response, which it believes, are exempt. In addition, Offeror must specify which exception(s) are applicable and provide detailed reasons to substantiate the exception(s).

Date

Authorized Signature & Title

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A. INTRODUCTION

I. Background on Region 4 Education Service Center

Region 4 Education Service Center (“Region 4 ESC” herein “Lead Public Agency”) on behalf of itself and all state, local governments, school districts, and higher education institutions in the United States of America, and other government agencies and non-profit organizations (herein “Participating Agencies”) solicits proposals from qualified Offerors to enter into a Vendor Contract (“contract”) for the goods or services solicited in this proposal.

Contracts are approved and awarded by a single governmental entity, Region 4 ESC, and are only available for use and benefit of all entities complying with state procurement laws and regulations (public and private schools, colleges and universities, cities, counties, non-profits, and all governmental entities).

Region 4 ESC’s purchasing cooperative was established in 1997 as a means to increase their economic and operational efficiency. The purchasing cooperative has since evolved into a National Cooperative used to assist other government and public entities increase their economical and operational efficiency when procuring goods and services.

II. What is the role of The Cooperative Purchasing Network (“TCPN”)

The Cooperative Purchasing Network (“TCPN”) assists Region 4 ESC in helping other public agencies and non-profits reap the benefits of national leveraged pricing, with no cost to the member. TCPN leverages one of the largest pools of purchasing potential. This is accomplished by competitively soliciting proposals and awarding contracts for commonly purchased products and services. Through the TCPN solicitation process, Region 4 ESC awards contracts covering Facilities, Furniture, Office Supplies & Equipment, Security Systems, and Technology and other goods and services industries.

III. Purpose of TCPN

- Provide governmental and public entities opportunities for greater efficiency and economy in procuring goods and services.
- Take advantage of state-of-the-art purchasing procedures to ensure the most competitive contracts.
- Provide competitive price and bulk purchasing for multiple government or public entities that yields economic benefits unobtainable by the individual entity.
- Provide quick and efficient delivery of goods and services.
- Equalize purchasing power for smaller agencies that are unable to command the best contracts for themselves.
- Help in assisting with use of best business practices.

IV. Customer Service

- TCPN is dedicated to making our contracts successful for both our members and our awarded vendors.
- TCPN is committed to providing our members and awarded vendors with high quality service.
- TCPN has dedicated staff available to answer questions, offer guidance and help in any way possible.

B. SCOPE

It is the intention of Region 4 ESC to establish a contract with vendor(s) for Alternative Student Transportation. Awarded vendor(s) shall perform covered services under the terms of this agreement. Offerors shall provide pricing based on a discount from a manufacturer's price list or catalog, or fixed price, or a combination of both with indefinite quantities. Electronic Catalog and/or price lists must accompany the proposal. Include an electronic copy of the catalog from which discount, or fixed price, is calculated. Multiple percentage discount structure is also acceptable. Please specify where different percentage discounts apply. Additional pricing and/or discounts may be included. If Offeror has existing cooperative contracts in place, Offeror is requested to submit pricing equal or better than those in place.

Each service proposed is to be priced separately with all ineligible items identified. Services may be awarded to multiple vendors. Offerors may elect to limit their proposals to a single service within any category, or multiple services within any or all categories.

Region 4 ESC is seeking a service provider that has the depth, breadth and quality of resources necessary to complete all phases of this contract. In addition, TCPN also requests any value add commodity or service that could be provided under this contract.

While this solicitation specifically covers Alternative Student Transportation, respondents are encouraged to submit an offering on any and all products or services available that they currently perform in their normal course of business.

C. KEY DEFINITIONS

Days: means calendar days.

Lead agency: means the government entity advertising, soliciting, evaluating and awarding the contract. This definition also includes a public agency that meets the definition of a political subdivision, including a county, city, school district, state, public higher education or special district.

Lowest Pricing Available: means the overall lowest not-to-exceed price available for the specified goods or services at the time the vendor submits their proposal.

Procurement: means buying, purchasing, renting, leasing or otherwise acquiring any materials, services or construction. Procurement also includes all functions that pertain to the obtaining of any material, service, or construction, including description of requirements, selection and solicitation of sources, preparation and award of contract and all phases of contract administration.

Responsive Offeror: means a person, company, firm, corporation, partnership or other organization who submits a proposal which conforms in all material respects to the invitation for bids or request for proposals.

Solicitation: means an invitation for bids, a request for technical offers, a request for proposals, a request for quotations or any other invitation or request by which we invite a person to participate in a procurement.

Specifications: means any description of physical or functional characteristics, or of the nature of a material, service or construction of item. Specifications may include a description or any requirement for inspecting, testing or preparing a material, service or construction item for delivery.

Vendor: means any provider or seller of goods and/or services that has a contractual relationship with Region 4 or TCPN.

D. GENERAL TERMS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS

- I. **Submission of Response:** Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, all submitted proposals must contain one (1) bound and signed original copy of the solicitation, and two (2) electronic copies on CD, DVD or flash drives (i.e. pin or jump drives) shall be provided. Please see format requirements below. Vendor must also submit one (1) electronic proposal free of propriety information to be posted on Vendor information page if awarded a contract.

Only sealed responses will be accepted. Faxed or electronically transmitted responses will not be accepted. Sealed responses may be submitted on any or all items, unless stated otherwise. Proposal may be rejected for failure to comply with the requirements set forth in this proposal.

Deviations from any terms, conditions and/or specifications must be conspicuously noted in writing by the Offeror and shall be included with the response. (See Appendix D).

- II. **Proposal Format:** Responses must be provided in a three-ring binder or report cover using 8.5 x 11 paper clearly identified with the name of the Offeror's company and the solicitation name and number on both the outside front cover and vertical spine. All forms are to be completed electronically.

Include a copy of the entire RFP document that you are responding to, prior to your tabulated response. This means that all pages prior to the Appendixes must be included before Tab 1. Tabs should be used to separate the proposal into sections. The following items identified must be included behind the tabs listed below. Offerors failing to organize in the manner listed may be considered non-responsive and may not be evaluated.

III. **Binder Tabs:**

- Tab 1 – Entire Vendor Contract and Signature Form
 - General Terms and Conditions Acceptance Form (Appendix D)
- Tab 2 – Questionnaire (Appendix E)
- Tab 3 – Company Profile (Appendix F, excluding References section)
- Tab 4 – Evaluation Criteria Questionnaire (Appendix I)
- Tab 5 – Product / Services (Appendix B)
- Tab 6 – References (Appendix F)
- Tab 7 – Pricing (Appendix C)
- Tab 8 – Value Add (Appendix G)
- Tab 9 – Required Documents
 - Additional Required Documents (Appendix H)
 - Acknowledgement & Acceptance of Region 4 ESC Open Records Policy (Page 4).

- IV. **Mailing of Proposals:** All bids and proposals submitted in response to the solicitation must be clearly identified as listed below with the solicitation number, title, name and address of the company responding. All packages must be clearly identified as listed below, sealed and delivered to the Region 4 ESC office no later than the submittal deadline assigned for this solicitation.

From _____
Company _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Solicitation Name and Number _____ Due Date and Time _____

- V. **Time for Receiving Proposals:** Proposals received prior to the submittal deadline will be time-stamped upon receipt and kept secure and unopened. At the submittal deadline, Region 4 will begin the process of opening all bids publicly by collecting all proposals received before the deadline in the room designated for the bid opening. No proposals received after the submittal time and deadline will be considered. Late proposals will be returned to sender unopened.
- VI. **Inquiries and/or Discrepancies:** Questions regarding this solicitation must be submitted in writing to Robert Zingelmann at questions@esc4.net or (713) 744-6835 no later than *August 28 2014*. All questions and answers will be posted to both www.esc4.net and www.tcpn.org under **Solicitations**. Offerors are responsible for viewing either website to review all questions and answers prior to submitting proposals. Please note that oral communications concerning this RFP shall not be binding and shall in no way excuse the responsive Offeror of the obligations set forth in this proposal.
- VII. **Restricted and Prohibited Communications with Region 4 ESC:** During the period between the date Region 4 ESC issues this RFP and the selection of the vendor who is awarded a contract by Region 4 ESC, if any, Offerors shall restrict all contact with Region 4 ESC and direct all questions regarding this RFP, including questions regarding terms and conditions, only to the individual identified above in Section "Inquiries and/or Discrepancies" in the specified manner. **Do not contact members of the Board of Directors, other employees of Region 4 ESC or any of Region 4 ESC's agents or administrators. Contact with any of these prohibited individuals after issuance of this RFP and before selection is made, may result in disqualification of the Offeror.**

The communications prohibition shall terminate when the contract is recommended by the administration, considered by the Board of Directors at a noticed public meeting, and a contract has been awarded. In the event the Board of Directors refers the recommendation back to staff for reconsideration, the communications prohibition shall be re-imposed. Additionally, during the time period between the award by the Board of Directors and the execution of the contract, Offerors shall not engage in any prohibited communications as described in this section.

Prohibited communications includes direct contact, discussion, or promotion of any Offeror's response with any member of Region 4 ESC's Board of Directors or employees except for communications with Region 4 ESC's designated representative as set forth in this RFP and only in the course of inquiries, briefings, interviews, or presentations. This prohibition is intended to create a level playing field for all potential Offerors, assure that decisions are made in public, and to protect the integrity of the RFP process. Except as provided in the above stated exceptions, the following communications regarding a particular invitation for bids, requests for proposal, requests for qualifications, or other solicitation are prohibited:

- Communications between a potential vendor, service provider, bidder, offeror, lobbyist or consultant and any member of Region 4 ESC's Board of Directors;
- Communications between any director and any member of a selection or evaluation committee; and
- Communications between any director and administrator or employee.

The communications prohibition shall not apply to the following:

- Communications with Region 4 ESC's purchasing agent specifically named and authorized to conduct and receive such communications under this RFP or upon the request of Region 4 ESC, with Region 4 ESC's legal counsel; and
- Presentations made to the Board of Directors during any duly noticed public meeting.

Nothing contained herein shall prohibit any person or entity from publicly addressing Region 4 ESC's Board of Directors during any duly noticed public meeting, in accordance with applicable Board policies, on a matter other than this RFP or in connection with a presentation requested by Region 4 ESC's representatives.

VIII. Calendar of Events (subject to change):

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date:</u>
Issue RFP	July 31, 2014
Pre-proposal Conference	None
Deadline for receipt of questions via email	August 28, 2014
Issue Addendum/a (if required)	To Be Determined
Proposal Due Date	September 4, 2014
Approval from Region 4 ESC	October 14, 2014
Contract Effective Date	January 1, 2015

CONDITIONS OF SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

IX. Amendment of Proposal: A proposal may be amended up to the time of opening by submitting a sealed letter to the location indicated on the front page of this solicitation.

X. Withdrawal of Proposals: Withdrawal of proposals prior to the opening date will be permitted. Withdrawal of response will not be allowed for a period of 120 days following the opening. Pricing will remain firm for 120 days from submittal. However, consideration may be given in cases where Offeror advises that it made a clerical error that is substantially lower than it intended. In such case, Offeror must provide written notice of their desire to withdraw, along with supporting documents, within 3 business days of receiving the acceptance letter or of being requested by Region 4 ESC for clarification of the proposal, whichever is later. Any contracts entered into prior to Region 4 ESC receiving notice must be honored.

No Offeror should assume that their withdrawal request has been accepted unless, and until, they receive written acknowledgment and acceptance of their proposal withdrawal.

XI. Clarifications: Offeror may receive a written request to clarify, in writing, its proposal in order to determine whether a proposal should be considered for award. The process of clarification is not an opportunity for an Offeror to revise or modify its proposal, and any response by an Offeror to a written request for clarification that attempts to revise or modify its proposal shall be given no effect. The purpose of the request for clarification will be solely made for the purpose of eliminating minor irregularities, informalities, or apparent clerical mistakes in the proposal, which may be corrected or waived in the leading agency's sole discretion.

XII. Non-Responsive Proposals: All proposals will be reviewed for responsiveness to the material requirements of the solicitation. A proposal that is not materially responsive shall not be eligible for further consideration for award of the contract, and the Offeror shall receive notice of the rejection of its proposal.

XIII. Negotiations: Region 4 ESC shall determine which responsive proposals are in the competitive range and/or are reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. Proposals not in the competitive range may not be further evaluated. Proposals in the competitive range shall be evaluated on the basis of price and the other evaluation criteria set forth in the solicitation. In the event that Region 4 ESC decides to conduct negotiations, notice shall be provided to each Offeror

whose proposal is being considered for award, which notice may identify, in general terms, the elements or factors upon which Region 4 ESC intends to base its negotiations. Offerors will not be assisted, in any way, to bring their proposal up to the level of other proposals through discussions. During the course of negotiations, no Offeror's technical proposal or pricing shall be revealed to any other Offeror or to any other person who is not involved with the evaluation process. Region 4 ESC will also not indicate to Offeror a cost or price that it must meet to either obtain further consideration nor will it provide any information about other Offerors' proposals or prices.

XIV. Best and Final Offer: Region 4 ESC, in its sole discretion, may request all Offerors in the competitive range to submit a Best and Final Offer. Offerors must submit their Best and Final Offers in writing. If an Offeror does not respond to the request for a Best and Final Offer, that Offeror's most recent prior offer will be considered to be its Best and Final Offer.

XV. Specifications: When a solicitation contains a specification that states no substitutions, no deviation from this requirement will be permitted. Offeror must comply with the true intent of the specifications and drawings and not take advantage of any unintentional error or omission. In cases where no type and kind of product is specified, specifications have been developed to indicate minimal standards as to the usage, materials, and contents based on the needs of the members.

References to manufacturer's specifications (Design Guides), when used by Region 4 ESC, are to be considered informative to give the Offeror information as to the general style, type and kind requested. Responses proposing goods, materials or equipment regularly produced by a reputable manufacturer shall be evaluated by Region 4 ESC which will, in its sole discretion, determine whether such proposed goods, materials or equipment are substantially equivalent to the Design Guides, considering quality, workmanship, economy of operation, and suitability for the purpose intended. Offerors should include all documentation required to evaluate whether or not their proposed goods, materials or equipment are substantially equivalent to the Design Guides.

XVI. Quality of Materials or Services: Offeror shall state the brand name and number of the materials being provided. If none is indicated then it is understood that the offeror is quoting on the exact brand name and number specified or mentioned in the solicitation.

However, unless specifically stated otherwise, comparable substitutions will be permitted in cases where the material is equal to that specified, considering quality, workmanship, economy of operation and suitability for the purpose intended.

XVII. Samples: Upon request, samples shall be furnished, free of cost, within seven (7) days after receiving notice of such request. By submitting the proposal Offeror certifies that all materials conform to all applicable requirements of this solicitation and of those required by law. Offeror agrees to bear the costs for laboratory testing, if results show that the sample does not comply with solicitation requirements.

Submissions may be rejected for failing to submit samples as requested.

XVIII. Deviations and Exceptions: Deviations or exceptions stipulated in response may result in disqualification. It is the intent of Region 4 ESC to award a manufacturer's complete line of products, when possible.

XIX. Formation of Contract: A response to this solicitation is an offer to contract with Region 4 ESC based upon the terms, conditions, scope of work, and specifications contained in this request. A solicitation does not become a contract until it is awarded by Region 4 ESC. A contract is formed when Region 4 ESC's board signs the Vendor Contract Signature Form. The prospective vendor must submit a signed Vendor Signature Form with the response thus, eliminating the need for a formal signing process.

- XX. Estimated Quantities:** Region 4 ESC anticipates that a substantial number of participating members will enter into contracts resulting from this solicitation based on multiple surveys and usage of other contracts that may have included similar services, however, Region 4 ESC makes no guarantee or commitment of any kind concerning quantities or usage of contracts resulting from this solicitation. The volume for this contract is estimated to be from \$10 million a year to \$20 million a year. This information is provided solely as an aid to contract vendors in preparing proposals only. The successful Vendor(s) discount and pricing schedule shall apply regardless of the volume of business under the contract.
- XXI. Multiple Awards:** membership includes a large number of potential entities which may utilize this contract throughout the nation. In order to assure that any ensuing contract(s) will allow Region 4 ESC to fulfill current and future needs, Region 4 ESC reserves the right to award contract(s) to multiple vendors. The decision to award multiple contracts, award only one contract, or to make no awards rests solely with Region 4 ESC.
- XXII. Non-Exclusive:** Any contract resulting from this solicitation shall be awarded with the understanding and agreement that it is for the sole convenience and benefit of participating members. Region 4 ESC and participating entities reserve the right to obtain like goods and services from other sources.

AWARD PROCESS

- XXIII. Award or Rejection of Proposals:** In accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations for public purchasing, award(s) will be made to the prospective vendor whose response is determined to be the most advantageous to participating agencies, price and other factors considered. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to use a "Market Basket Survey" method, based on randomly selected criteria to determine the most advantageous response. To qualify for evaluation, a proposal must have been submitted on time, and satisfy all mandatory requirements identified in this solicitation. Proposals that are materially non-responsive will be rejected and the Offeror will be provided notice of such rejection.

- XXIV. Evaluation Process:** In evaluating the responses the following predetermined criteria is considered:

Products/Pricing (40 Points)

1. All products and services available
2. Pricing for all available products and services
3. Ability of Customers to verify that they received contract pricing
4. Payment methods
5. Other factors relevant to this section as submitted by the proposer

Performance Capability (30 Points)

1. Ability to deliver products and services nationally
2. Response to emergency orders
3. Average on time rate
4. History of meeting timelines
5. Ability to meet service and insurance needs of members
6. Customer service/problem resolution
7. Invoicing process
8. Contract implementation/Customer transition
9. Financial condition of vendor
10. Website ease of use, availability, and capabilities related to ordering, returns and reporting
11. Offeror's safety record

12. Instructional materials
13. Other factors relevant to this section as submitted by the proposer

Qualification and Experience (20 Points)

1. Offeror's reputation in the marketplace
2. Reputation of products and services in the marketplace
3. Past relationship with Region 4 ESC and/or TCPN members
4. Experience and qualification of key employees
5. Location and number of sales persons who will work on this contract
6. Past experience working with the government sector
7. Exhibited understanding of cooperative purchasing
8. Past litigation, bankruptcy, reorganization, state investigations of entity or current officers and directors
9. Minimum of 10 customer references relating to the products and services within this RFP
10. Other factors relevant to this section as submitted by the proposer

Value Add (10 Points)

1. Marketing plan and capability
2. Sales force training
3. Other factors relevant to this section as submitted by the proposer

XXV. Competitive Range: It may be necessary to establish a competitive range. Factors from the predetermined criteria will be used to make this determination. Responses not in the competitive range are unacceptable and do not receive further award consideration.

XXVI. Evaluation: A committee will review and evaluate all responses and make a recommendation for award of contract(s). The recommendation for contract awards will be based on the predetermined criteria factors outlined in this solicitation, where each factor is assigned a point value based on its importance.

XXVII. Past Performance: An Offeror's performance and actions under previously awarded contracts are relevant in determining whether or not the Offeror is likely to provide quality goods and services to TCPN members; including the administrative aspects of performance; the Offeror's history of reasonable and cooperative behavior and commitment to customer satisfaction; and generally, the Offeror's businesslike concern for the interests of the customer.

OPEN RECORDS POLICY

XXVIII. Proprietary Information: Because contracts are awarded by a governmental entity, all responses submitted are subject to release as public information after contracts are executed. If an Offeror believes that its response, or parts of its response, may be exempted from disclosure, the Offeror must specify page-by-page and line-by-line the parts of the response, which it believes, are exempt. In addition, the Offeror must specify which exception(s) are applicable and provide detailed reasons to substantiate the exception(s). Offeror must provide this information on the "Acknowledge and Acceptance to Region 4 ESC's Open Record Policy" form found at the beginning of this solicitation. Any information that is unmarked will be considered public information and released, if requested under the Public Information Act.

The determination of whether information is confidential and not subject to disclosure is the duty of the Office of Attorney General (OAG). Region 4 ESC must provide the OAG sufficient information to render an opinion and therefore, vague and general claims to confidentiality by the Offeror are not acceptable. Region 4 ESC must comply with the opinions of the OAG. Region 4 ESC assumes no

responsibility for asserting legal arguments on behalf of any Offeror. Offeror is advised to consult with their legal counsel concerning disclosure issues resulting from this procurement process and to take precautions to safeguard trade secrets and other proprietary information.

After completion of award, these documents will be available for public inspection.

PROTEST OF NON-AWARD

XXIX. Protest Procedure: Any protest of an award or proposed award must be filed in writing within ten (10) days from the date of the official award notification and must be received by 5:00 pm CDT. No protest shall lie for a claim that the selected Vendor is not a responsible Offeror. Protests shall be filed with Robert Zingelmann and sent to the Region 4 ESC office at: 7145 West Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77092. Protests shall include the following:

1. Name, address and telephone number of protester
2. Original signature of protester or its representative
3. Identification of the solicitation by RFP number
4. Detailed statement of legal and factual grounds including copies of relevant documents; and the form of relief requested.
5. Any protest review and action shall be considered final with no further formalities being considered.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

XXX. Waiver: BY SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL, OFFER EXPRESSLY AGREES TO WAIVE ANY CLAIM IT HAS OR MAY HAVE AGAINST BOTH THE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING NETWORK AND REGION 4 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER, ITS DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, ITS TRUSTEES, OR AGENTS ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH (1) THE ADMINISTRATION, EVALUATION, RECOMMENDATION OF ANY PROPOSAL; (2) ANY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE SOLICITATION, PROPOSAL PACKAGE, OR RELATED DOCUMENTS; (3) THE REJECTION OF ANY PROPOSAL OR ANY PART OF ANY PROPOSAL; AND/OR (4) THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT, IF ANY.

XXXI. NEITHER REGION 4 ESC NOR TCPN SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY COSTS INCURRED BY PROPOSERS OR THE SELECTED VENDOR IN CONNECTION WITH RESPONDING TO THE RFP, PREPARING FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS, PREPARING AND SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL, ENTERING OR NEGOTIATING THE TERMS OF A CONTRACT, OR ANY OTHER EXPENSES INCURRED BY A PROPOSER. THE PROPOSER OR SELECTED VENDOR IS WHOLLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SUCH COSTS AND EXPENSES AND SHALL NOT BE REIMBURSED IN ANY MANNER BY REGION 4 ESC OR TCPN.

APPENDIX A

VENDOR CONTRACT AND SIGNATURE FORM

*This Vendor Contract and Signature Form ("Contract") is made as of _____, by and between _____ ("Vendor") and Region 4 Education Service Center ("Region 4 ESC") for the purchase of _____
_____ ("the products and services").*

RECITALS

WHEREAS, both parties agree and understand that the following pages will constitute the contract between the successful vendor(s) and Region 4 ESC, having its principal place of business at 7145 West Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77092.

WHEREAS, Vendor agrees to include, in writing, any required exceptions or deviations from these terms, conditions, and specifications; and it is further understood that, if agreed to by Region 4 ESC, said exceptions or deviations will be incorporated into the final contract "Vendor Contract."

WHEREAS, this contract consists of the provisions set forth below, including provisions of all attachments referenced herein. In the event of a conflict between the provisions set forth below and those contained in any attachment, the provisions set forth below shall control.

WHEREAS, the Vendor Contract will provide that any state, county, special district, local government, school district, private K-12 school, technical or vocational school, higher education institution (including community colleges, colleges and universities, both public and private), other government agencies or non-profit organization may purchase products and services at prices indicated in the Vendor Contract upon registering and becoming a member with TCPN; and it being further understood that Region 4 ESC shall act as the Lead Public Agency with respect to all such purchase agreements.

WHEREAS, TCPN has the administrative and legal capacity to administer purchases on behalf of Region 4 ESC under the Vendor Contract with participating public agencies and entities, as permitted by applicable law.

ARTICLE 1- GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1.1 TCPN shall be afforded all of the rights, privileges and indemnifications afforded to Region 4 ESC under the Vendor Contract, and such rights, privileges and indemnifications shall accrue and apply with equal effect to TCPN, including, without limitation, Vendors obligation to provide insurance and other indemnifications to Lead Public Agency.
- 1.2 Awarded vendor shall perform all duties, responsibilities and obligations, set forth in this agreement, and required under the Vendor Contract.
- 1.3 TCPN shall perform its duties, responsibilities and obligations as administrator of purchases, set forth in this agreement, and required under the Vendor Contract.

1.4 **Purchasing procedure:**

- Purchase orders are issued by participating governmental agencies to the awarded vendor indicating on the PO “**Per TCPN Contract # R_____.**”
- Vendor delivers goods/services directly to the participating agency.
- Awarded vendor invoices the participating agency directly.
- Awarded vendor receives payment directly from the participating agency.
- Awarded vendor reports sales monthly to TCPN.

1.5 **Customer Support:** The vendor shall provide timely and accurate technical advice and sales support to Region 4 ESC staff, TCPN staff and participating agencies. The vendor shall respond to such requests within one (1) working day after receipt of the request.

ARTICLE 2- ANTICIPATED TERM OF AGREEMENT

2.1 Unless otherwise stated, all contracts are for a period of three (3) years with an option to renew annually for an additional two (2) years if agreed to by Region 4 ESC. Region 4 ESC will notify the vendor in writing if the contract is extended. Awarded vendor shall honor all administrative fees for any sales made based on the contract whether renewed or not.

2.2 Region 4 ESC shall review the contract prior to the renewal date and notify the current awarded vendor, no less than ninety (90) days of Region 4 ESC’s intent renew the contract. Upon receipt of notice, awarded vendor must notify Region 4 ESC if it elects not to renew. Awarded vendor shall honor the administrative fee for any sales incurred throughout the life of the contract on any sales made based on a Region 4 ESC contract whether awarded a renewal or not. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to exercise each two-year extension annually.

ARTICLE 3- REPRESENTATIONS AND COVENANTS

3.1. **Scope:** This contract is based on the need to provide the economic benefits of volume purchasing and reduction in administrative costs through cooperative purchasing to schools and other members. Although contractors may restrict sales to certain public units (for example, state agencies or local government units), any contract that prohibits sales from being made to public school districts may not be considered. Sales without restriction to any Members are preferred.

3.2. **Compliance:** Cooperative Purchasing Agreements between TCPN and its Members have been established under state procurement law.

3.3. **Offeror’s Promise:** Offeror agrees all prices, terms, warranties, and benefits granted by Offeror to Members through this contract are comparable to or better than the equivalent terms offered by Offeror to any present customer meeting the same qualifications or requirements.

ARTICLE 4- FORMATION OF CONTRACT

4.1. **Offeror Contract Documents:** Region 4 ESC will review proposed offeror contract documents. Vendor’s contract document shall not become part of Region 4 ESC’s contract with vendor unless and until an authorized representative of Region 4 ESC reviews and approves it.

4.2. **Form of Contract:** The form of contract for this solicitation shall be the Request for Proposal, the awarded proposal(s) and best and final offer(s), and properly issued and reviewed purchase orders

referencing the requirements of the Request for Proposals. If a firm submitting an offer requires Region 4 ESC and/or Member to sign an additional agreement, a copy of the proposed agreement must be included with the proposal.

- 4.3. **Entire Agreement (Parol evidence)**: The contract, as specified above, represents the final written expression of agreement. All agreements are contained herein and no other agreements or representations that materially alter it are acceptable.
- 4.4. **Assignment of Contract**: No assignment of contract may be made without the prior written approval of Region 4 ESC. Purchase orders and payment can only be made to awarded vendor unless otherwise approved by Region 4 ESC. Awarded vendor is required to notify Region 4 ESC when any material change in operations is made that may adversely affect members (i.e. bankruptcy, change of ownership, merger, etc.).
- 4.5. **Novation**: If contractor sells or transfers all assets or the entire portion of the assets used to perform this contract, a successor in interest must guarantee to perform all obligations under this contract. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to accept or reject any new party. A simple change of name agreement will not change the contractual obligations of contractor.
- 4.6. **Contract Alterations**: No alterations to the terms of this contract shall be valid or binding unless authorized and signed by a Region 4 ESC staff member.
- 4.7. **Order of Precedence**: In the event of a conflict in the provisions of the contract as accepted by Region 4 ESC, the following order of precedence shall prevail:
- Special terms and conditions
 - General terms and conditions
 - Specifications and scope of work
 - Attachments and exhibits
 - Documents referenced or included in the solicitation
- 4.8. **Supplemental Agreements**: The entity participating in the Region 4 ESC contract and awarded vendor may enter into a separate supplemental agreement to further define the level of service requirements over and above the minimum defined in this contract i.e. invoice requirements, ordering requirements, specialized delivery, etc. Any supplemental agreement developed as a result of this contract is exclusively between the participating entity and awarded vendor. Neither Region 4 ESC, TCPN, its agents, members and employees shall be made party to any claim for breach of such agreement.
- 4.9. **Adding authorized distributors/dealers**: Awarded vendors are prohibited from authorizing additional distributors or dealers, other than those identified at the time of submitting their proposal, to sell under their contract award without notification and prior written approval from TCPN. Awarded vendors must notify TCPN each time it wishes to add an authorized distributor or dealer. Purchase orders and payment can only be made to awarded vendor unless otherwise approved by TCPN. Pricing provided to members by added distributors or dealers must also be less than or equal to the pricing offered by the awarded contract holder, unless otherwise approved by TCPN.

ARTICLE 5- TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

5.1. **Cancellation for Non-Performance or Contractor Deficiency:** Region 4 ESC may terminate any contract if Members have not used the contract, or if purchase volume is determined to be low volume in any 12-month period. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to cancel the whole or any part of this contract due to failure by contractor to carry out any obligation, term or condition of the contract. Region 4 ESC may issue a written deficiency notice to contractor for acting or failing to act in any of the following:

- i. Providing material that does not meet the specifications of the contract;
- ii. Providing work and/or material that was not awarded under the contract;
- iii. Failing to adequately perform the services set forth in the scope of work and specifications;
- iv. Failing to complete required work or furnish required materials within a reasonable amount of time;
- v. Failing to make progress in performance of the contract and/or giving Region 4 ESC reason to believe that contractor will not or cannot perform the requirements of the contract; and/or
- vi. Performing work or providing services under the contract prior to receiving a Region 4 ESC reviewed purchase order for such work.

Upon receipt of a written deficiency notice, contractor shall have ten (10) days to provide a satisfactory response to Region 4 ESC. Failure to adequately address all issues of concern may result in contract cancellation. Upon cancellation under this paragraph, all goods, materials, work, documents, data and reports prepared by contractor under the contract shall become the property of the Member on demand.

5.2 **Termination for Cause:** If, for any reason, the Vendor fails to fulfill its obligation in a timely manner, or if the vendor violates any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this contract Region 4 ESC reserves the right to terminate the contract immediately and pursue all other applicable remedies afforded by law. Such termination shall be effective by delivery of notice, to the vendor, specifying the effective date of termination. In such event, all documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models and reports prepared by vendor for this solicitation may become the property of the participating agency or entity. If such event does occur then vendor will be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for the satisfactory work completed on such documents.

5.3 **Delivery/Service Failures:** Failure to deliver goods or services within the time specified, or within a reasonable time period as interpreted by the purchasing agent or failure to make replacements or corrections of rejected articles/services when so requested shall constitute grounds for the contract to be terminated. In the event that the participating agency or entity must purchase in an open market, contractor agrees to reimburse the participating agency or entity, within a reasonable time period, for all expenses incurred.

5.4 **Force Majeure:** If by reason of Force Majeure, either party hereto shall be rendered unable wholly or in part to carry out its obligations under this Agreement then such party shall give notice and full particulars of Force Majeure in writing to the other party within a reasonable time after occurrence of the event or cause relied upon, and the obligation of the party giving such notice, so far as it is affected by such Force Majeure, shall be suspended during the continuance of the inability then claimed, except as hereinafter provided, but for no longer period, and such party shall endeavor to remove or overcome such inability with all reasonable dispatch.

The term Force Majeure as employed herein, shall mean acts of God, strikes, lockouts, or other industrial disturbances, act of public enemy, orders of any kind of government of the United States or the State of Texas or any civil or military authority; insurrections; riots; epidemics; landslides; lighting; earthquake; fires; hurricanes; storms; floods; washouts; droughts; arrests; restraint of government and people; civil disturbances; explosions, breakage or accidents to machinery, pipelines or canals, or other causes not reasonably within the control of the party claiming such inability. It is understood and agreed that the settlement of strikes and lockouts shall be entirely within the discretion of the

party having the difficulty, and that the above requirement that any Force Majeure shall be remedied with all reasonable dispatch shall not require the settlement of strikes and lockouts by acceding to the demands of the opposing party or parties when such settlement is unfavorable in the judgment of the party having the difficulty.

- 5.5 **Standard Cancellation**: Either party may cancel this contract in whole or in part by providing written notice. The cancellation will take effect 30 business days after the other party receives the notice of cancellation. After the 30th business day all work will cease following completion of final purchase order. Vendor may be requested to provide additional items not already on contract at any time.

ARTICLE 6- LICENSES

- 6.1 **Duty to keep current license**: Vendor shall maintain in current status all federal, state and local licenses, bonds and permits required for the operation of the business conducted by vendor. Vendor shall remain fully informed of and in compliance with all ordinances and regulations pertaining to the lawful provision of services under the contract. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to stop work and/or cancel the contract of any vendor whose license(s) expire, lapse, are suspended or terminated.
- 6.2 **Survival Clause**: All applicable software license agreements, warranties or service agreements that were entered into between Vendor and Customer under the terms and conditions of the Contract shall survive the expiration or termination of the Contract. All Purchase Orders issued and accepted by Order Fulfiller shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract.

ARTICLE 7- DELIVERY PROVISIONS

- 7.1 **Delivery**: Vendor shall deliver said materials purchased on this contract to the Member issuing a Purchase Order. Conforming product shall be shipped within 7 days of receipt of Purchase Order. If delivery is not or cannot be made within this time period the vendor must receive authorization from the purchasing agency for the delayed delivery. At this point the participating entity may cancel the order if estimated shipping time is not acceptable.
- 7.2 **Inspection & Acceptance**: If defective or incorrect material is delivered, purchasing agency may make the determination to return the material to the vendor at no cost to the purchasing agency. The vendor agrees to pay all shipping costs for the return shipment. Vendor shall be responsible for arranging the return of the defective or incorrect material.

ARTICLE 8- BILLING AND REPORTING

- 8.1 **Payments**: The entity using the contract will make payments directly to the awarded vendor. Payment shall be made after satisfactory performance, in accordance with all provisions thereof, and upon receipt of a properly completed invoice.
- 8.2 **Invoices**: The awarded vendor shall submit invoices to the participating entity clearly stating "*Per TCPN Contract*". The shipment tracking number or pertinent information for verification shall be made available upon request.
- 8.3 **Tax Exempt Status**: Since this is a national contract, knowing the tax laws in each state is the sole responsibility of the vendor.

8.4 **Reporting:** The awarded vendor shall electronically provide TCPN with a detailed monthly report showing the dollar volume of all sales under the contract for the previous month. Reports shall be sent via e-mail to TCPN offices at reporting@tcpn.org. Reports are due on the **fifteenth (15th)** day after the close of the previous month. It is the responsibility of the awarded vendor to collect and compile all sales under the contract from participating Members and submit one (1) report. The report shall include at least the following information listed below:

- Vendor Name
- TCPN Contract Number
- Reporting Period/Year
- Entity Name
- Entity Address (Including Street, City, State & Zip)
- Entity Purchase Order Number (Individual Purchase Order Numbers)
- Purchase Order Date
- Gross Sale Amount
- Administrative Fee (Based on Gross Sale Amount)

ARTICLE 9- PRICING

9.1 **Best price guarantee:** The awarded vendor agrees to provide pricing to Region 4 ESC and its participating entities that are the lowest pricing available and the pricing shall remain so throughout the duration of the contract. The awarded vendor agrees to lower the cost of any product purchased through TCPN following a reduction in the manufacturer or publisher's direct cost.

9.2 **Price increase:** Should it become necessary or proper during the term of this contract to make any change in design or any alterations that will increase expense Region 4 ESC must be notified immediately. Price increases must be approved by Region 4 ESC and no payment for additional materials or services, beyond the amount stipulated in the contract, shall be paid without prior approval. All price increases must be supported by manufacture documentation, or a formal cost justification letter.

Awarded vendor must honor previous prices for thirty (30) days after approval and written notification from Region 4 ESC if requested.

It is the awarded vendor's responsibility to keep all pricing up to date and on file with Region 4 ESC. All price changes must be provided to Region 4 ESC, using the same format as was accepted in the original contract.

9.3 **Additional Charges:** All deliveries shall be freight prepaid, F.O.B. destination and shall be included in all pricing offered unless otherwise clearly stated in writing.

9.4 **Price reduction and adjustment:** Price reduction may be offered at any time during contract and shall become effective upon notice of acceptance from Region 4 ESC. Special, time-limited reductions are permissible under the following conditions: 1) reduction is available to all Members equally; 2) reduction is for a specific time period, normally not less than thirty (30) days; 3) original price is not exceeded after the time-limit; and 4) Region 4 ESC has approved the new prices prior to any offer of the prices to a Member. Vendor shall offer Region 4 ESC any published price reduction during the contract period.

9.5 **Prevailing Wage:** It shall be the responsibility of the Vendor to comply, when applicable, with the prevailing wage legislation in effect in the jurisdiction of the purchaser (Region 4 ESC or its Members). It shall further be the responsibility of the Vendor to monitor the prevailing wage rates as established by the appropriate department of labor for any increase in rates during the term of this contract and adjust wage rates accordingly.

9.6 **Administrative Fees:** All pricing submitted to Region 4 ESC shall include the administrative fee to be remitted to TCPN by the awarded vendor.

The awarded vendor agrees to pay administrative fees to TCPN as calculated as follows: (Sales will be calculated for fiscal year of January 1st through December 31st and reset each year)

<u>Annual Sales Through Contract</u>	<u>Administrative Fee</u>
0 - \$50,000,000	2%
\$50,000,001 - \$100,000,000	1.75%
\$100,000,001 - \$150,000,000	1.5%
\$150,000,001 - \$200,000,000	1.25%
\$200,000,001 - \$500,000,000	1%
\$500,000,001 - \$1,000,000,000	0.75%
\$1,000,000,000+	0.5%

ARTICLE 10- PRICING AUDIT

10.1 **Audit rights:** Vendor shall, at Vendor’s sole expense, maintain appropriate due diligence of all purchases made by Region 4 ESC and any entity that utilizes this Agreement. TCPN and Region 4 ESC each reserve the right to audit the accounting for a period of three (3) years from the time such purchases are made. This audit right shall survive termination of this Agreement for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of termination. In the State of New Jersey, this audit right shall survive termination of this Agreement for a period of five (5) years from the date of final payment. Such records shall be made available to the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller upon request. Region 4 ESC shall have the authority to conduct random audits of Vendor’s pricing that is offered to eligible entities at Region 4 ESC’s sole cost and expense. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that Region 4 ESC is made aware of any pricing being offered to eligible agencies that is materially inconsistent with the pricing under this agreement, Region 4 ESC shall have the ability to conduct an extensive audit of Vendor’s pricing at Vendor’s sole cost and expense. Region 4 ESC may conduct the audit internally or may engage a third-party auditing firm. In the event of an audit, the requested materials shall be provided in the format and at the location designated by Region 4 ESC or TCPN.

ARTICLE 11- OFFEROR PRODUCT LINE REQUIREMENTS

11.1 **Current products:** Proposals shall be for materials and equipment in current production and marketed to the general public and education/government agencies at the time the proposal is submitted.

11.2 **Discontinued products:** If a product or model is discontinued by the manufacturer, vendor may substitute a new product or model if the replacement product meets or exceeds the specifications and performance of the discontinued model and if the discount is the same or greater than the discontinued model.

- 11.3 **New products/Services**: New products and/or services that meet the scope of work may be added to the contract. Pricing shall be equivalent to the percentage discount for other products. Vendor may replace or add product lines to an existing contract if the line is replacing or supplementing products on contract, is equal or superior to the original products offered, is discounted in a similar or to a greater degree, and if the products meet the requirements of the solicitation. No products and/or services may be added to avoid competitive procurement requirements. Region 4 ESC may require additions to be submitted with documentation from Members demonstrating an interest in, or a potential requirement for, the new product or service. Region 4 ESC may reject any additions without cause.
- 11.4 **Options**: Optional equipment for products under contract may be added to the contract at the time they become available under the following conditions: 1) the option is priced at a discount similar to other options; 2) the option is an enhancement to the unit that improves performance or reliability.
- 11.5 **Product line**: Offerors with a published catalog may submit the entire catalog. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to select products within the catalog for award without having to award all contents. Region 4 ESC may reject any addition of equipment options without cause.
- 11.6 **Warranty conditions**: All supplies, equipment and services shall include manufacturer's minimum standard warranty and one (1) year labor warranty unless otherwise agreed to in writing.
- 11.7 **Buy American requirement**: (for New Jersey and all other applicable States) Vendors may only use unmanufactured construction material mined or produced in the United States, as required by the Buy American Act. Where trade agreements apply, to the extent permitted by applicable law, then unmanufactured construction material mined or produced in a designated country may also be used. Vendors are required to check state specific requirements to ensure compliance with this requirement.

ARTICLE 12- SITE REQUIREMENTS

- 12.1 **Cleanup**: Vendor shall clean up and remove all debris and rubbish resulting from their work as required or directed by Member. Upon completion of the work, the premises shall be left in good repair and an orderly, neat, clean and unobstructed condition.
- 12.2 **Preparation**: Vendor shall not begin a project for which Member has not prepared the site, unless vendor does the preparation work at no cost, or until Member includes the cost of site preparation in a purchase order. Site preparation includes, but is not limited to: moving furniture, installing wiring for networks or power, and similar pre-installation requirements.
- 12.3 **Registered sex offender restrictions**: For work to be performed at schools, vendor agrees that no employee or employee of a subcontractor who has been adjudicated to be a registered sex offender will perform work at any time when students are or are reasonably expected to be present. Vendor agrees that a violation of this condition shall be considered a material breach and may result in the cancellation of the purchase order at the Member's discretion. Vendor must identify any additional costs associated with compliance of this term. If no costs are specified, compliance with this term will be provided at no additional charge.
- 12.4 **Safety measures**: Vendor shall take all reasonable precautions for the safety of employees on the worksite, and shall erect and properly maintain all necessary safeguards for protection of workers and the public. Vendor shall post warning signs against all hazards created by its operation and work in progress. Proper precautions shall be taken pursuant to state law and standard practices to protect workers, general public and existing structures from injury or damage.
- 12.5 **Smoking**: Persons working under the contract shall adhere to local smoking policies. Smoking will only be permitted in posted areas or off premises.

- 12.6 **Stored materials:** Upon prior written agreement between the vendor and Member, payment may be made for materials not incorporated in the work but delivered and suitably stored at the site or some other location, for installation at a later date. An inventory of the stored materials must be provided to Member prior to payment. Such materials must be stored and protected in a secure location, and be insured for their full value by the vendor against loss and damage. Vendor agrees to provide proof of coverage and/or addition of Member as an additional insured upon Member's request. Additionally, if stored offsite, the materials must also be clearly identified as property of buying Member and be separated from other materials. Member must be allowed reasonable opportunity to inspect and take inventory of stored materials, on or offsite, as necessary.

Until final acceptance by the Member, it shall be the Vendor's responsibility to protect all materials and equipment. The Vendor warrants and guarantees that title for all work, materials and equipment shall pass to the Member upon final acceptance.

ARTICLE 13- MISCELLANEOUS

- 13.1 **Funding Out Clause:** Any/all contracts exceeding one (1) year shall include a standard "funding out" clause. A contract for the acquisition, including lease, of real or personal property is a commitment of the entity's current revenue only, provided the contract contains either or both of the following provisions:

"Retains to the entity the continuing right to terminate the contract at the expiration of each budget period during the term of the contract and is conditioned on a best efforts attempt by the entity to obtain appropriate funds for payment of the contract."

- 13.2 **Disclosures:** Offeror affirms that he/she has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service to a public servant in connection with this contract.

Include a complete description of any and all relationships that might be considered a conflict of interest in doing business with participants in TCPN.

The Offeror affirms that, to the best of his/her knowledge, the offer has been arrived at independently, and is submitted without collusion with anyone to obtain information or gain any favoritism that would in any way limit competition or give an unfair advantage over other vendors in the award of this contract.

- 13.3 **Indemnity:** The awarded vendor shall protect, indemnify, and hold harmless both Region 4 ESC and TCPN and its participants, administrators, employees and agents against all claims, damages, losses and expenses arising out of or resulting from the actions of the vendor, vendor employees or vendor subcontractors in the preparation of the solicitation and the later execution of the contract, including any supplemental agreements with members. Any litigation involving either Region 4 ESC or TCPN, its administrators and employees and agents will be in Harris County, Texas. Any litigation involving TCPN members shall be in the jurisdiction of the participating agency.

- 13.4 **Franchise Tax:** The Offeror hereby certifies that he/she is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise taxes.

- 13.5 **Marketing:** Awarded vendor agrees to allow Region 4 ESC to use their name and logo within website, marketing materials and advertisement. Any use of Region 4 ESC name and logo or any form of publicity, inclusive of press releases, regarding this contract by awarded vendor must have prior approval from Region 4 ESC.

- 13.6 **Certificates of Insurance**: Certificates of insurance shall be delivered to the Region 4 ESC participant prior to commencement of work. The insurance company shall be licensed in the applicable state in which work is being conducted. The awarded vendor shall give the participating entity a minimum of ten (10) days notice prior to any modifications or cancellation of policies. The awarded vendor shall require all subcontractors performing any work to maintain coverage as specified.
- 13.7 **Legal Obligations**: It is the Offeror's responsibility to be aware of and comply with all local, state, and federal laws governing the sale of products/services identified in this RFP and any awarded contract and shall comply with all while fulfilling the RFP. Applicable laws and regulation must be followed even if not specifically identified herein.
- 13.8 **Open Records Policy**: Because Region 4 ESC contracts are awarded by a governmental entity, responses submitted are subject to release as public information after contracts are executed. If a vendor believes that its response, or parts of its response, may be exempted from disclosure, the vendor must specify page-by-page and line-by-line the parts of the response, which it believes, are exempt. In addition, the Offeror must specify which exception(s) are applicable and provide detailed reasons to substantiate the exception(s). Offeror must provide this information on the "Acknowledgement and Acceptance to Region 4 ESC's Open Record Policy" form found at the beginning of this solicitation. Any information that is unmarked will be considered public information and released, if requested under the Public Information Act.

The determination of whether information is confidential and not subject to disclosure is the duty of the Office of Attorney General (OAG). Region 4 ESC must provide the OAG sufficient information to render an opinion and therefore, vague and general claims to confidentiality by the Offeror are not acceptable. Region 4 ESC must comply with the opinions of the OAG. Region 4 ESC assumes no responsibility for asserting legal arguments on behalf of any vendor. Offeror are advised to consult with their legal counsel concerning disclosure issues resulting from this procurement process and to take precautions to safeguard trade secrets and other proprietary information.

After completion of award, these documents will be available for public inspection.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank-Signatures follow on Signature Form]

VENDOR CONTRACT SIGNATURE FORM

The undersigned hereby proposes and agrees to furnish goods and/or services in strict compliance with the terms, specifications and conditions at the prices proposed within response unless noted in writing. The undersigned further certifies that he/she is an officer of the company and has authority to negotiate and bind the company named below and has not prepared this proposal in collusion with any other Respondent and that the contents of this proposal as to prices, terms or conditions of said proposal have not been communicated by the undersigned nor by any employee or agent to any person engaged in this type of business prior to the official opening of this proposal.

Prices are guaranteed: **120 days**

Company name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone No. _____
Fax No. _____
Email address _____
Printed name _____
Position with company _____
Authorized signature _____

Accepted by The Cooperative Purchasing Network:

Term of contract _____ **to** _____

Unless otherwise stated, all contracts are for a period of three (3) years with an option to renew annually for an additional two (2) years if agreed to by Region 4 ESC and the awarded vendor. Awarded vendor shall honor all administrative fees for any sales made based on a contract whether renewed or not.

Region 4 ESC Authorized Board Member _____
Date

Print Name

Region 4 ESC Authorized Board Member _____
Date

Print Name

TCPN Contract Number _____

Appendix B:

PRODUCT / SERVICES SPECIFICATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Route Information

Student Information shall be provided by contracting School District which may include: student addresses, schools of attendance, bell schedules, equipment needs, current inventory of vehicles used for transporting the students and approximate associated costs.

If provided, Contractor recognizes that this information is protected under federal law and should hold it confidential and use it only to establish routes for quoting purposes.

Contractor Qualifications

Transportation will be established based upon the student enrollment provided by the "School District" and may change. Preference will be given to the transportation company who can provide the most effective combination of services to support the needs of the "School District", including;

- Management of the transportation program.
- Routing strength.
- Communications, with "School District", Faculty and Parents (Contractor may be required to list hours of operation and response modes).
- Ambulatory transportation.
- Wheel chair transportation.
- Special needs transportation, including McKinney-Vento and 504 Needs (Contractor may be required to list experience in transporting students with special needs).
- Contractor will be required to provide an appropriate compliant vehicles and trained drivers to meet the needs of each specific trip.

Transportation contractors must be flexible to accommodate fluctuations in routing in a timely manner as determined by School District. For alternative transportation, route changes are considerably more frequent than in regular education transportation due to frequent changes in designations and laws.

The contractor shall in addition to alternative transportation service, provide illness, suspension and miscellaneous student pickup as needed.

The contractor must coordinate all alternative transportation service with the "School District" Transportation Office unless otherwise determined. Transportation for any student not defined by the "School District" will be means of contract review, up to and including termination of the contract.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

General Requirements

The contractor shall provide alternative transportation service for the "School District" in accordance with the terms and conditions specified herein. For purposes of this document, the contractor shall agree that alternative transportation service shall be defined only as a portal-to-portal transportation service in the appropriate vehicle.

Non-designated individuals will not be allowed to ride in vehicles transporting "School District" students. The contractor shall provide safe and timely service. The contractor shall transport the students to/from school in a time frame determined appropriate by the "School District".

If requested by the "School District", the contractor shall provide alternative transportation service during the subsequent summer school term. The "School District" believes, but cannot guarantee, that alternative transportation service will be limited during the summer school term.

Reports

Contractor shall provide "School District" with the following monthly reports, as indicated below:

1. Student "No Show" report
2. Student's Detailed Trip Report
 - a. Students Name
 - b. Mileage for the route
 - c. Pricing Considerations
 - d. Date of Service

Experience

Prior to the award of the contract, the contractor must have five (5) continuous years of experience in pupil transportation, specifically those with special needs.

Equipment:

Contractor will provide age appropriate child restraint equipment such as safety vests, booster chairs and car seats. The "School District" anticipates the number of students requiring vehicle service, and therefore the number of vehicles required, will remain generally consistent for future school years as compared to current school year. However, as enrollment changes so might transportation equipment needs. The "School District" does not guarantee any quantity of service, students, runs, routes or vehicles.

The contractor shall provide wheel chair accessible vehicles as needed.

Execution of Routes

"School District" shall provide the contractor with information pertinent to transportation of students, similar to Attachment 1 of this document. Said information shall include the students requiring alternative transportation and their respective addresses, pickup/drop-off locations, school name, bell times and special equipment needed (i.e. car seats, safety vests/harnesses and wheel chairs). "School District" will approve all routes based on additions and changes. Contractor to describe transition and start up plans that create smooth operation (provide examples of school "School District" start up plans, to include scope, number of vehicles, required equipment, organizational structure, timing and number of routes).

The contractor shall make all changes for regularly scheduled routes within the time period specified by the School District after notification by the "School District". The contractor shall ensure that all vehicles assigned for student pickup shall arrive at the pickup location on-time, Contractor to define methodology for verification of on time performance and monitoring overall trip performance. If the student is not ready for pick-up at scheduled pick-up time, the contractor is to wait five (5) minutes, and contact the family. If the student(s) are still not ready, the contractor is to designate the pick-up as a no-show and go to the next location. The Contractor is to detail the current no show procedure. If the "School District" or a parent has called the contractor at least twenty-four (24) hours before pick-up time to cancel the ride, the contractor is to designate it as a cancellation.

The contractor shall not transport more than three (3) students at one time in a sedan or nine (9) in a fully compliant van unless otherwise agreed to by the TCPN member. All students will require seat belts as well as age appropriate child restraint equipment such as booster and/or car seats (as specified by the "School District") for sedan and van transportation.

On-time Performance

Contractor to detail the methodology for monitoring and maintaining on time / route performance. Contractor is to have a demonstrated on time performance standard. Failing to meet this on time performance on a monthly basis could subject the Contractor to liquidated damages.

Unplanned weather conditions, detours and traffic delays and other traffic situations will occur. However, Contractor must be able to demonstrate a communications plan for such occurrences, leading to a history of on-time performance.

Complaints

Customers can be, but not limited to, students, faculty, Transportation Department Employees and their families. Contractor shall detail the procedure that outlines complaint resolution for all parties involved.

Any complaint directed to the Transportation Department, The "School District" Office and / or the Contractor must be responded to within seventy-two (72) hour timeframe. The resolution must be written and presented to the "School District" via email with all parties listed and involved.

The "School District" may expect complaint performance to be measured as a percentage based on number of trips to be defined by "School District".

Incidents

Incidents can be as minor as an offensive comment between students to an actual physical altercation. All incidents must be reported in written report form including all parties listed and involved. Contractor to detail the incident procedure and how / when the "School District" is informed.

SPECIFIC TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Personnel Requirements

The contractor shall submit with its response to this RFP a current organization chart that includes staff member names, positions, experience level and operating locations. The contractor must supply administrative personnel, including a key account representative, who have demonstrated, through previous assignments, the ability to assume the responsibilities associated with administering a transportation program encompassed by this contract. The contractor must supply drivers who:

- a) Have all applicable state licensing all applicable endorsements for pupil transportation.
- b) Are licensed in accordance with all applicable federal, state board of education laws, regulations, and policies.
- c) Have a good driving record as verified by the state and governing bodies.
 - i) The contractor shall verify each driving record upon initiation of service and then every year thereafter. Such records shall be placed into the driver's file and must be accessible upon request
 - ii) The contractor shall not use drivers to fulfill the contract who have accrued more than three (3) moving violations for any reason in the last two (2) years, and shall not ever use drivers who have had a DUI, DWI or controlled substance related violation.
- d) Will drive in a careful and prudent manner, exercising at all times the highest degree of care, and observing and complying with all rules of the road and traffic regulations.
- e) Will not use of tobacco products while students are present in the vehicle or on school grounds. Drivers as well as their vehicles must not smell of smoke or any other offensive odor.

- f) No person shall provide service where the report of any findings or criminal history convictions, as obtained through state and national searches (DOJ and other state and local specific regulations)
 - i) The contractor shall verify and be liable for the payment of all driver criminal record checks prior to transporting students. Such verification shall be placed in the driver's file.

The contractor shall ensure that all drivers display their current driver's license upon request of a school official or "School District" authorized individual.

The contractor shall have contract standards addressing professional dress and hygiene code for its drivers. Professional dress includes clean clothes (pants, and shirts with sleeves and collars). The drivers must not wear attire that might be considered offensive as determined by families, students, faculty and / or staff. Hygiene includes clean shaven, groomed hair (including facial) and refraining from the use heavy, offensive colognes. Drivers must also not display offensive tattoos and piercings. Professional dress, hygiene, tattoos and piercing will be at the "School District's discretion.

The contractor will conform to any and all requirements of the member agency regarding identification of drivers and/or vehicles. It will be the contractor's responsibility to establish the member agency's requirements and to know and adhere to any and all relevant state requirements.

Personnel Compliance

The contractor shall maintain records on all employees, drivers or sub-contractors that demonstrate that all personnel requirements of the contract have been met. The personnel file shall contain current copies of the following:

- 1) Department of Motor Vehicle Record's Check – historical driving record.
- 2) Department of Justice (DOJ) background check that meet or exceed the state laws.
- 3) Any other background checks or personnel information as required by state, local, or district policies.
- 4) Verification of enrollment in an on-going drug / alcohol testing program. The "School District" reserves the right to require drug / alcohol testing at random, for drivers authorized by the District for this contract and "for cause" drug / alcohol testing as deemed appropriate. All drivers must abstain from the use of alcohol and drugs in the performance of their duties under this contract. In addition, drivers will not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the performance of their duties under this contract. The contractor shall be liable for all Drug and Alcohol Testing. No driver may be utilized for this contract that fails a Drug and / or Alcohol Test.
- 5) Verification of a negative test result for Tuberculosis (TB testing) as required by state law.
- 6) Current Drivers License appropriate for driving the vehicle of assignment.

The "School District" shall retain the authority to examine all personnel records of the contractor to determine compliance with the contract.

Investigation

If requested by the "School District", the contractor shall investigate any employee's performance.

Driver Training

Contractor must confirm that all drivers have met the qualifications, training and credentialing requirements.

Contractor must confirm that drivers have received training, to include, but not limited to the following areas:

- Customer Service, Communication and Stress Management
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Service Animals
- Disability Awareness: Assisting the Visually Impaired; Hidden Disabilities; Stroke; Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders
- Bloodborne Pathogens (Hepatitis A, B, C; HIV, Dialysis)
- Wheelchairs
- Emergency and Evacuation Procedures
- Driver/Passenger Sexual Improprieties
- school district specific policies and procedures

No driver shall be permitted to transport any student for the “School District” without being pre-screened and successfully completing all training components. Contractor shall employ a system for ensuring that no driver is dispatched to transport “School District” students, if any training or certification components are incomplete. Contractor shall keep all training and certification records on file and shall make them available to the “School District” upon request.

Contractor shall ensure that all Customer Service Agents (CSAs) and Dispatch personnel receive training in the areas of customer service, accident and incident training, and “School District” specific policies and procedures as required by the member agency.

Accident/Incident Procedures

The contractor shall immediately notify the “School District” of any accident/incident involving their vehicle while transporting students. The contractor must file a written report with the “School District” within five (5) working days following an accident. Failure to do so will result in liquidated damages equal to the cost for the trip each day the trip is late.

The “School District” reserves the right to outline specific accident procedures and reporting to the Contractor, not listed in this RFP.

Vehicle and Equipment Requirements

The contractor must supply vehicles that meet all state and / or county requirements and laws. All vehicles must possess any required permits allowing them to transport passengers for the state or county.

The contractor shall maintain all vehicles in a clean, non-offensive smelling, safe and reliable mechanical condition. The contractor shall equip all vehicles with proper communication systems that shall enable a central dispatcher to contact the driver. Preference will be given to contractors that have GPS tracking capabilities.

The contractor must equip all fully compliant vans and sedans with a seat belt for all passengers. All seat belts must be visible and work properly. In addition, they must have the proper child restraints including booster or car seats for those students that require them (as determined by the “School District”). The contractor shall provide to the “School District,” upon request, a list of vehicles used under the contract (updated as needed) which states the description of each vehicle, license number, inspection number if appropriate, operating authority license and model year prior. If a vehicle is removed from service, the “School District” shall be notified in a timely manner. The “School District” reserves the right to audit these vehicles and/or records at any time.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Inclement Weather

During inclement weather, the contractor will follow the "School District" decision to have school or cancel school. If school is cancelled due to weather conditions within the "School District", the contractor will not run.

OTHER CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Contractor Liability

The contractor shall be responsible for any and all injury or damage as a result of the contractor's negligence involving any equipment or service provided under the terms and conditions, requirements and specifications of the contract. In addition to the liability imposed upon the contractor on account of personal injury, bodily injury (including death), or property damage suffered as a result of the contractor's negligence, the contractor assumes the obligation to save the "School District", including its agencies, employees, and assigns, from every expense, liability, or payment arising out of such negligent act. The contractor also agrees to hold the "School District", including its agencies, employees and assigns, harmless for any negligent act or omission committed by any subcontractor or other person employed by or under the supervision of the contractor under the terms of the contract. However, the contractor shall not be responsible for any injury or damage occurring as a result of any negligent act or omission committed by the "School District", including its agencies, employees and assigns.

Subcontractors

If approved by the member agency, the contractor may subcontract for those services described herein provided that any subcontracts include appropriate provisions and contractual obligations to ensure the successful fulfillment of all contractual obligations agreed to by the contractor and the "School District" and to ensure that the "School District" is indemnified, saved and held harmless from and against any and all claims of damage, loss, and cost (including attorney fees) of any kind related to a subcontract in those matters described in the contract between the "School District" and the contractor. The contractor shall expressly understand and agree that he/she shall assume and be solely responsible for all legal and financial responsibilities related to the execution of a subcontract. The contractor shall agree and understand that utilization of a subcontractor to provide any of the equipment or services in the contract shall in no way relieve the contractor of the responsibility for providing the equipment or services as described and set forth herein.

Subcontractors are subject to all requirements listed above, and the contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that subcontractors meet all above requirements.

Insurance

Required Insurance:

- Worker's Compensation Coverage in compliance with all applicable state workers' compensation laws.
 - Employer' Liability, with limits of \$100,000 each accident, \$100,000 each employee by disease and \$500,000 aggregate by disease.
 - Commercial General Liability \$2,000,000 each occurrence and aggregate
 - Automobile Liability \$1,000,000 combined single limit of liability per accident providing coverage for owned, hired and non-owned vehicles.
- A. The "School District" shall be named as an additional insured on Bidder's General Liability and Automobile. All insurance must be provided by insurance companies rated A- VII or better by A.M. Best.
- B. All policies shall be primary and non-contributory to any insurance maintained by the "School District".

Contractor Status

The contractor represents him or herself to be an independent contractor offering such services to the general public and shall not represent himself/herself or his/her employees to be an employee of the "School District". Therefore, the contractor shall assume all legal and financial responsibility for taxes, FICA, employee fringe benefits, worker's compensation, employee insurance, minimum wage requirements, overtime, etc., and agrees to indemnify, save and hold the "School District", its officers, agents and employees harmless from and against any and all loss; cost (including attorney fees); and damage of any kind related to such matters.

Coordination

The contractor shall fully coordinate all contract activities with those activities of the "School District". As the work of the contractor progresses, advice and information on matters covered by the contract shall be made available by the contractor to the "School District" throughout the effective period of the contract.

Property of "School District":

All reports, documentation and material developed or acquired by the contractor, as a direct requirement specified in the contract shall become the property of the "School District". The contractor shall agree and understand that all discussions with the contractor and all information gained by the contractor as a result of the contractor's performance under the contract shall be confidential and that no reports, documentation, or material prepared as required by the contract shall be released to the public without the prior written consent of the "School District".

Information Provided

Although an attempt has been made to provide accurate and up-to-date information, the "School District" does not warrant or represent that the background information provided herein reflects all relationships or existing conditions related to this invitation for bid.

Appendix C:

PRICING

Electronic Price Lists

- Respondents must submit products, services, warranties, etc. in price list in Excel format.
- Prices listed will be used to establish the extent of a manufacturer's product lines, services, warranties, etc. that are available from a particular offeror and the pricing per item. Any products or services for which auditable pricing is not given cannot be accepted by Region 4 ESC.
- Electronic price lists must contain the following: *(if applicable)*
 - Description of Service
 - List Price
 - Discount
 - Net price to Region 4 ESC
- Media submitted for price list must include the respondents' company name, name of the solicitation, and date on CD, DVD or Flash Drive (i.e. Pin or Jump Drives).
- ***Please submit price lists and/or catalogs in excel or delimited format only.***

Not to Exceed Pricing

- Region 4 ESC requests pricing be submitted as not to exceed for any participating entity.
- Unlike fixed pricing the awarded vendor can adjust submitted pricing lower if needed but, cannot exceed original pricing submitted for solicitation.
- Vendor must allow for lower pricing to be available for similar product and service purchases.

Appendix D:

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS ACCEPTANCE FORM

Signature on Vendor Contract Signature form certifies complete acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions in this solicitation, except as noted below (additional pages may be attached, if necessary).

Check one of the following responses to the General Terms and Conditions:

- We take no exceptions/deviations to the general terms and conditions

(Note: If none are listed below, it is understood that no exceptions/deviations are taken.)

- We take the following exceptions/deviations to the general terms and conditions. All exceptions/deviations must be clearly explained. Reference the corresponding general terms and conditions that you are taking exceptions/deviations to. Clearly state if you are adding additional terms and conditions to the general terms and conditions. Provide details on your exceptions/deviations below:

(Note: Unacceptable exceptions shall remove your proposal from consideration for award. Region 4 ESC shall be the sole judge on the acceptance of exceptions/deviations and the decision shall be final.)



Vendor Orientation

Respondent companies must commit to attending a vendor orientation meeting at TCPN's offices should they be awarded a contract with Region 4 ESC through this RFP. Vendor orientation meetings are meant to establish a good relationship with awarded vendors and help to ensure compliance and effective administration over the life of the contract.

Respondents should indicate below what date they would like to have their vendor orientation and who the participants will be. TCPN highly recommends that the individuals who will handle contract management, reporting and accounting, and marketing all come to the vendor orientation.

Vendor orientations for this RFP will be held between November 3rd and November 21st.

If awarded, our company will plan to attend vendor orientation on_____.

Potential attendees will include:

Signature:_____ Date:_____

Appendix E:
QUESTIONNAIRE

Please provide responses to the following questions that address your company's operations, organization, structure and processes for providing products and services.

1. States Covered

Offeror must indicate any and all states where products and services can be offered.

Please indicate the price co-efficient for each state if it varies.

50 States & District of Columbia (Selecting this box is equal to checking all boxes below)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> New York |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Vermont |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri | |

Territories & Outlying Areas (Selecting this box is equal to checking all boxes below)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Samoa | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Marina Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federated States of Micronesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rico |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guam | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Virgin Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Midway Islands | |

2. Diversity Programs

- Do you currently have a diversity program or any diversity partners that you do business with? Yes No
- If the answer is yes, do you plan to offer your program or partnership through through TCPN Yes No

(If the answer is yes, attach a statement detailing the structure of your program, along with a list of your diversity alliances and a copy of their certifications.)

- Will the products accessible through your diversity program or partnership be offered to TCPN members at the same pricing offered by your company?
Yes No

(If answer is no, attach a statement detailing how pricing for participants would be calculated.)

3. Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) and (HUB) Participation

It is the policy of some entities participating in TCPN to involve minority and women business enterprises (M/WBE), small and/or disadvantaged business enterprises, disable veterans business enterprises, historically utilized businesses (HUB) and other diversity recognized businesses in the purchase of goods and services. Respondents shall indicate below whether or not they hold certification in any of the classified areas and include proof of such certification with their response.

a. Minority Women Business Enterprise

Respondent certifies that this firm is an MWBE Yes No

List certifying agency: _____

b. Small Business Enterprise (SBE) or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

Respondent certifies that this firm is a SBE or DBE Yes No

List certifying agency: _____

c. Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise (DVBE)

Respondent certifies that this firm is a DVBE Yes No

List certifying agency: _____

d. Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB)

Respondent certifies that this firm is a HUB Yes No

List certifying agency: _____

e. Historically Underutilized Business Zone Enterprise (HUBZone)

Respondent certifies that this firm is a HUBZone Yes No

List certifying agency: _____

f. Other

Respondent certifies that this firm is a recognized diversity certificate holder Yes No

List certifying agency: _____

4. Residency

Responding Company's principal place of business is in the city of _____ State of ____.

5. Felony Conviction Notice

Please check applicable box:

- A publicly held corporation; therefore, this reporting requirement is not applicable.
- Is not owned or operated by anyone who has been convicted of a felony.
- Is owned or operated by the following individual(s) who has/have been convicted of a felony.

*If the third box is checked a detailed explanation of the names and convictions must be attached.

6. Processing Information

Company contact for:

Contract Management

Contact Person: _____
Title: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

Billing & Reporting/Accounts Payable

Contact Person: _____
Title: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

Marketing

Contact Person: _____
Title: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

7. **Distribution Channel:** Which best describes your company's position in the distribution channel:

- Manufacturer direct Certified education/government reseller
- Authorized distributor Manufacturer marketing through reseller
- Value-added reseller Other _____

8. **Pricing Information**

- In addition to the current typical unit pricing furnished herein, the Vendor agrees to offer all future product introductions at prices that are proportionate to Contract Pricing.

Yes No

(If answer is no, attach a statement detailing how pricing for participants would be calculated.)

- Pricing submitted includes the required administrative fee. Yes No

(Fee calculated based on invoice price to customer)

- Additional discounts for purchase of a guaranteed quantity? Yes No

9. **Cooperatives**

List any other cooperative or state contracts currently held or in the process of securing

Cooperative/State Agency	Discount Offered	Expires	Annual Sales Volume

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]

Appendix F:
COMPANY PROFILE

Please provide the following:

1. Company's official registered name.
2. Brief history of your company, including the year it was established.
3. Company's Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) number.
4. Corporate office location.
5. List the total number of sales persons employed by your organization within the United States, broken down by market.
6. List the number and location of offices, or service centers for all states being offered in solicitation. Additionally, list the names of key contacts at each location with title, address, phone and e-mail address.
7. Please provide contact information for the person(s) who will be responsible for the following areas, including resumes:
 - a. Sales
 - b. Sales Support
 - c. Marketing
 - d. Financial Reporting
 - e. Executive Support
8. Define your standard terms of payment.
9. Who is your competition in the marketplace?
10. Overall annual sales for last three (3) years; 2011, 2012, 2013.
11. Overall public sector sales, excluding Federal Government, for last three (3) years; 2010, 2011, 2012.
12. What is your strategy to increase market share?
13. What differentiates your company from competitors?
14. Describe the capabilities and functionality of your firm's on-line catalog/ordering website.
15. Describe your company's Customer Service Department (hours of operation, number of service centers, etc.).
16. Provide information regarding whether your firm, either presently or in the past, has been involved in any litigation, bankruptcy, or reorganization.

Marketing / Sales

17. Detail how your organization plans to market this contract within the first ninety (90) days of the award date. This should include, but not be limited to:
 - a. A co-branded press release within first 30 days
 - b. Announcement of award through any applicable social media sites
 - c. Direct mail campaigns
 - d. Co-branded collateral pieces
 - e. Advertisement of contract in regional or national publications
 - f. Participation in trade shows
 - g. Dedicated TCPN and Region 4 ESC internet web-based homepage with:
 - i. TCPN and Region 4 ESC Logo
 - ii. Link to TCPN and Region 4 ESC website
 - iii. Summary of contract and services offered
 - iv. Due Diligence Documents including; copy of solicitation, copy of contract and any amendments, marketing materials
18. Describe how your company will demonstrate the benefits of this contract to eligible entities if awarded.
19. Explain how your company plans to market this agreement to existing government customers.
20. Provide a detailed ninety (90) day plan describing how the contract will be implemented within your firm.
21. Describe how you intend on train your national sales force on the Region 4 ESC agreement.
22. Acknowledge that your organization agrees to provide its company logo(s) to Region 4 ESC and agrees to provide permission for reproduction of such logo in marketing communications and promotions.
23. Provide the revenue that your organization anticipates each year for the first three (3) years of this agreement.

\$ _____ in year one

\$ _____ in year two

\$ _____ in year three

Administration

24. Describe your company's implementation and success with existing cooperative purchasing programs, if any, and provide the cooperative's name(s), contact person(s) and contact information as reference(s).
25. Describe the capacity of your company to report monthly sales through this agreement.

26. Describe the capacity of your company to provide management reports, i.e. consolidated billing by location, time and attendance reports, etc. for each eligible agency.
27. Please provide any suggested improvements and alternatives for doing business with your company that will make this arrangement more cost effective for your company and Participating Public Agencies.

Green Initiatives

We are committed to helping to build a cleaner future! As our business grows, we want to make sure we minimize our impact on the Earth's climate. So we are taking every step we can to implement innovative and responsible environmental practices throughout Region 4 ESC to reduce our carbon footprint, reduce waste, promote energy conservation, ensure efficient computing, and much more. We would like vendors to partner with us in this enterprise. To that effort, we ask respondents to provide their companies environmental policy and/or green initiative.

28. Please provide your company's environmental policy and/or green initiative.

Subcontractor Plan

29. Please indicate whether your company self-performs and will continue to self-perform all work. If subcontractors are used or may be used to perform any work on a contract resulting from this RFP, please provide your company's subcontracting plan.

Vendor Certifications (if applicable)

30. Provide a copy of all current licenses, registrations and certifications issued by federal, state and local agencies, and any other licenses, registrations or certifications from any other governmental entity with jurisdiction, allowing respondent to perform the covered services including, but not limited to licenses, registrations or certifications. M/WBE, HUB, DVBE, small and disadvantaged business certifications and other diverse business certifications, as well as manufacturer certifications for sales and service must be included if applicable.

References

Provide a minimum of ten (10) customer references for product and/or services of similar scope dating within the past three (3) years. Please try to provide an equal number of references for K12, Higher Education and City/County entities. Provide the following information for each reference:

Entity Name
Contact Name and Title
City and State
Phone Number
Years Serviced
Description of Services
Annual Volume

Appendix G:

VALUE ADD

Please include any additional products and/or services not included in the scope of the solicitation that you think will enhance and/or add value to this contract for participating agencies.

Appendix H:

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- DOC #1 Clean Air and Water Act
- DOC #2 Debarment Notice
- DOC #3 Lobbying Certification
- DOC #4 Contractors Requirements
- DOC #5 Antitrust Certification Statement

FOR VENDORS INTENDING TO DO BUSINESS IN NEW JERSEY:

- DOC #6 Ownership Disclosure Form
- DOC #7 Non-Collusion Affidavit
- DOC #8 Affirmative Action Affidavit
- DOC #9 Political Contribution Disclosure Form
- DOC #10 Stockholder Disclosure Form

New Jersey vendors are also required to comply with the following New Jersey statutes when applicable:

All anti-discrimination laws, including those contained in N.J.S.A. 10:2-1 through N.J.S.A. 10:2-14, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1, and N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 through 10:5-38.

Compliance with Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.26, for all contracts within the contemplation of the Act.

Compliance with Public Works Contractor Registration Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.26

Bid and Performance Security, as required by the applicable municipal or state statutes.

DOC #1

Clean Air and Water Act

I, the Vendor, am in compliance with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act of 1970, as Amended (42 U.S. C. 1857 (h), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1368), Executive Order 117389 and Environmental Protection Agency Regulation, 40 CFR Part 15 as required under OMB Circular A-102, Attachment O, Paragraph 14 (1) regarding reporting violations to the grantor agency and to the United States Environment Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for the Enforcement.

Potential Vendor: _____

Title of Authorized Representative: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Signature: _____

DOC #2

Debarment Notice

I, the Vendor, certify that my company has not been debarred, suspended or otherwise ineligible for participation in Federal Assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, "Debarment and Suspension", as described in the Federal Register and Rules and Regulations.

Potential Vendor: _____

Title of Authorized Representative: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Signature: _____

LOBBYING CERTIFICATION

Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction and is imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, that:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of a Federal contract, the making of a Federal grant, the making of a Federal loan, the entering into a cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.
3. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all covered sub-awards exceeding \$100,000 in Federal funds at all appropriate tiers and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Signature of Respondent

Date

DOC #4 CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Contractor’s Employment Eligibility

By entering the contract, Contractor warrants compliance with the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act (FINA), and all other federal and state immigration laws and regulations. The Contractor further warrants that it is in compliance with the various state statutes of the states it is will operate this contract in.

Participating Government Entities including School Districts may request verification of compliance from any Contractor or subcontractor performing work under this Contract. These Entities reserve the right to confirm compliance in accordance with applicable laws.

Should the Participating Entities suspect or find that the Contractor or any of its subcontractors are not in compliance, they may pursue any and all remedies allowed by law, including, but not limited to: suspension of work, termination of the Contract for default, and suspension and/or debarment of the Contractor. All costs necessary to verify compliance are the responsibility of the Contractor.

The offeror complies and maintains compliance with the appropriate statutes which requires compliance with federal immigration laws by State employers, State contractors and State subcontractors in accordance with the E-Verify Employee Eligibility Verification Program.

Contractor shall comply with governing board policy of the Region 4 ESC Participating entities in which work is being performed.

Fingerprint and Background Checks

If required to provide services on school district property at least five (5) times during a month, contractor shall submit a full set of fingerprints to the school district if requested of each person or employee who may provide such service. Alternately, the school district may fingerprint those persons or employees. An exception to this requirement may be made as authorized in Governing Board policy. The district shall conduct a fingerprint check in accordance with the appropriate state and federal laws of all contractors, subcontractors or vendors and their employees for which fingerprints are submitted to the district. Contractor, subcontractors, vendors and their employees shall not provide services on school district properties until authorized by the District.

The offeror shall comply with fingerprinting requirements in accordance with appropriate statutes in the state in which the work is being performed unless otherwise exempted.

Contractor shall comply with governing board policy in the school district or Participating Entity in which work is being performed.

Business Operations in Sudan, Iran

In accordance with A.R.S. 35-391 and A.R.S. 35-393, the Contractor hereby certifies that the contractor does not have scrutinized business operations in Sudan and/or Iran.

Signature of Respondent

Date

DOC #5

**ANTITRUST CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS
(Tex. Government Code § 2155.005)**

I affirm under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Texas that:

1. I am duly authorized to execute this contract on my own behalf or on behalf of the company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual (Company) listed below;
2. In connection with this proposal, neither I nor any representative of the Company has violated any provision of the Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act, Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code Chapter 15;
3. In connection with this proposal, neither I nor any representative of the Company has violated any federal antitrust law; and
4. Neither I nor any representative of the Company has directly or indirectly communicated any of the contents of this proposal to a competitor of the Company or any other company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual engaged in the same line of business as the Company.

Vendor _____

Offeror _____
 Signature

 Printed Name

Address _____

 Position with Company

Authorizing Official

 Signature

Phone _____

 Printed Name

Fax _____

 Position with Company

**OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM
(N.J.S. 52:25-24.2)**

Pursuant to the requirements of P.L. 1999, Chapter 440 effective April 17, 2000 (Local Public Contracts Law), the offeror shall complete the form attached to these specifications listing the persons owning 10 percent (10%) or more of the firm presenting the proposal.

Company Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Complete as appropriate:

I _____, certify that I am the sole owner of _____, that there are no partners and the business is not incorporated, and the provisions of N.J.S. 52:25-24.2 do not apply.

OR:

I _____, a partner in _____, do hereby certify that the following is a list of all individual partners who own a 10% or greater interest therein. I further certify that if one (1) or more of the partners is itself a corporation or partnership, there is also set forth the names and addresses of the stockholders holding 10% or more of that corporation's stock or the individual partners owning 10% or greater interest in that partnership.

OR:

I _____, an authorized representative of _____, a corporation, do hereby certify that the following is a list of the names and addresses of all stockholders in the corporation who own 10% or more of its stock of any class. I further certify that if one (1) or more of such stockholders is itself a corporation or partnership, that there is also set forth the names and addresses of the stockholders holding 10% or more of the corporation's stock or the individual partners owning a 10% or greater interest in that partnership.

(Note: If there are no partners or stockholders owning 10% or more interest, indicate none.)

Name	Address	Interest

I further certify that the statements and information contained herein, are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date

Authorized Signature and Title

NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT

Company Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

State of New Jersey

County of _____

I, _____ of the _____
Name City

in the County of _____, State of _____
of full age, being duly sworn according to law on my oath depose and say that:

I am the _____ of the firm of _____
Title Company Name

the offeror making the Proposal for the goods, services or public work specified under the Harrison Township Board of Education attached proposal, and that I executed the said proposal with full authority to do so; that said offeror has not directly or indirectly entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free, competitive bidding in connection with the above proposal, and that all statements contained in said proposal and in this affidavit are true and correct, and made with full knowledge that the Harrison Township Board of Education relies upon the truth of the statements contained in said proposal and in the statements contained in this affidavit in awarding the contract for the said goods, services or public work.

I further warrant that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure such contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by

Company Name

Authorized Signature & Title

Subscribed and sworn before me

this _____ day of _____, 20____

Notary Public of New Jersey
My commission expires _____, 20____

SEAL

DOC #8

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AFFIDAVIT
(P.L. 1975, C.127)**

Company Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Proposal Certification:

Indicate below your compliance with New Jersey Affirmative Action regulations. Your proposal will be accepted even if you are not in compliance at this time. No contract and/or purchase order may be issued, however, until all Affirmative Action requirements are met.

Required Affirmative Action Evidence:

Procurement, Professional & Service Contracts (Exhibit A)

Vendors must submit with proposal:

1. A photo copy of their Federal Letter of Affirmative Action Plan Approval _____

OR

2. A photo copy of their Certificate of Employee Information Report _____

OR

3. A complete Affirmative Action Employee Information Report (AA302) _____

Public Work – Over \$50,000 Total Project Cost:

A. No approved Federal or New Jersey Affirmative Action Plan. We will complete Report Form AA201-A upon receipt from the Harrison Township Board of Education _____

B. Approved Federal or New Jersey Plan – certificate enclosed _____

I further certify that the statements and information contained herein, are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date

Authorized Signature and Title

P.L. 1995, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27)
MANDATORY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION LANGUAGE

PROCUREMENT, PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE
CONTRACTS

During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this non-discrimination clause.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisement for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to attempt in good faith to employ minority and female workers trade consistent with the applicable county employment goal prescribed by N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2 promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, C.127, as amended and supplemented from time to time or in accordance with a binding determination of the applicable county employment goals determined by the Affirmative Action Office pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2 promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, C.127, as amended and supplemented from time to time.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to inform in writing appropriate recruitment agencies in the area, including employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing, as established by the

statutes and court decisions of the state of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and lay-off to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, and conform with the applicable employment goals, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor and its subcontractors shall furnish such reports or other documents to the Affirmative Action Office as may be requested by the office from time to time in order to carry out the purposes of these regulations, and public agencies shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Affirmative Action Office for conducting a compliance investigation pursuant to Subchapter 10 of the Administrative Code (NJAC 17:27).

Signature of Procurement Agent

C. 271 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM Public Agency Instructions

This page provides guidance to public agencies entering into contracts with business entities that are required to file Political Contribution Disclosure forms with the agency. **It is not intended to be provided to contractors.** What follows are instructions on the use of form local units can provide to contractors that are required to disclose political contributions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 (P.L. 2005, c. 271, s.2). Additional information on the process is available in Local Finance Notice 2006-1 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/lfmenu.shtml).

1. The disclosure is required for all contracts in excess of \$17,500 that are **not awarded** pursuant to a “fair and open” process (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7).
2. Due to the potential length of some contractor submissions, the public agency should consider allowing data to be submitted in electronic form (i.e., spreadsheet, pdf file, etc.). Submissions must be kept with the contract documents or in an appropriate computer file and be available for public access. **The form is worded to accept this alternate submission.** The text should be amended if electronic submission will not be allowed.
3. The submission must be **received from the contractor and** on file at least 10 days prior to award of the contract. Resolutions of award should reflect that the disclosure has been received and is on file.
4. The contractor must disclose contributions made to candidate and party committees covering a wide range of public agencies, including all public agencies that have elected officials in the county of the public agency, state legislative positions, and various state entities. The Division of Local Government Services recommends that contractors be provided a list of the affected agencies. This will assist contractors in determining the campaign and political committees of the officials and candidates affected by the disclosure.
 - a. The Division has prepared model disclosure forms for each county. They can be downloaded from the “County PCD Forms” link on the Pay-to-Play web site at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/p2p. They will be updated from time-to-time as necessary.
 - b. A public agency using these forms **should edit them to properly reflect the correct legislative district(s)**. As the forms are county-based, **they list all legislative districts** in each county. **Districts that do not represent the public agency should be removed from the lists.**
 - c. Some contractors may find it easier to provide a single list that covers all contributions, regardless of the county. These submissions are appropriate and should be accepted.
 - d. The form may be used “as-is”, subject to edits as described herein.
 - e. The “Contractor Instructions” sheet is intended to be provided with the form. It is recommended that the Instructions and the form be printed on the same piece of paper. The form notes that the Instructions are printed on the back of the form; where that is not the case, the text should be edited accordingly.
 - f. The form is a Word document and can be edited to meet local needs, and posted for download on web sites, used as an e-mail attachment, or provided as a printed document.
5. It is recommended that the contractor also complete a “Stockholder Disclosure Certification.” This will assist the local unit in its obligation to ensure that contractor did not make any prohibited contributions to the committees listed on the Business Entity Disclosure Certification in the 12 months prior to the contract. (See Local Finance Notice 2006-7 for additional information on this obligation) A sample Certification form is part of this package and the instruction to complete it is included in the Contractor Instructions. **NOTE: This section is not applicable to Boards of Education.**

C. 271 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM

Contractor Instructions

Business entities (contractors) receiving contracts from a public agency that are NOT awarded pursuant to a “fair and open” process (defined at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7) are subject to the provisions of P.L. 2005, c. 271, s.2 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26). This law provides that 10 days prior to the award of such a contract, the contractor shall disclose contributions to:

- any State, county, or municipal committee of a political party
- any legislative leadership committee*
- any continuing political committee (a.k.a., political action committee)
- any candidate committee of a candidate for, or holder of, an elective office:
 - of the public entity awarding the contract
 - of that county in which that public entity is located
 - of another public entity within that county
 - or of a legislative district in which that public entity is located or, when the public entity is a county, of any legislative district which includes all or part of the county. The disclosure must list reportable contributions to any of the committees that exceed \$300 per election cycle that were made during the 12 months prior to award of the contract. See N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8 and 19:44A-16 for more details on reportable contributions.

N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 itemizes the parties from whom contributions must be disclosed when a business entity is not a natural person. This includes the following:

- individuals with an “interest” ownership or control of more than 10% of the profits or assets of a business entity or 10% of the stock in the case of a business entity that is a corporation for profit
- all principals, partners, officers, or directors of the business entity or their spouses
- any subsidiaries directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity
- IRS Code Section 527 New Jersey based organizations, directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity and filing as continuing political committees, (PACs). When the business entity is a natural person, “a contribution by that person’s spouse or child, residing therewith, shall be deemed to be a contribution by the business entity.” [N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26(b)] The contributor must be listed on the disclosure. Any business entity that fails to comply with the disclosure provisions shall be subject to a fine imposed by ELEC in an amount to be determined by the Commission which may be based upon the amount that the business entity failed to report. The enclosed list of agencies is provided to assist the contractor in identifying those public agencies whose elected official and/or candidate campaign committees are affected by the disclosure requirement. It is the contractor’s responsibility to identify the specific committees to which contributions may have been made and need to be disclosed. The disclosed information may exceed the minimum requirement. The enclosed form, a content-consistent facsimile, or an electronic data file containing the required details (along with a signed cover sheet) may be used as the contractor’s submission and is disclosable to the public under the Open Public Records Act. The contractor must also complete the attached Stockholder Disclosure Certification. This will assist the agency in meeting its obligations under the law.

NOTE: This section does not apply to Board of Education contracts.

* N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3(s): “The term “legislative leadership committee” means a committee established, authorized to be established, or designated by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly or the Minority Leader of the General Assembly pursuant to section 16 of P.L.1993, c.65 (C.19:44A-10.1) for the purpose of receiving contributions and making expenditures.”

**List of Agencies with Elected Officials Required for Political Contribution
Disclosure
N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26**

County Name:

State: Governor, and Legislative Leadership Committees

Legislative District #s:

State Senator and two members of the General Assembly per district.

County:

Freeholders

{County Executive}

County Clerk

Surrogate

Sheriff

Municipalities (Mayor and members of governing body, regardless of title):

**USERS SHOULD CREATE THEIR OWN FORM, OR DOWNLOAD
FROM WWW.NJ.GOV/DCA/LGS/P2P A COUNTY-BASED,
CUSTOMIZABLE FORM.**

STOCKHOLDER DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATION

Name of Business:

I certify that the list below contains the names and home addresses of all stockholders holding 10% or more of the issued and outstanding stock of the undersigned.

OR

I certify that no one stockholder owns 10% or more of the issued and outstanding stock of the undersigned.

Check the box that represents the type of business organization:

- Partnership, Proprietorship, Corporation, Sole, Limited Partnership, Limited Liability Corporation, Limited Liability Partnership, Subchapter S Corporation

Sign and notarize the form below, and, if necessary, complete the stockholder list below.

Stockholders:

Table with 3 rows and 2 columns for Name and Home Address.

Notary Public section with fields for date, signature, and commission expiration.

Appendix I:

EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE/SELF CHECKLIST

Products/Pricing (40 Points)

1. Are all products and services being proposed listed under APPENDIX B on a corresponding electronic device? Yes No
2. Is there a price list for all available products/services on a corresponding electronic device?
Yes No
3. Did you provide the warranty information that is offered by your company?
Yes No
4. Will customers be able to verify they received the contract price?
Yes No

Please explain how they would verify the contract price.

5. What payment methods do you accept?
A. _____ B. _____

Performance Capability (30 Points)

1. Did you indicate which states you can deliver to under APPENDIX E, Question 1?
Yes No
2. What is the capability of your company to respond to emergency orders?
Please explain what actions you would take.
3. Please provide your company's average fill rate over the last three fiscal years.
1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____
4. Please provide your company's average on time delivery rate over the last fiscal year.

5. Does your company agree to the following statement on shipping charges *"All deliveries shall be freight prepaid, F.O.B. destination and shall be included in all pricing offered unless otherwise clearly stated in writing."*? Yes No

If not please explain.
6. What is your company's return and restocking policy? Are there any applicable fees?
Please provide a brief description and example.
7. What is your company's history of meeting shipping and delivery timelines?
8. Will your company be able to meet the one year warranty guarantee as stated on page 16 under pricing? Yes No

If not, please explain.

9. Did you provide your company's information regarding your customer service department as per APPENDIX F, Question 15? Yes No
10. What is your company's current invoicing process?
11. Did you indicate how your company will implement the contract as per APPENDIX F, Question 20? Yes No
12. Did you provide your Dun & Bradstreet number? Yes No
13. Did you provide information on your website and on-line ordering capacities as per APPENDIX F, Question 14? Yes No

Qualification and Experience (20 points)

1. What is your company's reputation in the marketplace?
2. What is the reputation of your products and/or services in the marketplace?
3. Does your company have past experience with Region 4 ESC and/or TCPN members? If so, please list them and their contact information (Up to five).
4. Did you list your key employees and their qualifications as per APPENDIX F, Question 6? Yes No
5. Did you provide the locations and sales persons who will work on the contract as per APPENDIX F, Question 6 & 7? Yes No
6. What past experience does your company have working in the government sector?
7. Did you provide information on working with cooperative purchasing programs as per APPENDIX F, Question 24? Yes No
8. Did you provide information on any litigation, bankruptcy, reorganization, etc. as per APPENDIX F, Question 16? Yes No
9. Did you submit at least 10 customer references relating to the products and services within this RFP, with an equal representation coming from K12, Higher Education and City/County/non-profits entities as per APPENDIX F? Yes No
10. Did you list and submit all applicable MWBE, HUB, DVBE, small and disadvantaged business certifications that your company holds? Yes No
11. Did you list and submit all applicable M/WBE, HUB, DVBE, small and disadvantaged business and other diverse certifications that your company holds? Yes No

Value Add (10 Points)

1. Did you submit a marketing plan as per APPENDIX F, Question 17? Yes No
2. Did you provide a national sales training plan as per APPENDIX F, Question 21? Yes No

Appendix J:
STATE NOTICE

Pursuant to certain state notice provisions, including but not limited to Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 279A.220, the following public agencies and political subdivisions of the referenced public agencies are eligible to register with TCPN and access the Vendor Contract award made pursuant to this solicitation, and hereby given notice of the foregoing request for proposals for purposes of complying with the procedural requirements of said statutes:

Nationwide:

State of Alabama	State of Hawaii	State of Massachusetts	State of New Mexico	State of South Dakota
State of Alaska	State of Idaho	State of Michigan	State of New York	State of Tennessee
State of Arizona	State of Illinois	State of Minnesota	State of North Carolina	State of Texas
State of Arkansas	State of Indiana	State of Mississippi	State of North Dakota	State of Utah
State of California	State of Iowa	State of Missouri	State of Ohio	State of Vermont
State of Colorado	State of Kansas	State of Montana	State of Oklahoma	State of Virginia
State of Connecticut	State of Kentucky	State of Nebraska	State of Oregon	State of Washington
State of Delaware	State of Louisiana	State of Nevada	State of Pennsylvania	State of West Virginia
State of Florida	State of Maine	State of New Hampshire	State of Rhode Island	State of Wisconsin
State of Georgia	State of Maryland	State of New Jersey	State of South Carolina	State of Wyoming
District of Columbia				

Lists of political subdivisions and local governments in the above referenced states/districts may be found at http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/State_and_Territories.shtml and <http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Local.shtml>

Certain Public Agencies and Political Subdivisions:

Cities, Towns, Villages, and Boroughs including but not limited to:

CITY OF ADAIR VILLAGE
 CITY OF ASHLAND
 CITY OF AUMSVILLE
 CITY OF AURORA
 CITY OF BEAVERTON
 CITY OF BOARDMAN
 CITY OF BURNS
 CITY OF CANBY
 CITY OF CANYONVILLE
 CITY OF CLATSKANIE
 CITY OF COBURG

CITY OF CONDON
CITY OF LA GRANDE
CITY OF LEBANON
CITY OF MILL CITY
CITY OF MILWAUKIE
CITY OF MOSIER
CITY OF NORTH PLAINS
CITY OF OREGON CITY
CITY OF PILOT ROCK
CITY OF PORTLAND
CITY OF POWERS
CITY OF RIDDLE
CITY OF SANDY
CITY OF SCAPPOOSE
CITY OF SHADY COVE
CITY OF SHERWOOD
CITY OF ST. PAUL
CITY OF TIGARD, OREGON
CITY OF TUALATIN, OREGON
CITY OF WARRENTON
CITY OF WILSONVILLE
CITY OF WINSTON
LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES
PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CITY OF BATON ROUGE
CITY OF BOSSIER CITY
CITY OF KENNER
CITY OF LAFAYETTE
CITY OF LAKE CHARLES
CITY OF METAIRIE
CITY OF MONROE
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
CITY OF SHREVEPORT

Counties including but not limited to:

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF HAWAII
MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL
CADDO PARISH
CALCASIEU PARISH
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
JEFFERSON PARISH
LAFAYETTE PARISH
LIVINGSTON PARISH
ORLEANS PARISH
PLAQUEMINES PARISH
RAPIDES PARISH
SAINT TAMMANY PARISH
TERREBONNE PARISH
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH

K-12 including but not limited to:

BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

BEND-LA PINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BROOKING HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17-C
CANYONVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
CASCADES ACADEMY OF CENTRAL OREGON
CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
CENTRAL POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.6
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13J
COOS BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.9
COUNTY OF YAMHILL SCHOOL DISTRICT 29
CULVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.2
DAVID DOUGLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT
DAYTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.8
DE LA SALLE N CATHOLIC HS
DESCHUTES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.6
DUFUR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 29
ESTACADA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.10B
FOREST GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
GLADSTONE SCHOOL DISTRICT
GRANTS PASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 7
GREATER ALBANY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
HEAD START OF LANE COUNTY
HIGH DESERT EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.9
JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 509-J
JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
KLAMATH FALLS CITY SCHOOLS
LAKE OSWEGO SCHOOL DISTRICT 7J
LANE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J
LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
LINN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 95C
LOST RIVER JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
LOWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.71
MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 103
MCMINNVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NOAO
MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT 549C
MITCH CHARTER SCHOOL
MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.1J
MULTISENSORY LEARNING ACADEMY
MUL TNOMAH EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
NEAH-KAH-NIE DISTRICT NO.56
NESTUCCA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.101
NOBEL LEARNING COMMUNITIES
NORTH BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT 13
NORTH CLACKAMAS SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH WASCO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 21
NORTHWEST REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL
OREGON TRAIL SCHOOL DISTRICT NOA6

PHOENIX TALENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NOA
PORTLAND JEWISH ACADEMY
PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REDMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT
REYNOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT
ROGUE RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.35
ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCAPPOOSE SCHOOL DISTRICT 1J
SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT 10
SHERWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 88J
SOUTH LANE SCHOOL DISTRICT 45J3
SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.19
SWEET HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.55
THE CATLIN GABEL SCHOOL
TIGARD-TUALATIN SCHOOL DISTRICT
WEST LINN WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
YONCALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.32
CADDOPARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT
CALCASIEU PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT
JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT
LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT
LIVINGSTON PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT
RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT
TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Higher Education

BIRTHINGWAY COLLEGE OF MIDWIFERY
BLUE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CENTRAL OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CHEMEKETA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COLUMBIA GORGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY
KLAMATH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LEWIS AND CLARK COLLEGE
LINFIELD COLLEGE
LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MARYLHURST UNIVERSITY
MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MULTNOMAH BIBLE COLLEGE
NATIONAL COLLEGE OF NATURAL MEDICINE
NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY
OREGON UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
REED COLLEGE

ROGUE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOUTHWESTERN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TILLAMOOK BAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WESTERN STATES CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE
WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY
ARGOSY UNIVERSITY
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY-HAWAII
COLLEGE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA

State Agencies

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OFFICE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER
OREGON BOARD OF ARCHITECTS
OREGON CHILD DEVELOPMENT COALITION
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OREGON LOTTERY
OREGON OFFICE OF ENERGY
OREGON STATE BOARD OF NURSING
OREGON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OREGON STATE POLICE
OREGON TOURISM COMMISSION
OREGON TRAVEL INFORMATION COUNCIL
SANTIAM CANYON COMMUNICATION CENTER
SEIU LOCAL 503, OPEU
ADMIN. SERVICES OFFICE
HAWAII CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION
SOH-JUDICIARY CONTRACTS AND PURCH
STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE OF HAWAII, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE OF LOUISIANA
STATE OF LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION