



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
DINING SERVICES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING
ACADEMY
RFP # 32101-01232026-SR1
Release #3**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The State of Tennessee, Department of General Services, hereinafter referred to as “the State,” issues this Request for Proposals (RFP) to define minimum contract requirements; solicit responses; detail response requirements; and, outline the State’s process for evaluating responses and selecting a contractor to provide the needed goods or services.

Through this RFP, the State seeks to procure necessary goods or services at the most favorable, competitive prices and to give ALL qualified respondents an opportunity to do business with the state as contractors, subcontractors or suppliers.

1.1. Statement of Procurement Purpose

The State of Tennessee is seeking proposals for the provision and operation of comprehensive dining services in support of a public safety training academy campus. The dining program is intended to support the nutritional needs of trainees and staff participating in intensive, multi-day training programs at the facility. The selected Contractor shall be responsible for delivering high-quality, reliable food services that accommodate a dynamic training population. The dining facility is designed to produce and serve up to 1,400 meals per service period, for three (3) meals per day, resulting in a potential capacity of up to 4,200 meals daily. The typical dining schedule will include Sunday dinner through Friday lunch, with special events as required by the State. The dining area is designed to seat 350 trainees at one time, with meal service structured to accommodate up to four (4) seatings per meal period to serve the full trainee population.

The primary objectives of this procurement are to ensure safe, efficient, and nutritionally balanced meal service; to maintain consistent service levels during peak demand periods; and to support the operational needs of the training academy through dependable food production and dining operations.

The State of Tennessee intends to award a five (5) year contract for dining services to a qualified proposer capable of meeting these capacity requirements and maintaining high standards of food quality, sanitation, and customer service.

- 1.1.2. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-3-305(c), the State estimates that total meal consumption in Year one (1) will be approximately two hundred thousand (200,000) meals. Of these, breakfast meals are projected to comprise approximately thirty-three percent (33%), lunch meals approximately thirty-six percent (36%), and dinner meals approximately thirty-one percent (31%).

Total meal volume is projected to increase by approximately ten percent (10%) annually over the Term of the Contract. Based on this assumption, estimated annual meal volumes are as follows: two hundred twenty thousand (220,000) meals in Year two (2); two hundred forty-two thousand (242,000) meals in Year three (3); two hundred sixty-six thousand two hundred (266,200) meals in Year four (4); and two hundred ninety-two thousand eight hundred twenty (292,820) meals in Year five (5).

The State estimates approximately two hundred sixty-two (262) operating days each year and fifty-two (52) training weeks each year. The State estimates three hundred (300) special event meals to be needed in Year one (1). Total special event meal volume is projected to increase approximately ten percent (10%) annually over the Term of the Contract. Based on this assumption, estimated annual special event meal volumes are as follows: three hundred thirty (330) special event meals in Year two (2); three hundred sixty-three (363) special event meals in Year three (3); four hundred (400) special event meals in Year four (4); and four hundred thirty-nine (439) special event meals in Year five (5).

These estimates are provided for planning purposes only and do not guarantee actual volumes.

1.2. Scope of Service, Contract Period, & Required Terms and Conditions

The RFP Attachment 6.6., *Pro Forma* Contract details the State's requirements:

- Scope of Services and Deliverables (Section A);
- Contract Period (Section B);
- Payment Terms (Section C);
- Standard Terms and Conditions (Section D); and,
- Special Terms and Conditions (Section E).

The *pro forma* contract substantially represents the contract document that the successful Respondent must sign.

1.3. Nondiscrimination

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of a Contract pursuant to this RFP or in the employment practices of the Contractor on the grounds of handicap or disability, age, race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by federal, Tennessee state constitutional, or statutory law. The Contractor pursuant to this RFP shall, upon request, show proof of such nondiscrimination and shall post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.

1.4. RFP Communications

- 1.4.1. The State has assigned the following RFP identification number that must be referenced in all communications regarding this RFP:

RFP # 32101-01232026-SR1

- 1.4.2. **Unauthorized contact about this RFP with employees or officials of the State of Tennessee except as detailed below may result in disqualification from consideration under this procurement process.**

- 1.4.2.1. Prospective Respondents must direct communications concerning this RFP to the following person designated as the Solicitation Coordinator:

DeRenne Raley, MPA | Sourcing Account Specialist
 Department of General Services
 312 Rosa L Parks Ave, Nashville, TN, 37243-1102
 (615) 251-5173
 DeRenne.Raley@tn.gov

- 1.4.2.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Prospective Respondents may alternatively contact:

the following individual designated by the State to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of the State of Tennessee, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and associated federal regulations:

Helen Crowley
 Department of General Services, CPO
 312 Rosa L Parks Ave, Nashville, TN, 37243-1102
 (615) 741-1035
 Helen.Crowley@tn.gov

- 1.4.3. Only the State's official, written responses and communications with Respondents are binding with regard to this RFP. Oral communications between a State official and one or more Respondents are unofficial and non-binding.
- 1.4.4. Potential Respondents must ensure that the State receives all written questions and comments, including questions and requests for clarification, no later than the Written Questions & Comments Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.
- 1.4.5. Respondents must assume the risk of the method of dispatching any communication or response to the State. The State assumes no responsibility for delays or delivery failures resulting from the Respondent's method of dispatch. Actual or digital "postmarking" of a communication or response to the State by a specified deadline is not a substitute for the State's actual receipt of a communication or response. It is encouraged for Respondents to submit bids digitally.
- 1.4.6. The State will convey all official responses and communications related to this RFP to the prospective Respondents from whom the State has received a Notice of Intent to Respond (refer to RFP Section 1.8).
- 1.4.7. The State reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, the method of conveying official, written responses and communications related to this RFP. Such written communications may be transmitted by mail, hand-delivery, facsimile, electronic mail, Internet posting, or any other means deemed reasonable by the State. For internet posting, please refer to the following website: <https://www.tn.gov/generalservices/procurement/central-procurement-office--cpo--supplier-information/request-for-proposals--rfp--opportunities1.html>.
- 1.4.8. The State reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, the appropriateness and adequacy of responses to written comments, questions, and requests related to this RFP. The State's official, written responses will constitute an amendment of this RFP.
- 1.4.9. Any data or factual information provided by the State (in this RFP, an RFP amendment or any other communication relating to this RFP) is for informational purposes only. The State will make reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of such data or information, however it is the Respondent's obligation to independently verify any data or information provided by the State. The State expressly disclaims the accuracy or adequacy of any information or data that it provides to prospective Respondents.

1.5. **Assistance to Respondents With a Handicap or Disability**

Prospective Respondents with a handicap or disability may receive accommodation relating to the communication of this RFP and participating in the RFP process. Prospective Respondents may contact the Solicitation Coordinator to request such reasonable accommodation no later than the Disability Accommodation Request Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

1.6. **Respondent Required Review & Waiver of Objections**

- 1.6.1. Each prospective Respondent must carefully review this RFP, including but not limited to, attachments, the RFP Attachment 6.6., *Pro Forma* Contract, and any amendments, for questions, comments, defects, objections, or any other matter requiring clarification or correction (collectively called "questions and comments").
- 1.6.2. Any prospective Respondent having questions and comments concerning this RFP must provide them in writing to the State no later than the Written Questions & Comments Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

- 1.6.3. Protests based on any objection to the RFP shall be considered waived and invalid if the objection has not been brought to the attention of the State, in writing, by the Written Questions & Comments Deadline.

1.7. Pre-Response Conference

A Pre-response Conference will be held at the time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. Pre-response Conference attendance is not mandatory, and prospective Respondents may be limited to a maximum number of attendees depending upon overall attendance and space limitations.

The conference will be held:

Virtually on Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/288819569446197?p=t8x06e5kE5MpKAdt4C>

Meeting ID: 288 819 569 446 197

Passcode: oR3DD33K

[Need help?](#) | [System reference](#)

Dial in by phone

[+1 629-209-4396,,264866196#](#) United States, Triune

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 264 866 196#

The purpose of the conference is to discuss the RFP scope of goods or services. The State will entertain questions, however prospective Respondents must understand that the State's oral response to any question at the Pre-response Conference shall be unofficial and non-binding. Prospective Respondents must submit all questions, comments, or other concerns regarding the RFP in writing prior to the Written Questions & Comments Deadline date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. The State will send the official response to these questions and comments to prospective Respondents from whom the State has received a Notice of Intent to respond as indicated in RFP Section 1.8 and on the date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

1.8. Notice of Intent to Respond

Before the Notice of Intent to Respond Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events, prospective Respondents should submit to the Solicitation Coordinator a Notice of Intent to Respond (in the form of a simple e-mail or other written communication). Such notice should include the following information:

- the business or individual's name (as appropriate);
- a contact person's name and title; and
- the contact person's mailing address, telephone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address.

A Notice of Intent to Respond creates no obligation and is not a prerequisite for submitting a response, however, it is necessary to ensure receipt of any RFP amendments or other notices and communications relating to this RFP.

1.9. Response Deadline

A Respondent must ensure that the State receives a response no later than the Response Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. The State will not accept late responses, and a Respondent's failure to submit a response before the deadline will result in disqualification of the response. It is the responsibility of the Respondent to ascertain any additional security requirements with respect to packaging and delivery to the State of Tennessee. Respondents should be mindful of any potential delays due to security screening procedures, weather, or other filing delays whether foreseeable or unforeseeable.

2. RFP SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2.1. The following RFP Schedule of Events represents the State's best estimate for this RFP.

EVENT	TIME (central time zone)	DATE
1. RFP Issued		June 22, 2026
2. Disability Accommodation Request Deadline	2:00 p.m.	June 25, 2026
3. Pre-response Conference (virtual)	9:00 a.m.	July 1, 2026
4. Notice of Intent to Respond Deadline	2:00 p.m.	July 2, 2026
5. Written "Questions & Comments" Deadline	2:00 p.m.	July 8, 2026
6. State Response to Written "Questions & Comments"		September 11, 2026
7. Second Written "Questions & Comments" Deadline (limited to five Questions or Comments)	2:00 p.m.	September 18, 2026
8. State Response to Second Round of Written "Questions & Comments"		October 12, 2026
9. Response Deadline	2:00 p.m.	October 20, 2026
10. State Completion of Technical Response Evaluations		November 4, 2026
11. State Schedules Respondent Oral Presentation		November 5, 2026
12. Respondent Oral Presentation (virtual)	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	November 9-10, 2026
13. State Opening & Scoring of Cost Proposals	2:00 p.m.	November 12, 2026
14. Negotiations	4:30 p.m.	November 13-17, 2026
15. State Notice of Intent to Award Released <u>and</u> RFP Files Opened for Public Inspection	2:00 p.m.	November 18, 2026
16. End of Protest Period		November 25, 2026
17. State sends contract to Contractor for signature		December 1, 2026
18. Contractor Signature Deadline	2:00 p.m.	December 2, 2026

2.2. **The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust the RFP Schedule of Events as it deems necessary.** Any adjustment of the Schedule of Events shall constitute an RFP amendment, and the State will communicate such to prospective Respondents from whom the State has received a Notice of Intent to Respond (refer to section 1.8).

3. RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Response Form

A response to this RFP must consist of two parts, a Technical Response and a Cost Proposal.

- 3.1.1. **Technical Response.** RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide provides the specific requirements for submitting a response. This guide includes mandatory requirement items, general qualifications and experience items, and technical qualifications, experience, and approach items all of which must be addressed with a written response and, in some instances, additional documentation.

NOTICE: A technical response must not include any pricing or cost information. If any pricing or cost information amounts of any type (even pricing relating to other projects) is included in any part of the technical response, the state may deem the response to be non-responsive and reject it.

- 3.1.1.1. A Respondent should duplicate and use the RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide to organize, reference, and draft the Technical Response by duplicating the attachment, adding appropriate page numbers as required, and using the guide as a table of contents covering the Technical Response.
- 3.1.1.2. A response should be economically prepared, with emphasis on completeness and clarity. A response, as well as any reference material presented, must be written in English and must be written on standard 8 ½" x 11" pages (although oversize exhibits are permissible) and use a 12 point font for text. All response pages must be numbered.
- 3.1.1.3. All information and documentation included in a Technical Response should correspond to or address a specific requirement detailed in the RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide. All information must be incorporated into a response to a specific requirement and clearly referenced. Any information not meeting these criteria will be deemed extraneous and will not contribute to evaluations.
- 3.1.1.4. The State may determine a response to be non-responsive and reject it if:
 - a. the Respondent fails to organize and properly reference the Technical Response as required by this RFP and the RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide; or
 - b. the Technical Response document does not appropriately respond to, address, or meet all of the requirements and response items detailed in the RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide.

- 3.1.2. **Cost Proposal.** A Cost Proposal must be recorded on an exact duplicate of the RFP Attachment 6.3., Cost Proposal & Scoring Guide.

NOTICE: If a Respondent fails to submit a cost proposal exactly as required, the State may deem the response to be non-responsive and reject it.

- 3.1.2.1. A Respondent must only record the proposed cost exactly as required by the RFP Attachment 6.3., Cost Proposal & Scoring Guide and must NOT record any other rates, amounts, or information.

- 3.1.2.2. The proposed cost shall incorporate ALL costs for services under the contract for the total contract period, including any renewals or extensions.
- 3.1.2.3. A Respondent must sign and date the Cost Proposal.
- 3.1.2.4. A Respondent must submit the Cost Proposal to the State in a sealed package separate from the Technical Response (as detailed in RFP Sections 3.2.3., *et seq.*).

3.2. Response Delivery

- 3.2.1. A Respondent must ensure that both the Technical Response and Cost Proposal files meet all form and content requirements, including all required signatures, as detailed within this RFP.
- 3.2.2. A Respondent must submit their response as specified in one of the two formats below.

3.2.2.1. Digital Media Submission

3.2.2.1.1. Technical Response

The Technical Response document should be in the form of one (1) digital document in "PDF" format properly recorded on its own otherwise blank USB flash drive and should be clearly identified as the:

"RFP #32101-01232026-SR1 TECHNICAL RESPONSE ORIGINAL"

and one (1) digital copies of the Technical Response each in the form of one (1) digital document in "PDF" format properly recorded on its own otherwise blank USB flash drive clearly labeled:

"RFP #32101-01232026-SR1 TECHNICAL RESPONSE COPY"

The customer references should be delivered by each reference in accordance with RFP Attachment 6.4. Reference Questionnaire.

3.2.2.1.2. Cost Proposal:

The Cost Proposal should be in the form of one (1) digital document in "PDF" or "XLS" format properly recorded on a separate, otherwise blank USB flash drive clearly labeled:

"RFP #32101-01232026-SR1 COST PROPOSAL"

An electronic or facsimile signature, as applicable, on the Cost Proposal is acceptable.

3.2.2.2. E-mail Submission

3.2.2.2.1. Technical Response

The Technical Response document should be in the form of one (1) digital document in "PDF" format or other easily accessible digital format attached to an e-mail to the Solicitation Coordinator. Both the subject and file name should be clearly identified as follows:

"RFP #32101-01232026-SR1 TECHNICAL RESPONSE"

The customer references should be delivered by each reference in accordance with RFP Attachment 6.4. Reference Questionnaire.

3.2.2.2.2. Cost Proposal:

The Cost Proposal should be in the form of one (1) digital document in “PDF” or “XLS” format or other easily accessible digital format attached to an e-mail to the Solicitation Coordinator. Both the subject and file name should be clearly identified as follows:

“RFP #32101-01232026-SR1 COST PROPOSAL”

An electronic or facsimile signature, as applicable, on the Cost Proposal is acceptable.

- 3.2.3. For e-mail submissions, the Technical Response and Cost Proposal documents must be dispatched to the Solicitation Coordinator in separate e-mail messages. For digital media submissions, a Respondent must separate, seal, package, and label the documents and copies for delivery as follows:
- 3.2.3.1. The Technical Response and copies must be placed in a sealed package that is clearly labeled:
- “DO NOT OPEN... RFP # 32101-01232026-SR1 TECHNICAL RESPONSE FROM [RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME]”**
- 3.2.3.2. The Cost Proposal must be placed in a separate, sealed package that is clearly labeled:
- “DO NOT OPEN... RFP # 32101-01232026-SR1 COST PROPOSAL FROM [RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME]”**
- 3.2.3.3. The separately, sealed Technical Response and Cost Proposal components may be enclosed in a larger package for mailing or delivery, provided that the outermost package is clearly labeled:
- “RFP # 32101-01232026-SR1 SEALED TECHNICAL RESPONSE & SEALED COST PROPOSAL FROM [RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME]”**
- 3.2.3.4. Any Respondent wishing to submit a Response in a format other than digital may do so by contacting the Solicitation Coordinator.
- 3.2.4. A Respondent must ensure that the State receives a response no later than the Response Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events at the following address:

DeRenne Raley, MPA | Sourcing Account Specialist
 Department of General Services
 312 Rosa L Parks Ave, Nashville, TN, 37243-1102
 (615) 251-5173
 DeRenne.Raley@tn.gov

3.3. **Response & Respondent Prohibitions**

- 3.3.1. A response must not include alternate contract terms and conditions. If a response contains such terms and conditions, the State, at its sole discretion, may determine the response to be a non-responsive counteroffer and reject it.
- 3.3.2. A response must not restrict the rights of the State or otherwise qualify either the offer to deliver goods or provide services as required by this RFP or the Cost Proposal. If a response restricts

the rights of the State or otherwise qualifies either the offer to deliver goods or provide services as required by this RFP or the Cost Proposal, the State, at its sole discretion, may determine the response to be a non-responsive counteroffer and reject it.

- 3.3.3. A response must not propose alternative goods or services (*i.e.*, offer services different from those requested and required by this RFP) unless expressly requested in this RFP. The State may consider a response of alternative goods or services to be non-responsive and reject it.
- 3.3.4. A Cost Proposal must be prepared and arrived at independently and must not involve any collusion between Respondents. The State will reject any Cost Proposal that involves collusion, consultation, communication, or agreement between Respondents. Regardless of the time of detection, the State will consider any such actions to be grounds for response rejection or contract termination.
- 3.3.5. A Respondent must not provide, for consideration in this RFP process or subsequent contract negotiations, any information that the Respondent knew or should have known was materially incorrect. If the State determines that a Respondent has provided such incorrect information, the State will deem the Response non-responsive and reject it.
- 3.3.6. A Respondent must not submit more than one Technical Response and one Cost Proposal in response to this RFP, except as expressly requested by the State in this RFP. If a Respondent submits more than one Technical Response or more than one Cost Proposal, the State will deem all of the responses non-responsive and reject them.
- 3.3.7. A Respondent must not submit a response as a prime contractor while also permitting one or more other Respondents to offer the Respondent as a subcontractor in their own responses. Such may result in the disqualification of all Respondents knowingly involved. This restriction does not, however, prohibit different Respondents from offering the same subcontractor as a part of their responses (provided that the subcontractor does not also submit a response as a prime contractor).
- 3.3.8. The State shall not consider a response from an individual who is, or within the past six (6) months has been, a State employee. For purposes of this RFP:
 - 3.3.8.1. An individual shall be deemed a State employee until such time as all compensation for salary, termination pay, and annual leave has been paid;
 - 3.3.8.2. A contract with or a response from a company, corporation, or any other contracting entity in which a controlling interest is held by any State employee shall be considered to be a contract with or proposal from the employee; and
 - 3.3.8.3. A contract with or a response from a company, corporation, or any other contracting entity that employs an individual who is, or within the past six (6) months has been, a State employee shall not be considered a contract with or a proposal from the employee and shall not constitute a prohibited conflict of interest.
- 3.3.9. This RFP is also subject to Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-4-101—105.

3.4. **Response Errors & Revisions**

A Respondent is responsible for any and all response errors or omissions. A Respondent will not be allowed to alter or revise response documents after the Response Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events unless such is formally requested, in writing, by the State.

3.5. **Response Withdrawal**

A Respondent may withdraw a submitted response at any time before the Response Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events by submitting a written request signed by an

authorized Respondent representative. After withdrawing a response, a Respondent may submit another response at any time before the Response Deadline. After the Response Deadline, a Respondent may only withdraw all or a portion of a response where the enforcement of the response would impose an unconscionable hardship on the Respondent.

3.6. **Additional Services**

If a response offers goods or services in addition to those required by and described in this RFP, the State, at its sole discretion, may add such services to the contract awarded as a result of this RFP. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Respondent must not propose any additional cost amounts or rates for additional goods or services. Regardless of any additional services offered in a response, the Respondent's Cost Proposal must only record the proposed cost as required in this RFP and must not record any other rates, amounts, or information.

NOTICE: If a Respondent fails to submit a Cost Proposal exactly as required, the State may deem the response non-responsive and reject it.

3.7. **Response Preparation Costs**

The State will not pay any costs associated with the preparation, submittal, or presentation of any response.

4. GENERAL CONTRACTING INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

4.1. RFP Amendment

The State at its sole discretion may amend this RFP, in writing, at any time prior to contract award. However, prior to any such amendment, the State will consider whether it would negatively impact the ability of potential Respondents to meet the response deadline and revise the RFP Schedule of Events if deemed appropriate. If an RFP amendment is issued, the State will convey it to potential Respondents who submitted a Notice of Intent to Respond (refer to RFP Section 1.8). A response must address the final RFP (including its attachments) as amended.

4.2. RFP Cancellation

The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel the RFP or to cancel and reissue this RFP in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

4.3. State Right of Rejection

- 4.3.1. Subject to applicable laws and regulations, the State reserves the right to reject, at its sole discretion, any and all responses.
- 4.3.2. The State may deem as non-responsive and reject any response that does not comply with all terms, conditions, and performance requirements of this RFP. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the State reserves the right to waive, at its sole discretion, minor variances from full compliance with this RFP. If the State waives variances in a response, such waiver shall not modify the RFP requirements or excuse the Respondent from full compliance, and the State may hold any resulting Contractor to strict compliance with this RFP.

4.4. Assignment & Subcontracting

- 4.4.1. The Contractor may not subcontract, transfer, or assign any portion of the Contract awarded as a result of this RFP without prior approval of the State. The State reserves the right to refuse approval, at its sole discretion, of any subcontract, transfer, or assignment.
- 4.4.2. If a Respondent intends to use subcontractors, the response to this RFP must specifically identify the scope and portions of the work each subcontractor will perform (refer to RFP Attachment 6.2., Section B, General Qualifications & Experience Item B.14.).
- 4.4.3. Subcontractors identified within a response to this RFP will be deemed as approved by the State unless the State expressly disapproves one or more of the proposed subcontractors prior to signing the Contract.
- 4.4.4. After contract award, a Contractor may only substitute an approved subcontractor at the discretion of the State and with the State's prior, written approval.
- 4.4.5. Notwithstanding any State approval relating to subcontracts, the Respondent who is awarded a contract pursuant to this RFP will be the prime contractor and will be responsible for all work under the Contract.

4.5. Right to Refuse Personnel or Subcontractors

The State reserves the right to refuse, at its sole discretion and notwithstanding any prior approval, any personnel of the prime contractor or a subcontractor providing goods or services in the performance of a contract resulting from this RFP. The State will document in writing the reason(s) for any rejection of personnel.

4.6. Insurance

The State will require the awarded Contractor to provide a Certificate of Insurance issued by an insurance company licensed or authorized to provide insurance in the State of Tennessee. Each Certificate of Insurance shall indicate current insurance coverages meeting minimum requirements as may be specified by this RFP. A failure to provide a current, Certificate of Insurance will be considered a material breach and grounds for contract termination.

4.7. Professional Licensure and Department of Revenue Registration

- 4.7.1. All persons, agencies, firms, or other entities that provide legal or financial opinions, which a Respondent provides for consideration and evaluation by the State as a part of a response to this RFP, shall be properly licensed to render such opinions.
- 4.7.2. Before the Contract resulting from this RFP is signed, the apparent successful Respondent (and Respondent employees and subcontractors, as applicable) must hold all necessary or appropriate business or professional licenses to provide the goods or services as required by the contract. The State may require any Respondent to submit evidence of proper licensure.
- 4.7.3. Before the Contract resulting from this RFP is signed, the apparent successful Respondent must be registered with the Tennessee Department of Revenue for the collection of Tennessee sales and use tax. The State shall not award a contract unless the Respondent provides proof of such registration or provides documentation from the Department of Revenue that the Contractor is exempt from this registration requirement. The foregoing is a mandatory requirement of an award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation. To register, please visit the Department of Revenue's Tennessee Taxpayer Access Point (TNTAP) website for Online Registration and the Vendor Contract Questionnaire. These resources are available at the following:
<https://tntap.tn.gov/eservices/#1>

4.8. Disclosure of Response Contents

- 4.8.1. All materials submitted to the State in response to this RFP shall become the property of the State of Tennessee. Respondents are cautioned not to provide any materials in response to this RFP that are trade secrets, as defined under Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-25-1702 and any other applicable law. By submitting a response to this RFP, the respondent acknowledges and agrees that the State shall have no liability whatsoever for disclosure of a trade secret under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, as provided at Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-25-1701-1709, or under any other applicable law. Selection or rejection of a response does not affect this right. By submitting a response, a Respondent acknowledges and accepts that the full response contents and associated documents will become open to public inspection in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee.
- 4.8.2. The State will hold all response information, including both technical and cost information, in confidence during the evaluation process.
- 4.8.3. Upon completion of response evaluations, indicated by public release of a Notice of Intent to Award, the responses and associated materials will be open for review by the public in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-504(a)(7).

4.9. Contract Approval and Contract Payments

- 4.9.1. After contract award, the Contractor who is awarded the contract must submit appropriate documentation with the Department of Finance and Administration, Division of Accounts.
- 4.9.2. This RFP and its contractor selection processes do not obligate the State and do not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in either the Respondent with the apparent best-evaluated response or any other Respondent. State obligations pursuant to a contract award shall commence only after the Contract is signed by the State agency head and the Contractor

and after the Contract is approved by all other state officials as required by applicable laws and regulations.

- 4.9.3. No payment will be obligated or made until the relevant Contract is approved as required by applicable statutes and rules of the State of Tennessee.

4.9.3.1. The State shall not be liable for payment of any type associated with the Contract resulting from this RFP (or any amendment thereof) or responsible for any goods delivered or services rendered by the Contractor, even goods delivered or services rendered in good faith and even if the Contractor is orally directed to proceed with the delivery of goods or the rendering of services, if it occurs before the Contract Effective Date or after the Contract Term.

4.9.3.2. All payments relating to this procurement will be made in accordance with the Payment Terms and Conditions of the Contract resulting from this RFP (refer to RFP Attachment 6.6., *Pro Forma* Contract, Section C).

4.9.3.3. If any provision of the Contract provides direct funding or reimbursement for the competitive purchase of goods or services as a component of contract performance or otherwise provides for the reimbursement of specified, actual costs, the State will employ all reasonable means and will require all such documentation that it deems necessary to ensure that such purchases were competitive and costs were reasonable, necessary, and actual. The Contractor shall provide reasonable assistance and access related to such review. Further, the State shall not remit, as funding or reimbursement pursuant to such provisions, any amounts that it determines do not represent reasonable, necessary, and actual costs.

4.10. **Contractor Performance**

The Contractor who is awarded a contract will be responsible for the delivery of all acceptable goods or the satisfactory completion of all services set out in this RFP (including attachments) as may be amended. All goods or services are subject to inspection and evaluation by the State. The State will employ all reasonable means to ensure that goods delivered or services rendered are in compliance with the Contract, and the Contractor must cooperate with such efforts.

4.11. **Contract Amendment**

After Contract award, the State may request the Contractor to deliver additional goods or perform additional services within the general scope of the Contract and this RFP, but beyond the specified Scope, and for which the Contractor may be compensated. In such instances, the State will provide the Contractor a written description of the additional goods or services. The Contractor must respond to the State with a time schedule for delivering the additional goods or accomplishing the additional services based on the compensable units included in the Contractor's response to this RFP. If the State and the Contractor reach an agreement regarding the goods or services and associated compensation, such agreement must be effected by means of a contract amendment. Further, any such amendment requiring additional goods or services must be signed by both the State agency head and the Contractor and must be approved by other state officials as required by applicable statutes, rules, policies and procedures of the State of Tennessee. The Contractor must not provide additional goods or render additional services until the State has issued a written contract amendment with all required approvals.

4.12. **Severability**

If any provision of this RFP is declared by a court to be illegal or in conflict with any law, said decision will not affect the validity of the remaining RFP terms and provisions, and the rights and obligations of the State and Respondents will be construed and enforced as if the RFP did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.

4.13. Next Ranked Respondent

The State reserves the right to initiate negotiations with the next ranked Respondent should the State cease doing business with any Respondent selected via this RFP process.

5. EVALUATION & CONTRACT AWARD

5.1. Evaluation Categories & Maximum Points

The State will consider qualifications, experience, technical approach, and cost in the evaluation of responses and award points in each of the categories detailed below (up to the maximum evaluation points indicated) to each response deemed by the State to be responsive.

EVALUATION CATEGORY	MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE
General Qualifications & Experience (refer to RFP Attachment 6.2., Section B)	10
Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach (refer to RFP Attachment 6.2., Section C)	50
Oral Presentation (refer to RFP Attachment 6.2., Section D)	10
Cost Proposal (refer to RFP Attachment 6.3.)	30

5.2. Evaluation Process

The evaluation process is designed to award the contract resulting from this RFP not necessarily to the Respondent offering the lowest cost, but rather to the Respondent deemed by the State to be responsive and responsible who offers the best combination of attributes based upon the evaluation criteria. ("Responsive Respondent" is defined as a Respondent that has submitted a response that conforms in all material respects to the RFP. "Responsible Respondent" is defined as a Respondent that has the capacity in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements, and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance.)

5.2.1. **Technical Response Evaluation.** The Solicitation Coordinator and the Proposal Evaluation Team (consisting of three (3) or more State employees) will use the RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide to manage the Technical Response Evaluation and maintain evaluation records.

- 5.2.1.1. The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request Respondent clarification of a Technical Response or to conduct clarification discussions with any or all Respondents. Any such clarification or discussion will be limited to specific sections of the response identified by the State. The subject Respondent must put any resulting clarification in writing as may be required and in accordance with any deadline imposed by the State.
- 5.2.1.2. The Solicitation Coordinator will review each Technical Response to determine compliance with RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide, Section A— Mandatory Requirements. If the Solicitation Coordinator determines that a response failed to meet one or more of the mandatory requirements, the Solicitation Coordinator will review the response and determine whether:
 - a. the response adequately meets RFP requirements for further evaluation;
 - b. the State will request clarifications or corrections for consideration prior to further evaluation; or,
 - c. the State will determine the response to be non-responsive to the RFP and reject it.

- 5.2.1.3. Proposal Evaluation Team members will independently evaluate each Technical Response (that is responsive to the RFP) against the evaluation criteria in this RFP, and will score each in accordance with the RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide.
- 5.2.1.4. For each response evaluated, the Solicitation Coordinator will calculate the average of the Proposal Evaluation Team member scores for RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide, and record each average as the response score for the respective Technical Response section.
- 5.2.1.5. The Solicitation Coordinator will invite the top three (3) ranked Respondents to make an Oral Presentation. The ranking will be determined after the Technical Response score is totaled and ranked (e.g., 1 – the best evaluated ranking, etc.).
 - 5.2.1.5.1. The Oral Presentations are mandatory. The Solicitation Coordinator will schedule Respondent Presentations during the period indicated by the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. The Oral Presentations will be for a duration of ninety minutes. Respondents should leave time for potential questions from evaluators. The Oral Presentations will be held virtually. Any additional details regarding the Oral Presentation will be provided by the Solicitation Coordinator at the time of scheduling. The Solicitation Coordinator will make every effort to accommodate each Respondent's schedules. When the Respondent Presentation schedule has been determined, the Solicitation Coordinator will contact Respondents with the relevant information as indicated by RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.
 - 5.2.1.5.2. Respondent Presentations are only open to the invited Respondent, Proposal Evaluation Team members, the Solicitation Coordinator, and any technical consultants who are selected by the State to provide assistance to the Proposal Evaluation Team.
 - 5.2.1.5.3. Oral Presentations provide an opportunity for Respondents to explain and clarify their responses and for the State to test to better understand the practical application of the good or service as applicable. Respondents must not materially alter their responses and Presentations will be limited to addressing the items detailed in RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide. Respondent pricing shall not be discussed or provided during Oral Presentations.
 - 5.2.1.5.4. The State will maintain an accurate record of each Respondent's Oral Presentation session. The record of the Respondent's Oral Presentation shall be available for review when the State opens the procurement files for public inspection.
 - 5.2.1.5.5. Proposal Evaluation Team members will independently evaluate each Oral Presentation in accordance with the RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide, Section D.
 - 5.2.1.5.6. The Solicitation Coordinator will calculate and document the average of the Proposal Evaluation Team member scores for RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide, Section D, and record that number as the score for Respondent's Technical Response section.
- 5.2.1.6. Before Cost Proposals are opened, the Proposal Evaluation Team and the Solicitation Coordinator will review the Technical Response Evaluation record and any other available information pertinent to whether or not each Respondent is responsive and

responsible. If the Proposal Evaluation Team or the Solicitation Coordinator identifies any Respondent that does not meet the responsive and responsible thresholds such that the team or the Solicitation Coordinator would not recommend the Respondent for Cost Proposal Evaluation and potential contract award, the team members or the Solicitation Coordinator will fully document the determination.

- 5.2.2. **Cost Proposal Evaluation.** The Solicitation Coordinator will open for evaluation the Cost Proposal of each Respondent deemed by the State to be responsive and responsible and calculate and record each Cost Proposal score in accordance with the RFP Attachment 6.3., Cost Proposal & Scoring Guide.

- 5.2.3. **Clarifications and Negotiations:** The State reserves the right to award a contract on the basis of initial responses received, therefore, each response shall contain the Respondent's best terms and conditions from a technical and cost standpoint. The State reserves the right to conduct clarifications or negotiations with one or more Respondents. All communications, clarifications, and negotiations shall be conducted in a manner that supports fairness in response improvement.

5.2.3.1. Clarifications: The State may identify areas of a response that may require further clarification or areas in which it is apparent that there may have been miscommunications or misunderstandings as to the State's specifications or requirements. The State may seek to clarify those issues identified during one or multiple clarification rounds. Each clarification sought by the State may be unique to an individual Respondent, provided that the process is conducted in a manner that supports fairness in response improvement.

5.2.3.2. Negotiations: The State may elect to negotiate with one or more Respondents by requesting revised responses, negotiating costs, or finalizing contract terms and conditions. The State reserves the right to conduct multiple negotiation rounds or no negotiations at all.

5.2.3.3. Cost Negotiations: All Respondents, selected for negotiation by the State, will be given equivalent information with respect to cost negotiations. All cost negotiations will be documented for the procurement file. Additionally, the State may conduct target pricing and other goods or services level negotiations. Target pricing may be based on considerations such as current pricing, market considerations, benchmarks, budget availability, or other methods that do not reveal individual Respondent pricing. During target price negotiations, Respondents are not obligated to reduce their pricing to target prices, but no Respondent is allowed to increase prices.

5.2.3.4. If the State determines that it is unable to successfully negotiate terms and conditions of a contract with the apparent best evaluated Respondent, the State reserves the right to bypass the apparent best evaluated Respondent and enter into terms and conditions contract negotiations with the next apparent best evaluated Respondent.

- 5.2.4. **Total Response Score.** The Solicitation Coordinator will calculate the sum of the Technical Response section scores and the Cost Proposal score and record the resulting number as the total score for the subject Response (refer to RFP Attachment 6.5., Score Summary Matrix).

5.3. **Contract Award Process**

- 5.3.1 The Solicitation Coordinator will review the Proposal Evaluation Team determinations and scores for consideration along with any other relevant information that might be available and pertinent to contract award.
- 5.3.2. The Solicitation Coordinator will determine the apparent best-evaluated Response using the scoring provided by the Proposal Evaluation Team. To effect a contract award to a Respondent other than the one receiving the highest evaluation process score, the Solicitation Coordinator

must provide written justification and obtain the written approval of the Chief Procurement Officer and the Comptroller of the Treasury.

- 5.3.3. The State will issue a Notice of Intent to Award identifying the apparent best-evaluated response and make the RFP files available for public inspection at the time and date specified in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

NOTICE: The Notice of Intent to Award shall not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in either the apparent best-evaluated Respondent or any other Respondent.

- 5.3.4. The Respondent identified as offering the apparent best-evaluated response must sign a contract drawn by the State pursuant to this RFP. The Contract shall be substantially the same as the RFP Attachment 6.6., *Pro Forma* Contract. The Respondent must sign the contract by the Contractor Signature Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. If the Respondent fails to provide the signed Contract by this deadline, the State may determine that the Respondent is non-responsive to this RFP and reject the response.
- 5.3.5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the State may, at its sole discretion, entertain limited terms and conditions or pricing negotiations prior to Contract signing and, as a result, revise the *pro forma* contract terms and conditions or performance requirements in the State's best interests, PROVIDED THAT such revision of terms and conditions or performance requirements shall NOT materially affect the basis of response evaluations or negatively impact the competitive nature of the RFP and contractor selection process.
- 5.3.6. If the State determines that a response is non-responsive and rejects it after opening Cost Proposals, the Solicitation Coordinator will re-calculate scores for each remaining responsive Cost Proposal to determine (or re-determine) the apparent best-evaluated response.

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.1.**RFP # 32101-01232026-SR1 STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES**

The Respondent must sign and complete the Statement of Certifications and Assurances below as required, and it must be included in the Technical Response (as required by RFP Attachment 6.2., Technical Response & Evaluation Guide, Section A, Item A.1.).

The Respondent does, hereby, expressly affirm, declare, confirm, certify, and assure ALL of the following:

1. The Respondent will comply with all of the provisions and requirements of the RFP.
2. The Respondent will provide all services as defined in the Scope of the RFP Attachment 6.6., *Pro Forma* Contract for the total Contract Term.
3. The Respondent, except as otherwise provided in this RFP, accepts and agrees to all terms and conditions set out in the RFP Attachment 6.6., *Pro Forma* Contract.
4. The Respondent acknowledges and agrees that a contract resulting from the RFP shall incorporate, by reference, all proposal responses as a part of the Contract.
5. The Respondent will comply with:
 - (a) the laws of the State of Tennessee;
 - (b) Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;
 - (c) Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act of 1972;
 - (d) the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued there under by the federal government; and,
 - (e) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued there under by the federal government.
6. To the knowledge of the undersigned, the information detailed within the response submitted to this RFP is accurate.
7. The response submitted to this RFP was independently prepared, without collusion, under penalty of perjury.
8. No amount shall be paid directly or indirectly to an employee or official of the State of Tennessee as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as an officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to the Respondent in connection with this RFP or any resulting contract.
9. Both the Technical Response and the Cost Proposal submitted in response to this RFP shall remain valid for at least 120 days subsequent to the date of the Cost Proposal opening and thereafter in accordance with any contract pursuant to the RFP.
10. The Respondent affirms the following statement, as required by the Iran Divestment Act Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-111: "By submission of this bid, each bidder and each person signing on behalf of any bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that each bidder is not on the list created pursuant to §12-12-106." For reference purposes, the list is currently available online at: <https://www.tn.gov/generalservices/procurement/central-procurement-office--cpo-/library/public-information-library.html>.

By signing this Statement of Certifications and Assurances, below, the signatory also certifies legal authority to bind the proposing entity to the provisions of this RFP and any contract awarded pursuant to it. If the signatory is not the Respondent (if an individual) or the Respondent's company *President* or *Chief Executive Officer*, this document must attach evidence showing the individual's authority to bind the Respondent.

DO NOT SIGN THIS DOCUMENT IF YOU ARE NOT LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO BIND THE RESPONDENT

SIGNATURE:

PRINTED NAME & TITLE:

DATE:

**RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY
NAME:**

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.2. — Section A**TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE**

SECTION A: MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS. The Respondent must address all items detailed below and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). The Respondent must also detail the response page number for each item in the appropriate space below.

The Solicitation Coordinator will review the response to determine if the Mandatory Requirement Items are addressed as required and mark each with pass or fail. For each item that is not addressed as required, the Solicitation Coordinator must review the response and attach a written determination. In addition to the Mandatory Requirement Items, the Solicitation Coordinator will review each response for compliance with all RFP requirements.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:			
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section A— Mandatory Requirement Items	Pass/Fail
		The Response must be delivered to the State no later than the Response Deadline specified in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.	
		The Technical Response and the Cost Proposal documentation must be packaged separately as required (refer to RFP Section 3.2., <i>et. seq.</i>).	
		The Technical Response must NOT contain cost or pricing information of any type.	
		The Technical Response must NOT contain any restrictions of the rights of the State or other qualification of the response.	
		A Respondent must NOT submit alternate responses (refer to RFP Section 3.3.).	
		A Respondent must NOT submit multiple responses in different forms (as a prime and a subcontractor) (refer to RFP Section 3.3.).	
	A.1.	Provide the Statement of Certifications and Assurances (RFP Attachment 6.1.) completed and signed by an individual empowered to bind the Respondent to the provisions of this RFP and any resulting contract. The document must be signed without exception or qualification.	
	A.2.	Provide a statement, based upon reasonable inquiry, of whether the Respondent or any individual who shall cause to deliver goods or perform services under the contract has a possible conflict of interest (<i>e.g.</i> , employment by the State of Tennessee) and, if so, the nature of that conflict. NOTE: Any questions of conflict of interest shall be solely within the discretion of the State, and the State reserves the right to cancel any award.	
	A.3.	Provide at least one of the following financial documents dated within the last three (3) months: (1) an official document or letter from an accredited credit bureau, indicating a satisfactory credit score for the Respondent (NOTE: A credit bureau report number without the full report is insufficient and will <u>not</u> be considered responsive.); (2) income statement, indicating the Respondent's financial operations; or (3) balance sheet, showing the Respondent's flow of funds. Any documentation disclosing the amount of cash flows from operating activities should be for the Respondent's most current operating period and must indicate whether the cash flows are positive or negative. If the cash	

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:			
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section A— Mandatory Requirement Items	Pass/Fail
		flows are negative for the most recent operating period, the documentation must include a detailed explanation of the factors contributing to the negative cash flows. NOTICE: All persons, agencies, firms, or other entities that provide opinions regarding the Respondent's financial status <u>must</u> be properly licensed to render such opinions. The State may require the Respondent to submit proof of such licensure detailing the state of licensure and licensure number for each person or entity that renders the opinions.	
<i>State Use – Solicitation Coordinator Signature, Printed Name & Date:</i>			

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.2. — SECTION B

TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE

SECTION B: GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE. The Respondent must address all items detailed below and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). The Respondent must also detail the response page number for each item in the appropriate space below. Proposal Evaluation Team members will independently evaluate and assign one score for all responses to Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items
	B.1.	Detail the name, e-mail address, mailing address, telephone number, and facsimile number, if applicable, of the person the State should contact regarding the response.
	B.2.	Describe the Respondent's form of business (<i>i.e.</i> , individual, sole proprietor, corporation, non-profit corporation, partnership, limited liability company) and business location (physical location or domicile).
	B.3.	Detail the number of years the Respondent has been in business.
	B.4.	Briefly describe how long the Respondent has been providing the goods or services required by this RFP.
	B.5.	Describe the Respondent's number of employees, client base, and location of offices.
	B.6.	Provide a statement of whether there have been any mergers, acquisitions, or change of control of the Respondent within the last ten (10) years. If so, include an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.7.	Provide a statement of whether the Respondent or, to the Respondent's knowledge, any of the Respondent's employees, agents, independent contractors, or subcontractors, involved in the delivery of goods or performance of services on a contract pursuant to this RFP, have been convicted of, pled guilty to, or pled <i>nolo contendere</i> to any felony. If so, include an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.8.	Provide a statement of whether, in the last ten (10) years, the Respondent has filed (or had filed against it) any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding, whether voluntary or involuntary, or undergone the appointment of a receiver, trustee, or assignee for the benefit of creditors. If so, include an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.9.	Provide a statement of whether there is any material, pending litigation against the Respondent that the Respondent should reasonably believe could adversely affect its ability to meet contract requirements pursuant to this RFP or is likely to have a material adverse effect on the Respondent's financial condition. If such exists, list each separately, explain the relevant details, and attach the opinion of counsel addressing whether and to what extent it would impair the Respondent's performance in a contract pursuant to this RFP. NOTE: All persons, agencies, firms, or other entities that provide legal opinions regarding the Respondent must be properly licensed to render such opinions. The State may require the Respondent to submit proof of license for each person or entity that renders such opinions.
	B.10.	Provide a statement of whether there are any pending or in progress Securities Exchange Commission investigations involving the Respondent. If such exists, list each separately, explain the relevant details, and attach the opinion of counsel addressing whether and to what extent it will impair the Respondent's performance in a contract pursuant to this RFP.

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.2. — SECTION B (continued)

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items
		NOTE: All persons, agencies, firms, or other entities that provide legal opinions regarding the Respondent must be properly licensed to render such opinions. The State may require the Respondent to submit proof of license for each person or entity that renders such opinions.
	B.11.	Provide a brief, descriptive statement detailing evidence of the Respondent's ability to deliver the goods or services sought under this RFP (e.g., prior experience, training, certifications, resources, program and quality management systems, etc.).
	B.12.	Provide a narrative description of the proposed project team, its members, and organizational structure along with an organizational chart identifying the key people who will be assigned to deliver the goods or services required by this RFP.
	B.13.	Provide a personnel roster listing the names of key people who the Respondent will assign to meet the Respondent's requirements under this RFP along with the estimated number of hours that each individual will devote to that performance. Follow the personnel roster with a resume for each of the people listed. The resumes must detail the individual's title, education, current position with the Respondent, and employment history.
	B.14.	Provide a statement of whether the Respondent intends to use subcontractors to meet the Respondent's requirements of any contract awarded pursuant to this RFP, and if so, detail: (a) the names of the subcontractors along with the contact person, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address for each; (b) a description of the scope and portions of the goods each subcontractor involved in the delivery of goods or performance of the services each subcontractor will perform; <u>and</u> (c) a statement specifying that each proposed subcontractor has expressly assented to being proposed as a subcontractor in the Respondent's response to this RFP.
	B.15.	Provide a statement of whether or not the Respondent has any current contracts with the State of Tennessee or has completed any contracts with the State of Tennessee within the previous five (5) year period. If so, provide the following information for all of the current and completed contracts: (a) the name, title, telephone number and e-mail address of the State contact knowledgeable about the contract; (b) the procuring State agency name; (c) a brief description of the contract's scope of services; (d) the contract period; and (e) the contract number.
	B.16.	Provide a statement and any relevant details addressing whether the Respondent is any of the following: (a) is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal or state department or agency; (b) has within the past three (3) years, been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against the contracting party from commission of fraud, or a criminal offence in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or grant under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.2. — SECTION B (continued)

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items
		(c) is presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses detailed above; and (d) has within a three (3) year period preceding the contract had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.
SCORE (for <u>all</u> Section B—Qualifications & Experience Items above): <i>(maximum possible score = 10)</i>		
<i>State Use – Evaluator Identification:</i>		

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.2. — SECTION C

TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE

SECTION C: TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE & APPROACH. The Respondent must address all items (below) and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). The Respondent must also detail the response page number for each item in the appropriate space below.

A Proposal Evaluation Team, made up of three or more State employees, will independently evaluate and score the response to each item. Each evaluator will use the following whole number, raw point scale for scoring each item:

0 = little value 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = satisfactory 4 = good 5 = excellent

The Solicitation Coordinator will multiply the Item Score by the associated Evaluation Factor (indicating the relative emphasis of the item in the overall evaluation). The resulting product will be the item's Raw Weighted Score for purposes of calculating the section score as indicated.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:					
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section C— Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach Items	Item Score	Evaluation Factor	Raw Weighted Score
	C.1.	Provide a narrative that illustrates how the Respondent will manage the project, ensure completion of the scope of services, and accomplish required objectives within the State's project schedule.		9	
	C.2.	Provide a listing of all full-service contracts executed within the last five years of operation and management of dining services with similar facility size and scope.		5	
	C.3.	Provide a detailed staffing plan indicating the type and quantity of various positions the Respondent deems necessary to provide the services detailed in the Contract.		9	
	C.4.	Provide a narrative that illustrates the Respondent's ability to operate dining services providing three (3) meals daily and coffee service, accommodating both flexible and class-based schedules. Refer to Pro Forma Section A.12.		9	
	C.5.	Provide a narrative that illustrates the Respondent's ability to provide dining services outside of standard meal times (Sunday Dinner Service, after-hours service, etc).		8	
	C.6.	Provide three (3) sample menus for each of the main meal types (breakfast, lunch, dinner, special events, and box lunch). Include all condiments, toppings, sauces, etc. that would be included for each menu.		9	
	C.7.	Provide a narrative that illustrates the Respondent's ability to maintain an Emergency Feeding Plan and provide uninterrupted meal service in the event of emergency conditions as required per Contract section A.5.		7	
	C.8.	Provide a plan to conduct and document biannual quality assurance inspections for dining areas, with corrective actions tracked and reported.		8	
	C.9.	Provide a plan to illustrate the Respondent's ability to self-regulate within health and safety standards and the Respondent's ability to respond to health and		9	

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.2. (continued)

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:					
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section C— Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach Items	Item Score	Evaluation Factor	Raw Weighted Score
		safety inspections by State and local health departments.			
	C.10.	Provide a narrative that illustrates Respondent's ability to manage and update digital signage for dining services, including daily menus, nutritional information, and event notifications.		7	
	C.11.	Provide Respondent's approach and procedures in place to ensure compliance with food and food preparation standards and laws. See Pro Forma Contract section A.3.c.-d and A.11.		9	
	C.12.	Provide a narrative demonstrating the Respondent's proposed POS system per Pro Forma Contract section A.13, including its ability to provide, install, configure, and maintain a reliable, secure, and user-friendly solution that supports three (3) sale stations with printers, required payment methods, and meal plan tracking. Also include details of the POS system's ability to integrate with the services and products provided under the statewide merchant service contract to authorize and settle credit card transactions and the ability to become certified to authorize and settle credit card transactions with a subsequent merchant services contractor within sixty (60) calendar days when required by the State.		7	
	C.13.	Provide an implementation plan and proposed transition schedule for the onset of services. Provide confirmation that if awarded, the Respondent shall implement the transition plan at the direction of the State.		7	
	C.14.	Provide a narrative demonstrating the Respondent's employee code of conduct and describing methods used to ensure compliance (e.g., training, supervision, disciplinary measures). Include how the Respondent ensures professional attitudes, appropriate decorum, and zero tolerance for alcohol, illegal substances, or inappropriate language.		7	
<i>The Solicitation Coordinator will use this sum and the formula below to calculate the section score. All calculations will use and result in numbers rounded to two (2) places to the right of the decimal point.</i>					
Total Raw Weighted Score: <i>(sum of Raw Weighted Scores above)</i>					
Total Raw Weighted Score			X 50 <i>(maximum possible score)</i>	= SCORE:	
Maximum Possible Raw Weighted Score <i>(i.e., 5 x the sum of item weights above)</i>					
<i>State Use – Evaluator Identification:</i>					
<i>State Use – Solicitation Coordinator Signature, Printed Name & Date:</i>					

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.2. (continued)

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.2.— SECTION D**TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE**

SECTION D: ORAL PRESENTATION. The Respondent must address ALL Oral Presentation Items (below).

A Proposal Evaluation Team, made up of three or more State employees, will independently evaluate and score the oral presentation response to each item. Each evaluator will use the following whole-number, raw point scale for scoring each item:

0 = little value

1 = poor

2 = fair

3 = satisfactory

4 = good

5 = excellent

The Solicitation Coordinator will multiply the Item Score by the associated Evaluation Factor (indicating the relative emphasis of the item in the overall evaluation). The resulting product will be the item's raw, weighted score for purposes of calculating the section score as indicated.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:			
Oral Presentation Items	Item Score	Evaluation Factor	Raw Weighted Score
D.1. Item 1 (Respondent Presentation)- Allocated Time: 1 hour The Respondent should be prepared to: Introduce proposed team members and organizational structure. ii. Clarify the specific roles and responsibilities of key team members. iii. Present and discuss the Respondent's plan for implementing services at the Facility. iv. Explain why the Respondent's team should be awarded the Contract. v. Describe the Respondent's approach to meal planning, including how it will create and maintain a diverse menu that meets the State's needs.		5	
D.2. Item 2 (Discussion) – Allocated time: 30 minutes vi. Questions from the State vii. Other Questions, Answers, and Clarifications		1	
Total Raw Weighted Score (<i>sum of Raw Weighted Scores above</i>): The Solicitation Coordinator will use this sum and the formula below to calculate the score. Numbers rounded to two (2) places to the right of the decimal point will be standard for calculations.			
total raw weighted score maximum possible raw weighted score <i>(i.e., 5 x the sum of item weights above)</i>			
X 10 <i>(maximum section score)</i>			
= SCORE:			

State Use – Evaluator Identification:

State Use – Solicitation Coordinator Signature, Printed Name & Date:

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.3.

COST PROPOSAL & SCORING GUIDE

NOTICE: THIS COST PROPOSAL MUST BE COMPLETED EXACTLY AS REQUIRED

COST PROPOSAL SCHEDULE— The Cost Proposal, detailed below, shall indicate the proposed price for providing goods or services as defined in the Scope of Services of the RFP Attachment 6.6., *Pro Forma* Contract, for the entire contract period. The Cost Proposal shall remain valid for at least 120 days subsequent to the date of the Cost Proposal opening and thereafter in accordance with any contract resulting from this RFP. All monetary amounts shall be in U.S. currency and limited to two (2) places to the right of the decimal point.

Reference RFP Section 1.1.2. for additional information.

NOTICE: The Evaluation Factor associated with each compensable unit is for evaluation purposes only. The evaluation factors do NOT and should NOT be construed as any type of volume guarantee or minimum purchase quantity. The evaluation factors shall NOT create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in the Respondent.

Notwithstanding the cost items herein, pursuant to the second paragraph of the *Pro Forma* Contract, Section C.1. (refer to RFP Attachment 6.6.), the State is under no obligation to request any goods or services from the Contractor in any specific dollar amounts or to request any goods or services at all from the Contractor during any period of this Contract.

This Cost Proposal must be signed, in the space below, by an individual empowered to bind the Respondent to the provisions of this RFP and any contract awarded pursuant to this RFP. If the individual signing this Cost Proposal is not the *President* or *Chief Executive Officer*, the Respondent must attach evidence to the Cost Proposal showing the individual's authority to legally bind the Respondent.

RESPONDENT SIGNATURE:								
PRINTED NAME & TITLE:								
DATE:								
RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:								
Cost Item Description	Proposed Cost					State Use ONLY		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Sum	Evaluation Factor	Evaluation Cost (sum x factor)
Daily Rate	\$ / Day	\$ / Day	\$ / Day	\$ / Day	\$ / Day		13100	

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:								
Cost Item Description	Proposed Cost					State Use ONLY		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Sum	Evaluation Factor	Evaluation Cost (sum x factor)
Special Event Meal	\$ / Meal	\$ / Meal	\$ / Meal	\$ / Meal	\$ / Meal		1832	
Provide meal pricing for Transient Users. See Pro Forma Contract Section C.3.								
TOTAL EVALUATION COST AMOUNT (sum of evaluation costs above): The Solicitation Coordinator will use this sum and the formula below to calculate the Cost Proposal Score. Numbers rounded to two (2) places to the right of the decimal point will be standard for calculations.								
lowest evaluation cost amount from <u>all</u> proposals evaluation cost amount being evaluated						x 30 (maximum possible score)	= SCORE:	
<i>State Use – Solicitation Coordinator Signature, Printed Name & Date:</i>								

REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

The standard reference questionnaire provided on the following pages of this attachment should be used and completed by all individuals offering a reference for the Respondent.

The Respondent will be solely responsible for obtaining completed reference questionnaires as detailed below:

- Provide references from three (3) different persons who are not current State employees for projects similar in size and scope to the goods or services sought under this RFP.
- Respondents may provide references that represent active, current contracts or contracts completed within the last five (5) years.
- The individual providing a reference shall not be a current State employee.
- Obtain and submit the completed reference questionnaires following one of the two processes described below:

Option #1 – Written References:

- (a) Add the Respondent's name to the standard reference questionnaire at RFP Attachment 6.4. and make a copy for each reference.
- (b) Send a reference questionnaire and a new, standard #10 envelope to each reference.
- (c) Instruct the reference to:
 - (i) complete the reference questionnaire;
 - (ii) sign and date the completed reference questionnaire;
 - (iii) seal the completed, signed, and dated reference questionnaire within the envelope provided;
 - (iv) sign his or her name in ink across the sealed portion of the envelope; and
 - (v) return the sealed envelope directly to the Respondent (the Respondent may wish to give each reference a deadline, such that the Respondent will be able to collect all required references in time to include them within the sealed Technical Response).
- (d) Do NOT open the sealed references upon receipt.
- (e) Enclose all sealed reference envelopes within a larger, labeled envelope for inclusion in the Technical Response as required.

Option #2 - Emailed References:

- (a) Add the Respondent's name to the standard reference questionnaire at RFP Attachment 6.4. and make a copy for each reference.
- (b) E-mail a reference questionnaire to each reference.
- (c) Instruct the reference to:
 - (i) complete the reference questionnaire;
 - (ii) sign and date the completed reference questionnaire;
 - (iii) E-mail the reference directly to the Solicitation Coordinator by the RFP Technical Response Deadline with the Subject line of the e-mail as "[Respondent's Name] Reference for RFP # 32101-01232026-SR1".

NOTES:

- The State will not accept late references or references submitted by any means other than the two which are described above, and each reference questionnaire submitted must be completed as required.
- The State will not review more than the number of references indicated above.
- While the State will base its reference check on the contents of the reference e-mails or sealed reference envelopes included in the Technical Response package, the State reserves the right to confirm and clarify information detailed in the completed reference questionnaires, and may consider clarification responses in the evaluation of references.
- The State is under no obligation to clarify any reference information.

RFP # 32101-01232026-SR1 REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE**REFERENCE SUBJECT:** RESPONDENT NAME (completed by Respondent before reference is requested)

The "reference subject" specified above, intends to submit a response to the State of Tennessee in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) indicated. As a part of such response, the reference subject must include a number of completed and sealed reference questionnaires (using this form).

Each individual responding to this reference questionnaire is asked to follow these instructions:

- complete this questionnaire (either using the form provided or an exact duplicate of this document);
- sign and date the completed questionnaire and follow either process outlined below;

Physical:

- seal the completed, signed, and dated questionnaire in a new standard #10 envelope;
- sign in ink across the sealed portion of the envelope; and
- return the sealed envelope containing the completed questionnaire directly to the reference subject.

E-Mail:

- e-mail the completed questionnaire to:
DeRenne.Raley@tn.gov

(1) **What is the name of the individual, company, organization, or entity responding to this reference questionnaire?**

(2) **Please provide the following information about the individual completing this reference questionnaire on behalf of the above-named individual, company, organization, or entity.**

NAME:	
TITLE:	
TELEPHONE #	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	

(3) **What goods or services does/did the reference subject provide to your company or organization?**

- (4) If the goods or services that the reference subject provided to your company or organization are completed, were the goods or services provided in compliance with the terms of the contract, on time, and within budget? If not, please explain.
- (5) If the reference subject is still providing goods or services to your company or organization, are these goods or services being provided in compliance with the terms of the contract, on time, and within budget? If not, please explain.
- (6) How satisfied are you with the reference subject's ability to perform based on your expectations and according to the contractual arrangements?

REFERENCE SIGNATURE:

(by the individual completing this
request for reference information)

(must be the same as the signature across the envelope seal)

DATE:

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.5.

SCORE SUMMARY MATRIX

	RESPONDENT NAME		RESPONDENT NAME		RESPONDENT NAME	
GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE (maximum: 10)						
EVALUATOR NAME						
EVALUATOR NAME						
REPEAT AS NECESSARY						
	AVERAGE:		AVERAGE:		AVERAGE:	
TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE & APPROACH (maximum: 50)						
EVALUATOR NAME						
EVALUATOR NAME						
REPEAT AS NECESSARY						
	AVERAGE:		AVERAGE:		AVERAGE:	
ORAL PRESENTATION/ FIELD TEST (maximum: 10)						
EVALUATOR NAME						
EVALUATOR NAME						
REPEAT AS NECESSARY						
	AVERAGE:		AVERAGE:		AVERAGE:	
COST PROPOSAL (maximum: 30)	SCORE:		SCORE:		SCORE:	
TOTAL RESPONSE EVALUATION SCORE: (maximum: 100)						
Solicitation Coordinator Signature, Printed Name & Date:						

RFP ATTACHMENT 6.6.**RFP # 32101-01232026-SR1 *PRO FORMA* CONTRACT**

The *Pro Forma* Contract detailed in following pages of this exhibit contains some “blanks” (signified by descriptions in capital letters) that will be completed with appropriate information in the final contract resulting from the RFP.

**CONTRACT
BETWEEN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
AND
CONTRACTOR NAME**

This Contract, by and between the State of Tennessee, Department of General Services ("State") and **Contractor Legal Entity Name** ("Contractor"), is for the provision of comprehensive dining services, as further defined in the "SCOPE." State and Contractor may be referred to individually as a "Party" or collectively as the "Parties" to this Contract.

The Contractor is **a/an Individual, For-Profit Corporation, Non-Profit Corporation, Special Purpose Corporation Or Association, Partnership, Joint Venture, Or Limited Liability Company.**

Contractor Place of Incorporation or Organization: **Location**

Contractor Edison Registration ID # **Number**

A. SCOPE:

A.1. The Contractor shall provide all goods or services and deliverables as required, described, and detailed below and shall meet all service and delivery timelines as specified by this Contract.

A.2. Definitions. For purposes of this Contract, definitions shall be as follows and as set forth in the Contract:

a. "Allergy-Sensitive Dietary Needs" means a diet designed to prevent allergic reactions or adverse physical symptoms caused by specific foods.

b. "A-la-carte" means consumables that can be ordered as separate items, rather than part of a set meal.

c. "Daily Rate" means the fixed amount payable by the State to the Contractor for providing the dining services described in this Contract for one (1) calendar day of operation, regardless of the number of meals served. The Daily Rate shall include all labor, supervision, management, equipment, supplies, overhead, and other costs necessary to perform the required dining services in this Contract. The Daily Rate shall be payable only for days on which the Contractor provides services as required by the Contract, unless otherwise authorized by the State. The Daily Rate does not include charges for State-approved Special Event Meals or other services specifically identified as separately billable under this Contract.

d. "Certified Gluten-Free Dietary Needs" means a diet requiring foods that have been independently tested and verified to contain only trace-safe levels of gluten, ensuring protection from gluten exposure.

e. "Emergency Feeding Plan" means a written continuity-of-operations document that outlines the Contractor's procedures and operational capacity to provide uninterrupted meal service during emergency conditions that prevent trainees or staff from leaving campus, including severe weather events such as ice storms, and snowstorms, natural disasters, utility disruptions, campus lockdowns, or similar incidents.

f. "Full Operational Start Date" means July 1, 2027, the date by which the Contractor shall be fully operational and prepared to perform all dining services required under this Contract.

g. "Grab-n-Go" means pre-prepared, ready-to-eat meals, snacks, or beverages that customers can select, take, and consume immediately.

- h. "Holiday Meal Service" means a food service offering that provides prepared meals on specified State holidays.
- i. "Implementation Plan" means the Contractor's State-approved written plan and transition schedule for implementing dining services by the Full Operational Start Date.
- j. "Meal Equivalency" means the standardized method for converting and combining a la carte and grab-n-go items into full meal equivalents so they can be billed as an alternative to one-third of the Contractor's Daily Rate.
- k. "MALETA" means Multi-Agency Law Enforcement Training Academy and is the one hundred sixty-two thousand seven hundred seventy-seven (162,777) square-foot comprehensive training academy campus for public safety officials across Tennessee, including approximately two hundred (200) cadet rooms and one hundred (100) in-service rooms.
- l. "Net Sales" means the total per-meal rates charged for Transient Users.
- m. "Operational Readiness Review" means the State's review, conducted prior to the Full Operational State Date, of the Contractor's readiness to commence full operations and perform the services in accordance with this Contract. It shall include, but not be limited to, inspections, system demonstrations, POS testing, employee training verification, inventory verification, food preparation or service simulations, mock meal service, or other reasonable readiness activities.
- n. "Person in Charge (PIC)" means the ServSafe-certified person designated under the Food and Drug Administration Food Code to demonstrate food safety knowledge.
- o. "POS" means point of sale.
- p. "Regular Meal Service" means the standard, recurring preparation and service of meals provided on a consistent schedule as part of normal food service operations.
- q. "Religious Dietary Needs" means food requirements, restrictions, or preparation practices observed by an individual in accordance with sincerely held religious beliefs, including the prohibition of specific foods or ingredients, prescribed methods of food preparation or handling, required food sourcing or certification such as kosher or halal, avoidance of cross-contact with prohibited items, and observance of fasting periods.
- r. "Saturday Meal Service" means scheduled food service operations that provide meals on Saturdays.
- s. "Smallwares" means portable, non-electrical, and hand-held items used in a kitchen, such as pots, pans, utensils, knives, sheet pans, hotel pans, trays, flatware, etc.
- t. "Special Event" means an occasion designed to celebrate milestones or host guests. Examples include but are not limited to graduations, in-service training, and visits from special guests.
- u. "Sunday Dinner Service" means scheduled food service operations that provide dinner on Sundays.
- v. "Tableware" means portable, non-electrical items used by diners for the presentation, service, and consumption of food and beverages. Tableware includes plates, bowls, cups, mugs, drinking glasses, flatware, trays, and similar dining-room items, whether reusable or disposable when appropriate to the service model.
- w. "Transient User" means any individual who purchases or receives dining services on a transactional basis using cash, credit card, debit card, or another Contractor-accepted form of payment, rather than through a State-issued badge or other State-authorized credential

associated with a meal plan. Transient Users may include visitors, guests, members of the public, or other individuals who are not accessing dining services through a State-sponsored meal plan.

- x. "Vegan Dietary Needs" means dietary requirements that exclude all animal-derived foods and ingredients, including poultry, fish, seafood, dairy products, eggs, honey, animal fats, gelatin, and any other ingredient derived from animals.
- y. "Vegetarian Dietary Needs" means dietary requirements that exclude the consumption of meat, poultry, fish, and seafood but may include dairy products, eggs, and other non-meat animal-derived products, unless otherwise specified.

A.3. Food and Dining Services

- a. The Contractor shall provide Food and Dining Services daily and during special events as designated by the State. Refer to Attachments B and E for the dining area layout architectural floor plans, kitchen equipment layout drawings, utility plans, and back-of-house layouts.
- b. The Contractor shall order and prepare all food items for each meal, including menu items, beverages, condiments, and supplies.
- c. The Contractor shall comply with all federal and Tennessee food standards, including, but not limited to, food quality, sanitation, and the placement of any required signs to meet the standards dictated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Sanitation Foundation, and the Tennessee Department of Health.
- d. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable laws and rules regarding food preparation, service, and cleaning in dining areas for every meal, including without-limitation compliance with requirements set forth in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. Chapter 1200-23-01, rules of the Tennessee Department of Health, the Bureau of Environmental Health Services, Division of Food and General Sanitation, and Food Service Establishment (currently <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1200/1200-23/1200-23-01.20180404.pdf>), and adopt the standards in the most recent FDA Food Code (currently <https://www.fda.gov/food/retail-food-protection/fda-food-code>), which details the Contractor's requirement to have a designated PIC.
- e. The Contractor shall implement production controls to minimize food waste while maintaining service levels.

A.4. Meal Service Schedule

- a. Regular Meal Service (Sunday through Friday: The Contractor shall provide dinner each Sunday, breakfast, lunch, and dinner each Monday through Thursday, and breakfast and lunch each Friday.
- b. Saturday Meal Service: The Contractor shall provide Saturday meals as required by the State when notified at least three (3) business days in advance of the required service date.
- c. Friday Dinner Service: The Contractor shall provide Friday dinner service as required by the State when notified at least three (3) business days in advance of the required service date.
- d. Holiday Meal Service: The Contractor shall continue meal service on specified State holidays as required by the State when notified at least thirty (30) days in advance of the required service date

A.5. Emergency and Contingency Service

- a. The Contractor shall maintain the operational capability to provide uninterrupted meal service in the event of emergency conditions, including but not limited to severe weather events such as ice storms, snowstorms, natural disasters, utility disruptions, campus lockdowns, or other events that prevent trainees or staff from leaving the campus.
- b. Continuity of Operations: The Contractor shall maintain a written Emergency Feeding Plan outlining procedures for staffing, inventory management, food preparation, and service continuity during such events. The Contractor shall provide the Emergency Feeding Plan to the State upon request and updated annually on the anniversary of the Contract.
- c. Inventory Readiness: The Contractor shall maintain on-site or readily accessible food inventory sufficient to provide a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours of meal service for the projected maximum residential population of one thousand (1,000) residents, without reliance on external deliveries. The Contractor may use shelf-stable and frozen inventory for the meal service.
- d. Staffing Availability: The Contractor shall maintain a staffing plan to ensure meal service coverage during emergency conditions, including provisions for extended shifts or overnight lodging arrangements for key personnel if necessary.
- e. Service Level During Emergency: During emergency conditions, the Contractor shall provide three (3) meals per day unless otherwise directed by the State. The State may authorize modified menus to accommodate available inventory or staffing constraints.
- f. Utility Interruption: In the event of loss of electrical or water service, the Contractor shall implement alternate food production methods as outlined in its Emergency Feeding Plan, including use of backup generators or shelf-stable service where feasible.

A.6. Menu Planning and Dietary Requirements

- a. The Contractor shall submit a monthly menu proposal for State approval by the Monday preceding the first week of the month of service. If the State does not issue approval or request revisions within three (3) business days of receipt, the Contractor shall consider the proposed menu approved.
- b. The Contractor shall offer menu items comparable to the Meal Components listed in Section A.8.
- c. The Contractor shall not include peanut products in any menu selections.
- d. The Contractor shall provide meal options that accommodate Vegetarian, Vegan, Certified Gluten-Free, Religious, or Allergy-Sensitive Dietary Needs when notified by the State at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the required service date.

A.7. Digital Signage

- a. The Contractor shall provide a digital static image format version (.Jpeg, PowerPoint, PDF, etc.) of each weekly menu for the State to display on State-provided hardware.
- b. The Contractor shall provide and display digital menu boards for each food service station in a format to be approved by the State that details current menu options and pricing.

A.8. Meal Components

- a. Breakfast: The Contractor shall serve the following items or comparable items during breakfast:
 - 1. Dry cereal;
 - 2. Biscuits;
 - 3. Toast;
 - 4. Assorted fruits;
 - 5. Scrambled eggs;

6. Assorted muffins and/or pastries;
 7. Batter for waffles;
 8. Required Beverages;
 9. A minimum of three (3) rotational breakfast meat items, as provided in Contract Section A.8.g.;
 10. A minimum of two (2) rotational breakfast items, as provided in Contract Section A.8.h.; and
 11. A minimum of two (2) seasonal items, as provide in Contract Section A.8.i.
- b. Lunch: The Contractor shall serve the following items or comparable items during lunch:
1. A minimum of one (1) meat item, as provided in Contract Section A.8.j.;
 2. A minimum of one (1) starch item, as provided in Contract Section A.8.k.;
 3. A minimum of one (1) vegetable, as provided in Contract Section A.8.l.;
 4. Salad bar required items, as provided in Contract Section A.8.m.;
 5. A minimum of two (2) salad bar rotational items, as provided in Contract Section A.8.n.;
 6. Salad Bar Dressings, as provided in Contract Section A.8.o.;
 7. A minimum of one (1) seasonal item, as provided in Contract Section A.8.i.;
 8. Deli-style sandwich bar, as provided in Contract Section A.8.p.;
 9. A minimum of one (1) bread selection, as provided in Contract Section A.8.q.; and
 10. Required beverages, as provided in Contract Section A.8.u.
- c. Dinner: The Contractor shall serve the following items or comparable items during dinner:
1. A minimum of two (2) meat items, as provided in Contract Section A.8.j.;
 2. A minimum of two (2) starch items, as provided in Contract Section A.8.k.;
 3. A minimum of two (2) vegetables, as provided in Contract Section A.8.l.;
 4. Salad bar required items as provided in Contract Section A.8.m.;
 5. A minimum of two (2) salad bar rotational items, as provided in Contract Section A.8.n.;
 6. Salad bar dressings, as provided in Contract Section A.8.o.;
 7. A minimum of one (1) seasonal item as provided in Contract , Section A.8.i.;
 8. Deli-style sandwich bar, as provided in Contract Section A.8.p.;
 9. A minimum of two (2) bread selections, as provided in Contract Section A.8.q.;
 10. A minimum of two (2) desserts, as provided in Contract Section A.8.r.; and
 11. Required beverages, as provided in Contract Section A.8.u.
- d. Reserved.
- e. Special Event Meals: The Contractor shall serve the following items during special event meals:
1. One (1) Special Event entrée, as provided in Contract Section A.8.s.
 2. Two (2) Special Event side items, as provided in Contract Section A.8.t.
 3. Required beverages, as provided in Contract Section A.8.u.
- f. Box Lunch: The Contractor shall include the following items in box lunches:
1. One (1) sandwich using the items from the deli-style sandwich bar, as provided in Contract Section A.8.p.;
 2. One (1) snack-size bag of chips;
 3. One (1) cookie;
 4. One (1) seasonal item, as provided in Contract Section A.8.i. or vegetable, as provided in Section A.8.l.; and
 5. One (1) bottled water.
- g. Rotational Breakfast Meat Items:
1. Sliced bacon;
 2. Sausage; and

3. Ham.

h. Rotational Breakfast Items:

1. Assortment of bagels with cream cheese;
2. Smoked ham and cheese croissant;
3. Hard boiled eggs;
4. Sausage, egg, and cheese biscuit;
5. Pancakes with hot maple syrup;
6. Ham and cheese biscuit;
7. Scrambled eggs with onions, mushrooms, and peppers;
8. Scrambled eggs with cheese;
9. Scrambled eggs with ham and cheese;
10. French toast with hot maple syrup;
11. Omelet station with toppings, including cubed ham, shredded cheeses, and chopped tomatoes, mushrooms, spinach, bacon, and onions.
12. Cheese grits;
13. Cream of wheat; and
14. Oatmeal.

i. Seasonal Items:

1. Oranges;
2. Kiwi;
3. Strawberries;
4. Cantaloupe;
5. Freestone Peaches;
6. Fuji Apples;
7. Honeydew Melon;
8. Blueberries;
9. Watermelon; and
10. Bananas.

j. Meat Items:

1. Lasagna with meat sauce;
2. Spaghetti with meat sauce;
3. Turkey breast and gravy with homemade gravy;
4. Fresh salmon cakes;
5. Country-style steak and gravy;
6. Sliced roast beef with au jus;
7. Homemade cheeseburgers;
8. Chicken parmesan;
9. Chicken cordon bleu with Smoked Ham, Swiss Cheese, Crushed Tomatoes
10. Chicken breast with barbeque sauce, fresh mushrooms, onions and green peppers;
11. Pork loin;
12. Meatloaf;
13. Chicken;
14. Chicken stir-fry with oriental sauce;
15. Catfish;
16. Rib eye steak U.S.D.A. Choice;
17. Italian sausage with green peppers, onions, mushrooms, and banana peppers;
18. Baked fish;
19. Shrimp;
20. Barbeque pork;
21. Oven Fried chicken;
22. Chicken and dumplings;
23. Casseroles with meat;
24. Pasta with chicken, shrimp, sausage, and beef; and

25. Hot dog or corn dog.

k. Starch Items:

1. Baked sweet potatoes;
2. French fries;
3. Sweet potato fries;
4. Baked potatoes;
5. Rice pilaf;
6. Macaroni and cheese;
7. Homemade red-skin mashed potatoes;
8. Candied yams; and
9. Cornbread dressing and gravy.

l. Vegetables:

1. Steamed broccoli;
2. Prepared fresh cabbage;
3. Fried okra;
4. Stewed tomatoes
5. Green beans;
6. Steamed fresh asparagus;
7. Corn on the cob;
8. Lima beans;
9. Brussel sprouts;
10. Shoe peg corn;
11. Baked apples;
12. Baked beans;
13. White beans;
14. Turnip greens;
15. Broccoli and cheese casserole;
16. Zucchini and tomatoes;
17. Pinto beans;
18. Black-eyed peas;
19. Fresh carrots with tarragon;
20. Freshly steamed vegetables; and
21. English peas.

m. Salad Bar Required Items: The Contractor shall provide a minimum of five (5) items from the required list. Changes can be made at the discretion of the State.

1. Tomatoes;
2. Red skin potato salad;
3. Cucumbers;
4. Green peppers;
5. Onions;
6. Black olives;
7. Cheddar cheese;
8. Broccoli;
9. Croutons;
10. Pasta salad;
11. Grapes;
12. Mushrooms;
13. Chopped boiled egg;
14. Sunflower seeds;
15. Trail mix;
16. Sweet pickles;
17. Green olives; and
18. Bacon bits.

n. Salad Bar Rotational Items

1. Red pepper;
2. Artichoke hearts;
3. Asparagus;
4. Tuna salad;
5. Banana peppers;
6. Smoked ham;
7. Smoked turkey;
8. Chunky boneless, skinless, chicken breast salad;
9. Cottage cheese;
10. Non-prepackaged romaine lettuce;
11. Non-prepackaged iceberg lettuce; and
12. Non-prepackaged spinach.

o. Salad Bar Dressings: The Contractor shall label all dressings and include at least two (2) reduced-calorie or fat-free options.

1. Ranch;
2. Honey mustard;
3. Italian;
4. Catalina;
5. Balsamic vinaigrette; and
6. Thousand island.

p. Deli-Style Sandwich Bar

1. Ham;
2. Turkey breast;
3. Boneless, skinless chicken breast;
4. Lean U.S.D.A. roast beef, eye of round;
5. Sliced cheddar cheese;
6. Sliced American cheese;
7. Sliced provolone cheese;
8. Lettuce;
9. Onions;
10. Dill pickles;
11. Sliced tomatoes;
12. Wheat bread;
13. Ciabatta rolls;
14. Rye bread;
15. White bread;
16. Pita wrap;
17. Ketchup;
18. Mayonnaise; and
19. Mustard.

q. Bread Selections:

1. Rolls;
2. Corn bread; and
3. Garlic bread.

r. Desserts:

1. Apple pie
2. Cherry pie;
3. Pumpkin pie;

4. Lemon pie;
5. Chess pie;
6. Sweet potato pie;
7. Chocolate pie;
8. Pound cake;
9. Strawberry short cake;
10. Carrot cake;
11. Coconut cake;
12. Spice cake;
13. Strawberry cream cheese cake;
14. Apple cobbler;
15. Cherry cobbler;
16. Peach cobbler;
17. Fresh baked brownies;
18. Fresh baked cookies;
19. Ice cream assortment;
20. Frozen yogurt assortment; and
21. Fresh fruit trifle made with heavy cream

s. Special Event Entrees:

1. Beef Tenderloin;
2. New York strip, Porterhouse, ribeye, or filet mignon steaks;
3. Beef brisket; and
4. Barbeque ribs.

t. Special Event Side Items:

1. Baked potato with toppings with butter, sour cream, cheese, and bacon;
2. Twice-baked potato;
3. Vegetable; and
4. Bread.

u. Required Beverages: The Contractor shall serve beverages with all meals, including beverages for soft drink dispensers. The Contractor shall provide the following beverages:

1. Non-fat milk
2. Non-fat chocolate milk
3. Apple and orange juice
4. Iced sweet and unsweet tea
5. Beverages for soft drink dispensers: The Contractor shall ensure that soft drink dispensers are turned off when dining areas are closed.

v. A la Carte Items: The Contractor shall offer a variety of a la carte food options available for purchase. The Contractor shall ensure that a la carte items include:

1. Pizza with assorted toppings;
2. Soup with daily selections, including at least one rotating soup option;
3. Assorted short-order options including burgers, tacos, and sandwiches.

A.9. Coffee Service.

- a. The Contractor shall provide fresh coffee service with fully caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee Monday through Friday, from 5:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Central Time.
- b. The Contractor shall provide an after-hours self-serve coffee bar from 6:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. Central Time.
- c. The Contractor shall provide assorted tea bags for hot tea and hot water with coffee service.
- d. The Contractor shall provide coffee bar items including. milk, creamer, sugar, hot water for tea) with coffee service.

A.10. Portion Sizes.

- a. The Contractor shall serve the following portion sizes across all meal services:
 - 1. Entrées and special event entrées: no less than eight (8) ounces precooked
 - 2. Entrées with extenders (e.g.) casseroles: no less than twelve (12) ounces
 - 3. Starch or Vegetable: no less than three (3) ounces
 - 4. Desserts: pies that are a minimum of ten inches (10") divided into eight (8) slices; cakes and brownies that are sliced three inches by three inches (3" by 3"); cobblers, yogurts, and ice creams that are in six (6) ounce portions

A.11. Food Safety and Quality

- a. The Contractor shall ensure hot foods are maintained at an internal temperature of one hundred forty degrees Fahrenheit (140°F) or higher and cold foods at forty degrees Fahrenheit (40°F) or lower. The Contractor shall ensure that cold foods remain refrigerated until serving time.
- b. The Contractor shall conduct temperature spot checks no more than fifteen (15) minutes prior to each meal, document results, and replace any food not meeting standards. The Contractor shall provide the documentation to the State upon request.
- c. The Contractor shall immediately replace any food that the State reports as discolored, unappealing, or not fresh at no additional cost.

A.12. Meal Periods

- a. The Contractor shall provide meals during Regular Meal Service for a period of two (2) hours.
- b. The Contractor shall follow the following serving schedule unless otherwise directed by the State:
 - 1. Breakfast and breakfast a la carte items: 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m.
 - 2. Lunch and lunch a la carte items: 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
 - 3. Dinner and dinner a la carte: 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

A.13. POS System.

- a. The Contractor shall provide, install, configure, and maintain one POS system with three (3) sale stations to support dining service operations. The Contractor shall ensure that the POS system enables transactions using cash, credit/debit cards, and authorized State-issued identification badges, as provided in Attachment C). The Contractor shall ensure that the POS system is reliable, secure, user-friendly, and compliant with all applicable financial and data security standards.
- b. The Contractor shall track the meal plan information of each customer
- c. The Contractor shall provide a printer for each POS sale station.
- d. The Contractor shall ensure that the POS system integrates with the services and products provided under the statewide merchant service contract to authorize and settle credit card transactions. If during the Term of this Contract, the statewide merchant service contractor changes, the Contractor shall become certified to authorize and settle credit card transactions with a subsequent merchant services contractor within sixty (60) calendar days after notification by the State of the change in contractors.
- e. The Contractor shall establish the prices charged to Transient Users for meals, food items, beverages, and other dining services purchased outside of a meal plan. The Contractor shall clearly and conspicuously display all applicable Transient User pricing at the dining facility and at each applicable POS or ordering location. The Contractor shall provide the State with a current schedule of all Transient User pricing prior to the commencement of services and shall provide the State with written notice of any changes to such pricing prior to implementation.
- f. The Contractor shall provide a Meal Equivalency option for a combination of A-la-carte and/or Grab-n-Go items.

A.14. Equipment.

- a. The Contractor shall supply and maintain the following equipment at no additional cost to the State:
 1. Coffee brewer;
 2. Tea brewer;
 3. Juice dispensers;
 4. Soda system
 5. Ambient carbonator
 6. Three (3) POS systems
 7. Three (3) printers for POS systems
 8. Smallwares
- b. The Contractor shall maintain all equipment in operable condition and shall restore or work with the State to replace any equipment that becomes inoperable for any reason, as provided in Attachment D.
 1. The Contractor shall return all non-State-owned inoperable equipment to full operation within twenty-four (24) hours of malfunction.
 2. If the Contractor cannot restore equipment to operation within twenty-four (24) hours, the Contractor shall submit a corrective action plan to the State for written approval. The Contractor shall ensure that the corrective action plan identifies the specific method of resolution, including replacement equipment or a temporary loaner from a third party. Upon written approval, the Contractor shall implement the corrective action within twenty-four (24) hours, at no additional cost to the State.
 3. If the corrective action requires building modifications, including but not limited to additional power sources, the Contractor shall provide written notification to the State. The Contractor shall not initiate any building modification until the State provides written authorization.
- c. The Contractor shall be responsible for preventative maintenance, calibration, and minor repairs outside of warranty on State-provided equipment. The Contractor shall be responsible for consulting with the State to determine the effect of a repair on the warranty of the equipment.

A.15. Personnel

- a. The Contractor shall provide one primary point of contact on-site for all food services.
- b. The Contractor shall provide one (1) POS employee at each of the three (3) stations during all dining hours. The Contractor shall provide and maintain sufficient numbers of qualified, trained, and appropriately supervised personnel at all times necessary to fully and timely perform the Services required under this Contract. Staffing levels shall be adequate to ensure the continuous and efficient operation of the Dining Facility during all required hours of operation and to meet applicable service, food preparation, food safety, sanitation, cleaning, customer service, and other performance requirements established by this Contract. The Contractor shall be solely responsible for anticipating and addressing staffing needs, including employee absences, vacancies, turnover, scheduled leave, and fluctuations in service demand, and shall maintain sufficient staffing coverage to prevent any interruption, delay, or material degradation in the Services.
- c. Health-related Testing Requirements. The Contractor shall require all of its personnel to complete additional health-related testing requirements listed below at no additional cost to the State. The Contractor shall provide the test results to the State prior to Contractor personnel performing services. The State shall have the right of refusal of Contractor

personnel. The Contractor shall ensure that the health-related tests for Contractor and all Contractor personnel under this Contract shall include:

1. Tuberculosis skin tests; and
 2. Acute Hepatitis A testing.
- d. Background Checks. The Contractor and all Contractor personnel, including current, new hires, individuals from a temp agency and relief personnel, shall be subject to background checks from a State-approved third-party vendor. Before the Contractor and Contractor's personnel, including current, new hires, individuals from a temp agency, and relief personnel, begin services provided under this Contract, the Contractor shall complete background checks and obtain State approval, in writing. No Contractor personnel shall work at the State's facility without prior written approval of the State.
- e. Professionalism and Decorum. The Contractor shall require that its employees maintain professional attitudes, a congenial atmosphere, and decorum at all times. The Contractor shall require that employees not use alcohol, illegal substances, or inappropriate language when at MALETA, or in the presence of State employees or State-designated individuals. The Contractor shall not use an employee to provide services under this Contract who has failed to meet the standards set forth in this Contract subsection A.15.e.
- f. Clothing and Name Tags. At minimum, the Contractor shall require that its employees wear clean, pressed uniforms, which include a nametag that identifies them as an employee of the Contractor.
- g. Initial and on-going Contractor Employee Training. The Contractor shall schedule and conduct an ongoing employee training program, which shall insure that all employees perform their jobs with efficiency, courtesy, and sanitation. The Contractor shall ensure that all employees have the necessary training to meet all Tennessee and federal laws, rules, and regulations. The Contractor shall also ensure that Contractor employees receive initial and ongoing training in the proper use and cleaning of all food preparation equipment.

A.16. Employee Transition Process

- a. Generally. The Contractor shall have the exclusive right to hire, direct, discipline, compensate, and terminate Contractor employees, and shall exercise complete and exclusive control over the conduct of Contractor employees. The Contractor shall fully comply with all applicable laws relating to workers compensation, social security, unemployment insurance, hours of labor, wages, working conditions, and other employer-employee matters with respect to Contractor employees.
1. Transition of Employees to Contractor. When staffing to provide these services, the Contractor shall interview and consider for employment any current, qualified employees of the State who submit an employment application and have been providing services to the State similar to the services required of the Contractor under this Contract. The Contractor shall receive a list of impacted employees within thirty (30) days of the execution of this Contract. The Contractor shall extend an offer to those impacted employees determined by Contractor to be qualified, suitable and required for Contractor's performance of the services based upon the scope of services, Contractor's Contractor's labor requirements, and conditioned upon successful completion of the Contractor's pre-hire screening process, all as determined by the Contractor in its sole and absolute discretion. The Contractor shall have no obligation to hire any impacted employee.

A.17. Maintenance and Cleanup.

- a. The Contractor shall comply with sanitation standards and maintain National Sanitation Foundation standards at <http://www.nsf.org/services/by-type/standards-publications/food-equipment-standards>, as well as bear sole responsibility for ensuring that all sanitation

standards are maintained in accordance with federal, Tennessee, and local laws, regulations, or guidelines.

- b. The Contractor shall provide all cleaning, sanitation, and set-up or breakdown, of all food preparation equipment and accessories in compliance with the Tennessee Department of Health standards at <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1200/1200-23/1200-23-01.20180404.pdf>. The Contractor shall conduct these activities each day in preparation of service of the next meal (prior to the serving of the first meal of the day, in between each meal, after each meal, and at the conclusion of the last meal of the day).
- c. At minimum, the Contractor shall clean off the tables, sweep and mop the floors in the kitchen and cafeteria area, and perform any other necessary cleaning regarding the day-to-day food services operation daily in preparation of service of the next meal, including prior to the serving of the first meal of the day, in between each meal, after each meal, and at the conclusion of the last meal of the day and for any necessary spills, dropped food, accidents, or otherwise. At least once a month, the Contractor shall conduct a more thorough, deep cleaning of all kitchen and cafeteria areas, including but not limited to walls, floors, tables, equipment, accessories, etc. The Contractor shall maintain cleaning logs and provide copies to the State upon request.
- d. The Contractor shall provide all disposable cleaning supplies, including trash bags, dishwashing accessories, and other disposable cleaning supplies, to complete maintenance and clean-up at no additional cost to the State.
- e. The Contractor shall be responsible for grease trap maintenance, semi-annual hood cleaning, and inspection.
- f. The Contractor shall be responsible for removing trash from the kitchen and dining facility and placing it in the State-provided dumpsters.
- g. The Contractor shall be responsible for grease and oil removal and disposal.

A.18. Biannual Quality Assurance Inspections.

- a. Inspection Plan Development. The Contractor shall develop and submit to the State a written biannual quality assurance inspection plan that outlines inspection standards, evaluation criteria, inspection tools/checklists, responsible personnel, documentation procedures, scoring methodology, and corrective action protocols. The Contractor shall ensure that the plan aligns with applicable health, safety, sanitation, accessibility, and contractual performance standards.
- b. Biannual Inspections. The Contractor shall conduct comprehensive quality assurance inspections of each dining area no less than twice per calendar year. The Contractor shall ensure that inspections include, at a minimum, cleanliness and sanitation; food safety and storage practices; equipment condition and maintenance; dining room appearance; service efficiency and staffing adequacy; compliance with contractual and regulatory requirements; and customer experience and service quality indicators.
- c. Documentation and Reporting. The Contractor shall document all inspection findings using standardized inspection forms or electronic reporting tools. The Contractor shall provide written inspection reports to the State within ten (10) business days of each inspection. Reports shall include the following:
 - 1. Date of inspection;
 - 2. Areas evaluated;
 - 3. Deficiencies identified;
 - 4. Photographic documentation, where appropriate;
 - 5. Required corrective actions; and
 - 6. Responsible party and completion dates.

- d. Corrective Action. The Contractor shall establish and maintain a corrective action log to track all deficiencies identified during inspections, monitor progress toward resolution and verify completion of corrective actions, and provide status updates on open and closed corrective actions. The Contractor shall escalate unresolved or repeat deficiencies in accordance with the Contractor's internal quality management procedures.
- e. The Contractor shall be responsible for arranging and completing health inspections.

A.19. Additional Contractor Responsibilities.

- a. Responding to Complaints. The Contractor shall respond to all State complaints in writing within forty-eight (48) hours.
- b. Licensing. The Contractor shall maintain current licensing, including business license, professional license, and food service operation license, in accordance with all federal, Tennessee, and local laws, regulations, or standards. Upon request from the State, the Contractor shall provide proof of such licensure.
- c. Reserved.
- d. Contract Termination.
 - 1. The Contractor shall, upon expiration or termination of this Contract, retain existing inventories of food and expendable supplies, with the option to remove said items or to sell them to the incoming Contractor at cost; and
 - 2. The Contractor shall, upon expiration or termination of this Contract, clean and sanitize all food service equipment and areas prior to exiting the State's facility in compliance with the Tennessee Department of Health standards at <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1200/1200-23/1200-23-01.20180404.pdf>.
- e. Delivery Requirements. The Contractor shall coordinate with the State for food and supplies deliveries. The Contractor shall grant the State the right to inspect deliveries as needed.
- f. The Contractor shall provide their own phone service.

A.20. Reporting and analytics. The Contractor shall provide and maintain electronic records that track individual customer meal plan activity in real time. The Contractor shall:

- a. Maintain an electronic record of each customer enrolled in a meal plan.
- b. Accurately record each meal redeemed by the customer, including the date and meal period.
- c. Track the total number of meals used for each customer.
- d. Maintain production records and waste tracking logs and provide summary reports to the State on a quarterly basis upon request.
- e. Reserved.
- f. Allow the State access to summary and detailed reports for auditing, reconciliation, and operational oversight.
- g. Ensure data accuracy, system reliability, and compliance with applicable security and privacy standards.

A.21. Contract Implementation and Operational Readiness. The Contractor shall be responsible for planning, coordinating, managing, and completing all implementation and transition activities necessary to commence full dining services operations by the Full Operational Start Date. The Contractor shall perform implementation activities in coordination with the State and in a manner that does not delay or interfere with the State's planned commencement of campus operations.

- A.22. Implementation Plan and Transition Schedule. Within thirty (30) business days of the Contract Effective Date, the Contractor shall finalize a detailed written Implementation Plan and transition schedule to the State for review and approval. The Contractor shall not materially deviate from the State-approved Implementation Plan without prior written approval from the State. At a minimum, the Implementation Plan shall identify the following:
- a. Implementation activities, milestones, deliverables, dependencies, and completion dates necessary to achieve the Full Operational Start Date;
 - b. The Contractor's implementation project manager and other key personnel responsible for implementation;
 - c. The roles and responsibilities of the Contractor, its subcontractors, suppliers, and other parties involved in implementation;
 - d. Staffing recruitment, hiring, onboarding, training, scheduling, and deployment activities;
 - e. Completion of required background checks, health-related testing, certifications, and State personnel approvals;
 - f. Food service licensing, permits, inspections, and other regulatory approvals required for operation;
 - g. Food, beverage, supply, Smallwares, and inventory procurement and delivery;
 - h. Installation, configuration, testing, and operational readiness of Contractor-provided equipment;
 - i. Inspection and operational verification of State-provided food service equipment for which the Contractor has responsibilities under this Contract;
 - j. Installation, configuration, integration, testing, and acceptance of the POS system, including State-issued identification badge functionality, meal-plan tracking, payment processing, printers, and reporting;
 - k. Coordination and testing of digital menu and signage requirements;
 - l. Menu development and State approval activities;
 - m. Development of procedures for dietary accommodations required by this Contract;
 - n. Development and testing, as applicable, of the Emergency Feeding Plan and required emergency inventory;
 - o. Sanitation, cleaning, waste removal, grease and oil disposal, hood cleaning, fire suppression, and other facility-readiness responsibilities assigned to the Contractor;
 - p. Supplier, distributor, and delivery schedules and contingency arrangements;
 - q. Operational testing, employee training, simulations, or mock meal services necessary to demonstrate readiness;
 - r. Identification of implementation risks and the Contractor's mitigation and contingency measures; and
 - s. Any State decisions, information, access, approvals, or other dependencies necessary for the Contractor to achieve services by the Full Operational Start Date.
- A.23 Implementation Meetings and Status Reporting. The Contractor shall participate in implementation meetings with the State at a frequency established by the State. Unless otherwise directed by the State, the Contractor shall provide a written implementation status report at least weekly beginning upon State approval of the Implementation Plan and continuing through the Full Operational Start Date. At a minimum, each status report shall identify the following:
- a. Activities and milestones completed during the reporting period;
 - b. Activities and milestones scheduled for the next reporting period;
 - c. The status of staffing and required personnel approvals;
 - d. The status of equipment, POS, inventory, licensing, inspections, and other operational-readiness activities;
 - e. Outstanding State and Contractor action items;
 - f. Actual or anticipated delays, risks, or issues that may affect implementation; and
 - g. Corrective or mitigation actions being taken by the Contractor.

The Contractor shall immediately notify the State in writing upon becoming aware of any condition that may reasonably jeopardize a required implementation milestone or the Full Operational Start Date.

A.24. Operational Readiness Review. Prior to the Full Operational Start Date, the Contractor shall participate in an Operational Readiness Review with the State. The Operational Readiness Review may include verification of the following:

- a. Staffing levels and personnel approvals;
- b. employee training and required certifications;
- c. kitchen, dining, and service-area readiness;
- d. food, beverage, supply, and emergency inventory;
- e. Contractor-provided and State-provided equipment readiness;
- f. POS, payment processing, State-issued identification badge functionality, meal-plan tracking, and reporting;
- g. menus and dietary accommodation procedures;
- h. sanitation and cleaning procedures;
- i. food safety procedures;
- j. Emergency Feeding Plan readiness;
- k. supplier and delivery arrangements; and
- l. any other material requirement necessary to commence Services.

The Contractor shall promptly correct, at no additional cost to the State, any Contractor-controlled deficiency identified during the Operational Readiness Review.

A.25. State Acceptance of Implementation. The Contractor shall acknowledge and agree that implementation shall not be considered complete solely because the Full Operational Start Date has occurred. The Contractor shall complete implementation in accordance with the State-approved Implementation Plan and shall resolve all material Contractor-controlled deficiencies identified during the implementation or the Operational Readiness Review to the State's satisfaction.

The Contractor shall acknowledge and agree that State review, approval, participation in implementation activities, or acceptance of implementation shall not relieve the Contractor of responsibility for satisfying all requirements of this Contract.

A.26. Warranty. Contractor represents and warrants that the term of the warranty ("Warranty Period") shall be the greater of the Term of this Contract or any other warranty generally offered by Contractor, its suppliers, or manufacturers to customers of its goods or services. The goods or services provided under this Contract shall conform to the terms and conditions of this Contract throughout the Warranty Period. Any nonconformance of the goods or services to the terms and conditions of this Contract shall constitute a "Defect" and shall be considered "Defective." If Contractor receives notice of a Defect during the Warranty Period, then Contractor shall correct the Defect, at no additional charge.

Contractor represents and warrants that the State is authorized to possess and use all equipment, materials, software, and deliverables provided under this Contract.

Contractor represents and warrants that all goods or services provided under this Contract shall be provided in a timely and professional manner, by qualified and skilled individuals, and in conformity with standards generally accepted in Contractor's industry.

If Contractor fails to provide the goods or services as warranted, then Contractor will re-provide the goods or services at no additional charge. If Contractor is unable or unwilling to re-provide the goods or services as warranted, then the State shall be entitled to recover the fees paid to Contractor for the Defective goods or services. Any exercise of the State's rights under this Section shall not prejudice the State's rights to seek any other remedies available under this Contract or applicable law.

A.27. Inspection and Acceptance. The State shall have the right to inspect all goods or services provided by Contractor under this Contract. If, upon inspection, the State determines that the

goods or services are Defective, the State shall notify Contractor, and Contractor shall re-deliver the goods or provide the services at no additional cost to the State. If after a period of thirty (30) days following delivery of goods or performance of services the State does not provide a notice of any Defects, the goods or services shall be deemed to have been accepted by the State.

B. TERM OF CONTRACT:

This Contract shall be effective on **April 1, 2027** ("Effective Date") and extend for a period of sixty (60) months after the Effective Date ("Term"). The State shall have no obligation for goods or services provided by the Contractor prior to the Effective Date.

C. PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

C.1. Maximum Liability. In no event shall the maximum liability of the State under this Contract exceed **Written Dollar Amount (\$Number)** ("Maximum Liability"). This Contract does not grant the Contractor any exclusive rights. The State does not guarantee that it will buy any minimum quantity of goods or services under this Contract. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Contract, the Contractor will only be paid for goods or services provided under this Contract after a purchase order is issued to Contractor by the State or as otherwise specified by this Contract.

C.2. Compensation Firm. The payment methodology in Section C.3. of this Contract shall constitute the entire compensation due the Contractor for all goods or services provided under this Contract regardless of the difficulty, materials or equipment required. The payment methodology includes all applicable taxes, fees, overhead, and all other direct and indirect costs incurred or to be incurred by the Contractor.

C.3. Payment Methodology. The Contractor shall be compensated based on the payment methodology for goods or services authorized by the State in a total amount as set forth in Section C.1.

a. The Contractor's compensation shall be contingent upon the satisfactory provision of goods or services as set forth in Section A.

b. The Contractor shall be compensated based upon the following payment methodology:

Goods or Services Description	Amount (per compensable increment)
Daily Rate Year 1	\$ Number per day
Daily Rate Year 2	\$ Number per day
Daily Rate Year 3	\$ Number per day
Daily Rate Year 4	\$ Number per day
Daily Rate Year 5	\$ Number per day
Special Event Meal Year 1	\$ Number per meal
Special Event Meal Year 2	\$ Number per meal
Special Event Meal Year 3	\$ Number per meal
Special Event Meal Year 4	\$ Number per meal
Special Event Meal Year 5	\$ Number per meal
Meal Pricing for Transient Users.	See Section C.3.e.

- c. Compensation During Emergency: Meals provided during emergency conditions shall be compensated at the applicable contracted daily rate.
- d. All costs associated with the background checks shall be the responsibility of the Contractor.
- e. The State shall receive a credit equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the Net Sales charged to Transient Users, calculated monthly and applied to the applicable monthly invoice. The Contractor shall be responsible for the direct collection and remittance of all applicable taxes – state, local, or otherwise – based on sales at the per meal rates for Transient Users. Sales tax and any other taxes not applicable to the State shall be excluded from the calculation of the credit.

C.4. Travel Compensation. The Contractor shall not be compensated or reimbursed for travel time, travel expenses, meals, or lodging.

C.5. Invoice Requirements. The Contractor shall invoice the State only for goods delivered and accepted by the State or services satisfactorily provided at the amounts stipulated in Section C.3., above. Contractor shall submit invoices and necessary supporting documentation, no more frequently than once a month, and no later than thirty (30) days after goods or services have been provided to the following address:

Department of General Services
312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., 22nd Floor, Nashville, TN 37243
OAS.ElectronicInvoices@tn.gov

- a. Each invoice, on Contractor's letterhead, shall clearly and accurately detail all of the following information (calculations must be extended and totaled correctly):
 - (1) Invoice number (assigned by the Contractor);
 - (2) Invoice date;
 - (3) Contract number (assigned by the State);
 - (4) Customer account name: Department of General Services, MALETA;
 - (5) Customer account number (assigned by the Contractor to the above-referenced Customer);
 - (6) Contractor name;
 - (7) Contractor Tennessee Edison registration ID number;
 - (8) Contractor contact for invoice questions (name, phone, or email);
 - (9) Contractor remittance address;
 - (10) Description of delivered goods or services provided and invoiced, including identifying information as applicable;
 - (11) Number of delivered or completed units, increments, hours, or days as applicable, of each good or service invoiced;
 - (12) Applicable payment methodology (as stipulated in Section C.3.) of each good or service invoiced;
 - (13) Amount due for each compensable unit of good or service; and
 - (14) Total amount due for the invoice period.
- b. Contractor's invoices shall:
 - (1) Only include charges for goods delivered or services provided as described in Section A and in accordance with payment terms and conditions set forth in Section C;
 - (2) Only be submitted for goods delivered or services completed and shall not include any charge for future goods to be delivered or services to be performed;
 - (3) Not include Contractor's taxes, which includes without limitation Contractor's sales and use tax, excise taxes, franchise taxes, real or personal property taxes, or income taxes; and
 - (4) Include shipping or delivery charges only as authorized in this Contract.

- c. The timeframe for payment (or any discounts) begins only when the State is in receipt of an invoice that meets the minimum requirements of this Section C.5.
- C.6. Payment of Invoice. A payment by the State shall not prejudice the State's right to object to or question any payment, invoice, or other matter. A payment by the State shall not be construed as acceptance of goods delivered, any part of the services provided, or as approval of any amount invoiced.
- C.7. Invoice Reductions. The Contractor's invoice shall be subject to reduction for amounts included in any invoice or payment that is determined by the State, on the basis of audits conducted in accordance with the terms of this Contract, to not constitute proper compensation for goods delivered or services provided.
- C.8. Deductions. The State reserves the right to deduct from amounts, which are or shall become due and payable to the Contractor under this or any contract between the Contractor and the State of Tennessee, any amounts that are or shall become due and payable to the State of Tennessee by the Contractor.
- C.9. Prerequisite Documentation. The Contractor shall not invoice the State under this Contract until the State has received the following, properly completed documentation.
 - a. The Contractor shall complete, sign, and present to the State the "Authorization Agreement for Automatic Deposit Form" provided by the State. By doing so, the Contractor acknowledges and agrees that, once this form is received by the State, payments to the Contractor, under this or any other contract the Contractor has with the State of Tennessee, may be made by ACH; and
 - b. The Contractor shall complete, sign, and return to the State the State-provided W-9 form. The taxpayer identification number on the W-9 form must be the same as the Contractor's Federal Employer Identification Number or Social Security Number referenced in the Contractor's Edison registration information.

D. MANDATORY TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- D.1. Required Approvals. The State is not bound by this Contract until it is duly approved by the Parties and all appropriate State officials in accordance with applicable Tennessee laws and regulations. Depending upon the specifics of this Contract, this may include approvals by the Commissioner of Finance and Administration, the Commissioner of Human Resources, the Comptroller of the Treasury, and the Chief Procurement Officer. Approvals shall be evidenced by a signature or electronic approval.
- D.2. Communications and Contacts. All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications required or contemplated by this Contract shall be in writing and shall be made by certified, first class mail, return receipt requested and postage prepaid, by overnight courier service with an asset tracking system, or by email or facsimile transmission with recipient confirmation. All communications, regardless of method of transmission, shall be addressed to the respective Party at the appropriate mailing address, facsimile number, or email address as stated below or any other address provided in writing by a Party.

The State:

Stephanie Reedy, Procurement Team Lead
 Department of General Services, OAS
 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., 22nd Floor, Nashville, TN 37243
Stephanie.Reedy@tn.gov
 Telephone # 615-708-9382

The Contractor:

Contractor Contact Name & Title
 Contractor Name
 Address
 Email Address
 Telephone # Number
 FAX # Number

All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications shall be considered effective upon receipt or recipient confirmation as may be required.

- D.3. Modification and Amendment. This Contract may be modified only by a written amendment signed by all Parties and approved by all applicable State officials.
- D.4. Subject to Funds Availability. The Contract is subject to the appropriation and availability of State or federal funds. In the event that the funds are not appropriated or are otherwise unavailable, the State reserves the right to terminate or suspend this Contract upon written notice to the Contractor. The State's exercise of its right to terminate or suspend this Contract shall not constitute a breach of Contract by the State. Upon receipt of the written notice, the Contractor shall cease all work associated with the Contract. If the State terminates or suspends this Contract due to lack of funds availability, the Contractor shall be entitled to compensation for all conforming goods requested and accepted by the State and for all satisfactory and authorized services completed as of the termination or suspension date but shall not be entitled to compensation for any services performed subsequent to termination date or during a period of suspension. Should the State exercise its right to terminate or suspend this Contract due to unavailability of funds, the Contractor shall have no right to recover from the State any actual, general, special, incidental, consequential, or any other damages of any description or amount.
- D.5. Termination for Convenience. The State may terminate this Contract for convenience without cause and for any reason. The State shall give the Contractor at least thirty (30) days written notice before the termination date. The Contractor shall be entitled to compensation for all conforming goods delivered and accepted by the State or for satisfactory, authorized services completed as of the termination date. In no event shall the State be liable to the Contractor for compensation for any goods neither requested nor accepted by the State or for any services neither requested by the State nor satisfactorily performed by the Contractor. In no event shall the State's exercise of its right to terminate this Contract for convenience relieve the Contractor of any liability to the State for any damages or claims arising under this Contract.
- D.6. Termination for Cause. If the Contractor fails to properly perform its obligations under this Contract in a timely or proper manner, or if the Contractor materially violates any terms of this Contract ("Breach Condition"), the State shall have the right to immediately terminate the Contract and withhold payments in excess of compensation for completed services or provided goods. Notwithstanding the above, the Contractor shall not be relieved of liability to the State for damages sustained by virtue of any Breach Condition and the State may seek other remedies allowed at law or in equity for breach of this Contract.
- D.7. Assignment and Subcontracting. The Contractor shall not assign this Contract or enter into a subcontract for any of the goods or services provided under this Contract without the prior written approval of the State. Notwithstanding any use of the approved subcontractors, the Contractor shall be the prime contractor and responsible for compliance with all terms and conditions of this Contract. The State reserves the right to request additional information or impose additional terms and conditions before approving an assignment of this Contract in whole or in part or the use of subcontractors in fulfilling the Contractor's obligations under this Contract.
- D.8. Conflicts of Interest. The Contractor warrants that no part of the Contractor's compensation shall be paid directly or indirectly to an employee or official of the State of Tennessee as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as an officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to the Contractor in connection with any work contemplated or performed under this Contract.

The Contractor acknowledges, understands, and agrees that this Contract shall be null and void if the Contractor is, or within the past six (6) months has been, an employee of the State of Tennessee or if the Contractor is an entity in which a controlling interest is held by an individual who is, or within the past six (6) months has been, an employee of the State of Tennessee.

- D.9. Nondiscrimination. The Contractor hereby agrees, warrants, and assures that no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of this Contract or in the employment practices of the Contractor on the grounds of handicap or disability, age, race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by federal or state law. The Contractor shall, upon request, show proof of nondiscrimination and shall post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.
- D.10. Prohibition of Illegal Immigrants. The requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-3-309 addressing the use of illegal immigrants in the performance of any contract to supply goods or services to the state of Tennessee, shall be a material provision of this Contract, a breach of which shall be grounds for monetary and other penalties, up to and including termination of this Contract.
- a. The Contractor agrees that the Contractor shall not knowingly utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract and shall not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor who will utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract. The Contractor shall reaffirm this attestation by submitting to the State a completed Attestation (accessible through the Edison Supplier Portal) and included at Attachment A, semi-annually during the Term. If the Contractor is a party to more than one contract with the State, the Contractor may submit one attestation that applies to all contracts with the State. All Contractor attestations shall be maintained by the Contractor and made available to State officials upon request.
 - b. Prior to the use of any subcontractor in the performance of this Contract, and semi-annually thereafter, during the Term, the Contractor shall obtain and retain a current, written attestation that the subcontractor shall not knowingly utilize the services of an illegal immigrant to perform work under this Contract and shall not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor who will utilize the services of an illegal immigrant to perform work under this Contract. Attestations obtained from subcontractors shall be maintained by the Contractor and made available to State officials upon request.
 - c. The Contractor shall maintain records for all personnel used in the performance of this Contract. Contractor's records shall be subject to review and random inspection at any reasonable time upon reasonable notice by the State.
 - d. The Contractor understands and agrees that failure to comply with this section will be subject to the sanctions of Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-3-309 for acts or omissions occurring after its effective date.
 - e. For purposes of this Contract, "illegal immigrant" shall be defined as any person who is not: (i) a United States citizen; (ii) a Lawful Permanent Resident; (iii) a person whose physical presence in the United States is authorized; (iv) allowed by the federal Department of Homeland Security and who, under federal immigration laws or regulations, is authorized to be employed in the U.S.; or (v) is otherwise authorized to provide services under the Contract.
- D.11. Records. The Contractor shall maintain documentation for all charges under this Contract. The books, records, and documents of the Contractor, for work performed or money received under this Contract, shall be maintained for a period of five (5) full years from the date of the final payment and shall be subject to audit at any reasonable time and upon reasonable notice by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives. The financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

- D.12. Monitoring. The Contractor's activities conducted and records maintained pursuant to this Contract shall be subject to monitoring and evaluation by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives.
- D.13. Progress Reports. The Contractor shall submit brief, periodic, progress reports to the State as requested.
- D.14. Strict Performance. Failure by any Party to this Contract to require, in any one or more cases, the strict performance of any of the terms, covenants, conditions, or provisions of this Contract shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of any term, covenant, condition, or provision. No term or condition of this Contract shall be held to be waived, modified, or deleted except by a written amendment signed by the Parties.
- D.15. Independent Contractor. The Parties shall not act as employees, partners, joint venturers, or associates of one another. The Parties are independent contracting entities. Nothing in this Contract shall be construed to create an employer/employee relationship or to allow either Party to exercise control or direction over the manner or method by which the other transacts its business affairs or provides its usual services. The employees or agents of one Party are not employees or agents of the other Party.
- D.16. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Contractor agrees that it will be responsible for compliance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("PPACA") with respect to itself and its employees, including any obligation to report health insurance coverage, provide health insurance coverage, or pay any financial assessment, tax, or penalty for not providing health insurance. The Contractor shall indemnify the State and hold it harmless from any costs to the State arising from Contractor's failure to fulfill its PPACA responsibilities for itself or its employees.
- D.17. Limitation of State's Liability. The State shall have no liability except as specifically provided in this Contract. In no event will the State be liable to the Contractor or any other party for any lost revenues, lost profits, loss of business, decrease in the value of any securities or cash position, time, goodwill, or any indirect, special, incidental, punitive, exemplary or consequential damages of any nature, whether based on warranty, contract, statute, regulation, tort (including but not limited to negligence), or any other legal theory that may arise under this Contract or otherwise. The State's total liability under this Contract (including any exhibits, schedules, amendments or other attachments to the Contract) or otherwise shall under no circumstances exceed the Maximum Liability. This limitation of liability is cumulative and not per incident.
- D.18. Limitation of Contractor's Liability. In accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-3-701, the Contractor's liability for all claims arising under this Contract shall be limited to an amount equal to two (2) times the Maximum Liability amount detailed in Section C.1. and as may be amended, PROVIDED THAT in no event shall this Section limit the liability of the Contractor for: (i) intellectual property or any Contractor indemnity obligations for infringement for third-party intellectual property rights; (ii) any claims covered by any specific provision in the Contract providing for liquidated damages; or (iii) any claims for intentional torts, criminal acts, fraudulent conduct, or acts or omissions that result in personal injuries or death. For clarity, except as otherwise expressly set forth in this Section, Contractor's indemnification obligations and other remedies available under this Contract are subject to the limitations on liability set forth in this Section.
- D.19. Hold Harmless. The Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Tennessee as well as its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, and causes of action which may arise, accrue, or result to any person, firm, corporation, or other entity which may be injured or damaged as a result of acts, omissions, or negligence on the part of the Contractor, its employees, or any person acting for or on its or their behalf relating to this Contract. The Contractor further agrees it shall be liable for the reasonable cost of attorneys' fees, court costs, expert witness fees, and other litigation expenses for the State to enforce the terms of this Contract.

In the event of any suit or claim, the Parties shall give each other immediate notice and provide all necessary assistance to respond. The failure of the State to give notice shall only relieve the Contractor of its obligations under this Section to the extent that the Contractor can demonstrate actual prejudice arising from the failure to give notice. This Section shall not grant the Contractor, through its attorneys, the right to represent the State in any legal matter, as the right to represent the State is governed by Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-6-106.

- D.20. HIPAA Compliance. As applicable, the State and Contractor shall comply with obligations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”), Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (“HITECH”) Act and any other relevant laws and regulations regarding privacy (collectively the “Privacy Rules”). The obligations set forth in this Section shall survive the termination of this Contract.
- a. Contractor warrants to the State that it is familiar with the requirements of the Privacy Rules, and will comply with all applicable requirements in the course of this Contract.
 - b. Contractor warrants that it will cooperate with the State, including cooperation and coordination with State privacy officials and other compliance officers required by the Privacy Rules, in the course of performance of the Contract so that both parties will be in compliance with the Privacy Rules.
 - c. The State and the Contractor will sign documents, including but not limited to business associate agreements, as required by the Privacy Rules and that are reasonably necessary to keep the State and Contractor in compliance with the Privacy Rules. This provision shall not apply if information received or delivered by the parties under this Contract is NOT “protected health information” as defined by the Privacy Rules, or if the Privacy Rules permit the parties to receive or deliver the information without entering into a business associate agreement or signing another document.
 - d. The Contractor will indemnify the State and hold it harmless for any violation by the Contractor or its subcontractors of the Privacy Rules. This includes the costs of responding to a breach of protected health information, the costs of responding to a government enforcement action related to the breach, and any fines, penalties, or damages paid by the State because of the violation.
- D.21. Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. Subject to statutory exceptions contained in Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 8-36-801, *et seq.*, the law governing the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (“TCRS”), provides that if a retired member of TCRS, or of any superseded system administered by TCRS, or of any local retirement fund established under Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 8-35-101, *et seq.*, accepts State employment, the member's retirement allowance is suspended during the period of the employment. Accordingly and notwithstanding any provision of this Contract to the contrary, the Contractor agrees that if it is later determined that the true nature of the working relationship between the Contractor and the State under this Contract is that of “employee/employer” and not that of an independent contractor, the Contractor, if a retired member of TCRS, may be required to repay to TCRS the amount of retirement benefits the Contractor received from TCRS during the Term.
- D.22. Tennessee Department of Revenue Registration. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable registration requirements contained in Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 67-6-601 – 608. Compliance with applicable registration requirements is a material requirement of this Contract.
- D.23. Debarment and Suspension. The Contractor certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it, its current and future principals, its current and future subcontractors and their principals:
- a. are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal or state department or agency;

- b. have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against them from commission of fraud, or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or grant under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification, or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c. are not presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses detailed in section b. of this certification; and
- d. have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

The Contractor shall provide immediate written notice to the State if at any time it learns that there was an earlier failure to disclose information or that due to changed circumstances, its principals or the principals of its subcontractors are excluded, disqualified, or presently fall under any of the prohibitions of sections a-d.

- D.24. Force Majeure. "Force Majeure Event" means fire, flood, earthquake, elements of nature or acts of God, wars, riots, civil disorders, rebellions or revolutions, acts of terrorism or any other similar cause beyond the reasonable control of the Party except to the extent that the non-performing Party is at fault in failing to prevent or causing the default or delay, and provided that the default or delay cannot reasonably be circumvented by the non-performing Party through the use of alternate sources, workaround plans or other means. A strike, lockout or labor dispute shall not excuse either Party from its obligations under this Contract. Except as set forth in this Section, any failure or delay by a Party in the performance of its obligations under this Contract arising from a Force Majeure Event is not a default under this Contract or grounds for termination. The non-performing Party will be excused from performing those obligations directly affected by the Force Majeure Event, and only for as long as the Force Majeure Event continues, provided that the Party continues to use diligent, good faith efforts to resume performance without delay. The occurrence of a Force Majeure Event affecting Contractor's representatives, suppliers, subcontractors, customers or business apart from this Contract is not a Force Majeure Event under this Contract. Contractor will promptly notify the State of any delay caused by a Force Majeure Event (to be confirmed in a written notice to the State within one (1) day of the inception of the delay) that a Force Majeure Event has occurred, and will describe in reasonable detail the nature of the Force Majeure Event. If any Force Majeure Event results in a delay in Contractor's performance longer than forty-eight (48) hours, the State may, upon notice to Contractor: (a) cease payment of the fees for the affected obligations until Contractor resumes performance of the affected obligations; or (b) immediately terminate this Contract or any purchase order, in whole or in part, without further payment except for fees then due and payable. Contractor will not increase its charges under this Contract or charge the State any fees other than those provided for in this Contract as the result of a Force Majeure Event.
- D.25. State and Federal Compliance. The Contractor shall comply with all State and federal laws and regulations applicable to Contractor in the Contractor's performance of this Contract.
- D.26. Governing Law. This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee, without regard to its conflict or choice of law rules. The Tennessee Claims Commission or the state or federal courts in Tennessee shall be the venue for all claims, disputes, or disagreements arising under this Contract. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that any rights, claims, or remedies against the State of Tennessee or its employees arising under this Contract shall be subject to and limited to those rights and remedies available under Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 9-8-101 - 408.
- D.27. Entire Agreement. This Contract is complete and contains the entire understanding between the Parties relating to its subject matter, including all the terms and conditions of the Parties' agreement. This Contract supersedes any and all prior understandings, representations, negotiations, and agreements between the Parties, whether written or oral.

- D.28. Severability. If any terms and conditions of this Contract are held to be invalid or unenforceable as a matter of law, the other terms and conditions of this Contract shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect. The terms and conditions of this Contract are severable.
- D.29. Headings. Section headings of this Contract are for reference purposes only and shall not be construed as part of this Contract.
- D.30. Incorporation of Additional Documents. Each of the following documents is included as a part of this Contract by reference. In the event of a discrepancy or ambiguity regarding the Contractor's duties, responsibilities, and performance under this Contract, these items shall govern in order of precedence below:
- a. any amendment to this Contract, with the latter in time controlling over any earlier amendments;
 - b. this Contract with any attachments or exhibits (excluding the items listed at subsections c. through f., below), which includes Attachments A, B, C, D, and E;
 - c. any clarifications of or addenda to the Contractor's proposal seeking this Contract;
 - d. the State solicitation, as may be amended, requesting responses in competition for this Contract;
 - e. any technical specifications provided to proposers during the procurement process to award this Contract; and
 - f. the Contractor's response seeking this Contract.
- D.31. Iran Divestment Act. The requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-101, *et seq.*, addressing contracting with persons as defined at Tenn. Code Ann. §12-12-103(5) that engage in investment activities in Iran, shall be a material provision of this Contract. The Contractor certifies, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that it is not on the list created pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-106.
- D.32. Insurance. Contractor shall maintain insurance coverage as specified in this Section. The State reserves the right to amend or require additional insurance coverage, coverage amounts, and endorsements required under this Contract. Contractor's failure to maintain or submit evidence of insurance coverage, as required, is a material breach of this Contract. If Contractor loses insurance coverage, fails to renew coverage, or for any reason becomes uninsured during the Term, Contractor shall immediately notify the State. All insurance companies providing coverage must be: (a) acceptable to the State; (b) authorized by the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance ("TDCI"); and (c) rated A- / VII or better by A.M. Best. All coverage must be on a primary basis and noncontributory with any other insurance or self-insurance carried by the State. Contractor agrees to name the State as an additional insured on any insurance policy with the exception of workers' compensation (employer liability) and professional liability (errors and omissions) insurance. All policies must contain an endorsement for a waiver of subrogation in favor of the State. Any deductible or self insured retention ("SIR") over fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) must be approved by the State. The deductible or SIR and any premiums are the Contractor's sole responsibility. The Contractor agrees that the insurance requirements specified in this Section do not reduce any liability the Contractor has assumed under this Contract including any indemnification or hold harmless requirements.

To achieve the required coverage amounts, a combination of an otherwise deficient specific policy and an umbrella policy with an aggregate meeting or exceeding the required coverage amounts is acceptable. For example: If the required policy limit under this Contract is for two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in coverage, acceptable coverage would include a specific policy covering one million dollars (\$1,000,000) combined with an umbrella policy for an additional one million dollars (\$1,000,000). If the deficient underlying policy is for a coverage area without aggregate limits (generally Automobile Liability and Employers' Liability Accident), Contractor shall provide a copy of the umbrella insurance policy documents to ensure that no aggregate limit applies to the umbrella policy for that coverage area. In the event that an umbrella policy is being provided to achieve any required coverage amounts, the umbrella policy shall be accompanied by an endorsement at least as broad as the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (also known as "ISO")

“Noncontributory—Other Insurance Condition” endorsement or shall be written on a policy form that addresses both the primary and noncontributory basis of the umbrella policy if the State is otherwise named as an additional insured.

Contractor shall provide the State a certificate of insurance (“COI”) evidencing the coverages and amounts specified in this Section. The COI must be on a form approved by the TDCI (standard ACORD form preferred). The COI must list each insurer’s National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) number and be signed by an authorized representative of the insurer. The COI must list the State of Tennessee – CPO Risk Manager, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., 3rd floor Central Procurement Office, Nashville, TN 37243 as the certificate holder. Contractor shall provide the COI ten (10) business days prior to the Effective Date and again thirty (30) calendar days before renewal or replacement of coverage. Contractor shall provide the State evidence that all subcontractors maintain the required insurance or that subcontractors are included under the Contractor’s policy. At any time, the State may require Contractor to provide a valid COI. The Parties agree that failure to provide evidence of insurance coverage as required is a material breach of this Contract. If Contractor self-insures, then a COI will not be required to prove coverage. Instead Contractor shall provide a certificate of self-insurance or a letter, on Contractor’s letterhead, detailing its coverage, policy amounts, and proof of funds to reasonably cover such expenses. The State reserves the right to require complete copies of all required insurance policies, including endorsements required by these specifications, at any time.

The State agrees that it shall give written notice to the Contractor as soon as practicable after the State becomes aware of any claim asserted or made against the State, but in no event later than thirty (30) calendar days after the State becomes aware of such claim. The failure of the State to give notice shall only relieve the Contractor of its obligations under this Section to the extent that the Contractor can demonstrate actual prejudice arising from the failure to give notice. This Section shall not grant the Contractor or its insurer, through its attorneys, the right to represent the State in any legal matter, as the right to represent the State is governed by Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-6-106.

The insurance obligations under this Contract shall be: (1)—all the insurance coverage and policy limits carried by the Contractor; or (2)—the minimum insurance coverage requirements and policy limits shown in this Contract; whichever is greater. Any insurance proceeds in excess of or broader than the minimum required coverage and minimum required policy limits, which are applicable to a given loss, shall be available to the State. No representation is made that the minimum insurance requirements of the Contract are sufficient to cover the obligations of the Contractor arising under this Contract. The Contractor shall obtain and maintain, at a minimum, the following insurance coverages and policy limits.

a. Commercial General Liability (“CGL”) Insurance

- 1) The Contractor shall maintain CGL, which shall be written on an ISO Form CG 00 01 occurrence form (or a substitute form providing equivalent coverage) and shall cover liability arising from property damage, premises and operations products and completed operations, bodily injury, personal and advertising injury, and liability assumed under an insured contract (including the tort liability of another assumed in a business contract).
- 2) The Contractor shall maintain single limits not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence. If a general aggregate limit applies, either the general aggregate limit shall apply separately to this policy or location of occurrence or the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit.

b. Workers’ Compensation and Employer Liability Insurance

- 1) For Contractors statutorily required to carry workers’ compensation and employer liability insurance, the Contractor shall maintain:

- i. Workers' compensation in an amount not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) including employer liability of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per accident for bodily injury by accident, one million dollars (\$1,000,000) policy limit by disease, and one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per employee for bodily injury by disease.
 - 2) If the Contractor certifies that it is exempt from the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 50-6-101 – 103, then the Contractor shall furnish written proof of such exemption for one or more of the following reasons:
 - i. The Contractor employs fewer than five (5) employees;
 - ii. The Contractor is a sole proprietor;
 - iii. The Contractor is in the construction business or trades with no employees;
 - iv. The Contractor is in the coal mining industry with no employees;
 - v. The Contractor is a state or local government; or
 - vi. The Contractor self-insures its workers' compensation and is in compliance with the TDCI rules and Tenn. Code Ann. § 50-6-405.
- c. Automobile Liability Insurance
 - 1) The Contractor shall maintain automobile liability insurance which shall cover liability arising out of any automobile (including owned, leased, hired, and non-owned automobiles).
 - 2) The Contractor shall maintain bodily injury/property damage with a limit not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence or combined single limit.
- d. Cyber Liability Insurance
 - 1) The Contractor shall maintain cyber liability insurance in an amount not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence or claim and two million dollars (\$2,000,000) annual aggregate. Such insurance shall be sufficiently broad to respond to the Contractor's duties and obligations under this Contract, and shall include coverage for all acts, claims, errors, omissions, negligence, infringement of intellectual property (including copyright, patent and trade secret); network security and privacy risks, including but not limited to unauthorized access, failure of security, information theft, damage to destruction of or alteration of electronic information, breach of privacy perils, wrongful disclosure and release of private information, collection, or other negligence in the handling of confidential information, and including coverage for related regulatory fines, defenses, and penalties.
 - 2) Such coverage shall include data breach response expenses, in an amount not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and payable whether incurred by the State or Contractor, including but not limited to consumer notification, whether or not required by law, computer forensic investigations, public relations and crisis management firm fees, credit file or identity monitoring or remediation services and

expenses in the performance of services for the State or on behalf of the State hereunder.

D.33. Major Procurement Contract Sales and Use Tax. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-39-102 and to the extent applicable, the Contractor and the Contractor's subcontractors shall remit sales and use taxes on the sales of goods or services that are made by the Contractor or the Contractor's subcontractors and that are subject to tax.

D.34. Confidentiality of Records. Strict standards of confidentiality of records and information shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of this Contract and applicable state and federal law. All material, information, and data regardless of form, medium or method of communication, that the Contractor will have access to, acquire, or is provided to the Contractor by the State or acquired by the Contractor on behalf of the State shall be regarded as "Confidential Information." The State grants the Contractor a limited license to use the Confidential Information but only to perform its obligations under the Contract. Nothing in this Section shall permit Contractor to disclose any Confidential Information, regardless of whether it has been disclosed or made available to the Contractor due to intentional or negligent actions or inactions of agents of the State or third parties. Confidential Information shall not be disclosed except as required under state or federal law or otherwise authorized in writing by the State. Contractor shall take all necessary steps to safeguard the confidentiality of such Confidential Information in conformance with the requirements of this contract and with applicable state and federal law.

As long as the Contractor maintains State Confidential Information, the obligations set forth in this Section shall survive the termination of this Contract.

D.35. Boycott of Israel. The Contractor certifies that it is not currently engaged in, and covenants that it will not, for the duration of the Contract, engage in a Boycott of Israel, as that term is defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-4-119.

D.36. Prohibited Contract Terms. The prohibited contract terms and conditions enumerated in Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-3-515, shall be a material provision of this Contract. The Contractor acknowledges, understands, and agrees that the inclusion of a term or condition prohibited by Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-3-515, shall be null and void and the Contract shall be enforceable as if the Contract did not contain such term or condition.

D.37. Information Technology Security Requirements (State Data, Audit, and Other Requirements).

- a. **"State Data"** is any and all data that can be accessed, processed, generated, including derivative works, stored, or hosted by the Contractor in performance of this Contract." The Contractor shall protect State Data as follows:

(1) The Contractor shall ensure that all State Data is housed in the continental United States, inclusive of backup data. All State Data must remain in the United States, regardless of whether the data is processed, stored, in-transit, or at rest. Access to State Data shall be limited to US-based (onshore) resources only.

All system and application administration must be performed in the continental United States. Configuration or development of software and code is permitted outside of the United States. However, software applications designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned or controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of, a foreign adversary, which the U.S. Secretary of Commerce acting pursuant to 15 C.F.R. § 7 has defined to include the People's Republic of China, among others are prohibited. Any testing of code outside of the United States must use fake data. A copy of production data may not be transmitted or used outside the United States.

(2) The Contractor shall encrypt State Data at rest and in transit using the current version of Federal Information Processing Standard ("FIPS") 140-2 or 140-3 (or current applicable version) validated encryption technologies. The State shall control all access to encryption keys. The Contractor shall provide installation and maintenance support at no cost to the State.

(3) The Contractor shall maintain, obtain, or undergo the following third-party information security certification(s), authorization(s), examination(s), assessments, or audit(s) for both the Contractor and the Contractor's processing environment containing State Data. The Contractor shall ensure that each certification, authorization, examination, or assessment remains current and valid throughout the term of the Contract.

i. SOC 2 Type II Examination - The Contractor and Contractor's processing environment containing State Data shall be subject to an annual engagement by a CPA firm in accordance with the standards of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) for a System and Organization Controls for service organizations (SOC) Type II examination that includes the Security, Availability, and Confidentiality Trust Services Criteria;

ii. NIST Audit - The Contractor and Contractor's processing environment containing State Data shall undergo an annual independent audit assessing compliance with the privacy and security controls established in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-53. The audit shall be conducted by a qualified independent assessor, which may include a reputable CPA firm, cybersecurity firm, or other organization with demonstrated expertise in assessing NIST control compliance. The audit must evaluate compliance with the security controls defined in the NIST Special Publication 800-53B moderate-impact security control baseline or a higher-impact baseline.

(4) Upon request by the State or the Comptroller of the Treasury, and within thirty (30) days of completion or receipt of any certification, authorization, examination, assessment, or audit required under Contract Section D.37.a.(3) the Contractor shall provide the State or the Comptroller of the Treasury with the following documentation and deliverables. The Contractor shall ensure that all documentation remains current, complete, and accurate throughout the term of the Contract.

i. SOC 2 Type II Examination

- 1) The SOC 2 Type II examination report in its entirety;
- 2) A corrective action plan describing each identified deficiency, planned remediation steps, and anticipated completion dates; and
- 3) If any SOC examination report for the Contractor or any Subcontractor supporting this Contract includes a modified opinion, meaning the opinion is qualified, adverse, or disclaimed, the Contractor shall notify the State of the modified opinion within thirty (30) days of receipt and provide the Contractor's plan of corrective action.

ii. NIST Audit

- 1) The audit report in its entirety;
- 2) A corrective action plan describing each identified deficiency, planned remediation steps, and anticipated completion dates.

Upon request by the State or the Comptroller of the Treasury, the Contractor shall also provide current Subcontractor certifications, reports, and related deliverables pertaining to services provided under this Contract within thirty (30) days. If any certification, authorization, examination, or assessment required under this Contract for any Subcontractor supporting this Contract lapses, expires, is suspended, or is revoked, the Contractor shall notify the State in writing within five (5) business days of learning of the status change and provide: (i) the effective date and reason; (ii) the services and State Data affected; and (iii) the Contractor's corrective action plan and interim risk mitigations.

No additional funding shall be allocated for these examinations as they are included in the Maximum Liability of this Contract.

(5) The Contractor must annually perform Penetration Tests and Vulnerability Assessments against its Processing Environment per the NIST 800-115 definition. "Processing Environment" shall mean the combination of software and hardware on which the Application runs. "Application" shall mean the computer code that supports and accomplishes the State's requirements as set forth in this Contract. "Penetration Tests" shall be in the form of attacks on the Contractor's computer system, with the purpose of discovering security weaknesses which have the potential to gain access to the Processing Environment's features and data. The "Vulnerability Assessment" shall be designed and executed to define, identify, and classify the security holes (vulnerabilities) in the Processing Environment. The Contractor shall allow the State, at its option, to perform Penetration Tests and Vulnerability Assessments on the Processing Environment. The Contractor shall provide a letter of attestation on its processing environment that penetration tests and vulnerability assessments has been performed on an annual basis and taken corrective action to evaluate and address any findings.

In the event of an unauthorized disclosure or unauthorized access to State Data, the State Strategic Technology Solutions (STS) Security Incident Response Team (SIRT) must be notified and engaged by calling the State Customer Care Center (CCC) at 615-741-1001. Any such event must be reported by the Contractor within twenty-four (24) hours after the unauthorized disclosure has come to the attention of the Contractor.

(6) If a breach has been confirmed a fully un-modified third-party forensics report must be supplied to the State and through the STS SIRT. This report must include indicators of compromise (IOCs) as well as plan of actions for remediation and restoration. Contractor shall take all necessary measures to halt any further Unauthorized Disclosures.

(7) Upon State request, the Contractor shall provide a copy of all State Data it holds. The Contractor shall provide such data on media and in a format determined by the State

(8) Upon termination of this Contract and in consultation with the State, the Contractor shall destroy, and ensure all subcontractors shall destroy, all State Data it holds (including any copies such as backups) in accordance with the current version of National Institute of Standards and Technology ("NIST") Special Publication 800-88. The Contractor shall provide a written confirmation of destruction to the State within ten (10) business days after destruction.

b. Minimum Requirements

- (1) The Contractor shall implement and maintain privacy and security controls that follow the guidelines set forth in NIST 800-53, "Security and Privacy Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations," as amended from time to time. The Contractor shall meet annually, or as otherwise agreed, with the State to review the implementation of this Section. Upon request from the State or the Comptroller of the Treasury, the Contractor must provide the State or the Comptroller of the Treasury with a System Security Plan that describes how the Contractor implemented privacy and security controls within NIST 800-53.
- (2) The Contractor agrees to maintain the Application so that it will run on a current, manufacturer-supported Operating System. "Operating System" shall mean the software that supports a computer's basic functions, such as scheduling tasks, executing applications, and controlling peripherals.
- (3) If the Application requires middleware or database software, Contractor shall maintain middleware and database software versions that are always fully compatible with current versions of the Operating System and Application to ensure that security vulnerabilities are not introduced.
- (4) In the event of drive/media failure, if the drive/media is replaced, it remains with the State and it is the State's responsibility to destroy the drive/media, or the Contractor shall provide written confirmation of the sanitization/destruction of data according to NIST 800-88.

c. Business Continuity Requirements.

The Contractor shall maintain sets of documents, instructions, and procedures that enable the Contractor to respond to accidents, disasters, emergencies, or threats without any stoppage or hindrance to key operations (“**Business Continuity Requirements**”). **Business Continuity Requirements** shall include:

(1) Disaster Recovery Capabilities

Disaster Recovery Capabilities refer to the actions the Contractor takes to meet the Recovery Point Objective (RPO) and Recovery Time Objective (RTO) defined below. Disaster Recovery Capabilities shall comply with NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5, Contingency Planning (CP) controls, (moderate baseline controls) including CP-1 through CP-10, as applicable, and shall ensure continuity of operations for critical systems and services.

i. Recovery Point Objective (RPO)

The RPO is defined as the maximum targeted period in which data might be lost from an IT service due to a major incident: One (1) Hour

ii. Recovery Time Objective (RTO)

The RTO is defined as the targeted duration of time and service level within which a business process must be restored after a disruption in order to avoid unacceptable consequences: Four (4) to Eight (8) Hours

(2) Disaster Recovery Plan

The Contractor and Subcontractor(s) shall maintain a documented Disaster Recovery Plan aligned with NIST SP 800-53 CP controls (e.g., CP-2: Contingency Plan, CP-4: Contingency Plan Testing, CP-6: Alternate Storage Site). The plan shall include, at minimum:

- i. Identification and prioritization of critical systems, applications, and dependencies
- ii. Backup and restoration procedures
- iii. Roles, responsibilities, and communication protocols
- iv. Periodic review and maintenance procedures

The Contractor shall provide a summary of the Disaster Recovery Plan to the State upon request.

(3) Disaster Recovery Testing

The Contractor and Subcontractor(s) shall perform at least one Disaster Recovery Test every 365 days. A Disaster Recovery Test shall verify the effectiveness of restoration procedures executed after a critical IT failure or disruption. Success shall be defined as demonstrating the ability to meet the State’s RPO and RTO objectives.

(4) Reporting

The Contractor shall provide written confirmation to the State after each Disaster Recovery Test, verifying that the Contractor’s Disaster Recovery Capabilities meet the RPO and RTO requirements.

d. Comptroller Audit Requirements.

Upon reasonable notice and at any reasonable time, the Contractor agrees to allow the Comptroller of the Treasury, or the Comptroller’s duly appointed representatives, to perform information technology

control audits of the Contractor's information technology hosting and processing environment used by the Contractor to provide services under this Contract. The audit may evaluate whether the Contractor has implemented appropriate privacy and security controls consistent with NIST Special Publication 800-53, including controls generally classified as general controls and application controls. The audit may also assess whether those controls are designed and operating effectively and whether the Contractor is complying with applicable policies, laws, and regulations.

For purposes of this section:

General Controls are policies, procedures, and technical mechanisms that support the overall operation and integrity of information systems and applications, including areas such as access security, change management, system development, backup and recovery, and system maintenance.

Application Controls are the automated or manual controls built into specific applications to ensure the completeness, accuracy, authorization, and validity of data and transactions processed by those applications.

The audit may include, but is not limited to:

- 1) Review and evaluation of independent assurance deliverables required under Contract Section D.a.(4). to determine whether the Contractor's or Subcontractor's control environment and related safeguards are designed and operating effectively;
- 2) Review of documentation describing the Contractor's information technology control environment, policies, and procedures;
- 3) Interviews with technical and management personnel responsible for implementing, monitoring, and maintaining information technology controls;
- 4) Inspection of technical, administrative, or physical controls implemented to protect State Data and support service delivery under this Contract;
- 5) Review of relevant transaction logs, audit trails, vulnerability scans, or other supporting evidence necessary to verify compliance with applicable control requirements; and
- 6) Performance of other audit procedures deemed necessary by the Comptroller of the Treasury to verify compliance with applicable federal or state laws, regulations, or policies, or to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the Contractor's control environment.

The Contractor shall ensure that its Subcontractors cooperate and provide reasonable access to information or personnel necessary for the audit to the extent such information pertains to the services provided under this Contract.

The Contractor must have a process for correcting control deficiencies that were identified in the Comptroller of the Treasury's information technology audit. For any audit issues identified, the Contractor shall submit a corrective action plan to the Comptroller of the Treasury which addresses the actions taken, or to be taken, and the anticipated completion date in response to each of the audit issues and related recommendations of the Comptroller of the Treasury. The corrective action plan shall be provided to the Comptroller of the Treasury upon request from the Comptroller of the Treasury and within 30 days from the issuance of the audit report or communication of the audit issues and recommendations. Upon request from the Comptroller of the Treasury, the Contractor shall provide documentation and evidence that the audit issues were corrected.

Each party shall bear its own expenses incurred while conducting the information technology controls audit.

E. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- E.1. Conflicting Terms and Conditions. Should any of these special terms and conditions conflict with any other terms and conditions of this Contract, the special terms and conditions shall be subordinate to the Contract's other terms and conditions.
- E.2. Additional lines, items, or options. At its sole discretion, the State may make written requests to the Contractor to add lines, items, or options that are needed and within the Scope but were not

included in the original Contract. Such lines, items, or options will be added to the Contract through a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), not an amendment.

- a. After the Contractor receives a written request to add lines, items, or options, the Contractor shall have ten (10) business days to respond with a written proposal. The Contractor’s written proposal shall include:
 - (1) The effect, if any, of adding the lines, items, or options on the other goods or services required under the Contract;
 - (2) Any pricing related to the new lines, items, or options;
 - (3) The expected effective date for the availability of the new lines, items, or options; and
 - (4) Any additional information requested by the State.
- b. The State may negotiate the terms of the Contractor’s proposal by requesting revisions to the proposal.
- c. To indicate acceptance of a proposal, the State will sign it. The signed proposal shall constitute a MOU between the Parties, and the lines, items, or options shall be incorporated into the Contract as if set forth verbatim.
- d. Only after a MOU has been executed shall the Contractor perform or deliver the new lines, items, or options.

E.3. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use and Compliance Requirements. The Contractor agrees that any product, service, or solution incorporating Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Generative AI (GenAI), procured under this Agreement shall comply fully with the State of Tennessee’s Enterprise Artificial Intelligence Policy ([Policy 200-POL-007](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/finance/artificial-intelligence/200-POL-007%20Enterprise%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20Policy.pdf)), available at: [tn.gov/content/dam/tn/finance/artificial-intelligence/200-POL-007 Enterprise Artificial Intelligence Policy.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/finance/artificial-intelligence/200-POL-007%20Enterprise%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20Policy.pdf)

The Contractor further agrees to the following:

a. Data Privacy and Security

Contractor shall not use, access, store, transmit, or process any State Data—including but not limited to confidential, privileged, personally identifiable information (PII), protected health information (PHI), Payment Card Industry (PCI) data, criminal justice information (CJIS), federal tax information (FTI), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data, Social Security Administration (SSA) data, Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) data, or internal communications—through any AI tools or platforms unless:

- (1) The AI tool is explicitly approved in writing by the State.
- (2) The tool is operated within a secure State-controlled or approved environment.

b. Prohibition on Model Training

Contractor shall not use State Data to train, fine-tune, or otherwise improve AI models, unless expressly authorized in writing by the State and in accordance with Policy No. 200-OL-007.

c. Transparency and Accountability

Contractor shall clearly disclose when AI tools are used in providing services or generating content on behalf of the State. Contractor is responsible for the accuracy, reliability, and appropriateness of all AI-generated outputs.

d. Use of Approved Tools Only

Only State-approved AI platforms, systems, or services may be used in the performance of this contract. Use of public, consumer, or non-State-managed AI platforms (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, etc.) with State Data is strictly prohibited unless authorized in writing.

e. Ongoing Compliance and Risk Mitigation

Contractor shall ensure continued compliance with evolving State and federal regulations related to AI. The State reserves the right to audit or review AI usage under this Contract at any time.

f. Indemnification

Contractor shall further indemnify and hold harmless the State in accordance with the Hold Harmless section of this Agreement for any unauthorized disclosure, misuse, or compromise of State Data resulting from AI-related processing that violates this Contract or State policy.

- E.4. Personally Identifiable Information. While performing its obligations under this Contract, Contractor may have access to Personally Identifiable Information held by the State ("PII"). For the purposes of this Contract, "PII" includes "Nonpublic Personal Information" as that term is defined in Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 or any successor federal statute, and the rules and regulations thereunder, all as may be amended or supplemented from time to time ("GLBA") and personally identifiable information and other data protected under any other applicable laws, rule or regulation of any jurisdiction relating to disclosure or use of personal information ("Privacy Laws"). Contractor agrees it shall not do or omit to do anything which would cause the State to be in breach of any Privacy Laws. Contractor shall, and shall cause its employees, agents and representatives to: (i) keep PII confidential and may use and disclose PII only as necessary to carry out those specific aspects of the purpose for which the PII was disclosed to Contractor and in accordance with this Contract, GLBA and Privacy Laws; and (ii) implement and maintain appropriate technical and organizational measures regarding information security to: (A) ensure the security and confidentiality of PII; (B) protect against any threats or hazards to the security or integrity of PII; and (C) prevent unauthorized access to or use of PII. Contractor shall immediately notify State: (1) of any disclosure or use of any PII by Contractor or any of its employees, agents and representatives in breach of this Contract; and (2) of any disclosure of any PII to Contractor or its employees, agents and representatives where the purpose of such disclosure is not known to Contractor or its employees, agents and representatives. The State reserves the right to review Contractor's policies and procedures used to maintain the security and confidentiality of PII and Contractor shall, and cause its employees, agents and representatives to, comply with all reasonable requests or directions from the State to enable the State to verify or ensure that Contractor is in full compliance with its obligations under this Contract in relation to PII. Upon termination or expiration of the Contract or at the State's direction at any time in its sole discretion, whichever is earlier, Contractor shall immediately return to the State any and all PII which it has received under this Contract and shall destroy all records of such PII.

The Contractor shall report to the State any instances of unauthorized access to or potential disclosure of PII in the custody or control of Contractor ("Unauthorized Disclosure") that come to the Contractor's attention. Any such report shall be made by the Contractor within twenty-four (24) hours after the Unauthorized Disclosure has come to the attention of the Contractor. Contractor shall take all necessary measures to halt any further Unauthorized Disclosures. The Contractor, at the sole discretion of the State, shall provide no cost credit monitoring services for individuals whose PII was affected by the Unauthorized Disclosure. The Contractor shall bear the cost of notification to all individuals affected by the Unauthorized Disclosure, including individual letters and public notice. The remedies set forth in this Section are not exclusive and are in addition to any claims or remedies available to this State under this Contract or otherwise available at law. The obligations set forth in this Section shall survive the termination of this Contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME:

CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE

DATE

PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTOR SIGNATORY (above)

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES:

ANDY T. KIDD, COMMISSIONER

DATE

ATTACHMENT A**ATTESTATION RE PERSONNEL USED IN CONTRACT PERFORMANCE**

SUBJECT CONTRACT NUMBER:	
CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME:	
EDISON VENDOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	

The Contractor, identified above, does hereby attest, certify, warrant, and assure that the Contractor shall not knowingly utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract and shall not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor who will utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract.

CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE

NOTICE: This attestation MUST be signed by an individual empowered to contractually bind the Contractor. Attach evidence documenting the individual's authority to contractually bind the Contractor, unless the signatory is the Contractor's chief executive or president.

PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNATORY

DATE OF ATTESTATION