



May 24, 2022

NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
RP009-22

**This proposal can be obtained from Aon Consulting, Inc., at no charge. Contact Jay Knudsen at [james.knudsen@aon.com](mailto:james.knudsen@aon.com) or 678-462-9282.**

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from service providers for the **Provision of a Vision Program on an Annual Contact with Four One Year Options to Renew** for the Department of Human Resources.

Proposals must be returned in a sealed container marked on the outside with the Request for Proposal number and Service Provider Name. Proposals will be received until **2:50 P.M. local time on June 29, 2022** at the Gwinnett County Purchasing Office – 2nd Floor, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046. Any proposal received after this date and time will not be accepted. Cost proposals should be submitted in a separate sealed envelope. Proposals will be publicly opened and only names of submitting firms will be read at 3:00 P.M. local time. A list of firms submitting proposals will be available the following business day on our website [www.Gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.Gwinnettcounty.com).

A Webex pre-proposal conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. local time on June 9, 2022**. To access, dial 1-408-418-9388 and enter conference ID 23315946759##. All qualified service providers are urged to attend. Questions regarding proposals should be directed to Dana Garland, CPPB, FOII, NIGP-CPP, Purchasing Associate III, at [dana.garland@Gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dana.garland@Gwinnettcounty.com) or by calling 770-822-8723, no later than **3:00 P.M. on June 13, 2022**. Questions can be submitted at any time leading up to this deadline and we encourage service providers to ask questions early. Proposals are legal and binding upon the bidder when submitted. Two unbound single-sided copies (one marked original and one marked copy), and three digital (flash drive) copies should be submitted.

Successful service provider will be required to meet insurance requirements. The Insurance Company should be authorized to do business in Georgia by the Georgia Insurance Department, and must have an A.M. Best rating of A-5 or higher.

Gwinnett County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to its programs or activities. Any requests for reasonable accommodations required by individuals to fully participate in any open meeting, program or activity of Gwinnett County Government should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center, 770-822-8165.

The written proposal documents supersede any verbal or written prior communications between the parties.

Selection criteria are outlined in the request for proposal documents. Gwinnett County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals to waive technicalities and to make an award deemed in its best interest.

Award notification will be posted after award on the County website, [www.Gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.Gwinnettcounty.com) and service providers submitting a proposal will be notified via email.

We look forward to your proposal and appreciate your interest in Gwinnett County.

**Dana Garland, CPPB, FOII, NIGP-CPP**  
**Purchasing Associate III**

# READ ME FIRST DOCUMENT GWINNETT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

May 2022

**i** Please read this document in its entirety. In the proposal Questionnaire, service providers will be prompted to confirm agreement to the terms, conditions, and criteria set forth herein.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Background

Gwinnett County has been one of America's fastest-growing counties for the past 20+ years. The County itself employs around 5,000 employees who pride themselves on providing residents with outstanding services and infrastructure. Gwinnett County employees provide services to residents and County staff in the following areas: Community Services, Detention and Corrections, Financial Services, Fire & Emergency Services, Human Resources, Information Technology Resources, Planning & Development, Law Enforcement, Support Services, Tax Commissioner, Transportation, Courts and Water Resources. More information on Gwinnett County can be found online at [www.Gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.Gwinnettcounty.com).

In addition to the approximate 5,000 active, benefits-eligible employees there are around 2,300 retired employees who are eligible for certain health and welfare benefits, including vision coverage.

### 2. Proposal Scope and Objectives

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners (Gwinnett) is seeking proposals from qualified service providers to provide comprehensive, fully-insured Vision Insurance for the active and retired employees/elected officials, their spouses and dependent child(ren).

The program will be effective January 1, 2023 based on the scope and services outlined within this solicitation. At each renewal year, Gwinnett may evaluate additional services that may be developed or subcontracted by the winning bidder for inclusion in the program.

This document outlines the requirements related to this proposal, conditions that must be met, and outlines data that will be used to complete this evaluation. For a service provider's proposal to be fully considered, it is important that the instructions outlined below are followed.

The information in this request should be considered completely confidential. No portion of this document may be reproduced or discussed with anyone outside of the service provider's organization. Pursuant to Gwinnett's procurement guidelines, all communications related to the proposal should be directed to Dana Garland, CPPB, FOII, NIGP-CPP, Purchasing Associate III, at [dana.garland@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dana.garland@gwinnettcounty.com). Any breach of this confidentiality clause may result in disqualification of a service provider from the selection process.

Proposals will be reviewed by Gwinnett, evaluated by Aon Consulting, Inc., and are expected to follow the outlined parameters.

### 3. Procurement Requirements / Service Provider Criteria

There are requirements of Gwinnett's Procurement and Legal Teams of which service providers should be aware. These requirements are outlined here. There are also minimum criteria service providers should meet in order for a proposal to be considered; these minimum criteria are also listed below. By submitting a proposal, the organization affirmatively agrees to its ability to meet these requirements.

#### — General Procurement Requirements

- 1) Gwinnett is not able to indemnify vendors under any circumstances and at any level, pursuant to Georgia State Law.
- 2) Gwinnett is not able to fund any fees (implementation fee, pre-enrollment fee, etc.) prior to the effective date of the contract for this coverage.
- 3) Performance Guarantee terms must be presented up front as part of the proposal response; any documentation received after the business is awarded will not be considered, included, or honored.
- 4) The printed proposal and/or electronic submission received as the service provider's proposal will be evaluated and scored. Follow-up submissions, except for those requested by Gwinnett, will not be evaluated or scored.
- 5) By submitting a proposal for any line of coverage or service, service provider's acknowledge that all hard copy and electronic documents (including finalist presentations as applicable), correspondence, and audio recordings will become part of the files subject to open records requests.
- 6) Red line edits to Gwinnett standard contract language must be provided with proposal submission. The ability of Gwinnett to accept those edits will be included as part of the proposal evaluation. Any negotiation on contractual terms must be conducted as part of the proposal evaluation process, not after the business is awarded. The proposal submission will become part of the contract with Gwinnett.
- 7) References should be provided as part of the initial proposal. Reference checks will be included as part of the technical evaluation and will begin within 2 business days of proposal submission. Please ensure all references are prepared to respond timely.
- 8) Please abide by the published timeline.
- 9) Gwinnett may request further information, explanations, and clarifications at any time during the timeline of this solicitation.

#### — Requirements Specific to the nature of this proposal

- 10) Service provider should have at least 10 years' experience in the administration and offering of Vision Insurance products.

- 11) As of the date of the proposal issuance, service provider should be providing enterprise solutions for at least three other public sector or K12 employers with at least 3,000 covered lives.
- 12) Service provider shall be required to provide excellent customer service accessibility to Gwinnett participants via member service (telephonically and online, as applicable and outlined in Performance Guarantees).
- 13) All proposals should include 10% commissions payable to Gwinnett's named agent, Aon Consulting, Inc.
- 14) Service provider must be able to offer the current Vision plan designs as noted within the plan design tab of the request for proposal technical questionnaire.
- 15) Gwinnett plans to enter into an agreement with the selected service provider effective January 1, 2023 for an initial period of 12 months with four (4) options to renew for an additional 12 month period.
- 16) Service provider agrees to participate in the cost of mass employee benefits mailings and other related enrollment expenses with Gwinnett or other service providers, as determined by Gwinnett.
- 17) Gwinnett may terminate this agreement for cause upon ten days prior written notice to the service provider of the service provider's default in the performance of any term of this agreement. Such termination shall be without prejudice to any of Gwinnett's rights or remedies by law.
- 18) Gwinnett may terminate this agreement for its convenience at any time upon 30 days written notice to the service provider. In the event of Gwinnett's termination of this agreement for convenience, the service provider will be paid for those services actually performed. Partially completed performance of the agreement will be compensated based upon a signed statement of completion to be submitted by the service provider, which shall itemize each element of performance.
- 19) Service provider agrees Gwinnett reserves the right to renegotiate terms of contract as appropriate in regards to potential legislation or applicable newly passed legislation.
- 20) Service provider must be willing to participate in on-site events at no cost to Gwinnett.

#### 4. Selection Criteria

The goal of this request for proposal is to provide the following capabilities and services to Gwinnett and its employees:

- Offer "Best in Class" Vision Benefits and services
- Coordinate the implementation process from setting timelines for tasks to arranging the payroll deduction interfaces
- Manage on-going program oversight and reporting
- Develop a communication and annual enrollment strategy that conforms to Gwinnett's requirements
- Establish efficient systems and procedures for record keeping, reporting and payroll deduction processes

- Manage and support the administrative services for each product offered

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

<b>Part I – Technical Criteria</b>		<b>Points</b>
I.	Ability to meet Gwinnett County Requirements	20
II.	Background, Structure, Experience	15
III.	Account Management and Plan Administration	20
IV.	Plan Design	20
V.	References	5
<b>Part I Total</b>		<b>80</b>
<b>Part II – Plan Cost &amp; Financial Criteria</b>		
Plan Cost		15
Allowances and credits		5
<b>Parr I and II Total</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>Part III</b>		
Optional Interview		10
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>110</b>

**Basis of Short-Listing/Selection**

Part I – Initially, proposals will be evaluated based on their relative responsiveness to the criteria described above and will be scored based on the point values as shown. Please note that references, and subsequent reference checks, are a required component of Part I scoring.

Part II – Firms may be short-listed for further consideration. The Proposal Fee Schedules of the short-listed firms from Part I will be opened, reviewed, and scored with the lowest cost receiving the most points and the other firms receiving proportional points based on the differences in proposal costs.

Part III – At Gwinnett’s discretion, or as deemed in Gwinnett’s best interest, firms may be short-listed a second time for an interview. At this time, Gwinnett may request further information, explanations, clarifications, presentations, interviews, or meetings with some or all of the remaining firms.

If interviews are necessary for selection, details on the scoring criteria for interviews will be provided along with notification of the scheduled interview.

All presentations/interviews will be the sole responsibility of the proposing companies and at no cost to Gwinnett.

If an agreement with the highest ranked firm cannot be reached, Gwinnett may then negotiate with the second ranked firm and so on until a satisfactory agreement has been reached.

## PROPOSING INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

**i** *These specifications include the information necessary for a service provider to prepare a complete proposal.*

### 5. Proposal Instructions

Please follow the below guidelines and instructions in preparation of a service provider's response to this proposal.

1. Assume a 1/1/2023 effective date.
2. Cost is requested on a fee for service basis.
3. Gwinnett has retained Aon Consulting, Inc. as its Broker/Consultant to prepare these specifications, analyze all proposals, and make recommendations.
4. Respond clearly and concisely to all questions in the spaces provided where applicable and providing explanations in the space provided.
5. All information in this proposal, or in response to subsequent inquiries, is confidential information provided for the express purpose of preparing a proposal and must be treated as such. All recipients of this document must treat this proposal as confidential and must not disclose it to any party other than the service provider's employees on a need to know basis.

### 6. Proposal Components

The worksheets contained in the Excel file attached to this proposal include the Proposal Questionnaire as well as supplemental data needed to prepare a response. Service providers are expected to respond to this proposal by entering a responses in this Excel file. Next to each response cell, additional space is available for a brief text explanation. However, if the length of the explanation is greater than 400 characters, use the "Explanation" tab of the Questionnaire file to provide a detailed explanation. All explanations must be numbered to correspond to the questions to which they pertain and should be brief. In addition to the Questionnaire, there are additional components of response needed and are outlined below:

— *Items to be included in Part I of proposal*

1. Proposal Questionnaire (all tabs completed) – file name is *RP009-22\_GWINNETT VISION RFP\_TECHNICAL\_FINAL.xlsx*.
2. Firm Information (Exhibit A)
3. Contractor Affidavit (Exhibit B)
4. Code of Ethics Affidavit (Exhibit C)
5. Contractual Deviations: any deviations/red lines to Gwinnett's standard required documents, contract, business associate agreement, and terms and conditions (see Exhibits D, E, F, H and I)
6. Plan design deviations

7. Website Screenshots/Demo Site with log in credentials: What the employees will see on the service provider’s website
8. Sample Communication Materials (including any marketing for value-add services)
9. Account Team Biographies
10. Geo-Access Report using census: vision providers using the following criteria:

<b>Provider and Facility Types</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Suburban</b>	<b>Rural</b>
Ophthalmologist	1 within 10 miles	1 within 20 miles	1 within 30 miles
Optometrist	2 within 8 miles	2 within 10 miles	2 within 20 miles

11. Premium/Fee Billing: Sample billing report
12. Standard Reporting
13. Implementation Plan
14. Additional material as requested/supplemented by Questionnaire responses

— *Items to be included in Part II of the proposal (to be submitted in a separate sealed envelope)*

1. Vision Program Cost/Pricing (Fully-Insured Quote) – file name is *RP009-22\_GWINNETT VISION RFP\_TECHNICAL\_FINAL*.

## 7. Proposal Submission

To be considered a qualified candidate, service provider’s responses to this proposal should:

- 1) Include a cover letter. Please note that plan designs, all benefit provisions, and policy particulars must be replicated to match the plan coverages and procedures. Unless indicated otherwise, your proposal will be interpreted as a duplication of the plan benefits, procedures, and policies as set forth in this proposal.
- 2) Respond clearly and concisely to all the technical and financial sections of the proposal.
- 3) Respond clearly and concisely to all questions in the questionnaire section without referring us to preprinted materials (unless the proposal specifically requests you to do so) as your response. Respondents are encouraged to submit clear and concise responses, and excessive length or extraneous information is discouraged. In an effort to ensure our ability to evaluate and choose a successful service provider for this project, respondents are encouraged to be responsive to the specific range of issues requested in this solicitation. Submission of excessive “boiler plate” information, including sales brochures, is discouraged. Proposers should not submit website links in lieu of written responses. Website links and any information contained within may not be reviewed or considered by Gwinnett County.
- 4) Proposals should be submitted as follows:
  - Both proposal parts should be submitted together in a large sealed envelope/package. You will include 2 smaller internal envelopes with the 2 proposal parts as noted below. The large, outside envelope/package shall be addressed to Gwinnett County Purchasing Division, Gwinnett Justice and

Administration Center, Second Floor, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046 and shall be identified with the proposal number, date of opening and company name on the outside.

- Proposal Part I: In the first smaller internal envelope, two (2) single-sided, unbound submittals (one designated as the original and one marked copy), and three (3) electronic versions on flash drives of your Technical Proposal should be submitted (labeled **QUESTIONNAIRE**). Envelope should be labeled with the Proposer's name and RP number. Please note, Gwinnett does not have the ability to read electronic versions on CD; your flash drive must be USB port-compatible.
- Proposal Part II: In the second smaller internal envelope, two (2) single-sided, unbound submittals (one designated as the original and one marked copy), and three (3) electronic versions on flash drives of **Proposal Fee Schedule** (labeled **FEE SCHEDULE**). Envelope should be labeled with the Proposer's name and RP number. Please note, Gwinnett does not have the ability to read electronic versions on CD; your flash drive must be USB port-compatible.
- The full cost of proposal preparation is to be borne by the proposing firm. The original proposal should be signed in ink by a company official who has authorization to commit company resources. All copies of the proposal should be identical. These officials will also be individuals noted as authorized to sign Work Authorizations.

***NOTE: In light of ongoing challenges related to COVID-19, if original signatures are not possible, Gwinnett will accept an electronic signature through docusign or a similar program. Proposers submitting electronically signed documents must also submit a letter on company letterhead stating that, due to COVID-19, original signatures cannot be provided. This exception applies only to signatures; Gwinnett cannot accept an electronic version only in lieu of the required hard copies as specified in the proposal.***

## 8. Questions

Gwinnett wants this to be an interactive process and will make every reasonable effort to provide service providers with sufficient data for your responses. Service providers are invited to ask questions during the proposal process and to seek additional information, if needed.

All questions regarding this proposal should be directed to:

Dana Garland, CPPB, FOII, NIGP-CPP  
Purchasing Associate III  
Gwinnett County Purchasing  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
770-822-8723  
[dana.garland@Gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dana.garland@Gwinnettcountry.com)



## APPENDIX

**i** This section outlines supplemental documents provided as part of this proposal. Supplemental documents pertain directly to the technical and financial components of the proposal; Exhibits pertain to the required components set forth by the Purchasing Department.

### 1. Supplemental Documents

Embedded within this request for proposal release are the following:

- 1) Census data
- 2) Current plan designs
- 3) Utilization

### 2. Exhibits

The following items are documents that are either required to be submitted (as referenced above in the Proposing Instructions section) or serve as references to any required components.

- 1) Exhibit A – Service Provider Information
- 2) Exhibit B – General Conditions to Service Provider Agreements
- 3) Exhibit C – Sample Service Provider Contract
- 4) Exhibit D – Sample Business Associate Agreement
- 5) Exhibit E – Contractor Affidavit
- 6) Exhibit F – Code of Ethics Affidavit
- 7) Exhibit G – Professional Services Insurance Requirements
- 8) Exhibit H – No Bid Response (if applicable)
- 9) Exhibit I – General Instructions for Proposers, Terms and Conditions

**FAILURE TO RETURN THIS PAGE AS PART OF YOUR PROPOSAL DOCUMENT MAY RESULT IN REJECTION.**

**SERVICE PROVIDER INFORMATION**

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the following addenda, listed by number and date appearing on each:

Addendum No.	Date	Addendum No.	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Certification Of Non-Collusion in Proposal Preparation \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature) (Date)

In compliance with the attached specifications, the undersigned acknowledges all requirements outlined in the "Instructions to Proposers" and all documents referred to therein. offers and agrees, if this proposal is accepted by the Board of Commissioners within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date of proposal opening, to furnish any or all of the items upon which prices are quoted, at the price set opposite each item, delivered to the designated point(s) within the time specified in the fee schedule.

**Legal Business Name** \_\_\_\_\_

*(If your company is an LLC, you must identify all principals to include addresses and phone numbers in your submittal)*

**Federal Tax ID** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

Does your company currently have a location within Gwinnett County? Yes  No

**Representative Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Authorized Representative's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

## EXHIBIT B – GENERAL CONDITIONS

**GENERAL CONDITIONS  
To Service Provider AGREEMENT**Article

- 1 Definitions
- 2 Contract Documents
- 3 Changes and Extra Work
- 4 Personnel and Equipment
- 5 Accuracy of Work
- 6 Findings Confidential
- 7 Termination of Agreement for Cause
- 8 Termination for Convenience of the COUNTY
- 9 SERVICE PROVIDER to Cooperate with other SERVICE PROVIDERS
- 10 Indemnification
- 11 Covenant Against Contingent Fees
- 12 Insurance
- 13 Prohibited Interests
- 14 Subcontracting
- 15 Assignability
- 16 Equal Employment Opportunity
- 17 Anti-Kickback Clause
- 18 Audits and Inspectors
- 19 Ownership, Publication, Reproduction and Use
- 20 Verbal Agreement or Conversation
- 21 Independent Service provider
- 22 Notices

1 DEFINITIONS

Wherever used in this Agreement, whether in the singular or in the plural, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- 1.1 COUNTY-means Gwinnett County, Georgia, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia.
- 1.2 SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT-means a written order to SERVICE PROVIDER signed by COUNTY and accepted by SERVICE PROVIDER, effecting an addition, deletion or revision in the Work, or an adjustment in the Agreement Price or the Contract Time, issued after execution of this Agreement.
- 1.3 CONTRACT-means the Agreement Documents specifically identified and incorporated herein by reference in Section 2, CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.
- 1.4 AGREEMENT EXECUTION-means the date on which SERVICE PROVIDER executes and enters into an Agreement with the COUNTY to perform the Work.
- 1.5 AGREEMENT PRICE-means the total monies, adjusted in accordance with any provision herein, payable to the SERVICE PROVIDER under this Agreement.
- 1.6 CONTRACT TIME-means the period of time stated in this Agreement for the completion of the Work.
- 1.7 SERVICE PROVIDER-means the party or parties contracting directly with the COUNTY to perform Work pursuant to this Agreement.
- 1.8 DEPARTMENT- means the Director or designee of requesting department(s) named in this solicitation.
- 1.9 DRAWINGS-means collectively, all the drawings, receipt of which is acknowledged by the COUNTY, listed in this Agreement, and also such supplementary drawings as the SERVICE PROVIDER may issue from time to time in order to clarify or explain such drawing or to show details which are not shown thereon.
- 1.10 SPECIFICATIONS-means the written technical provisions including all appendices thereto, both general and specific, which form a part of the Agreement Documents.
- 1.11 SUBSERVICE PROVIDER-means any person, firm, partnership, joint venture, company, corporation, or entity having a contractual agreement with SERVICE PROVIDER or with any of its subservice providers at any tier to provide a part of the Work called for by this Agreement.
- 1.12 WORK-means any and all obligations, duties and responsibilities, including furnishing equipment, engineering, design, workmanship, labor and any other services or things necessary to the successful completion of the Project, assigned to or undertaken by SERVICE PROVIDER under this Agreement.
- 1.13 LIAISON-Representative of the COUNTY who shall act as Liaison between the County and the SERVICE PROVIDER for all matters pertaining to this Agreement, including review of SERVICE PROVIDER'S plans and work.

## 2 CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

### 2.1 LIST OF DOCUMENTS

The Agreement, any required bonds, the General Conditions, the Appendices, the Detailed Scope of Work, the Specifications, the Drawings, the Exhibits, and all Agreement Supplemental Agreements shall constitute the Agreement Documents.

### 2.2 CONFLICT AND PRECEDENCE

2.2.1 The Agreement Documents are complementary, and what is called for by one is as binding as if called for by all. In the event there are any conflicting provisions or requirements in the component parts of this Agreement, the several Agreement Documents shall take precedence in the following order:

1. Supplemental Agreements
2. Agreement
3. General Conditions
4. Detailed Scope of Work
5. Specifications
6. Drawings

## 3 CHANGES AND EXTRA WORK

The COUNTY may, at any time, request changes in the work to be performed hereunder. All such changes, including any increase or decrease in the amount of the SERVICE PROVIDER'S compensation, which are mutually agreed upon by and between the COUNTY and the SERVICE PROVIDER, shall be incorporated in written Supplemental Agreements to the Agreement.

## 4 PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

The SERVICE PROVIDER represents that it has secured or will secure, at its own expense, all personnel necessary to complete this Agreement; none of whom shall be employees of, or have any contractual relationship with, the COUNTY. Primary liaison with the COUNTY will be through its designee. All of the services required hereunder will be performed by the SERVICE PROVIDER under its supervision, and all personnel engaged in the work shall be fully qualified and shall be authorized or permitted under law to perform such services.

The SERVICE PROVIDER shall employ only persons duly registered in the appropriate category in responsible charge of supervision and design of the work; and further shall employ only qualified surveyors in responsible charge of any survey work.

The SERVICE PROVIDER shall endorse all reports, contract plans, and survey data. Such endorsements shall be made by a person duly registered in the appropriate category by the Georgia State Board of Registration, being in the full employ of the SERVICE PROVIDER and responsible for the work prescribed by this Agreement.

## 5 ACCURACY OF WORK

The SERVICE PROVIDER shall be responsible for the accuracy of the work and shall promptly correct errors and omissions in its plans and specifications without additional compensations.

Acceptance of the work by the COUNTY will not relieve the SERVICE PROVIDER of the responsibility for subsequent correction of any errors and the clarification of any ambiguities.

## 6 FINDINGS CONFIDENTIAL

The SERVICE PROVIDER agrees that its conclusions and any reports are for the confidential information of the COUNTY and that it will not disclose its conclusions in whole or in part to any persons whatsoever, other than to submit its written documentation to the COUNTY, and will only discuss the same with it or its authorized representatives. Upon completion of this Agreement term, all documents, reports, maps, data and studies prepared by the SERVICE PROVIDER pursuant thereto shall become the property of the COUNTY and be delivered to the DEPARTMENT.

Articles, papers, bulletins, reports, or other materials reporting the plans, progress, analyses, or results and findings of the work conducted under this Agreement shall not be presented publicly or published without prior approval in writing of the COUNTY.

It is further agreed that if any information concerning the PROJECT, its conduct, results, or data gathered or processed should be released by the SERVICE PROVIDER without prior approval from the COUNTY, the release of same shall constitute grounds for termination of this Agreement without indemnity to the SERVICE PROVIDER, but should any such information be released by the COUNTY or by the SERVICE PROVIDER with such prior written approval, the same shall be regarded as public information and no longer subject to the restrictions of this Agreement.

## 7 TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT FOR CAUSE

If through any cause the SERVICE PROVIDER shall fail to fulfill in a timely and proper manner its obligations under this Agreement, or if the SERVICE PROVIDER shall violate any of the covenants, agreements or stipulations of this Agreement, the COUNTY shall thereupon have the right to terminate this Agreement by giving written notice to the SERVICE PROVIDER of such termination, and specifying the effective date thereof, at least ten (10) days before the effective date of such termination. Failure to maintain the scheduled level of effort as proposed and prescribed, or deviation from the aforesaid scheduler without prior approval of the COUNTY shall constitute cause for termination. In such event, all finished or unfinished documents, maps, data, studies, work papers and reports prepared by the SERVICE PROVIDER under this Agreement shall become the property of the COUNTY, and the SERVICE PROVIDER shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any satisfactory work completed on such documents, as determined by the COUNTY.

## 8 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE OF THE COUNTY

The COUNTY may terminate this Agreement for its convenience at any time upon 30 days notice in writing to the SERVICE PROVIDER. If the Agreement is terminated by the COUNTY as provided in this Article 8, the SERVICE PROVIDER will be paid compensation for those services actually performed. Partially completed tasks will be compensated for based on a signed statement of completion to be submitted by the SERVICE PROVIDER which shall itemize each task element and briefly state what work has been completed and what work remains to be done.

All such expenses shall be properly documented and submitted to the COUNTY for processing and payment. The County shall be the final authority in the event of any disputes over authorized costs between the COUNTY and the Service Provider.

#### 9 SERVICE PROVIDERS TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

If the COUNTY undertakes or awards other contracts for additional related work, the SERVICE PROVIDER shall fully cooperate with such other SERVICE PROVIDERS and the COUNTY employees or appointed committee(s), and carefully fit its own work to such additional work as may be directed by the COUNTY. The SERVICE PROVIDER shall not commit or permit any act which will interfere with the performance of work by any other SERVICE PROVIDER or COUNTY employees.

#### 10 INDEMNIFICATION

SERVICE PROVIDER agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the COUNTY, its commissioners, officers, agents and employees from and against any and all liability, damages, claims, suits, liens, and judgments, for whatever nature, including claims for contribution and/or indemnification, for injuries to or death of any person or persons, or damage to the property or other rights of any person or persons to the extent arising out of and attributed to the negligent acts, errors or omissions of the SERVICE PROVIDER. SERVICE PROVIDER'S obligation to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless, as set forth herein above shall include any matter arising out of any patent, trademark, copyright, or service mark, or any actual or alleged unfair competition disparagement of product or service, or other business tort of any type whatsoever, or any actual or alleged violation of trade regulations.

SERVICE PROVIDER further agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the COUNTY, its commissioners, officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims or liability for compensation under the Worker's Compensation Act arising out of injuries sustained by any employee of the SERVICE PROVIDER.

#### 11 COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES

The SERVICE PROVIDER warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this Agreement upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by SERVICE PROVIDER for the purpose of securing business and that the SERVICE PROVIDER has not received any non-COUNTY fee related to this Agreement without the prior written consent of the COUNTY. For breach or violation of this warranty, the COUNTY shall have the right to annul this Agreement without liability or at its discretion to deduct from the Agreement Price of consideration the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

#### 12 INSURANCE

The SERVICE PROVIDER shall, at all times that this Agreement is in effect, cause to be maintained in force and effect an insurance policy (s) that will ensure and indemnify both GWINNETT COUNTY and SERVICE PROVIDER against liability or financial loss resulting from injuries occurring to persons or property or occurring as a result of any negligent error, act, or omission of the SERVICE PROVIDER during the term of this Agreement. The liability under such insurance policy shall be not less than as stated in the Bid Proposal.

The SERVICE PROVIDER shall provide, at all times that this Agreement is in effect, Worker's Compensation insurance in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia.

The SERVICE PROVIDER shall provide, at all times that this Agreement is in effect, Professional Liability Insurance with a limit of not less than that as stated in the Bid Proposal.

Additionally, SERVICE PROVIDER shall provide, at all times that this Agreement is in effect, automobile liability insurance with a limit of not less than that as stated in the Bid Proposal.

The policies shall be written by a responsible company(s), to be approved by the COUNTY, and shall be non-cancelable except on thirty-(30) days' written notice to the COUNTY. Such policies shall name the COUNTY as additional insured, except for worker's compensation and professional liability policies, and a copy of such policy or a certificate of insurance shall be filed with the Director at the time of the execution of this Agreement.

### 13 PROHIBITED INTERESTS

13.1 Conflict of Interest: The SERVICE PROVIDER agrees that it presently has no interest and shall acquire no interest, direct or indirect, that would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder.

13.2 Interest of Public Officials: No member, officer, or employee of the COUNTY during his tenure or for one year thereafter, shall have any interest, direct or indirect, in this Agreement or the proceeds thereof.

### 14 SUBCONTRACTING

The SERVICE PROVIDER shall not subcontract any part of the work covered by this Agreement or permit subcontracted work to be further subcontracted without the DEPARTMENT's prior written approval of the subservice provider, except as may have been specifically stated in the SERVICE PROVIDER'S response to proposal per Exhibit A. The DEPARTMENT will not approve any subservice provider for work covered by this Agreement that has not been recommended for approval by the Department Director.

All subcontracts in the amount of \$5,000 or more shall include the provisions set forth in this Agreement.

### 15 ASSIGNABILITY

The SERVICE PROVIDER shall not assign or transfer whether by an assignment or novation, any of its rights, obligations, benefits, liabilities or other interest under this Agreement without the written consent of the COUNTY.

### 16 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

During the performance of this Agreement, the SERVICE PROVIDER agrees as follows: (1) the SERVICE PROVIDER will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, sex or national origin; (2) the SERVICE PROVIDER will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by qualified applicants, receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color, sex or national origin; (3) the SERVICE PROVIDER will cause the foregoing provisions to be inserted in all subcontracts for any work covered by the Agreement so that such provision will be binding upon each subservice provider, provided that the foregoing provision shall not apply to contracts or subcontracts for standard commercial supplies of raw materials.



17 ANTI-KICKBACK CLAUSE

Salaries of architects, draftsmen, technical engineers and engineers, and technicians performing work under this Agreement shall be paid unconditionally and not less often than once a month without deduction or rebate on any account except only such payroll deductions as are mandatory by law. The SERVICE PROVIDER hereby promises to comply with all applicable "Anti-kickback" laws, and shall insert appropriate provisions in all subcontracts covering work under this Agreement.

18 AUDITS AND INSPECTORS

At any time during normal business hours and as often as the COUNTY may deem necessary, the CONSULTANT shall make available to the COUNTY for examination all of its records with respect to all matters covered by this Agreement. It shall also permit the COUNTY to audit, examine and make copies, excerpts or transcripts from such records of personnel, conditions of employment and other data relating to all matters covered by this Agreement.

The SERVICE PROVIDER shall maintain all books, documents, papers, accounting records and other evidence pertaining to costs incurred on the Project and used in support of its proposal and shall make such material available at all reasonable times during the period of the Agreement, and for three years from the date of final payment under the Agreement, for inspection by the COUNTY or any reviewing agencies, and copies thereof shall be furnished upon request. The SERVICE PROVIDER agrees that the provisions of this Article shall be included in any Agreements it may make with any subservice provider, assignee, or transferee.

19 OWNERSHIP, PUBLICATION, REPRODUCTION AND USE

All documents and materials prepared pursuant to this Agreement are the property of the COUNTY. The COUNTY shall have the unrestricted authority to publish, disclose, distribute, and otherwise use, in whole or in part, any reports, data, maps, or other materials prepared under this Agreement without according credit of authorship. The COUNTY shall hold harmless and indemnify the SERVICE PROVIDER against all claims arising out of such use of documents and materials without the SERVICE PROVIDER'S knowledge and consent.

20 VERBAL AGREEMENT OR CONVERSATION

No verbal agreement or conversation with any officer, agent, or employee of the COUNTY, either before, during, or after the execution of this Agreement, shall affect or modify any of the terms or obligations herein contained, nor shall such verbal agreement or conversation entitle the SERVICE PROVIDER to any additional payment whatsoever under the terms for this Agreement. All changes to this Agreement shall be in writing and appended hereto as prescribed in Article 3 above.

21 INDEPENDENT SERVICE PROVIDER

The SERVICE PROVIDER shall perform the services under this Agreement as an independent service provider and nothing contained herein shall be construed to be inconsistent with this relationship or status. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted or construed to constitute the SERVICE PROVIDER or any of its agents or employees to be the agent, employee, or representative of the COUNTY.

22 NOTICES

All notices shall be in writing and delivered in person or transmitted by certified mail, postage prepaid.

## EXHIBIT C – “SAMPLE SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACT”

**\*\*\*Gwinnett County requires that all Contracts between parties be entered into via the following documents. If any exceptions are taken to any part of this document, each must be stated in detail and submitted as part of your proposal/bid document. If no exceptions are noted it is assumed that the party fully agrees to the contract in its entirety. Exceptions to the sample contract provided in this request for proposal will be considered in terms of responsiveness when making award.\*\*\***

## RP009-22

**Provision of a Vision Program on an Annual Contact**

This **CONTRACT** made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by and between Gwinnett County, Georgia (Party of the First Part, hereinafter called the "County"), and, (Party of the Second Part, hereinafter called the "Service Provider").

**NOW THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the mutual promises and obligations contained herein and under the conditions hereinafter set forth, the parties do hereby agree as follows:

**1. TERM:**

This contract shall commence January 01, 2023, for a one year period with four options to renew for an additional one year period.

**2. ATTACHMENTS:**

This Contract shall consist of the Service Provider's bid/proposal and all Invitations to Bid/Proposals including all drawings, specifications, price lists, Instructions to Proposers, General Conditions, Special Provisions, Detailed Specifications, addenda, and change orders issued after execution of the Contract (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Bid"), which are specifically incorporated herein by reference (Exhibit A). In the event of a conflict between the County's contract documents and the Service Provider's bid/proposal, the County's contract documents shall control.

**3. PERFORMANCE:**

Service Provider agrees to furnish all skill and labor of every description necessary to carry out and complete in good, firm and substantial, workmanlike manner, the work specified, in strict conformity with the Bid.

**4. PRICE:**

As full compensation for the performance of this Contract, the County shall pay the Service Provider for the actual quantity of work performed. Bid amount shown on Exhibit A is the total obligation of the County pursuant to OCGA section 36-60-13 (a) (3). The fees for the work to be performed under this Contract shall be charged to the County in accordance with the rate schedule referenced in the Bid (Exhibit A). The County agrees to pay the Service Provider following receipt by the County of a detailed invoice, reflecting the actual work performed by the Service Provider.

**5. INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS:**

Service Provider agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the COUNTY, its commissioners, officers, agents and employees from and against any and all liability, damages, claims, suits, liens, and judgments, for whatever nature, including claims for contribution and/or indemnification, for injuries to or death of any person or persons, or damage to the property or other rights of any person or persons to the extent arising out of and attributed to the negligent acts, errors, or omissions of the Service Provider. Service Provider's obligation to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless, as set forth hereinabove shall include any matter arising out of any patent, trademark, copyright, or service mark, or any actual or alleged unfair competition disparagement of product or service, or other business tort of any type whatsoever, or any actual or alleged violation of trade regulations.

Service Provider further agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the COUNTY, its commissioners, officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims or liability for compensation under the Worker's Compensation Act arising out of injuries sustained by any employee of the Service Provider.

**6. TERMINATION FOR CAUSE:**

The County may terminate this Contract for cause upon ten (10) days prior written notice to the Service Provider of the Service Provider's default in the performance of any term of this Contract. Such termination shall be without prejudice to any of the County's rights or remedies provided by law.

**7. TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE:**

The County may terminate this Contract for its convenience at any time upon 30 days written notice to the Service Provider. In the event of the County's termination of this Contract for convenience, the Service Provider will be paid for those services actually performed. Partially completed performance of the Contract will be compensated based upon a signed statement of completion to be submitted by the Service Provider who shall itemize each element of performance.

**8. CONTRACT NOT TO DISCRIMINATE:**

During the performance of this Contract, the Service Provider will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability which does not preclude the applicant or employee from performing the essential functions of the position. The Service Provider will also, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by qualified applicants, consider the same without regard to race, creed, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability which does not preclude the applicant from performing the essential functions of the job. The Service Provider will cause the foregoing provisions to be inserted in all subcontracts for any work covered by this Contract so that such provision will be binding upon each subservice provider, providing that the foregoing provisions shall not apply to contracts or subservice providers for standard commercial supplies of raw materials.

**9. ASSIGNMENT:**

The Service Provider shall not sublet, assign, transfer, pledge, convey, sell or otherwise dispose of the whole or any part of this Contract or his right, title, or interest therein to any person, firm, or corporation without the previous consent of the County in writing.

**10. WAIVER:**

A waiver by either party of any breach of any provision, term, covenant, or condition of this Contract shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same or any other provision, term, covenant, or condition.

**11. SEVERABILITY:**

The parties agree that each of the provisions included in this Contract is separate, distinct and severable from the other and remaining provisions of this Contract, and that the invalidity of any Contract provision shall not affect the validity of any other provision or provisions of this Contract.

**12. GOVERNING LAW:**

The parties agree that this Contract shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia. This Contract has been signed in Gwinnett County, Georgia.

**13. MERGER CLAUSE:**

The parties agree that the terms of this Contract include the entire Contract between the parties, and as such, shall exclusively bind the parties. No other representations, either oral or written, may be used to contradict the terms of this Contract.

(Signatures Next Page)

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto, acting through their duly authorized agents, have caused this **CONTRACT** to be signed, sealed and delivered.

GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole L. Hendrickson, Chairwoman  
Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Tina King, County Clerk  
Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Gwinnett County Staff Attorney

SERVICE PROVIDER: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name  
Corporate Secretary  
(Seal)

This Business Associate Agreement (“Agreement”) dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ (the “Effective Date”), is entered into by and between Gwinnett County, Georgia (“County”) and (“Business Associate”).

**WHEREAS**, County and Business Associate have or are entering into agreements or other documented arrangements (collectively, “Business Arrangements”) pursuant to which Business Associate may provide services for County that require Business Associate to access health information that is protected by state and/or federal law;

**WHEREAS**, Business Associate and County desire that Business Associate obtain access to such information in accordance with the terms specified herein;

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth in this Agreement and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency and receipt of which are hereby severally acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

**1. Business Associate Obligations.**

Business Associate may receive from the 4.County health information that is protected under applicable state and/or federal law, including without limitation, protected health information (“PHI”) as defined in the regulations at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164 (the “Privacy Standards”) promulgated pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”). All capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Agreement shall have the meanings set forth in the Privacy Standards. Business Associate agrees not to use or disclose (or permit the use or disclosure of) PHI in a manner that would violate the requirements of the Privacy Standards if the PHI were used or disclosed by County in the same manner. Business Associate shall use appropriate safeguards to prevent the use or disclosure of PHI other than as expressly permitted under this Agreement.

**2. Use of PHI.**

Business Associate may use PHI solely for County’s benefit and only (i) for the purpose of performing services for County as such services are defined in Business Arrangements, and (ii) as necessary for the proper management and administration of the Business Associate or to carry out its legal responsibilities, provided that such uses are permitted under federal and state law. County shall retain all rights in the PHI not granted herein. Use and disclosure of de-identified health information is not permitted unless expressly authorized in this Agreement or in writing by County.

**3. Disclosure of PHI.**

Business Associate may disclose PHI as necessary to perform its obligations under the Business Arrangement and as permitted by law, provided that Business Associate shall in such case: (a) obtain reasonable assurances from any person to whom the information is disclosed that it will be held confidential and further used and disclosed only as required by law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person or entity; (b) agree to immediately notify County of any instances of which it is aware that PHI is being used or disclosed for a purpose that is not otherwise provided for in this Agreement or for a purpose not expressly permitted by the Privacy Standards; and (c) ensure that all disclosures of PHI are subject to the principle of “minimum necessary use and disclosure,” i.e., only the minimum PHI that is necessary to accomplish the intended purpose may be disclosed.

If Business Associate discloses PHI received from County, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of County, to agents, including a subcontractor (collectively, "Recipients"), Business Associate shall require Recipients to agree in writing to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to the Business Associate under this Agreement. To the extent permitted by law, Business Associate shall be fully liable to County for any acts, failures or omissions of Recipients in furnishing the services as if they were the Business Associate's own acts, failures or omissions. Business Associate shall report to County any use or disclosure of PHI not permitted by this Agreement, of which it becomes aware, such report to be made within five (5) days of the Business Associate becoming aware of such use or disclosure. Business Associate agrees to mitigate, to the extent practical and unless otherwise requested by County in writing, any harmful effect that is known to Business Associate and is the result of a use or disclosure of PHI in violation of this Agreement.

#### **4. Individual Rights Regarding Designated Record Sets.**

If Business Associate maintains a Designated Record set on behalf of County, Business Associate shall (a) permit an individual to inspect or copy PHI contained in that set about the individual under conditions and limitations required under 45 CFR § 164.524, as it may be amended from time to time, and (b) amend PHI maintained by Business Associate as requested by County. Business Associate shall respond to any request from County for access by an individual within five (5) days of such request and shall make any amendment requested by County within ten (10) days of such request. The information shall be provided in the form or format requested, if it is readily producible in such form or format, or in summary, if the individual has agreed in advance to accept the information in summary form. A reasonable, cost-based fee for copying PHI may be charged. Business Associate shall accommodate an individual's right to have access to PHI about the individual in a Designated Record Set in accordance with the Privacy Standards set forth at 45 CFR § 164.526, as it may be amended from time to time, unless the regulation provides for a denial or an exception expressly applies. County shall determine whether a denial is appropriate or an exception applies. Business Associate shall notify County within five (5) days of receipt of any request for access or amendment by an individual. Business Associate shall have a process in place for requests for amendments and for appending such requests to the Designated Record Set. This section 4 of the Agreement shall become effective on April 14, 2003 or on such later date that compliance with the federal Privacy Standards is required by the regulations, subject to any earlier state law requirements.

#### **5. Accounting of Disclosures.**

Business Associate shall make available to County in response to a request from an individual, information required for an accounting of disclosures of PHI with respect to the individual, in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.528, as it may be amended from time to time, incorporating exceptions to such accounting designated under the regulation. Such accounting is limited to disclosures that were made in the six (6) years prior to the request and shall not include any disclosures that were made prior to the compliance date of the Privacy Standards. Business Associate shall provide such information necessary to provide an accounting within thirty (30) days of County's request. Such accounting must be provided without cost to the individual or to County if it is the first accounting requested by an individual within any twelve (12) month period; however, a reasonable, cost-based fee may be charged for subsequent accountings if Business Associate informs the County and the County informs the individual in advance of the fee, and the individual is afforded an opportunity to withdraw or modify the request. Such accounting shall be provided as long as Business Associate maintains PHI. This section 5 of the Agreement shall become effective

on April 14, 2003 or on such later date that compliance with the Privacy Standards is required by the regulations, subject to any earlier state law requirements.

**6. Withdrawal of Consent or Authorization.**

If the use or disclosure of PHI in this Agreement is based upon an individual's specific consent or authorization for the use of his or her PHI, and (i) the individual revokes such consent or authorization in writing, (ii) the effective date of such authorization has expired, or (iii) the consent or authorization is found to be defective in any manner that renders it invalid, Business Associate agrees, if it has notice of such revocation or invalidity, to cease the use and disclosure of any such individual's PHI except to the extent it has relied on such use or disclosure, or where an exception under the Privacy Standards expressly applies.

**7. Records and Audit.**

Business Associate shall make available to County and to the United States Department of Health and Human Services or its agents, its internal practices, books, and records relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from, created, or received by Business Associate on behalf of County for the purpose of determining County's compliance with the Privacy Standards or any other health oversight agency, in a timely a manner designated by County or the Secretary. Except to the extent prohibited by law, Business Associate agrees to notify County immediately upon receipt by Business Associate of any and all requests served upon Business Associate for information or documents by or on behalf of any and all government authorities.

**8. Notice of Privacy Practices.**

County shall provide to Business Associate its Notice of Privacy Practices ("Notice") when adopted and any amendments thereafter. Any use or disclosure permitted by this Agreement may be amended by Such Notice. Business Associate agrees that it will abide by the limitations of any Notice published by County of which it has knowledge. The amended Notice shall not affect permitted uses and disclosures on which Business Associate has relied prior to the receipt of such Notice.

**9. Confidentiality.**

Business Associate shall take any steps required to (i) protect PHI from unauthorized uses or disclosures and (ii) maintain the confidentiality and integrity of PHI. Prior to any permitted disclosure of PHI, Business Associate shall require the person or entity to which it intends to disclose PHI to assume all of the same duties with respect to PHI that Business Associate has under this Agreement. Business Associate shall be fully liable to County and any affected individuals for any acts, failures or omissions of Recipients as though they were its own acts, failures or omissions.

**10. Term and Termination.**

10.1 This Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and shall remain in effect until terminated in accordance with the terms of this section 10, provided, however, that any termination shall not affect the respective obligations or rights of the parties arising under this Agreement prior to the effective date of termination, all of which shall continue in accordance with their terms; and provided that the effective date of Sections 4 and 5 shall be in accordance with the provisions of those sections.

10.2 County shall have the right to terminate this Agreement for any reason upon thirty(30) days written notice to Business Associate.

10.3 County, at its sole discretion, may immediately terminate this Agreement and shall have no further obligations to Business Associate hereunder if any of the following events shall have occurred and be continuing:

- (1) Business Associate shall fail to observe or perform any material covenant or agreement contained in this Agreement for ten (10) days after written notice thereof has been given to Business Associate by County; or
- (2) A violation by Business Associate of any provision of the Privacy Standards or applicable federal or state privacy law.

10.4 Upon the termination of all Business Arrangements, either party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to the other party.

10.5 Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, Business Associate agrees either to return to County or to destroy all PHI received from County or otherwise through the performance of services for County, that is in the possession or control of Business Associate or its agents. In the case of information for which it is not feasible to "return or destroy," Business Associate shall continue to comply with the covenants in this Agreement with respect to such PHI and shall comply with other applicable state or federal law, which may require a specific period of retention, redaction, or other treatment. Termination of this Agreement shall be cause for County to terminate any Business Arrangement.

**11. Indemnification.**

Business Associate will indemnify, defend and hold County and its officers, directors, employees, agents, successors and assigns harmless, from and against any and all losses, liabilities, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of or related to any third-party claim based upon any breach of this Agreement by Business Associate or similar breach by Recipients ("Claim"). If Business Associate assumes the defense of a Claim, County shall have the right, at its expense, to participate in the defense of such Claim, and Business Associate shall not take any final action with respect to such Claim without the prior written consent of County.

**12. No warranty.**

PHI is provided to business associate solely on an "as is" basis. County disclaims all other warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, implied warranties of merchantability, and fitness for a particular purpose.

**13. Ineligible persons.**

Business associate represents and warrants to County that Business Associate (i) is not currently excluded, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in any federal health care program as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 1320a-7b(f) ("the Federal Healthcare Programs"); (ii) has not been convicted of a criminal offense related to the provision of health care items or services and not yet been excluded, debarred, or otherwise declared ineligible to participate in the Federal Healthcare Programs, and (iii) is not under investigation or otherwise aware of any circumstances which may result in Business Associate being excluded from participation in the Federal Healthcare Programs. This shall be an ongoing representation and warranty during the term of this Agreement, and Business Associate shall immediately notify County of any change in the status of the



representations and warranty set forth in this section. Any breach of this section shall give County the right to terminate this Agreement immediately for cause.

**14. Miscellaneous.**

**14.1 Notice.** All Notices, requests, demands and other communications required or permitted to be given or made under this Agreement shall be in writing, shall be effective upon receipt or attempted delivery, and shall be sent by (a) personal delivery; (b) certified or registered United States mail, return receipt requested; (c) overnight delivery service with proof of delivery; or (d) facsimile with return facsimile acknowledging receipt. Notices shall be sent to the addresses below. Neither party shall refuse delivery of any notice hereunder.

**COUNTY:**

**Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners**

75 Langley Drive  
 Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
 770-822-7915

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATE:**

Attention:  
 Tel. No.:  
 Fax No.:

**14.2 Waiver.** No provision of this Agreement or any breach thereof shall be deemed waived unless such waiver is in writing and signed by the party claimed to have waived such provision or breach. No waiver of a breach shall constitute a waiver of or excuse any different or subsequent breach.

**14.3 Assignment.** Neither party may assign (whether by operation or law or otherwise) any of its rights or delegate or subcontract any of its obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, County shall have the right to assign its rights and obligations hereunder to any entity that is an affiliate or successor of County without the prior approval of Business Associate.

**14.4 Severability.** Any provision of this Agreement that is determined to be invalid or unenforceable will be ineffective to the extent of such determination without invalidating the remaining provisions of this Agreement or affecting the validity or enforceability of such remaining provisions.

**14.5 Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the complete agreement between Business Associate and County relating to the matters specified in this Agreement, and supersedes all prior representations or agreements, whether oral or written, with respect to such matters. In the event of any conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the terms of the Business Arrangements or any such later agreement(s), the terms of this Agreement shall control unless the terms of such Business Arrangements are more strict with respect to PHI and comply with the Privacy Standards, or the parties specifically otherwise agree in writing. No oral modification or waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be binding on either party. No obligation on either party to enter into any transaction is to be implied from the execution or delivery of this Agreement. This Agreement is for the benefit of, and shall be binding upon the parties, their affiliates and respective successors and assigns. No third party shall be considered a third-party beneficiary under this Agreement, nor shall any third party have any rights as a result of this Agreement.

**14.6 Governing Law.** This agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the state of Georgia. Jurisdiction and Venue for any dispute relating to this Agreement shall exclusively rest with the state and federal courts in Gwinnett County.

**14.7 Equitable Relief.** Business Associate understands and acknowledges that any disclosure or misappropriation of any PHI in violation of this Agreement will cause County irreparable harm, the amount of which may be difficult to ascertain, and therefore agrees that County shall have the right to apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for specific performance and/or an order restraining and enjoining any such further disclosure or breach and for such other relief as County shall deem appropriate. Such right of County is to be in addition to the remedies otherwise available to County at law or in equity. Business Associate expressly waives the defense that a remedy in damages will be adequate and further waives any requirement in an action for specific performance or injunction for the posting of a bond by County.

**14.8 Nature of Agreement.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create (i) a partnership, joint venture or other joint business relationship between the parties or any of their affiliates, or (ii) a relationship of employer and employee between the parties. This Agreement does not express or imply any commitment to purchase or sell goods or services.

**14.9 Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same document. In making proof of this Agreement, it shall not be necessary to produce or account for more than one such counterpart executed by the party against whom enforcement of this Agreement is sought.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the parties have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

**COUNTY:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole L. Hendrickson, Chairwoman  
Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATE:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**CONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT AND AGREEMENT**  
**(THIS FORM SHOULD BE FULLY COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH YOUR SUBMITTAL)**

By executing this affidavit, the undersigned contractor verifies its compliance with The Illegal Immigration Reform Enhancements for 2013, stating affirmatively that the individual, firm, or corporation which is contracting with the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners has registered with and is participating in a federal work authorization program\* [any of the electronic verification of work authorization programs operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or any equivalent federal work authorization program operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security] to verify information of newly hired employees, pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act, in accordance with the applicability provisions and deadlines established therein.

The undersigned further agrees that, should it employ or contract with any subcontractor(s) in connection with the physical performance of services or the performance of labor pursuant to this contract with the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, contractor will secure from such subcontractor(s) similar verification of compliance with the Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act on the Subcontractor Affidavit provided in Rule 300-10-01-.08 or a substantially similar form. Contractor further agrees to maintain records of such compliance and provide a copy of each such verification to the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners at the time the subcontractor(s) is retained to perform such service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Verify \* User Identification Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Registered

\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Company Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Officer or Agent  
(Contractor Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Authorized Officer or Agent of Contractor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Authorized Officer or Agent

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN  
BEFORE ME ON THIS THE  
\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>For Gwinnett County Use Only:</b>
Document ID # _____
Issue Date: _____
Initials: _____

\* As of the effective date of O.C.G.A. 13-10-91, the applicable federal work authorization program is "E-Verify" operated by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Bureau of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Social Security Administration (SSA).



**CODE OF ETHICS AFFIDAVIT**

***(THIS FORM SHOULD BE FULLY COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH YOUR SUBMITTAL AND WILL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO EVALUATION)***

In accordance with Section 54-33 of the Gwinnett County Code of Ordinances the undersigned proposer makes the following full and complete disclosure under oath, to the best of his/her knowledge, of the name(s) of all elected officials whom it employs or who have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in or with the proposer, its affiliates or its subcontractors:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Company Submitting Bid/Proposal)

2. (Please check  **one** box below)

No information to disclose *(complete only section 4 below)*

Disclosed information below *(complete section 3 & section 4 below)*

3. (if additional space is required, please attach list)

_____	_____
Gwinnett County Elected Official Name	Gwinnett County Elected Official Name
_____	_____
Gwinnett County Elected Official Name	Gwinnett County Elected Official Name

4. Sworn to and subscribed before me this

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

Authorized Officer or Agent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Authorized Officer or Agent

\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Authorized Officer or Agent of Contractor

(seal)

Note: See Gwinnett County Code of Ethics Ordinance E02011, Sec. 54-33. The ordinance will be available to view in its' entirety at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

(For projects less than \$5,000,000)

1. Statutory Workers' Compensation Insurance
  - (a) Employers Liability:
    - ✓ Bodily Injury by Accident - \$100,000 each accident
    - ✓ Bodily Injury by Disease - \$500,000 policy limit
    - ✓ Bodily Injury by Disease - \$100,000 each employee
2. Commercial General Liability Insurance
  - (a) \$1,000,000 limit of liability per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage
  - (b) The following additional coverage must apply:
    - ✓ 1986 (or later) ISO Commercial General Liability Form
    - ✓ Dedicated Limits per Project Site or Location (CG 25 03 or CG 25 04)
    - ✓ Additional Insured Endorsement (Form B CG 20 10 with a modification for completed operations or a separate endorsement covering Completed Operations)
    - ✓ Blanket Contractual Liability
    - ✓ Broad Form Property Damage
    - ✓ Severability of Interest
    - ✓ Underground, explosion, and collapse coverage
    - ✓ Personal Injury (deleting both contractual and employee exclusions)
    - ✓ Incidental Medical Malpractice
    - ✓ Hostile Fire Pollution Wording
3. Auto Liability Insurance
  - (a) \$500,000 limit of liability per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage
  - (b) Comprehensive form covering all owned, nonowned, leased, hired, and borrowed vehicles
  - (c) Additional Insured Endorsement
  - (d) Contractual Liability
4. Professional Liability Insurance - \$1,000,000 (project specific for the Gwinnett County project) limit of liability per claim/aggregate or a limit of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate.
  - ✓ Insurance company must be authorized to do business in the State of Georgia.
  - ✓ Dedicated Limits per Project Site or Location (CG 25 03 or CG 25 04 or some other form)
5. Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners (and any applicable Authority) should be shown as an additional insured on General Liability and Auto Liability policies.
6. The cancellation should provide 10 days notice for nonpayment and 30 days notice of cancellation.
7. Certificate Holder should read:
  - Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
  - 75 Langley Drive
  - Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6935
8. Insurance Company, except Worker' Compensation carrier, must have an A.M. Best Rating of A-5 or higher. Certain Workers' Comp funds may be acceptable by the approval of the Insurance Unit. European markets including those based in London and domestic surplus lines markets that operate on a non-admitted basis are exempt from this requirement provided that the contractor's broker/agent can provide financial data to establish that a market is equal to or exceeds the financial strengths associated with the A.M. Best's rating of A-5 or better.
9. Insurance Company should be licensed to do business by the Georgia Department of Insurance.

\*See above note regarding Professional Liability

10. Certificates of Insurance, and any subsequent renewals, must reference specific bid/contract by project name and project/bid number.
11. The Contractor shall agree to provide complete certified copies of current insurance policy (ies) or a certified letter from the insurance company (ies) if requested by the County to verify the compliance with these insurance requirements.
12. All insurance coverages required to be provided by the Contractor will be primary over any insurance program carried by the County.
13. Contractor shall incorporate a copy of the insurance requirements as herein provided in each and every subcontract with each and every Subcontractor in any tier, and shall require each and every Subcontractor of any tier to comply with all such requirements. Contractor agrees that if for any reason Subcontractor fails to procure and maintain insurance as required, all such required Insurance shall be procured and maintained by Contractor at Contractor's expense.
14. No Contractor or Subcontractor shall commence any work of any kind under this Contract until all insurance requirements contained in this Contract have been complied with and until evidence of such compliance satisfactory to Gwinnett County as to form and content has been filed with Gwinnett County. **The Acord Certificate of Insurance or a preapproved substitute is the required form in all cases where reference is made to a Certificate of Insurance or an approved substitute.**
15. The Contractor shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation against the County, the Board of Commissioners, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers from losses arising from work performed by the contractor for the County.
16. Special Form Contractors' Equipment and Contents Insurance covering owned, used, and leased equipment, tools, supplies, and contents required to perform the services called for in the Contract. The coverage must be on a replacement cost basis. The County will be included as a Loss Payee in this coverage for County owned equipment, tools, supplies, and contents.
17. The Contractor shall make available to the County, through its records or records of their insurer, information regarding a specific claim related to any County project. Any loss run information available from the contractor or their insurer relating to a County project will be made available to the county upon their request.
18. Compliance by the Contractor and all subcontractors with the foregoing requirements as to carrying insurance shall not relieve the Contractor and all Subcontractors of their liability provisions of the Contract.
19. The Contractor and all Subcontractors are to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, Public Law 91-956, and any other laws that may apply to this Contract.
20. The Contractor shall at a minimum apply risk management practices accepted by the contractors' industry.

#### Surety Bonds (If Required)

All of the surety requirements will stay the same except the Surety Company must have the same rating as item 8 above.

EXHIBIT H – NO BID RESPONSE

**FAILURE TO RETURN THIS PAGE MAY RESULT IN REMOVAL OF YOUR COMPANY FROM COMMODITY LISTING.**

**RP009-22**

Buyer Initials: DG

**IF YOU DESIRE TO SUBMIT A "NO BID" IN RESPONSE TO THIS PACKAGE, PLEASE INDICATE BY CHECKING ONE OR MORE OF THE REASONS LISTED BELOW AND EXPLAIN.**

- Do not offer this product or service; remove us from your bidder's list for this item only.
- Specifications too "tight"; geared toward one brand or manufacturer only.
- Specifications are unclear.
- Unable to meet specifications
- Unable to meet bond requirements
- Unable to meet insurance requirements
- Our schedule would not permit us to perform.
- Insufficient time to respond.
- Other

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COMPANY NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE

**EXHIBIT I – GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS****GWINNETT COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES – PURCHASING DIVISION  
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSERS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS****I. PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS**

- A. Each proposer shall examine the drawings, specifications, schedule and all instructions. Failure to do so will be at the proposer's risk.
- B. Each proposer shall furnish all information required by the proposal form or document. Each proposer shall sign the proposal and print or type his or her name on the schedule. The person signing the proposal must initial erasures or other changes. An authorized agent of the company must sign proposals.
- C. With the exception of solicitations for the sale of real property, individuals, firms and businesses seeking an award of a Gwinnett County contract may not initiate or continue any verbal or written communications regarding a solicitation with any County officer, elected official, employee or other County representative other than the Purchasing Associate named in the solicitation between the date of the issuance of the solicitation and the date of the final contract award by the Board of Commissioners. The Purchasing Director will review violations. If determined that such communication has compromised the competitive process, the offer submitted by the individual, firm or business may be disqualified from consideration for award. Solicitations for the sale of real property may allow for verbal or written communications with the appropriate Gwinnett County representative.
- D. Sample contracts (if pertinent) are attached. These do NOT have to be filled out with the bid/proposal submittal, but are contained for informational purposes only. If awarded, the successful proposer(s) will be required to complete them prior to contract execution.
- E. Effective, July 1, 2013 and in accordance with the Georgia Illegal Immigration Reform Enhancements for 2013, an original signed, notarized and fully completed Contractor Affidavit and Agreement should be included with your bid/proposal submittal, if the solicitation is for the physical performance of services for all labor or service contract(s) that exceed \$2,499.99 (except for services performed by an individual who is licensed pursuant to Title 26, Title 43, or the State Bar of Georgia). Failure to provide the Contractor Affidavit and Agreement with your bid/proposal submittal may result in bid/proposal being deemed non-responsive and automatic rejection.

**II. DELIVERY**

- A. Each proposer should state time of proposed delivery of goods or services.
- B. Words such as "immediate," "as soon as possible," etc. shall not be used. The known earliest date or the minimum number of calendar days required after receipt of order (delivery A.R.O.) shall be stated (if calendar days are used, include Saturday, Sunday and holidays in the number).



### III. EXPLANATION TO PROPOSERS

Any explanation desired by a proposer regarding the meaning or interpretation of the request for proposals, drawings, specifications, etc. must be requested by the question cutoff deadline stated in the solicitation in order for a reply to reach all proposers before the close of the proposal. Any information given to a prospective proposer concerning a request for proposal will be furnished to all prospective proposers as an addendum to the invitation if such information is necessary or if the lack of such information would be prejudicial to uninformed proposers. The written proposal document supersedes any verbal or written communication between the parties. Receipt of addenda should be acknowledged in the proposal. **It is the proposer's responsibility to ensure that they have all applicable addenda prior to proposal submittal.** This may be accomplished via contact with the assigned Procurement Agent prior to proposal submittal.

### IV. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

- A. Proposals shall be enclosed in a sealed package, addressed to the Gwinnett County Purchasing Office with the name and address of the proposer, the date and hour of opening, and the request for proposal number on the face of the package. Telegraphic/faxed proposals will not be considered. Any addenda should be enclosed in the sealed envelopes as well.
- B. ADD/DEDUCT: Add or deduct amounts indicated on the outside of the envelope are allowed and will be applied to the lump sum amount. Amount shall be clearly stated and should be initialed by an authorized company representative.
- C. Samples of items, when required, must be submitted within the time specified and, unless otherwise specified by the County, at no expense to the County. Unless otherwise specified, samples will be returned at the proposer's request and expense if testing does not destroy items.
- D. Items offered must meet required specifications and must be of a quality that will adequately serve the use and purpose for which intended.
- E. Full identifications of each item proposed, including brand name, model, catalog number, etc. must be furnished to identify exactly what the proposer is offering. Manufacturer's literature may be furnished.
- F. The proposer must certify that items to be furnished are new and that the quality has not deteriorated so as to impair its usefulness.
- G. Unsigned proposals will not be considered except in cases where proposal is enclosed with other documents that have been signed. The County will determine this.
- H. Gwinnett County is exempt from federal excise tax and Georgia sales tax with regard to goods and services purchased directly by Gwinnett County. Suppliers and contractors are responsible for federal excise tax and sales tax, including taxes for materials incorporated in county construction projects. Suppliers and contractors should contact the State of Georgia Sales Tax Division for additional information.

- I. Information submitted by a proposer in the proposal process shall be subject to disclosure after proposal award in accordance with the Georgia Open Records Act.

**V. WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSAL DUE TO ERRORS**

No proposer who is permitted to withdraw a proposal shall, for compensation, supply any material or labor or perform any subcontract or other work agreement for the person or firm to whom the contract is awarded or otherwise benefit, directly or indirectly, from the performance of the project for which the withdrawn proposal was submitted.

To withdraw a proposal after proposal opening, the supplier has up to forty-eight (48) hours to notify the Gwinnett County Purchasing Office of an obvious clerical error made in calculation of proposal. Withdrawal of bid bond for this reason must be done in writing. Suppliers who fail to request withdrawal of proposal by the required forty-eight (48) hours shall automatically forfeit bid bond. Bid bond may not be withdrawn otherwise.

Proposal withdrawal is not automatically granted and will be allowed solely at Gwinnett County's discretion.

**VI. TESTING AND INSPECTION**

Since tests may require several days for completion, the County reserves the right to use a portion of any supplies before the results of the tests are determined. Cost of inspections and tests of any item that fails to meet the specifications shall be borne by the proposer.

**VII. F.O.B. POINT**

Unless otherwise stated in the request for proposal and any resulting contract, or unless qualified by the proposer, items shall be shipped F.O.B. Destination. The seller shall retain title for the risk of transportation, including the filing for loss or damages. The invoice covering the items is not payable until items are delivered and the contract of carriage has been completed. Unless the F.O.B. clause states otherwise, the seller assumes transportation and related charges either by payment or allowance.

**VIII. PATENT INDEMNITY**

The contractor guarantees to hold the County, its agents, officers or employees harmless from liability of any nature or kind for use of any copyrighted or uncopyrighted composition, secret process, patented or unpatented invention, articles or appliances furnished or used in the performance of the contract, for which the contractor is not the patentee, assignee or licensee.

**IX. BID BONDS AND PAYMENT AND PERFORMANCE BONDS  
(IF REQUIRED, FORMS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THIS DOCUMENT)**

A five percent (5%) bid bond, a one hundred percent (100%) performance bond, and a one hundred percent (100%) payment bond must be furnished to Gwinnett County for any proposal as required in the proposal package or document. **Failure to submit a bid bond with the proper rating will result in the proposal being deemed non-responsive.** Bonding company must be authorized to do business in Georgia by the Georgia Insurance Commission, listed in the Department of the Treasury's publication of companies holding certificates of authority as acceptable surety on Federal bonds and as acceptable reinsuring companies, and have an A.M. Best rating as stated in the insurance requirement of the solicitation. **The bid bond, payment bond, and performance bond must have the proper an**

**A.M. Best rating as stated in the proposal when required in the proposal package or document.**

**X. DISCOUNTS**

- A. Time payment discounts will be considered in arriving at net prices and in award of proposal. Offers of discounts for payment within ten (10) days following the end of the month are preferred.
- B. In connection with any discount offered, time will be computed from the date of delivery and acceptance at destination, or from the date correct invoice or voucher is received, whichever is the later date. Payment is deemed to be made for the purpose of earning the discount, on the date of the County check.

**XI. AWARD**

- A. Award will be made to the highest scoring responsive and responsible proposer according to the criteria stated in the proposal documents. The County may make such investigations as it deems necessary to determine the ability of the proposer to perform, and the proposer shall furnish to the County all such information and data for this purpose as the County may request. The County reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such proposer fails to satisfy the County that such proposer is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract.
- B. The County reserves the right to reject or accept any or all proposals and to waive technicalities, informalities and minor irregularities in the proposals received.
- C. The County reserves the right to make an award as deemed in its best interest, which may include awarding a proposal to a single proposer or multiple proposers; or to award the whole proposal, only part of the proposal, or none of the proposal to single or multiple proposers, based on its sole discretion of its best interest.
- D. In the event scores rounded to the nearest whole number result in a tie score, the award will be based on lowest cost.
- E. In the event that negotiations with the highest ranked firm are unsuccessful the County may then negotiate with the second ranked firm and so on until a satisfactory agreement has been reached.

**XII. DELIVERY FAILURES**

Failure of a contractor to deliver within the time specified or within reasonable time as interpreted by the Purchasing Director, or failure to make replacements of rejected articles/services when so requested, immediately or as directed by the Purchasing Director, shall constitute authority for the Purchasing Director to purchase in the open market articles/services of comparable grade to replace the articles/services rejected or not delivered. On all such purchases, the contractor shall reimburse the County within a reasonable time specified by the Purchasing Director for any expense incurred in excess of contract prices, or the County shall have the right to deduct such amount from monies owed the defaulting contractor. Alternatively, the County may penalize the contractor one percent (1%) per day for a period of up to ten (10) days for each day that delivery or replacement is

late. Should public necessity demand it, the County reserves the right to use or consume articles/services delivered which are substandard in quality, subject to an adjustment in price to be determined by the Purchasing Director.

**XIII. COUNTY FURNISHED PROPERTY**

The County will furnish no material, labor or facilities unless so provided in the RFP.

**XIV. REJECTION OF PROPOSALS**

Failure to observe any of the instructions or conditions in this request for proposal shall constitute grounds for rejection of proposal.

**XV. CONTRACT**

Each proposal is received with the understanding that the acceptance in writing by the County of the offer to furnish any or all of the commodities or services described therein shall constitute a contract between the proposer and the County which shall bind the proposer on his part to furnish and deliver the articles quoted at the prices stated in accordance with the conditions of said accepted proposal. The County, on its part, may order from such contractor, except for cause beyond reasonable control, and to pay for, at the agreed prices, all articles specified and delivered.

Upon receipt of a proposal containing a Gwinnett County "Sample Contract" as part of the requirements, it is understood that the proposer has reviewed the documents with the understanding that Gwinnett County requires that all agreements between the parties must be entered into via these documents. If any exceptions are taken to any part, each exception must be stated in detail and submitted as part of the proposal document. If no exceptions are stated, it is assumed that the proposer fully agrees to the "Sample Contract" in its entirety.

Any Consultant as defined in O.C.G.A. §36-80-28 that is engaged to develop or draft specifications/requirements or serve in a consultative role during the procurement process for any County procurement method, by entering into such an arrangement or executing a contract that the consultant agrees to: (1) Avoid any appearance of impropriety and shall follow all policies and procedures of the County (2) disclose to the County, any material transaction or relationship pursuant to §36-80-28, considered a conflict of interest, any involvement in litigation or other dispute, relationship or financial interest not disclosed in the ethics affidavit, when ethics affidavit is required or such that may be discovered during the pending contract or arrangement; and (3) Acknowledge that any violation or threatened violation of the agreement may cause irreparable injury to the County, entitling the County, to seek injunctive relief in addition to all other legal remedies. This requirement does not apply to confidential economic development activities pursuant to §50-18-72 or to any development authority for the purpose of promoting the development of trade, commerce, industry, and employment opportunities or for other purposes and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, shall specifically include all authorities created pursuant to Title 36 Chapter 62; However, per provisions of subparagraph (e)(1)(B) of Code Section 36-62-5 reporting of potential conflicts of interest by development authority board members is required.

When the contractor has performed in accordance with the provisions of this agreement, Gwinnett County shall pay to the contractor, within thirty (30) days of receipt of any department approved payment request and based upon work completed or service provided

pursuant to the contract, the sum so requested, less the retainage stated in this agreement, if any. In the event that Gwinnett County fails to pay the contractor within sixty (60) days of receipt of a pay request based upon work completed or service provided pursuant to the contract, the County shall pay the contractor interest at the rate of ½% per month or pro rata fraction thereof, beginning the sixty-first (61<sup>st</sup>) day following receipt of pay requests. The contractor's acceptance of progress payments or final payment shall release all claims for interest on said payment.

**XVI. NON-COLLUSION**

Proposer declares that the proposal is not made in connection with any other proposer submitting a proposal for the same commodity or commodities, and that the proposal is bona fide and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. Each proposer, if included in proposal documents, shall execute an affidavit of non-collusion. Collusion and fraud in bid preparation shall be reported to the State of Georgia Attorney General and the United States Justice Department.

**XVII. DEFAULT**

The contract may be canceled or annulled by the Purchasing Director in whole or in part by written notice of default to the contractor upon non-performance or violation of contract terms. An award may be made to the next highest rated responsive and responsible proposer, or articles specified may be purchased on the open market similar to those so terminated. In either event, the defaulting contractor (or his surety) shall be liable to the County for costs to the County in excess of the defaulted contract prices; provided, however, that the contractor shall continue the performance of this contract to the extent not terminated under the provisions of this clause. Failure of the contractor to deliver materials or services within the time stipulated on his proposal, unless extended in writing by the Purchasing Director, shall constitute contract default.

**XVIII. TERMINATION FOR CAUSE**

The County may terminate this agreement for cause upon ten days prior written notice to the contractor of the contractor's default in the performance of any term of this agreement. Such termination shall be without prejudice to any of the County's rights or remedies by law.

**XIX. TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE**

The County may terminate this agreement for its convenience at any time upon 30 days written notice to the contractor. In the event of the County's termination of this agreement for convenience, the contractor will be paid for those services actually performed. Partially completed performance of the agreement will be compensated based upon a signed statement of completion to be submitted by the contractor, which shall itemize each element of performance.

**XX. DISPUTES**

Except as otherwise provided in the contract documents, any dispute concerning a question of fact arising under the contract which is not disposed of shall be decided after a hearing by the Purchasing Director who shall reduce his/her decision to writing and mail or otherwise furnish a copy thereof to the contractor. The decision of the Purchasing Director shall be final and binding; however, the contractor shall have the right to appeal said decision to a court of competent jurisdiction.

**XXI. SUBSTITUTIONS**

Proposers offering and quoting on substitutions or who are deviating from the attached specifications shall list such deviations on a separate sheet to be submitted with their proposal. The absence of such a substitution list shall indicate that the proposer has taken no exception to the specifications contained therein.

**XXII. INELIGIBLE PROPOSERS**

The County may choose not to accept the proposal of one who is in default on the payment of taxes, licenses or other monies owed to the County. Failure to respond three (3) consecutive times for any given commodity may result in removal from the list under that commodity.

**XXIII. OCCUPATION TAX CERTIFICATE**

Each successful proposer shall provide evidence of a valid Gwinnett County occupation tax certificate if the proposer maintains an office within the unincorporated area of Gwinnett County. Incorporated, out of County and out of State proposers are required to provide evidence of a certificate to do business in any town, County or municipality in the State of Georgia, or as otherwise required by County ordinance or resolution.

**XXIV. PURCHASING POLICY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Purchasing Policy and Review Committee has been established to review purchasing procedures and make recommendations for changes; resolve problems regarding the purchasing process; make recommendations for standardization of commodities, schedule buying, qualified products list, annual contracts, supplier performance (Ineligible Source List) and other problems or requirements related to Purchasing. The Purchasing Policy and Review Committee have authority to place suppliers and contractors on the Ineligible Source List for reasons listed in the Gwinnett County Purchasing Ordinance.

**XXV. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

All contractors for Gwinnett County are required to comply with all applicable sections of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as an equal opportunity employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Gwinnett County provides reasonable accommodations to permit a qualified applicant with a disability to enjoy the privileges of employment equal to those employees without disabilities. Disabled individuals must satisfy job requirements for education background, employment experience, and must be able to perform those tasks that are essential to the job with or without reasonable accommodations. Any requests for reasonable accommodations required by individuals to fully participate in any open meeting, program or activity of Gwinnett County should be directed to Susan Canon, Human Relations Coordinator, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046, 770-822-8165.

**XXVI. ALTERATIONS OF SOLICITATION AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

Alterations of County documents are strictly prohibited and will result in automatic disqualification of the firm's solicitation response. If there are "exceptions" or comments to any of the solicitation requirements or other language, then the firm may make notes to those areas, but may not materially alter any document language.

**XXVII. TAX LIABILITY**

Local and state governmental entities must notify contractors of their use tax liability on public works projects. Under Georgia law, private contractors are responsible for paying a

use tax equal to the sales tax rate on material and equipment purchased under a governmental exemption that is incorporated into a government construction project: excluding material and equipment provided for the installation, repair, or expansion of a public water, gas or sewer system when the property is installed for general distribution purposes. To the extent the tangible personal property maintains its character (for example the installation of a kitchen stove), it remains tax-exempt. However, if the installation incorporates the tangible personal property into realty, e.g., the installation of sheetrock, it becomes taxable to the private contractor. See O.C.G.A. 48-8-3(2) and O.C.G.A. 48-8-63

**XXVIII. STATE LAW REGARDING WORKER VERIFICATION**

Effective July 1, 2013 State Law requires that all who enter into a contract for the physical performance of services for all labor or service contract(s) that exceed \$2,499.99 (except for services performed by an individual who is licensed pursuant to Title 26, Title 43, or the State Bar of Georgia) for the County, must satisfy the Illegal Immigration Reform Enhancements for 2013, in all manner, and such are conditions of the contract.

The Purchasing Division Director with the assistance of the Performance Analysis Division shall be authorized to conduct random audits of a contractor's or subcontractors' compliance with the Illegal Immigration Reform Enhancements for 2013 and the rules and regulations of the Georgia Department of Labor. The contractor and subcontractors shall retain all documents and records of its compliance for a period of five (5) years following completion of the contract. This requirement shall apply to all contracts for all labor or service contracts that exceed \$2,499.99 except for services performed by an individual who is licensed pursuant to Title 26, Title 43, or the State Bar of Georgia.

Whenever it appears that a contractor's or subcontractor's records are not sufficient to verify the work eligibility of any individual in the employ of such contractor or subcontractor, the Purchasing Director shall report same to the Department of Homeland Security and may result in termination of the contract if it is determined at any time during the work that the contractor/or subcontractor is no longer in compliance with the Illegal Immigration Reform Enhancements for 2013.

**XXIX. SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE**

No individual, partnership, corporation or other entity shall engage in solid waste handling except in such a manner as to conform to and comply with the current Gwinnett County Solid Waste Ordinance and all other applicable local, state and federal legislation, rules, regulation and orders.

**XXX. GENERAL CONTRACTORS LICENSE**

Effective July 1, 2008: All General Contractors must have a current valid license from the State Licensing Board for Residential and General Contractors, unless specifically exempted from holding such license pursuant to Georgia law (O.C.G.A. Section 43-41-17).

**XXXI. PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED IN GEORGIA**

Gwinnett County, when contracting for or purchasing supplies, materials, equipment, or agricultural products that exceeds \$100,000.00, excluding beverages for immediate consumption, shall give preference as far as may be reasonable and practicable to such supplies, materials, equipment, and agricultural products as may be manufactured or produced in this state. Such preference shall not sacrifice quality. Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners shall consider, among other factors, information submitted by the bidder

which may include the bidder's estimate of the multiplier effect on gross state domestic product and the effect on public revenues of the state and the effect on public revenues of political subdivisions resulting from acceptance of a bid or offer to sell Georgia manufactured or produced goods as opposed to out-of-state manufactured or produced goods. Any such estimates shall be in writing. (O.C.G.A. Section 36-84-1).

**XXXII. INDEMNIFICATION**

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Contractor shall, at his sole cost and expense, indemnify, defend, satisfy all judgments, and hold harmless the County, the engineer, and their agents and employees from and against all claims, damages, actions, judgments, costs, penalties, liabilities, losses and expenses, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees arising out of or resulting from the performance of the work, provided that any such claim, damage, action, judgment, cost, penalty, liability, loss or expense (1) is attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property (other than the work itself) including the loss of use resulting therefrom, and (2) is caused in whole or in part by the negligent acts, errors or omission of the Contractor, any subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by any of them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable, regardless whether such claim is caused in part by a party indemnified hereunder. Such obligation shall not be construed to negate, abridge or otherwise reduce any of the rights or obligations of indemnity which would otherwise exist as to any party or person described in this agreement. In any and all claims against the County, the engineer, or any of their agents or employees by any employee of the Contractor, any subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by any of them, or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable, the indemnification obligation contained herein shall not be limited in any way by any limitation on the amount or type of damages, compensation, or benefits payable by or for the Contractor or any subcontractor under Worker's Compensation Acts, disability benefit acts, or other employee benefit acts.

**XXXIII. CODE OF ETHICS**

"Proposer/Bidder" shall disclose under oath the name of all elected officials whom it employs or who have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the business entity, its affiliates, or its subcontractors. The "Proposer/Bidder" shall execute a Code of Ethics affidavit. Failure to submit the affidavit during the bid or proposal process shall render the bid or proposal non-responsive.

The act of submitting false information or omitting material information shall be referred to the Purchasing Policy & Review Committee for action pursuant to the Purchasing Ordinance or to the District Attorney for possible criminal prosecution.

Any business entity holding a contract with Gwinnett County that subsequent to execution of the contract or issuance of the purchase order employs, subcontracts with, or transfers a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the business entity to an elected official shall within five (5) days disclose such fact in writing under oath to the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners. Failure to comply shall be referred to the Purchasing Policy & Review Committee for action pursuant to the Purchasing Ordinance or to the District Attorney for possible criminal prosecution.

Note: See Gwinnett County Code of Ethics Ordinance E02011, Sec. 54-33. The ordinance will be available to view in its entirety at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com)



**XXXIV. PENDING LITIGATION**

A proposal submitted by an individual, firm or business who has litigation pending against the County, or anyone representing a firm or business in litigation against the County, not arising out of the procurement process, will be disqualified.

**XXXV. ELECTRONIC PAYMENT**

Vendors accepting procurements should select one of Gwinnett County's electronic payment options.

- A. A vendor may select ePayables payment process which allows acceptance of Gwinnett County's virtual credit card as payment for outstanding invoices. The authorized vendor representative must send an email to: [vendorelectronicpayment@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:vendorelectronicpayment@gwinnettcounty.com) and indicate the desire to enroll in Gwinnett County's virtual credit card payment process.
- B. A vendor may select Direct Deposit payment process and the payment will be deposited directly into an account at their designated financial institution. To securely enroll in Direct Deposit, either access your online [Vendor Login and Registration](#) on the County's web site and update the requested information on the Direct Deposit tab or mail a [Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement](#) form.

The County will send a Payment Advice notification via email for both payment types.

For more information about Electronic Payments, please go to the Treasury Division page on the County's Web Site or click here -> [Gwinnett County Electronic Payments](#).

**DIRECTIONS TO GJAC BUILDING FROM I-85**

Take I-85 to Georgia Highway 316 (Lawrenceville/Athens exit). Exit Highway 120 (Lawrenceville/Duluth exit) and turn right. At seventh traffic light, turn right onto Langley Drive. Cross Highway 29 through the traffic light and proceed through the roundabout. Visitors can either proceed to the front parking area on the left or to the parking deck behind the building. Click [here](#), for additional information about parking. The Purchasing Division is located on the second floor, West Wing.