

ITS *Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services*

RFP No: 3682

INVITATION: Sealed proposals, subject to the attached conditions, will be received at this office until June 15, 2012 @ **3:00 p.m.** Central Time for the acquisition of the products/services described below for Mississippi State Department of Health.

Acquisition of an Initiatives Tracking and ABCS Surveillance Reporting System

NOTE: THIS RFP CONTAINS MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS TO WHICH NO EXCEPTION MAY BE TAKEN. SEE SECTION VII, ITEM 2, FOR DETAILS.

The Vendor must submit proposals and direct inquiries to:

Donna Hamilton
Technology Consultant
Information Technology Services
3771 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
(601) 432-8114
Donna.Hamilton@its.ms.gov

To prevent opening by unauthorized individuals, all copies of the proposal must be sealed in the package. The following must be clearly typed on a label affixed to the package in a clearly visible location:

PROPOSAL, SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO
RFP NO. 3682
due June 15, 2012 @ 3:00 p.m.,
ATTENTION: Donna Hamilton

Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D.
Executive Director, ITS

ITS RFP Response Checklist

RFP Response Checklist: These items should be included in your response to RFP No. 3682.

- _____ 1) One clearly marked original response and 4 identical copy/copies of the complete proposal with each response containing an accompanying electronic copy in Adobe Acrobat latest version. Label the front and spine of the three-ring loose-leaf binder with the Vendor name and RFP number. Include the items listed below inside the binder. Please DO NOT include a copy of the RFP in the binder.
- _____ 2) *Submission Cover Sheet*, signed and dated. (Section I)
- _____ 3) *Proposal Bond*, if applicable (Section I)
- _____ 4) *Proposal Exception Summary*, if applicable (Section V)
- _____ 5) Vendor response to *RFP Questionnaire* (Section VI)
- _____ 6) Point-by-point response to *Technical Specifications* (Section VII)
- _____ 7) Vendor response to *Cost Information Submission* (Section VIII)
- _____ 8) *References* (Section IX)

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**SECTION I
SUBMISSION COVER SHEET & CONFIGURATION SUMMARY**

Provide the following information regarding the person responsible for the completion of your proposal. This person should also be the person the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, (ITS), should contact for questions and/or clarifications.

Name	_____	Phone #	_____
Address	_____	Fax #	_____
	_____	E-mail	_____

Subject to acceptance by ITS, the Vendor acknowledges that by submitting a proposal AND signing in the space indicated below, the Vendor is contractually obligated to comply with all items in this Request for Proposal (RFP), including the Standard Contract in Exhibit A if included herein, except those listed as exceptions on the Proposal Exception Summary Form. If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions. This acknowledgement also contractually obligates any and all subcontractors that may be proposed. Vendors who sign below may not later take exception to any point during contract negotiations. The Vendor further certifies that the company represented here is an authorized dealer in good standing of the products/services included in this proposal.

_____/_____
Original signature of Officer in Bind of Company/Date

Name (typed or printed)	_____
Title	_____
Company name	_____
Physical address	_____
State of Incorporation	_____

CONFIGURATION SUMMARY

The Vendor must provide a summary of the main components of products/services offered in this proposal using 100 words or less.

PROPOSAL BONDS

A Proposal Bond is not required for this procurement.

SECTION II PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The objective of the Proposal Submission Requirements section is to provide Vendors with the information required to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (RFP). A Vendor who has responded to previous RFPs issued by **ITS** should not assume that the requirements are the same, as changes may have been made.

1. Failure to follow any instruction within this RFP may, at the State's sole discretion, result in the disqualification of the Vendor's proposal.
2. The State has no obligation to locate or acknowledge any information in the Vendor's proposal that is not presented under the appropriate outline according to these instructions and in the proper location.
3. The Vendor's proposal must be received, in writing, by the office of **ITS** by the date and time specified. **ITS** is not responsible for any delays in delivery or expenses for the development or delivery of proposals. Any proposal received after proposal opening time will be returned unopened. Any proposal received with insufficient postage will be returned unopened.
4. Proposals or alterations by fax, e-mail, or phone will not be accepted.
5. Original signatures are required on one copy of the Submission Cover Sheet and Configuration Summary, and the Vendor's original submission must be clearly identified as the original. The Vendor's original proposal must include the Proposal Bond, (if explicitly required in Section IV).
6. **ITS** reserves the right to reject any proposals, including those with exceptions, prior to and at any time during negotiations.
7. **ITS** reserves the right to waive any defect or irregularity in any proposal procedure.
8. The Vendor may intersperse their response following each RFP specification but must not otherwise alter or rekey any of the original text of this RFP. If the State determines that the Vendor has altered any language in the original RFP, the State may, in its sole discretion, disqualify the Vendor from further consideration. The RFP issued by **ITS** is the official version and will supersede any conflicting RFP language submitted by the Vendor.

The Vendor must conform to the following standards in the preparation of the Vendor's proposal:

- 8.1 The Vendor is required to submit one clearly marked original response and 4 identical copy/copies of the complete proposal, including all sections and exhibits, in three-ring binders.

- 8.2 To prevent opening by unauthorized individuals, all copies of the proposal must be sealed in the package. A label containing the information on the RFP cover page must be clearly typed and affixed to the package in a clearly visible location.
 - 8.3 Number each page of the proposal.
 - 8.4 Respond to the sections and exhibits in the same order as this RFP.
 - 8.5 Label and tab the responses to each section and exhibit, using the corresponding headings from the RFP.
 - 8.6 If the Vendor does not agree with any item in any section, then the Vendor must list the item on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*. (See Section V for additional instructions regarding Vendor exceptions.)
 - 8.7 Occasionally, an outline point in an attachment requests information which is not applicable to the products/services proposed. If the Vendor is certain the point does not apply to the given RFP, the Vendor should respond with “NOT APPLICABLE.”
 - 8.8 Where an outline point asks a question or requests information, the Vendor must respond with the specific answer or information requested.
 - 8.9 When an outline point/attachment is a statement provided for the Vendor’s information only, the Vendor need only read that point. The Vendor acknowledges having read and accepting, or taking exception to, all sections by signing the *Submission Cover Sheet* and providing a *Proposal Exception Summary Form*.
 - 8.10 Where a minimum requirement has been identified, respond by stating the item (e.g., device name/model number, guaranteed response time) proposed and how it will meet the specifications.
 - 8.11 The Vendor must fully respond to each requirement within the *Technical Specifications* by fully describing the manner and degree by which the proposal meets or exceeds said requirements.
9. It is the responsibility of the Vendor to clearly identify all costs associated with any item or series of items in this RFP. The Vendor must include and complete all parts of the cost proposal in a clear and accurate manner. **Omissions, errors, misrepresentations, or inadequate details in the Vendor’s cost proposal may be grounds for rejection of the Vendor’s proposal. Costs that are not clearly identified will be borne by the Vendor.** The Vendor must complete the *Cost Information Submission* in this RFP, which outlines the minimum requirements for providing cost information. The Vendor should supply supporting details as described in the *Cost Information Submission*.

10. **ITS** reserves the right to request additional information or clarification of a Vendor's proposal. The Vendor's cooperation during the evaluation process in providing **ITS** staff with adequate responses to requests for clarification will be considered a factor in the evaluation of the Vendor's overall responsiveness. Lack of such cooperation or failure to provide the information in the manner required may, at the State's discretion, result in the disqualification of the Vendor's proposal.
11. Unsolicited clarifications and updates submitted after the deadline for proposals will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of **ITS**.
12. Unsolicited clarifications in the evaluation and selection of lowest and best proposal will be considered only if all the following conditions are met:
 - 12.1 A clarification to a proposal that includes a newly announced product line or service with equal or additional capability to be provided at or less than the proposed price will be considered.
 - 12.2 Information provided must be in effect nationally and have been formally and publicly announced through a news medium that the Vendor normally uses to convey customer information.
 - 12.3 Clarifications must be received early enough in the evaluation process to allow adequate time for re-evaluation.
 - 12.4 The Vendor must follow procedures outlined herein for submitting updates and clarifications.
 - 12.5 The Vendor must submit a statement outlining the circumstances for the clarification.
 - 12.6 The Vendor must submit one clearly marked original and 4 copies of the clarification.
 - 12.7 The Vendor must be specific about which part of the original proposal is being changed by the clarification (i.e., must include exact RFP reference to section and outline point).
13. **Communications with State**

From the issue date of this RFP until a Vendor is selected and the selection is announced, responding Vendors or their representatives may not communicate, either orally or in writing regarding this RFP with any statewide elected official, state officer or employee, member of the legislature or legislative employee except as noted herein. To ensure equal treatment for each responding Vendor, all questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to the State's contact person for the selection process, and not later than the last date for accepting responding Vendor questions provided in this RFP. All such questions will be answered officially by the State in writing. All such questions and

answers will become addenda to this RFP, and they will be posted to the ITS web site. Vendors failing to comply with this requirement will be subject to disqualification.

- 13.1 The State's contact person for the selection process is: Donna Hamilton, Technology Consultant, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39211, 601-432-8114, Donna.Hamilton@its.ms.gov.
- 13.2 Vendor may consult with State representatives as designated by the State's contact person identified in 13.1 above in response to State-initiated inquiries. Vendor may consult with State representatives during scheduled oral presentations and demonstrations excluding site visits.

SECTION III VENDOR INFORMATION

The objective of the Vendor Information section of this RFP is to provide Vendors with information required to respond to the RFP successfully.

1. **Interchangeable Designations**

The terms “Vendor” and “Contractor” are referenced throughout this RFP. Generally, references to the “Vendor” are used in conjunction with the proposing organization and procurement process leading up to the final RFP selection and award. The term “Contractor” denotes the role assumed, post-award, by the winning Vendor. Additionally, the terms “State of Mississippi,” “State” or “ITS” may be used interchangeably throughout this RFP to denote the political entity issuing the RFP and requesting responses from Vendors throughout these specifications. References to a specific agency, institution or other political entity represent the client or customer on whose behalf ITS is issuing the RFP.

2. **Vendor’s Responsibility to Examine RFP**

Vendors must examine all documents, forms, specifications, standard provisions, and instructions.

3. **Proposal as Property of State**

All written proposal material becomes the property of the State of Mississippi.

4. **Written Amendment to RFP**

Any interpretation of an ITS RFP will be made by written amendment only. The State will not be responsible for any other explanation of this RFP. A copy of any amendment will be posted on the ITS website, together with the associated RFP specification. Vendors are required to check the ITS website periodically for RFP amendments before the proposal opening date at: http://www.its.ms.gov/rfps/rfps_awaiting.shtml.

Any and all amendments will be posted no later than noon, seven days prior to the proposal opening date listed on the cover page of this RFP. Should you be unable to access the ITS website, you may contact the ITS technology consultant listed on page one of this RFP and request a copy.

5. **Oral Communications Not Binding**

Only transactions which are in writing from ITS may be considered official. No negotiations, decisions, or actions shall be executed by any Vendor as a result of any discussions with any State employee.

6. **Vendor’s Responsibility for Delivery**

Vendors must ensure, through reasonable and sufficient follow-up, proper compliance with, and fulfillment of all schedules and deliverables specified within the body of this RFP. The State will not be responsible for the failure of any delivery medium for

submission of information to or from the Vendor, including but not limited to, public and private carriers, U.S. mail, Internet Service Providers, facsimile, or e-mail.

7. **Evaluation Criteria**

The State's intent in issuing this RFP is to award a contract to the lowest and best responsive Vendor who meets specifications, considering price and other factors. The Vendor's past performance, cooperation, and ability to provide service and training are general factors that will be weighed in the selection process. More specific information concerning evaluation criteria is presented in *Technical Specifications*.

8. **Multiple Awards**

ITS reserves the right to make multiple awards.

9. **Right to Award in Whole or Part**

ITS reserves the right to approve an award by individual items or in total, whichever is deemed to be in the best interest of the State of Mississippi.

10. **Right to Use Proposals in Future Projects**

The State reserves the right to evaluate the awarded proposal from this RFP, including all products and services proposed therein, along with the resulting contractual terms, for possible use in future projects if (a) it is deemed to be in the best interest of the State to do so; and (b) the Vendor is willing to extend a cost less than or equal to that specified in the awarded proposal and resulting contract. A decision concerning the utilization of a Vendor's proposal for future projects is solely at the discretion of the State and requires the agreement of the proposing Vendor. The State's decision to reuse an awarded proposal will be based upon such criteria as: (1) the customer's business requirements; (2) elapsed time since the award of the original project; and/or (3) research on changes in the Vendor, market, and technical environments since the initial award.

11. **Price Changes During Award or Renewal Period**

A price increase will not be accepted during the award period or the renewal period, unless stipulated in the contract. However, the State will always take advantage of price decreases.

12. **Right to Request Information**

The State reserves the right to request information relative to a Vendor's references and financial status and to visit a Vendor's facilities during normal working hours. The State also reserves the right to request a current financial statement, prepared and certified by an independent auditing firm, and reserves the right to require that Vendors document their financial ability to provide the products and services proposed up to the total dollar amount of the Vendor's cost proposal. The State reserves the right to request information about the Vendor from any previous customer of the Vendor of whom the State is aware, even if that customer is not included in the Vendor's list of references.

13. **Vendor Personnel**

For RFPs including professional services specifications, the Vendor will be required to provide and/or certify the following for each individual included in the Vendor's proposal:

- 13.1 A direct telephone number at which the individual may be contacted for a telephone interview. The State will pay toll charges in the continental United States. The Vendor must arrange a toll-free number for all other calls.
- 13.2 That, if onsite interviews are required, the individual can be at the specified location in Mississippi within the timeframe specified. All costs associated with onsite interviews will be the responsibility of the Vendor.
- 13.3 That the individual is proficient in spoken and written English;
- 13.4 That the individual is a U.S. citizen or that the individual meets and will maintain employment eligibility requirements in compliance with all INS regulations. The Vendor must provide evidence of identification and employment eligibility prior to the award of a contract that includes any personnel who are not U. S. citizens.
- 13.5 That the personnel assigned to a project will remain a part of the project throughout the duration of the contract as long as the personnel are employed by the Vendor, unless replaced by the Vendor at the request of the State. This requirement includes the responsibility for ensuring all non-citizens maintain current INS eligibility throughout the duration of the contract.

14. **Vendor Imposed Constraints**

The Vendor must specifically document what limitations, if any, exist in working with any other Contractor acting in the capacity of the State's business partner, subcontractor or agent who may be managing any present or future projects; performing quality assurance; integrating the Vendor's software; and/or providing web-hosting, hardware, networking or other processing services on the State's behalf. The project relationship may be based on roles as either equal peers; supervisory – subordinate; or subordinate – supervisory, as determined by the State. The State recognizes that the Vendor may have trade secrets, intellectual property and/or business relationships that may be subject to its corporate policies or agreements. The State must understand these issues in order to decide to what degree they may impact the State's ability to conduct business for this project. These considerations will be incorporated accordingly into the proposal evaluation and selection process. The understanding reached between the Vendor and the State with regard to this business relationship precludes the Vendor from imposing any subsequent limitations of this type in future project undertakings by the State.

15. **Best and Final Offer**

The State reserves the right to solicit Best and Final Offers (BAFOs) from Vendors, principally in situations in which proposal costs eclipse available funding or the State believes none of the competing proposals presents a Best Value (lowest and best proposal) opportunity. Because of the time and expense incurred by both the Vendor community and the State, BAFOs are not routinely conducted. Vendors should offer their best pricing with the initial solicitation. Situations warranting solicitation of a BAFO will be considered an exceptional practice for any procurement. Vendors that remain in a competitive range within an evaluation may be requested to tender Best and Final Offers, at the sole discretion of the State. All such Vendors will be provided an equal opportunity to respond with a Best and Final Offer under a procedure to be defined by the State that encompasses the specific, refined needs of a project, as part of the BAFO solicitation. The State may re-evaluate and amend the original project specifications should it be deemed necessary in order to improve the opportunity for attaining Best Value scenarios from among the remaining competing Vendors. All BAFO proceedings will be uniformly conducted, in writing and subject to solicitation by the State and receipt from the Vendors under a precise schedule.

16. **Restriction on Advertising**

The Vendor must receive written approval from the State before advertising or referencing the award of the contract or the services being provided. The Vendor must agree not to refer to awards in commercial advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the firm or its services are endorsed or preferred by the State of Mississippi.

17. **Rights Reserved to Use Existing Product Contracts**

The State reserves the right on turnkey projects to secure certain products from other existing **ITS** contracts if it is in its best interest to do so. If this option is exercised, then the awarded Vendor must be willing to integrate the acquisition and implementation of such products within the schedule and system under contract.

18. **Additional Information to be Included**

In addition to answering each specification within this RFP, the Vendor must include complete product/service information, including product pictorials and technical/descriptive literature relative to any product/service offered with the proposal. Information submitted must be sufficiently detailed to substantiate that the products/services offered meet or exceed specifications.

19. **Valid Contract Required to Begin Work**

The successful Vendor should not commence any billable work until a valid contract has been executed. Any work done by the successful Vendor prior to the execution of the contract is done at the Vendor's sole risk. The State is under no obligation to pay for work done prior to the execution of a contract.

SECTION IV LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL INFORMATION

The objective of the *Legal and Contractual Information* section is to provide Vendors with information required to complete a contract or agreement with **ITS** successfully.

1. **Acknowledgment Precludes Later Exception**

By signing the *Submission Cover Sheet*, the Vendor is contractually obligated to comply with all items in this RFP, including the *Standard Contract* in Exhibit A if included herein, except those specifically listed as exceptions on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*. If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions. Vendors who respond to this RFP by signing the *Submission Cover Sheet* may not later take exception to any item in the RFP during contract negotiations. This acknowledgement also contractually obligates any and all subcontractors that may be proposed. No exceptions by subcontractors or separate terms and conditions will be entertained after the fact.

2. **Failure to Respond as Prescribed**

Failure to respond as described in Section II: *Proposal Submission Requirements* to any item in the sections and exhibits of this RFP, including the *Standard Contract* attached as Exhibit A, if applicable, shall contractually obligate the Vendor to comply with that item.

3. **Contract Documents**

ITS will be responsible for all document creation and editorial control over all contractual documentation related to each procurement project. The following documents will normally be included in all contracts between **ITS** and the Vendor:

- 3.1 The Proposal Exception Summary Form as accepted by **ITS**;
- 3.2 Contracts which have been signed by the Vendor and **ITS**;
- 3.3 **ITS**' Request for Proposal, including all addenda;
- 3.4 Official written correspondence from **ITS** to the Vendor;
- 3.5 Official written correspondence from the Vendor to **ITS** when clarifying the Vendor's proposal; and
- 3.6 The Vendor's proposal response to the **ITS** RFP.

4. **Order of Precedence**

When a conflict arises regarding contract intent due to conflicting statements in documents included in the contract, the order of precedence of each document is as listed above unless modification of order is negotiated and agreed upon by both **ITS** and the winning Vendor.

5. **Additional Contract Provisions**

The contract will also include such additional provisions, which are not inconsistent or incompatible with the material terms of this RFP, as may be agreed upon by the parties. All of the foregoing shall be in such form and substance as prescribed by the State.

6. **Contracting Agent by Law**

The Executive Director of **ITS** is, by law, the purchasing and contracting agent for the State of Mississippi in the negotiation and execution of all contracts for the acquisition of computer and telecommunications equipment, systems, software, and services (Section 25-53-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code Annotated). **ITS** is issuing this RFP on behalf of the procuring agency or institution. **ITS** and the procuring agency or institution are sometimes collectively referred to within this RFP as "State."

7. **Mandatory Legal Provisions**

7.1 The State of Mississippi is self-insured; all requirements for the purchase of casualty or liability insurance are deleted.

7.2 Any provisions disclaiming implied warranties shall be null and void. See Mississippi Code Annotated Sections 11-7-18 and 75-2-719(4). The Vendor shall not disclaim the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

7.3 The Vendor shall have no limitation on liability for claims related to the following items:

7.3.1 Infringement issues;

7.3.2 Bodily injury;

7.3.3 Death;

7.3.4 Physical damage to tangible personal and/or real property; and/or

7.3.5 The intentional and willful misconduct or negligent acts of the Vendor and/or Vendor's employees or subcontractors.

7.4 All requirements that the State pay interest (other than in connection with lease-purchase contracts not exceeding five years) are deleted.

7.5 Any contract negotiated under this RFP will be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of Mississippi. Venue for the resolution of any dispute shall be Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi.

7.6 Any contract negotiated under this RFP is cancelable in the event the funding authority does not appropriate funds. Notice requirements to Vendor cannot exceed sixty (60) days.

- 7.7 The State of Mississippi does not waive its sovereign immunities or defenses as provided by law by entering into this contract with the Vendor, Vendor agents, subcontractors, or assignees.
- 7.8 The State will deliver payments to the Vendor within forty-five (45) days after receipt of invoice and receipt, inspection, and approval of Vendor's products/services. No late charges will exceed 1.5% per month on any unpaid balance from the expiration of said period until payment is delivered. See Section 31-7-305 of the Mississippi Code Annotated. Seller understands and agrees that Purchaser is exempt from the payment of taxes.
- 7.9 The State shall not pay any attorney's fees, prejudgment interest or the cost of legal action to or for the Vendor.

8. **Approved Contract**

- 8.1 Award of Contract - A contract is considered to be awarded to a proposer once the proposer's offering has been approved as lowest and best proposal through:
- 8.1.1 Written notification made to proposers on **ITS** letterhead, or
 - 8.1.2 Notification posted to the **ITS** website for the project, or
 - 8.1.3 CP-1 authorization executed for the project, or
 - 8.1.4 The **ITS** Board's approval of same during an open session of the Board.
- 8.2 **ITS** statute specifies whether **ITS** Director approval or **ITS** Board approval is applicable for a given project, depending on the total lifecycle cost of the contract.
- 8.3 A contract is not deemed final until five (5) working days after either the award of contract or post procurement review, as stipulated in the **ITS** Protest Procedure and Policy. In the event of a valid protest, the State may, at its sole discretion, continue the procurement or stay the procurement in accordance with the **ITS** Protest Procedure and Policy. If the procurement is stayed, the contract is not deemed final until the protest is resolved.

9. **Contract Validity**

All contracts are valid only if signed by the Executive Director of **ITS**.

10. **Order of Contract Execution**

Vendors will be required to sign contracts and to initial all contract changes before the Executive Director of **ITS** signs.

11. **Availability of Funds**

All contracts are subject to availability of funds of the acquiring State entity and are contingent upon receipt by the winning Vendor of a purchase order from the acquiring State entity.

12. **CP-1 Requirement**

All purchase orders issued for goods and services acquired from the awarded Vendor under this RFP must be encoded by the Customer agency with a CP-1 approval number assigned by **ITS**. This requirement does not apply to acquisitions that by policy have been delegated to State entities.

13. **Requirement for Electronic Payment and Invoicing**

13.1 Payments to the awarded Vendor for all goods and services acquired under this RFP by state agencies that make payments through the Statewide Automated Accounting System (“SAAS”) will be made electronically, via deposit to the bank account of the Vendor’s choice. The awarded Vendor must enroll and be activated in PayMode™, the State’s current vehicle for sending and receiving electronic payments, prior to receiving any payments from state agencies. There is no charge for a Vendor to enroll or receive payments via PayMode. For additional information on PayMode, including registration instructions, Vendors should visit the following website: <http://portal.paymode.com/ms/>. Vendors may also request assistance from the Mississippi Management and Reporting System (MMRS) Call Center regarding PayMode registration by contacting mash@dfa.state.ms.us.

13.2 For state agencies that make payments through SAAS, the awarded Vendor is required to submit electronically all invoices for goods and services acquired under this RFP, along with appropriate supporting documentation, as directed by the State. Should the requirement for electronic invoicing be implemented during the term of the project contract, the State will work with the Vendor to determine a reasonable timeframe for initiating electronic invoicing.

13.3 Items 13.1 and 13.2 only apply to state agencies that make payments through SAAS. Payments and invoices for all other entities will conform to their standard methods of payment to contractors.

14. **Time For Negotiations**

14.1 All contractual issues must be successfully negotiated within fifteen (15) working days from the Vendor’s initial receipt of the project contract from **ITS**, unless **ITS** consents to extend the period. Failure to complete negotiations within the stated time period constitutes grounds for rejection of the Vendor’s response to this RFP. **ITS** may withdraw the proposal award and begin negotiations with the next ranked Vendor immediately or pursue any other option.

- 14.2 Negotiations shall be limited to items to which the Vendor has noted as exceptions on their Proposal Exception Summary Form, as well as any new items that the State may require. All contract changes requested by the Vendor related to such exceptions noted in Vendor's proposal shall be submitted three (3) working days prior to scheduled negotiations, unless **ITS** consents to a different period.
15. **Prime Contractor**
The selected Vendor will be designated the prime contractor in the proposal, and as such, shall be solely responsible for all products/services offered in the proposal and for the fulfillment of the contract with the State.
16. **Sole Point of Contact**
ITS will consider the selected Vendor to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the contract.
- 16.1 The Vendor must acknowledge and agree that in matters of proposals, clarifications, negotiations, contracts and resolution of issues and/or disputes, the Vendor represents all contractors, third parties and/or subcontractors the Vendor has assembled for this project. The Vendor's commitments are binding on all such parties and consequently the State is only required to negotiate with the Vendor.
- 16.2 Furthermore, the Vendor acknowledges and agrees to pass all rights and/or services related to all general consulting, services leasing, software licensing, warranties, hardware maintenance and/or software support to the State from any contractor, third party or subcontractor without the State having to negotiate separately or individually with any such parties for these terms or conditions.
- 16.3 Should a proposing Vendor wish to assign payment of any or all charges resulting from this contract to a third party, Vendor must disclose that fact in his/her proposal, along with the third party's name, address, nature of business, and relationship to the proposing Vendor, the reason for and purpose of the assignment, and all conditions of the assignment, including but not limited to a copy of an assignment document to be executed by the State, the Vendor, and the third party. Such assignments will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the State. Vendor must clearly and definitively state in his/her proposal whether the proposal is contingent upon the requested assignment of payments. Whenever any assignment of payment is requested, the proposal, contract, and assignment document must include language specifically guaranteeing that the proposing Vendor is solely and fully liable and responsible for the performance of its obligations under the subject contract. No assignment of payment will be considered at the time of purchase unless such assignment was fully disclosed in the Vendor's proposal and subsequently accepted by the State.

17. **ITS Approval of Subcontractor Required**

Unless provided in the contract, the Vendor shall not contract with any other party for furnishing any of the contracted work or services without the consent, guidance, and written approval of the State. **ITS** reserves the right of refusal and the right to request replacement of a subcontractor due to unacceptable work or conduct. This provision should not be interpreted as requiring the approval of individual contracts of employment between the Vendor and personnel assigned for services under the contract.
18. **Inclusion of Subcontract Agreements**

Copies of any agreements to be executed between the Vendor and any subcontractors must be included in the Vendor's proposal.
19. **Negotiations with Subcontractor**

In order to protect the State's interest, **ITS** reserves the right to attempt to resolve the contractual disagreements that may arise between the Vendor and its subcontractor after award of the contract.
20. **References to Vendor to Include Subcontractor**

All references in the RFP to "Vendor" shall be construed to encompass both the Vendor and its subcontractors.
21. **Outstanding Vendor Obligations**
 - 21.1 Any Vendor who presently owes the State of Mississippi money pursuant to any contract for which **ITS** is the contracting agent and who has received written notification from **ITS** regarding the monies owed, must submit, with the proposal, a certified check in the amount due and owing in order for the proposal in response to this RFP to be considered. For a Vendor currently in bankruptcy as of the RFP submission date, this requirement is met, if and only if, **ITS** has an active petition before the appropriate bankruptcy court for recovery of the full dollar amount presently owed to the State of Mississippi by that Vendor. If the Vendor has emerged from bankruptcy by the RFP submission date, the Vendor must pay in full any amount due and owing to the State, as directed in the court-approved reorganization plan, prior to any proposal being considered.
 - 21.2 Any Vendor who is presently in default on existing contracts for which **ITS** is the contracting agent, or who otherwise is delinquent in the performance of any such contracted obligations, is in the sole judgment of the State required to make arrangement for fulfilling outstanding obligations to the satisfaction of the State in order for the proposal to be considered.
 - 21.3 The State, at its sole discretion, may reject the proposal of a Vendor with any significant outstanding financial or other obligations to the State or who is in bankruptcy at the time of proposal submission.

22. **Equipment Condition**

For all RFPs requiring equipment, the Vendor must furnish only new equipment in response to **ITS** specifications, unless an explicit requirement for used equipment is otherwise specified.

23. **Delivery Intervals**

The Vendor's proposal must specify, in the *Cost Information Submission* and in response to any specific instructions in the *Technical Specifications*, delivery and installation intervals after receipt of order.

24. **Pricing Guarantee**

The Vendor must explicitly state, in the *Cost Information Submission* and in response to any specific instructions in the *Technical Specifications*, how long the proposal will remain valid. Unless stated to the contrary in the *Technical Specifications*, pricing must be guaranteed for a minimum of ninety (90) days.

25. **Shipping Charges**

For all RFPs requiring shipment of any product or component, all products must be delivered FOB destination to any location within the geographic boundaries of the State with all transportation charges prepaid and included in the RFP proposal or LOC quotation. Destination is the point of use.

26. **Amortization Schedule**

For all RFPs requiring equipment, contracts involving the payment of interest must include an amortization schedule clearly documenting the amount of interest payable over the term of the contract.

27. **Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance for Web Development and Portal Related Services**

All Web and Portal development work must be designed and implemented in compliance with the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards associated with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and with the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the W3C.

28. **Ownership of Developed Software**

28.1 When specifications require the Vendor to develop software for the State, the Vendor must acknowledge and agree that the State is the sole owner of such developed software with exclusive rights to use, alter, or distribute the software without restriction. This requirement applies to source code, object code, and documentation.

28.2 The State may be willing to grant the Vendor a nonexclusive license to use the State's software subject to devising acceptable terms and license fees. This requirement is a matter of State Law, and not negotiable.

29. **Ownership of Custom Tailored Software**

In installations where the Vendor's intellectual property is modified and custom-tailored to meet the needs of the State, the Vendor must offer the State an application license entitling the State to use, and/or alter the software without restriction. These requirements apply to source code, object code and documentation.

30. **Terms of Software License**

The Vendor acknowledges and agrees that the term of all software licenses provided to the State shall be perpetual unless stated otherwise in the Vendor's proposal.

31. **The State is Licensee of Record**

The Vendor must not bypass the software contracting phase of a project by licensing project software intended for State use in its company name. Upon award of a project, the Vendor must ensure that the State is properly licensed for all software that is proposed for use in a project.

32. **Compliance with Enterprise Security Policy**

Any solution proposed in response to this RFP must be in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Security Policy. The Enterprise Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines and covers the following topics: web servers, email, virus prevention, firewalls, data encryption, remote access, passwords, servers, physical access, traffic restrictions, wireless, laptop and mobile devices, disposal of hardware/media, and application assessment/certification. Given that information security is an evolving technology practice, the State reserves the right to introduce new policy during the term of the contract resulting from this RFP and require the Vendor to comply with same in the event the industry introduces more secure, robust solutions or practices that facilitate a more secure posture for the State of Mississippi.

The Enterprise Security Policy is available to third parties on a need-to-know basis and requires the execution of a non-disclosure agreement prior to accessing the policy. The Vendor may request individual sections of the Enterprise Security Policy or request the entire document. Prior to the Vendor receiving the requested policy information, the Vendor must sign and submit the non-disclosure agreement found on the ITS website, <http://www.its.ms.gov>, as follows: click on the "ITS Services" button on the left of the screen; select "Information Security", scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on the link "Enterprise Security Policy" under "Policies and Plans". The form can be found at the "Enterprise Security Policy" link under the "Third Party" heading. The complete web address is shown below:

http://www.its.ms.gov/security/docs/confidentiality_agreement_for_its_esp_for_web.pdf
Vendor must provide contact information (name, email address, phone number) that can be used to coordinate the secure delivery of the requested information.

33. **Negotiating with Next-Ranked Vendor**

Should the State cease doing business with any Vendor selected via this RFP process, for any reason, the State reserves the right to initiate negotiations with the next ranked Vendor.

34. **Disclosure of Proposal Information**

Vendors should be aware that any information in a proposal may be subject to disclosure or reproduction under the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983, defined in Section 25-61-1 et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated. All disclosures of proposal information will be made in compliance with the **ITS** Public Records Procedures established in accordance with the Mississippi Public Records Act. The **ITS** Public Records Procedures are available in Section 019-010 of the **ITS** Procurement Handbook, on the **ITS** Internet site at: <http://dsitspe01.its.ms.gov/its/procman.nsf/TOC4?OpenView> or from **ITS** upon request.

As outlined in the Third Party Information section of the **ITS** Public Records Procedures, **ITS** will give written notice to any affected Vendor of a request to view or reproduce the Vendor's proposal or portion thereof. **ITS** will not, however, give such notice with respect to summary information prepared in connection with the State's review or evaluation of a Vendor's proposal, including, but not limited to, written presentations to the **ITS** Board or other approving bodies, and/or similar written documentation prepared for the project file. In addition, **ITS** will not provide third-party notice for requests for any contract executed as a result of this RFP, with the exception of information contained in contract exhibits identified and labeled as confidential during the contract negotiation process. **ITS** will provide third-party notice of requests for any such confidential exhibits to allow Vendor the opportunity to protect the information by court order as outlined in the **ITS** Public Records Procedures.

Summary information and contract terms, as defined above, become the property of **ITS**, who has the right to reproduce or distribute this information without notification.

Vendors should further be aware that requests for disclosure of proposal and contract information are sometimes received by **ITS** significantly after the proposal opening date. **ITS** will notify the signatory "Officer in Bind of Company" provided in Section I of this RFP for Notification of Public Records Requests in the event information is requested that your company might wish to consider protecting as a trade secret or as confidential commercial or financial information. If the "Officer in Bind of Company" should not be used for notification of public records requests, Vendor should provide the alternative contact information in response to this RFP item.

35. **Risk Factors to be Assessed**

The State will assess risk factors that may initially exist within a given procurement and that may develop over the course of a procurement process as facts become known. The State, at its sole discretion, may employ the following mechanisms in mitigating these risks: proposal bonding, performance bonding, progress payment plan with retainage, inclusion of liquidated damages, and withholding payment for all portions of the products/services acquired until final acceptance. The Vendor must agree to incorporate any or all of the above terms and conditions into the customer agreement.

36. **Proposal Bond**

37. The Vendor is not required to include a proposal bond with its RFP proposal.
Performance Bond/Irrevocable Bank Letter of Credit

The Vendor is not required to include the price of a performance bond or irrevocable bank letter of credit with its RFP proposal.

38. **Responsibility for Behavior of Vendor Employees/Subcontractors**

The Vendor will be responsible for the behavior of all its employees and subcontractors while on the premises of any State agency or institution. Any Vendor employee or subcontractor acting in a manner determined by the administration of any State agency or institution to be detrimental, abusive, or offensive to any of the staff or student body of any State agency or institution will be asked to leave the premises and can be suspended from further work on the premises.

39. **Protests**

The Executive Director of **ITS** and/or the Board Members of **ITS** or their designees shall have the authority to resolve Vendor protests in connection with the selection for award of a contract. Copies of the protest procedures are available on the **ITS** Internet site - **ITS** Protest Procedure and Policy, Section 019-020, **ITS** Procurement Handbook at: <http://dsitspe01.its.ms.gov/its/procman.nsf/TOC4?OpenView> or from **ITS** upon request.

40. **Protest Bond**

Potential Vendors may protest any of the specifications of this RFP on the belief that the specification is unlawful, unduly restrictive, or unjustifiably restraining to competition. Any such protest must be in writing and submitted to the **ITS** Executive Director along with the appropriate protest bond within five (5) working days of the Official Release of the RFP, as defined in the **ITS** Protest Procedure and Policy. The outside of the envelope must be marked "Protest" and must specify RFP number 3682.

As a condition precedent to filing any protest related to this procurement, the Vendor must procure, submit to the **ITS** Executive Director with its written protest, and maintain in effect at all times during the course of the protest or appeal thereof, a protest bond in the full amount of the total estimated project lifecycle cost or \$250,000.00, whichever is less. The total estimated project lifecycle cost will be the amount used by **ITS** in the computation of cost points, as the low cost in the denominator of the cost evaluation formula. The bond shall be accompanied by a duly authenticated or certified document evidencing that the person executing the bond is a licensed Mississippi agent for the bonding company. This certified document shall identify the name and address of the person or entity holding the protest bond and shall identify a contact person to be notified in the event that the State is required to take action against the bond. The protest bond shall not be released to the protesting Vendor until the protest is finally resolved and the time for appealing said protest has expired. The protest bond shall be procured at the protesting Vendor's expense and be payable to the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services. Prior to approval of the protest bond, **ITS** reserves the right to review the protest bond and require the protesting Vendor to substitute an acceptable bond in such form as the State may reasonably require. The premiums on such

bond shall be paid by the protesting Vendor. The State may claim against the protest bond as specified in Section 25-53-5 (n) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended during the 1998 Mississippi legislative session, in addition to all other rights and remedies the State may have at law or in equity.

Should the written protest submitted by the Vendor fail to comply with the content requirements of **ITS'** protest procedure and policy, fail to be submitted within the prescribed time limits, or fail to have the appropriate protest bond accompany it, the protest will be summarily dismissed by the **ITS** Executive Director.

41. **Mississippi Employment Protection Act**

Effective July 1, 2008, Vendor acknowledges that if awarded, it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act, Section 71-11-1, et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp2008), and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Vendor will agree to maintain records of such compliance and, upon request of the State, to provide a copy of each such verification to the State.

Vendor acknowledges and certifies that any person assigned to perform services hereunder meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws of the State of Mississippi.

Vendor acknowledges that violating the E-Verify Program (or successor thereto) requirements subjects Vendor to the following: (a) cancellation of any state or public contract and ineligibility for any state or public contract for up to three (3) years, with notice of such cancellation being made public, or (b) the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Vendor by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year, or (c) both. Vendor would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit.

SECTION V PROPOSAL EXCEPTIONS

Please return the *Proposal Exception Summary Form* at the end of this section with all exceptions to items in any Section of this RFP listed and clearly explained or state “No Exceptions Taken.” If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions to any item in this RFP document.

1. Unless specifically disallowed on any specification herein, the Vendor may take exception to any point within this RFP, including a specification denoted with “shall” or “must,” as long as the following are true:
 - 1.1 The specification is not a matter of State law;
 - 1.2 The proposal still meets the intent of the RFP;
 - 1.3 A *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included with Vendor’s proposal; and
 - 1.4 The exception is clearly explained, along with any alternative or substitution the Vendor proposes to address the intent of the specification, on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*.

2. The Vendor has no liability to provide items to which an exception has been taken. **ITS** has no obligation to accept any exception. During the proposal evaluation and/or contract negotiation process, the Vendor and **ITS** will discuss each exception and take one of the following actions:
 - 2.1 The Vendor will withdraw the exception and meet the specification in the manner prescribed;
 - 2.2 **ITS** will determine that the exception neither poses significant risk to the project nor undermines the intent of the RFP and will accept the exception;
 - 2.3 **ITS** and the Vendor will agree on compromise language dealing with the exception and will insert same into the contract; or
 - 2.4 None of the above actions is possible, and **ITS** either disqualifies the Vendor’s proposal or withdraws the award and proceeds to the next ranked Vendor.

3. Should **ITS** and the Vendor reach a successful agreement, **ITS** will sign adjacent to each exception which is being accepted or submit a formal written response to the *Proposal Exception Summary* responding to each of the Vendor’s exceptions. The *Proposal Exception Summary*, with those exceptions approved by **ITS**, will become a part of any contract on acquisitions made under this RFP.

4. An exception will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the State.
5. The State desires to award this RFP to a Vendor or Vendors with whom there is a high probability of establishing a mutually agreeable contract, substantially within the standard terms and conditions of the State's RFP, including the *Standard Contract* in Exhibit A, if included herein. As such, Vendors whose proposals, in the sole opinion of the State, reflect a substantial number of material exceptions to this RFP, may place themselves at a comparative disadvantage in the evaluation process or risk disqualification of their proposals.
6. For Vendors who have successfully negotiated a contract with **ITS** in the past, **ITS** requests that, prior to taking any exceptions to this RFP, the individual(s) preparing this proposal first confer with other individuals who have previously submitted proposals to **ITS** or participated in contract negotiations with **ITS** on behalf of their company, to ensure the Vendor is consistent in the items to which it takes exception.

PROPOSAL EXCEPTION SUMMARY FORM

List and clearly explain any exceptions, for all RFP Sections and Exhibits, in the table below.

ITS RFP Reference	Vendor Proposal Reference	Brief Explanation of Exception	ITS Acceptance (sign here only if accepted)
(Reference specific outline point to which exception is taken)	(Page, section, items in Vendor's proposal where exception is explained)	(Short description of exception being made)	
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

SECTION VI RFP QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer each question or provide the information as requested in this section.

1. **Statewide Automated Accounting System (SAAS) Information for State of Mississippi Vendor File**

- 1.1 **SAAS Vendor Code:** Any Vendor who has not previously done business with the State and has not been assigned a SAAS Vendor code should furnish a signed copy of an IRS W-9 form with the proposal. A copy of the W-9 Form can be obtained by going to the ITS website, <http://www.its.ms.gov>, clicking on the “Procurement” button to the left of the screen, selecting “Vendor Information”, scrolling to the bottom of the page, and clicking on the link “Forms Required in RFP Responses.” Vendors who have previously done business with the State should furnish ITS with their SAAS Vendor code.

SAAS Vendor Code: _____ OR Signed W-9 Form Attached: _____

- 1.2 **Vendor Self-Certification Form:** The State of Mississippi, in an effort to capture participation by minority Vendors, asks that each Vendor review the State of Mississippi Minority Vendor Self Certification Form. This information is for tracking/reporting purposes only, and will not be used in determining which Vendor will be chosen for the project. Any Vendor who can claim status as a Minority Business Enterprise or a Woman Business Enterprise in accordance with the definitions on this form and who has not previously submitted a form to the State of Mississippi should submit the completed form with the proposal. A copy of the Minority Vendor Self-Certification Form can be obtained at: http://www.mississippi.org/assets/docs/minority/minority_vendor_selfcertform.pdf. Please direct any questions about minority certification in Mississippi to the Minority Business Enterprise Division of the Mississippi Development Authority by telephone at (601) 359-3448 or via email at minority@mississippi.org.

Minority Vendor Self-Certification Form Included: _____
Minority Vendor Self-Certification Form Previously Submitted: _____
Not claiming Minority or Women Business Enterprise Status: _____

2. **Certification of Authority to Sell**

The Vendor must certify Vendor is a seller in good standing, authorized to sell and able to deliver all items and related services proposed in the State of Mississippi in the time frame specified. Does the Vendor make these certifications? (A yes or no answer is required.)

3. **Certification of No Conflict of Interest**

Mississippi law clearly forbids a direct or indirect conflict of interest of a company or its employees in selling to the State. The Vendor must answer and/or provide the following:

- 3.1 Does there exist any possible conflict of interest in the sale of items to any institution within **ITS** jurisdiction or to any governing authority? (A yes or no answer is required.)
- 3.2 If the possibility of a conflict does exist, provide a list of those institutions and the nature of the conflict on a separate page and include it in your proposal. The Vendor may be precluded from selling to those institutions where a conflict of interest may exist.

4. **Pending Legal Actions**

- 4.1 Are there any lawsuits or other legal proceedings against the Vendor that pertain to any of the software, hardware, or other materials and/or services which are a part of the Vendor's proposal? (A yes or no answer is required.)
- 4.2 If so, provide a copy of same and state with specificity the current status of the proceedings.

5. **Non-Disclosure of Social Security Numbers**

Does the Vendor acknowledge that any information system proposed, developed, or modified under this RFP that disseminates, in any form or manner, information or material that contains the Social Security Number of an individual, has mechanisms in place to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of the individual's Social Security Number to members of the general public or to persons other than those persons who, in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, have a lawful and legitimate need to know the individual's Social Security Number? This acknowledgement is required by Section 25-1-111 of the Mississippi Code Annotated.

6. **Order and Remit Address**

The Vendor must specify both an order and a remit address:

Order Address:

Remit Address (if different):

7. **Web Amendments**

As stated in Section III, **ITS** will use the **ITS** website to post amendments regarding RFPs before the proposal opening at http://www.its.ms.gov/rfps/rfps_awaiting.shtml. We will post clarifications until noon seven days prior to the proposal opening date listed on the cover page of this RFP or the posted extension date, if applicable.

Vendors may list any questions or items needing clarification discovered in the week prior to the proposal opening in a written format at the beginning of the proposal binder or in the comment section for the individual offering.

Does the Vendor certify that they have reviewed a copy of the **ITS** amendments for RFPs as above stated? (A yes or no answer is required.)

SECTION VII TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. How to Respond to this Section

- 1.1 Beginning with Item 2.1 of this section, label and respond to each outline point in this section as it is labeled in the RFP.
- 1.2 The Vendor must respond with “ACKNOWLEDGED,” “WILL COMPLY” or “AGREED” to each point in this section. In addition, many items in this RFP require detailed and specific responses to provide the requested information. Failure to provide the information requested will result in the Vendor receiving a lower score for that item, or, at the State’s sole discretion, being subject to disqualification.
- 1.3 “ACKNOWLEDGED” should be used when no vendor response or vendor compliance is required. “ACKNOWLEDGED” simply means the vendor is confirming to the State that he read the statement. This is commonly used in the RFP sections where the agency’s current operating environment is described or where general information is being given about the project.
- 1.4 “WILL COMPLY” or “AGREED” are used interchangeably to indicate that the vendor will adhere to the requirement. These terms are used to respond to statements that specify that a vendor or vendor’s proposed solution must comply with a specific item or must perform a certain task.
- 1.5 If the Vendor cannot respond with “ACKNOWLEDGED,” “WILL COMPLY,” or “AGREED,” then the Vendor must respond with “EXCEPTION.” (See Section V, for additional instructions regarding Vendor exceptions.)
- 1.6 Where an outline point asks a question or requests information, the Vendor must respond with the specific answer or information requested.
- 1.7 In addition to the above, Vendor must provide explicit details as to the manner and degree to which the proposal meets or exceeds each specification.

2. Mandatory Provisions in Technical Requirements for this RFP

- 2.1 Certain items in the technical specifications of this RFP are MANDATORY. Vendors are specifically disallowed from taking exception to these mandatory requirements, and proposals that do not meet all mandatory requirements are subject to immediate disqualification, at the sole discretion of the State.
- 2.2 Mandatory requirements are those requirements noted as “MANDATORY” in Section VII.

3. **General Overview and Background**

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is seeking a qualified Vendor to provide an integrated Initiatives Tracking and A1C, blood pressure, cholesterol, and smoking cessation (ABCS) Surveillance Reporting System for the MSDH to support the Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative (MDHC) initiative, whose aim targets the ABCS across Mississippi's 18 county Delta Region.

The Mississippi State Department of Health's (MSDH) primary charge is to provide statewide services directed at the prevention of diseases and the protection and promotion of the health status of all Mississippians. The agency supports clinics throughout the state in nine (9) public health districts and in all eighty-two (82) counties. MSDH, the leading public health agency in the state, has an important mission to serve and protect the public health of citizens of Mississippi. MSDH is a centralized system with clinics in 81 of 82 counties, organized into nine administrative districts with oversight from the central office. The local health departments provide some prevention services to the underserved population.

The mission of the MSDH's Chronic Disease Bureau is to improve the lives of Mississippians by promoting healthy lifestyles; preventing and controlling disease; and protecting health through policy and environmental system change. Strategies to accomplish this mission include reducing the number of individuals who suffer from heart disease, stroke, diabetes, hypertension, and cancer; reducing disparities among groups who are disproportionately affected; implementing science-based interventions to prevent and control disease; and gathering data, assessing progress, identifying gaps, measuring impact, and refining strategies.

Many of the health problems that plague Mississippians are the result of the state's social, economic, and educational conditions. Mississippi has the second lowest per capita and family income in the nation. Prevention costs are significantly less than managing disease or disability. Mississippi's high rates of mortality and morbidity in many areas are costly in terms of human suffering and cost of care. Statewide healthcare utilization data can be used to target intervention strategies and prioritize funding for prevention activities, as well as, bring to light the population's healthcare access needs.

According to the Mississippi State Plan for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and Control (2004 – 2013), accurate and reliable morbidity data (also known as sickness, illness, disease, injury, and disability data) are difficult and costly to collect.

With the implementation of the Healthcare Data System (HDS) in 2008, the MSDH created a comprehensive system with improved data quality and efficiency of data collection while improving the ease of submission. The primary goal of the HDS was to establish and maintain a centralized reporting system that includes tracking all Mississippians, promoting public use of the data and generating research products that, along with aggregate reports, add value to the data and stimulate community and health improvements.

The MDHC is charged with developing the capacity to conduct data linkages to generate surveillance data needed to improve the quality of care for heart disease and stroke patients. In order to accomplish this task, the MDHC has been collaborating with Office of Health Informatics (OHI) to develop an Initiatives Tracking and ABCS Surveillance System. A list of goals for each component of the ABCS system can be found in Exhibit B. The Vendor must work with OHI to deploy, extend, and integrate a Chronic ABCS initiative tracking and ABCS surveillance solution that includes Business Intelligence and will integrate the OHI technology platform already in place to enhance the capabilities and capture the clinical data necessary for ABCS surveillance.

The solution will support and track the various initiatives and projects that aim to improve the health conditions of individuals in the Delta region, specifically improvement in A1C, blood pressure, cholesterol, and smoking cessation (ABCS). The surveillance system will eventually include data from health department data sources such as Hospital Discharge Data System (HDDS), Human Resources (HRIS), Patient Information Management System (PIMS), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Women Infant and Children (WIC), Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), Immunization Registries, Vital Records, Electronic Laboratory Lab data, EPA data, Census, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), as well as, data sources from the various projects that are currently in place throughout the Mississippi Delta. The solution will enable the MDHC to gauge the health of the individuals in the Mississippi Delta and determine if interventions are making an impact. The solution will also serve as a community decision making tool. It will provide easy to understand, effective and timely data to community leaders, local policy makers, elected officials and healthcare professionals.

4. Procurement Project Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date for RFP	05/15/12
Second Advertisement Date for RFP	05/22/12
Deadline for Vendor's Written Questions	3:00 p.m. Central Time on 06/01/12
Deadline for Questions Answered and Posted to ITS Web Site	06/08/12
Open Proposals	06/15/12
Evaluation of Proposals	06/15/12 – 06/22/12
Contract Negotiation	06/25/12 – 07/06/12

5. Statement of Understanding

5.1 Vendors may request additional information or clarifications to this RFP using the following procedure:

- 5.1.1 Vendors must clearly identify the specified paragraph(s) in the RFP that is in question.
- 5.1.2 Vendor must deliver a written document to Donna Hamilton at ITS by Friday, June 1, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. Central Time. This document may be delivered by hand, mail, email, or fax. Address information is given on page one of this RFP. The fax number is (601) 713-6380. **ITS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF QUESTION DOCUMENTS.** It is solely the responsibility of the vendor that the clarification document reaches **ITS** on time. Vendors may contact Donna Hamilton to verify the receipt of their document. Documents received after the deadline will be rejected.
- 5.2 All questions will be compiled and answered, and a written document containing all questions submitted and corresponding answers will be posted on the **ITS** web site by close of business on Friday, June 8, 2012.

6. Vendor Qualifications

The Vendor must provide a description of his organization with sufficient information to substantiate proven expertise in the products and services being requested in this RFP for all phases of the project. Vendor must address each of the elements specified below.

- 6.1 The Vendor must disclose any company restructurings, mergers, and acquisitions over the past three (3) years.
- 6.2 The Vendor must specify the location of the organization's principal office and the number of executive and professional personnel employed at this office.
- 6.3 The Vendor must state the number of years the Vendor has been providing the products and services being proposed.
- 6.4 The Vendor must specify the organization's size in terms of the number of full-time employees, the number of contract personnel used at any one time, the number of offices and their locations, and structure (for example, state, national, or international organization).
- 6.5 The Vendor must specify the Vendor's relationship to any parent firms, sister firms, or subsidiaries.
- 6.6 The Vendor must provide the name and the state of incorporation, if incorporated.
- 6.7 The Vendor must indicate the number of state government implementations the company has performed in the past three years.

- 6.8 The Vendor must indicate the number of implementations the company has performed for state/federal government entities which perform similar functions in their respective state/area/province as are required by this RFP.
- 6.9 Vendors must provide detail about, and discuss, relevant experience in the areas listed below:
 - 6.9.1 Public Health Management
 - 6.9.2 Enterprise Performance Management
 - 6.9.3 Experience in Rhapsody and data integration
 - 6.9.4 Experience in Hospital Discharge Data integration and visualizations
 - 6.9.5 Experience in International Classification of Disease (ICD9) integration and mining to support the initiatives and measures
 - 6.9.6 Data integration experience with knowledge of MSDH technology infrastructure
- 6.10 Preference will be given to Vendors possessing experience with the Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative's (MDHC) Objectives, Initiatives, and Measurements.
- 6.11 The Vendor must describe the products and services being provided and the stage of development of those products and services.
- 6.12 The Vendor must have experience deploying pre-built ABCS or Chronic Disease Measurements, Cubes, and Panorama Necto Workbooks
- 6.13 The Vendor must indicate the number of clients for which his company is currently providing maintenance and support. Discuss the geographic distribution of these clients.
- 6.14 Vendor must provide an organizational chart identifying all personnel proposed for this project.
- 6.15 Vendor must provide a resume for each of their staff members proposed on this project. Resumes must reflect qualifications and recent experience relevant to the scope of the work indicated in this RFP. Resumes must include at least three (3) references that can be directly contacted to verify the individual's qualifications and experience.

- 6.16 Vendor must ensure that each staff member assigned to this project has the ability to communicate clearly in the English language both verbally and in written form.
- 6.17 Vendor must disclose if any of the personnel proposed for this project are independent consultants, subcontractors, or acting in a capacity other than an employee of the Vendor submitting the proposal.

7. **Project Management**

- 7.1 Vendor must commit a dedicated Project Manager for the duration of the project implementation. The Project Manager must have sufficient prior experience to address the specifics of this project. Vendor must include details to substantiate this experience.
- 7.2 The Project Manager must be named in the Vendor's RFP response and must be available for interview by the Agency as part of this RFP evaluation.
- 7.3 –Preference will be given to Vendors that propose a Project Manager with relevant experience in State and Federal (CDC) performance measurement, grants management, and Chronic disease experience in an executive paygrade position (Chief Management Official or higher).
- 7.4 MANDATORY - The proposed project management team must have experience in Public Health Enterprise Performance Management and Business Intelligence and provide evidence of this experience.
- 7.5 Vendor must submit, as a part of this proposal, a high-level Project Work Plan that outlines the overall strategy and approach to providing the requested System and services. The Plan must contain all significant work steps required for provision of the requested services. Timeframes must be specified in terms of work days or weeks after contract signing. The Plan must include the elements listed below.
 - 7.5.1 The Plan must incorporate all tasks to be accomplished;
 - 7.5.2 The Plan must address all project deliverables, including implementation, acceptance testing, schedule for actual testing and *go-live* date;
 - 7.5.3 The Plan must include resource estimates for both the Agency and Vendor timelines; and
 - 7.5.4 The Plan must address assumptions that the Vendor has made based on the information rendered in these specifications.

- 7.6 Upon contract award, the Vendor's Project Manager must work with the Agency to develop a more detailed Project Work Plan to guide the System's implementation.
- 7.7 The Vendor must describe the change order and staffing strategy under the following circumstances.
 - 7.7.1 The Vendor must describe the change order and staffing strategy when a customer requires additional functionality that may be within the capability of the proposed system's existing programming, after the initial system acceptance.
 - 7.7.2 The Vendor must describe his change order and staffing strategy when a customer requires additional functionality that may require modification of the proposed system's programmed code and/or the addition of new programming, after initial system acceptance.

8. Initiative Tracking and ABCS Surveillance Reporting System Requirements

- 8.1 The proposed solution must leverage a secure Information Portal that allows users to view, extract, search, and produce reports of patients and the population within the community of the MDHC intervention program.
 - 8.1.1 The vendor shall assist MDHC, in collaboration with OHI to integrate with OHI's collaborative secure Web portal, dashboards, research analytics, and periodic reporting from a dimensional data warehouse containing discharge data from the HDS.
 - 8.1.2 The vendor shall also assist OHI to build a supporting data warehouse containing data placeholders to receive data from the Health Data System, Electronic Lab Management system, and the new MDHC surveillance system data source feeds.
 - 8.1.3 MANDATORY - The vendor must provide credentials or certifications for Panorama Necto Healthcare Solutions.
- 8.2 The proposed solution must utilize MSDH's existing investment in Panorama-Necto, Rhapsody, and SharePoint 2010.
 - 8.2.1 The Vendor must provide examples of relevant experience using these platforms in similar environments.
- 8.3 The proposed solution must provide ABCS and Chronic disease analytics and predictive modeling from role-based dashboard views.
 - 8.3.1 These views shall provide near real time graphical representation of the efficacy of the program and help to pinpoint trouble areas

that may need more intervention or a change to assessment and care plan.

- 8.4 The Vendor must provide management consulting services and lead facilitated sessions with MSDH to develop a robust MDHC ABCS Initiatives Tracking and Surveillance Management solution.
- 8.5 The proposed solution must provide the ability to accurately aggregate all of a patient's information currently stored in a variety of disparate databases, by entering one unique patient identifier, while ensuring patient privacy and working to implement an interoperable public health system.
- 8.6 Vendor must respond to the following system goals established by MSDH by discussing the proposed solution's ability to satisfy each goal below:
 - 8.6.1 Build a robust ABCS surveillance system using proven methodologies;
 - 8.6.2 Establish an integrated data repository/warehouse to support the capture, management, storage and reporting of patient data;
 - 8.6.3 Enhance MSDH's interoperable system that meets state and federal requirements and guidelines for a functional, robust, and scalable public health information management system;
 - 8.6.4 Create a data dictionary to enable users to exchange, compare, query and report on data collected;
 - 8.6.5 Quickly and consistently identify a patient across all encounters and to minimize patient record duplication;
 - 8.6.6 Ensure that access to data is controlled at the system, application, database and transaction levels and audit data are recorded for every transaction;
 - 8.6.7 Continue to ensure patient privacy;
 - 8.6.8 Perform a more in-depth analysis of the data to include maintaining the collaborative relationships with acute care facilities and physicians;
 - 8.6.9 Produce and distribute timely reports on data collected;
 - 8.6.10 Use the data to assess the burden of health care within the Mississippi Delta, while identifying high-risk groups and areas for further study;

- 8.6.11 Provide data to target health promotion and prevention activities;
- 8.6.12 Leverage and integrate SharePoint workflows and collaboration;
- 8.6.13 Provide web-based access for internal users to view, access and query ABCS data;
- 8.6.14 Proven Public Health (Federal and State) Strategic Vision, Planning and Management Services;
- 8.6.15 Provide risk-adjusted cost and schedule goals, and measurable and achievable performance goals;
- 8.6.16 Provide demonstrable Chronic ABCS Disease and Field Initiative Surveillance data model;
- 8.6.17 Provide demonstrable Chronic ABCS Disease and Field Initiative Surveillance Data Definitions;
- 8.6.18 Provide demonstrable Chronic ABCS Disease and Field Initiative Surveillance Role Based Analytics;
- 8.6.19 Provide existing predefined Chronic Disease measures definitions and supporting metadata;
- 8.6.20 Provide Chronic ABCS Disease data warehousing tools, templates, and demonstrable experience;
- 8.6.21 Provide demonstrable Field Initiative Project and Process Alignment and Measurement Tools;
- 8.6.22 Provide an integrated Grants Management Financial and Initiatives Solution;
- 8.6.23 Provide demonstrable Chronic Disease & Grant Initiative Geospatial Information Solution;
- 8.6.24 Provide Rich Internet Application (RIA) measurement configuration and population tools of Measures, GIS, and Objective Maps;
- 8.6.25 Provide portal and Rich Internet Application integration with Panorama-Necto;
- 8.6.26 MANDATORY - Provide a demonstrable solution to visualize objectives, initiatives, measures (with actual, target, differences,

and trend line), GIS, and Panorama dashboards within a single web portal quadrant);

- 8.6.27 Provide a measure details web page with technical, scientific, and other descriptive metadata that is dynamically retrieved from an RDBMS;
- 8.6.28 Ability to interact with overall solution with handheld tablets to enable staff to access the system from the field via the internet and enter real time information during home visits.

9. Technical Requirements

- 9.1 The proposed solution must comply with PHIN IT Security and Critical Infrastructure Protection requirements found at www.cdc.gov/PHIN.
- 9.2 The proposed database must be Microsoft SQL Server (SSAS).
- 9.3 The client must be browser-based. The solution must be compliant with Microsoft Internet Explorer 7 or higher.
- 9.4 Any functions requiring e-mail (e.g. alerts) must be compatible with SMTP.
- 9.5 Rapid Solution Simulations will take place in the Vendors environment and be delivered to MSDH OHI for Test, QA, and Production Deployments.
 - 9.5.1 MANDATORY - Vendor's environment must include Visual Studio 2010, Team Foundation Server, MS SQL 08 R2 & MS SQL 2012, SharePoint 2010, ER Win or Visio, and Panorama-Necto.
 - 9.5.2 Deployment team will work on VM's with identical environments housed in a data center rated with 99.9% uptime (Three 9's).
 - 9.5.3 Vendor will supply their own licenses.
- 9.6 The Vendor solution must integrate with automatic job scheduling capabilities that will allow Server Administration to define (add), modify, disable, and delete scheduled reports or utility programs.
- 9.7 If any component(s) necessary for operation of the requested system is omitted from Vendor's proposal, Vendor must be willing to provide the component(s) at no additional cost.
- 9.8 The proposed solution must comply with the following state and federal standards:
 - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>

- Health Level Seven (HL7) version 2.5 Standards for Messaging and the Reference Information Model (RIM)
<http://www.hl7.org/>
- Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) laboratory terminology standards
<http://www.regenstrief.org/loinc/>
- The Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED)
<http://www.snomed.org/>

10. Database Requirements

- 10.1 MANDATORY - Database designs are required to be based on the Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 or SQL Server 2012. Microsoft Access designs will not be accepted.
- 10.2 MANDATORY - The COTS data model must include the following entities: Strategy Map, Business Objectives, Business Objectives Dependency, Business Objective Person, Measure Frequency, Measure, Benchmark, Key Initiatives, Key Initiatives Measure, Key Process, Key Process Measure, Watch Group, Watch Group Measure, Measure Data Source, Data Source Person, Risk Level, Risk Level Person, Project, Project Measure and the relationships between the entities.
- 10.3 Vendor will comply with the MSDH Standard Database Design Lifecycle that includes the Test, QA, and Production environments and migration paths.
- 10.4 MSDH databases will reside in a central server instance of the RDBMS that is physically located in the MSDH Data Center. The application cannot reside on the database server. It must be separated onto a different server from the RDBMS in a true client/server configuration.
- 10.5 The RDBMS cannot be used just as a repository of flat tables, reference tables, or control table structures that simply support intermediate layers or meta-layers of business-rules or application logic.
- 10.6 The RDBMS design for source systems should be relational and take full advantage of RDBMS objects and features (when appropriate), such as partitioned tables, partitioned indexes, stored procedures, packages, package bodies, triggers, sequences, functions, and XML database structures.
- 10.6.1 The Data Warehouse design must be dimensional and should support analytic technologies such as cubes.

- 10.7 The RDBMS design and structures cannot use any reserved system resources, such as the SYSTEM tablespace or SYSTEM-assigned index names in the case Microsoft SQL Server 08 R2 or higher. This includes the use of the SYSTEM tablespace for temporary purposes, such as TEMP tablespaces or Global Temporary Tables, and dynamic temporary structures. The RDBMS structures must use resources specific to its design.
- 10.8 The RDBMS design and structures cannot use any internally-reserved keyword names for any object, such as tables, columns, indexes, and primary key constraints. The RDBMS structures must use naming conventions specific to its design.
- 10.9 The RDBMS design must support meaningful data extraction and reporting operations, such as Crystal Reports software (v.10 or higher) using standard Structured Query Language (SQL) statements, Multi-Dimensional Expression (MDX), or Data Analysis Expression (DAX) .
- 10.10 The RDBMS design will use the standard RDBMS relational features, such as primary keys, referential integrity constraints (foreign keys), and unique keys, to enforce and maintain transactional data integrity.
- 10.11 The vendor RDBMS design will conform to generally acceptable RDBMS coding standards to ensure consistency throughout the design. This will apply to all RDBMS object characteristics and relationships, such as columns and variables having meaningful names and primary and foreign keys having the same names across tables, etc.
- 10.12 All RDBMS and associated Data Definition Language (DDL), Entity Relationship Diagrams (ERD), Data Dictionaries, and Data Models will be developed with Entity Relationship for Windows (ERWin by Computer Associates, Inc.) or the latest revision of Microsoft Visio. Microsoft Access designs or models will not be accepted.
- 10.13 Upon contract award and prior to engaging, Vendor must submit thoroughly documented preliminary Data Definition Language (DDL), Entity Relationship Diagrams (ERD), Data Dictionaries, and Data Models for technical review by OHI's DBA's. Confidentiality of Vendor IP and items marked confidential will be maintained.
- 10.14 Every addition, modification, or change to the RDBMS or any database object will be modeled using MSDH approved modeling tools and is required to graduate through revision and configuration management control and be thoroughly documented and approved before implementation.
- 10.15 Vendor must acquire their own MSDH approved modeling tool licenses; Vendors cannot use the State's licenses.

- 10.16 Vendor will use an integrated database design toolset that includes source code control management, configuration management, and a web-based bug tracking/resolution system that is accessible by MSDH personnel.
- 10.17 The RDBMS must be capable of residing on and taking full advantage of Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2.
- 10.18 Vendor's DBA lead will work on-site for a portion of the project duration with the MSDH Database Administrators to design the RDBMS.
- 10.19 All database administration functions will be administered and executed by the Information Resource Management Database Administrator (IRMDBA) team.
- 10.20 Vendor will participate in design review meetings every two weeks.
- 10.21 The active transactional RDBMS will contain only 3- years-worth of current data (i.e. only the current and previous 2 years). All prior years of data are required to be stored in separate data warehouse tables or temporally-partitioned tables located within the RDBMS. This is required to accommodate efficient database administration of large data sets. These historical tables will be transparently accessible by the client application for historical purposes, such as reporting and investigations. Legacy systems conversions, migrations, and loading into the new transactional RDBMS and data warehouse are required to meet these criteria.
- 10.22 Large portions of data and indexes will be stored in separate tablespaces or partitioned table and partitioned indexes. Current transactional data (the current and previous 2 years) and the historical data (prior years) and all indexes will be contained within their own separate tablespaces or partitioned tables and partitioned indexes.
- 10.23 Database User Accounts - Accounts for each individual database user.
 - 10.23.1 Every individual who connects to the database will have their own account that will be auditable.
 - 10.23.2 Individual users will not be allowed to share accounts or use any generic account. These accounts will have only the CONNECT role privileges that includes select, insert, update, and delete of data rows. Other privileges or functions, such as truncate table, will be granted on an as-needed basis.
 - 10.23.3 User accounts will not be allowed to have database administrator (DBA) roles or ADMIN, SA, SYSTEM, SYS, SYSDBA, or

SYSOPER system privileges grants in any MSDH database environment.

- 10.23.4 All user account passwords are required to be encrypted. Please see Section VII.11.1 PASSWORD MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS for more details regarding passwords.
- 10.24 RDBMS-Owner Accounts - Accounts under which the database RDBMS is built or created.
 - 10.24.1 RDBMS-owner accounts will not be allowed to have database administrator (DBA) roles or ADMIN, SA, SYSTEM, SYS, SYSDBA, or SYSOPER system privileges. They may have the RESOURCE, IMP_FULL_DATABASE, and EXP_FULL_DATABASE roles only in TEST.
 - 10.24.2 Owner accounts may have only the IMP_FULL_DATABASE role in the QA testing and PROD production environments.
 - 10.24.3 All account passwords are required to be encrypted. Please see the Password Management Requirements in Section VII.11.1 below for more details regarding passwords.
 - 10.24.4 For Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2, the database owner user can have DBO privileges but not SA privileges.
- 10.25 Other Accounts
 - 10.25.1 Persistent-database-connection accounts, such as those for webservices or connection pooling purposes, will be granted only the CONNECT role. All account passwords are required to be encrypted.
 - 10.25.2 Persistent-database-connection accounts will not be allowed to have database administrator (DBA) roles or ADMIN, SA, SYSTEM, SYS, SYSDBA, or SYSOPER system privileges grants in any MSDH database environment. Please see the Password Management section below for more details regarding passwords.

11. Security Management Requirements

11.1 Password Management Requirements

The following policies apply to passwords used on MSDH platforms. Each user must have his or her unique userid and password; generic userid/passwords will not be allowed.

- 11.1.1 Will be composed of an eight (8) character string that includes a combination of lower and upper case alphanumeric characters, the numerals 0-9, and at least one (1) special character;
- 11.1.2 Will be restricted from using the UserID as the password;
- 11.1.3 Will be encrypted;
- 11.1.4 Will only allow OHI Security Administration to control all aspects of password management;
- 11.1.5 Will allow the user to change his or her password without intervention from Security Administration, except in the case of password revocation;
- 11.1.6 Will not allow either the use of the user's full name or the same password when prompted for a new password;
- 11.1.7 Will provide for automatic notification of expiration of passwords. Security Administration must be able to set a temporary password that will expire after the initial use, forcing the user to set a new password;
- 11.1.8 Will ensure that passwords cannot be reused by a single individual within a specified time period to be defined by the DBA;
- 11.1.9 Will have a life of 90 days and will expire in 90 days, however, both the expiration period and the lead time period must be configurable by the Security Administrator;
- 11.1.10 Will only allow three (3) attempts to log in with an invalid password after which the application will revoke it. At that point, the user will be notified by the application that his/her password has been revoked and the user must contact the Security Administrator to be reinstated;
- 11.1.11 Will log and record change history keeping at least 3 prior passwords; and
- 11.1.12 Will be restricted from being reused.

11.2 Security Administration Requirements

The proposed system must integrate with Active Directory or independently permit MSDH Security Administrator(s) to perform the following security configuration functions:

- 11.2.1 Specify privileges, access, and capabilities for each user;
 - 11.2.2 Create roles/groups to define each user's data access based on job function in order to restrict user access at all system levels;
 - 11.2.3 Associate a set of functions to a group and to a user (i.e., the system must be flexible enough to go the lowest level of defining a user's access);
 - 11.2.4 Provide security and access controls that do not depend on 'hard-coded' program logic;
 - 11.2.5 Perform all necessary tasks to manage users and security from within the application itself without the use of native database administration utilities; and
 - 11.2.6 Present the user with only the menu options/features to which he or she has the security rights/privileges to access (i.e., the user must not see any menu items they do not have the authorization to access, even if they are "grayed out.").
- 11.3 The administration of security in all lifecycles of the application (Test, QA and Production) will be handled by the MSDH Security Administrator(s).

12. **Standard Application and Database Lifecycle Requirements**

- 12.1 Vendor will provide documentation, including manuals, e.g., operations, system maintenance, user and training, and plans, e.g., system integration and site implementation. The document is dynamic in that it will be modified to take advantage of new methodologies, techniques and tools. The documentation follows the latest OHI approved standards at the time of deployment of the solution.
- 12.2 Vendor will work with end users of the MDHC Initiatives and Surveillance Solution to personalize their views and rapidly simulate within the solution the expressed end-user desires.
- 12.2.1 It is assumed that the user knows what they want, but has difficulty in translating requirements into data-processing terminology. This procedure helps get the requirements in writing to guide the subsequent efforts of the systems design and implementation. This sub-phase is one of the most important in the entire project life-cycle.
 - 12.2.2 **MANDATORY** - Vendor must guide the end users on the possibilities of the solution, and not expect to have concrete requirements from the end users. An overview of documented

methodology, process, tools, and templates must be included as part of this response.

12.2.3 The Vendor must describe their proposed workflow process for the routing and control of documents and transactions throughout the development process. Vendor must also provide examples in response to this RFP. Vendor should complete an analysis of the processes used for Initiative Tracking and ABCS Surveillance Reporting and provide a new process design. The primary drivers should always be the customer's needs. These needs ultimately dictate the scope and the level of technology investment. The issues that need to be reconciled include time, quality, customer perspective, people empowerment, efficiency and flexibility. Technology is considered a potential enabler of the new approach.

12.3 Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Office of Health Informatics (OHI) IRMDBA group requires all vendor COTS and in-house databases to graduate through a standard design lifecycle migration path that moves from TEST, to QA, to PROD database instances. The purpose of this requirement is to enforce strict revision control and configuration management on the project Production database.

12.4 TEST

The TEST database environment is where technical database designs are developed and tested. This includes the structure, data, and data handling functions. The structure includes all relational database objects, such as schemas, tables, columns, column types and sizes, partitioned tables, indexes, partitioned indexes, primary and foreign key constraints, triggers, sequences, stored procedures, functions, packages, XML structures, user-defined object-oriented structures, SQL queries and scripts, PL/SQL routines, data dictionaries, data migration and loading scripts and utilities, etc. Iterative changes to the schema will be made only in the TEST instance. Only after the technical parties involved, such as the applications developers, Database Administrators (DBA's), vendors, managers, and others have agreed that the design is complete and functioning properly will the database be migrated to QA. This migration will occur via a backup (MS SQL Server) transfer or via incremental change SQL script. A hard-copy sign-off Database Object Migration form is required to authorize this migration. This form must be signed by both the Project Functional owner and the Applications Development and Support Manager.

12.5 Quality Assurance (QA)

The database is either imported or restored (from backup) into the QA instance. QA is where the functional owners of the database test the

functional readiness of the project. This includes local, remote, and field testing. Nothing, except data, is ever changed in QA. Any enhancements, modifications, improvements, additions, or changes to the database schema that result from QA testing are made in the TEST instance. Once again, for each and every structure change that results from QA or pilot testing, these changes are re-tested in the TEST database for technical correctness before they are migrated up to QA via an additional hard-copy authorizing Database Object Migration Form. Any subsequent new changes are required to go through this TEST-to-QA cycle again. Exceptions to this requirement are not considered nor allowed.

12.6 Production (PROD)

Once all involved parties agree that the database design has been thoroughly tested and qualified in QA, it is then exported or backed up and migrated to PROD via a hard-copy authorization sign-off form. “Back-door” changes or modifications to the data in PROD are not allowed without a hard-copy signed Database Object Migration Form, which is required to authorize the change to Production data. PROD is locked down in secure, reliable, and responsive production datacenter servers that are up and available 24x7x365 and are backed-up on a nightly basis for fast recovery. Project database documentation, in its final form, is required to be submitted to the IRMDBA group prior to migrations to PROD.

13. Installation and Testing Requirements

- 13.1 Vendor will be responsible for installation of the solution on MSDH’s existing hardware. Upon installation, Vendor must provide adequate testing to ensure that the solution is fully operational, performing properly and provides all functionality required by MSDH.
- 13.2 MSDH will be responsible for furnishing hardware installation assistance to the awarded Vendor.
- 13.3 Vendor must provide minimum hardware requirements for the proposed solution.
- 13.4 The Vendor must provide as a deliverable an “Acceptance Test Plan” (ATP). The ATP must be developed in conjunction with MSDH staff and must show events, sequences and schedules required for testing and acceptance of the system. The Customer must provide written approval that the proposed ATP is complete and acceptable.
- 13.5 The Vendor must provide technical staff onsite to participate in the Acceptance test as requested by MSDH.

- 13.6 The Vendor must complete the required System Administrator and Security Administrator training for MSDH staff prior to the start of QA/Acceptance testing. Refer to Section VII.18 Training for more information.
- 13.7 The Vendor will be responsible for providing, in conjunction with MSDH staff, a help desk for users until Final Acceptance of the system is completed.
- 13.8 MSDH staff will be responsible for migrating the software from the development environment into the test environment. The Vendor will be responsible for conducting an operational test of the system in conjunction with MSDH staff. All functions of the system must be demonstrated to be operational. Following successful System Test, Vendor must certify in writing that the system is ready for Quality Assurance (QA)/Acceptance Testing and will perform in accordance with the functional and performance requirements stated in this document. The Vendor must ensure that the system in general and each module of the system in particular operate according to specifications before turning the system over to the Customer for QA/Acceptance testing.
- 13.9 MSDH staff will be responsible for conducting QA/Acceptance testing. The Vendor must provide technical staff onsite to participate in the QA/Acceptance test as requested by MSDH. All functions of the system must be demonstrated to be operational by MSDH staff to ensure that proper training and knowledge transfer have been received.
- 13.10 The purpose and net result of the QA/Acceptance test is to determine that the installed system meets the technical and functional requirements outlined in these specifications. All defects will be documented and categorized by the State as described below. All corrections will be made in the development environment and migrated into the testing environment to be QA/Acceptance tested.
- a. Severity Level 1 shall be defined as urgent situations, when the production system is down and the MDHC is unable to use the system; the contractor's technical support staff shall accept the State's call for assistance at the time the State places the initial call; however, if such staff is not immediately available, the contractor shall return the State's call within one (1) business hour. The contractor shall resolve Severity Level 1 problems as quickly as possible which, on average, shall not exceed two (2) business days, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the State.
 - b. Severity Level 2 shall be defined as a critical software system component(s) that has significant outages and/or failure precluding its successful operation, and possibly endangering the State's environment. The system may operate but is severely restricted. The

contractor's technical support staff shall accept the State's call for assistance at the time the State places the initial call; however, if such staff is not immediately available, the contractor shall return the State's call within two (2) business hours. The contractor shall resolve Severity Level 2 problems as quickly as possible which, on average, shall not exceed three (3) business days, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the State.

- c. Severity Level 3 shall be defined as a minor problem that exists with the system but the majority of the functions are still usable and some circumvention may be required to provide service. The contractor's technical support staff shall accept the State's call for assistance at the time the State places the initial call; however, if such staff is not immediately available, the contractor shall return the State's call on average within three (3) business hours. The contractor shall resolve Severity Level 3 problems as quickly as possible which, on average, shall not exceed ten (10) business days, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the State.
- d. Severity Level 4 shall be defined as a very minor problem or question that does not affect the system function (e.g., the text of a message is worded poorly or misspelled.) The contractor's technical support staff shall accept the State's call for assistance at the time the State places the initial call; however, if such staff is not immediately available, the contractor shall return the State's call within four (4) business hours. The contractor shall resolve Severity Level 4 problems as quickly as possible which, on average, shall not exceed 15 business days, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the State.
- e. General Assistance: For general software support/help desk calls not covered by the above severity level descriptions, the contractor's technical support staff shall accept the State's call for assistance at the time the State places the initial call; however, if such staff is not immediately available, the contractor shall return the State's call within five (5) business hours.

13.11 The State will certify in writing when the system has completed QA/Acceptance testing and is ready for Pilot testing.

14. **Final Acceptance Requirements**

14.1 After completion of QA/Acceptance testing, MSDH shall begin the deployment of the system. The State shall begin the Final Acceptance period of ninety (30) working days. "Final Acceptance" shall mean written notice

from the State that it has accepted the system upon successful completion of the 30 working day period of statewide production deployment during which time the system conformed in all material respects to the applicable specifications with no additional defects found.

- 14.2 This period includes, without limitation, correction of errors, design deficiencies, performance deficiencies, and incorrect or defective documentation. Any defects found will be documented and prioritized by the State and must be corrected by the Vendor at no additional cost within the time frame specified by their priority level. All corrections will be made in the development environment and migrated into the testing environment to be regression/QA tested. All new releases must be approved by MSDH prior to being moved into production.
- 14.3 Following Final Acceptance of the system by the State, the Vendor must deliver the integrated design framework which contains all relevant tools and technical information required to implement, modify and maintain the application for any developed and/or custom tailored software.

15. Post-Implementation Support

- 15.1 The Final Acceptance period will be followed by ninety (90) days of Post-Implementation Support prior to the start of the minimum warranty period. The Post-Implementation support period will not begin until the Vendor has received written notification of Final Acceptance from MSDH.
- 15.2 Any defects found will be documented and prioritized by the State. During this period, the Vendor will agree to correct any errors discovered at his own expense and in accordance with the specified amount of time for that category.

16. Warranty

- 16.1 The warranty period involves a one-year period during which the Vendor must warrant that the system performs as stated in the RFP and Vendor's proposal at no cost to the State. The warranty period must include the necessary Vendor support to correct any system deficiencies found and to provide any other system consultation as needed.
- 16.2 The warranty period will not begin until the system is fully implemented and accepted by MSDH.
- 16.3 The Vendor must agree to warrant any and all application software proposed to be free of errors for a minimum period of one year after acceptance of such software. During this period, the Vendor will agree to correct any errors discovered at their own expense. If the system fails during warranty due to a

defect, the Vendor will offer a workaround solution within 24 hours and a full fix within 5 business days.

- 16.4 The Vendor must state and discuss the full warranty offered during the warranty period on all system software, including third party software, proposed and state if it is longer than the minimum.
- 16.5 This warranty must cover all components of the system, including all programs, screens, reports, subroutines, utilities, file structures, documentation, interfaces, conversions, or other items provided by the Vendor. This warranty will apply to the base package, plus any customized programs, screens, reports, subroutines, interfaces, conversions, utilities, file structures, documentation, or other items proposed and delivered by the Vendor specifically for this procurement.
- 16.6 The Vendor must agree that all corrections made during the warranty period will be considered an integral part of the proposed system and will be available to MSDH under the license agreement provided in this RFP at no additional charge.
- 16.7 Warranty coverage must also include provision for enhancements, fixes, and upgrades provided as part of Vendor's standard license/maintenance agreement free of charge. Vendor must acknowledge the inclusion of all required warranty features.
- 16.8 The Vendor must express the Vendor's responsibility (during warranty period) to perform immediate high priority attention to any corrections needed. The statement must include that errors will be identified in MSDH's sole judgment and that after 10 working days without correction, MSDH shall have the right to return all of the Vendor's products and be refunded any monies paid to date and terminate this agreement.

17. **Support and Maintenance Services**

- 17.1 The State expects maintenance and support service to include all application software upgrades and patches. The Vendor must specify how upgrades and patches are obtained and how the state will receive notification of upgrades.
- 17.2 The Vendor must describe the process and tasks associated with post implementation installation of upgrades and/or patches. Vendor must include steps regarding software customization and how it is affected when upgrades and/or patches are installed.
- 17.3 Vendor must provide support necessary to assist the State with installation of enhancements, fixes, and upgrades.

- 17.4 At the time of availability of any enhancement, fix, or upgrade, the Vendor must provide the State with an outline of all modules and/or customization that may be affected.
- 17.5 Vendor must describe how user customization of the application affects the warranty and maintenance/support of the product(s).
- 17.6 Vendor must provide support necessary to assist the State with recovering from a crash or down time situation.
- 17.7 Vendor must identify all scheduled maintenance requirements including a description of all daily, weekly, monthly, and annual tasks.
- 17.8 Vendor must fully describe other features offered by the proposed maintenance/support plan.
- 17.9 The Vendor must specify costs and details for providing annual application maintenance and support beyond the warranty period for the balance of the 5-year lifecycle for the project (i.e., the warranty period would be year one (1) plus four (4) years of maintenance and support.
- 17.10 Vendor must specify the annual support and maintenance increase ceiling to which the Vendor is willing to agree. Price escalations, if any, for annual support and maintenance coverage will be permitted, but shall not exceed the lesser of a 5% increase or an increase consistent with the percent increase in the consumer price index, all Urban Consumer US City Average (C.P.I. -u) for the preceding year.
- 17.11 The Vendor must provide a toll free number for technical support/help desk during normal operating hours. Operating hours are 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Central Time Monday through Friday. The Vendor technical support/help desk would be utilized by the MDE staff only.
- 17.12 One-hour telephone response is required.
- 17.13 Vendor is required to keep a log of all support calls made by MSDH staff and to provide this log to MSDH with the current status of open issues, as well as documented solutions to closed issues upon demand.
- 17.14 The State prefers that the Vendor also provide on-line web support.
- 17.15 Vendor must agree to send support usage statements to the State upon request.
- 17.16 Vendor must identify, in their proposal, the nearest service dispatch point if software problems cannot be fixed over the phone.

17.17 At the request of the State, the Vendor should provide on-site support as needed. The Vendor shall be responsive and timely to maintenance/technical support calls/inquiries made by MSDH. MSDH reserves the right to determine and assign levels of severity for the issue/support problems. The severity of the issue/support problems shall determine the average problem resolution response time in any calendar month of the contract.

18. Training

18.1 Vendor must provide all training required for the successful operation and internal support of the proposed solution.

18.1.1 Vendor must include in their proposal a list of recommended training topics.

18.1.2 Vendor must include in their proposal a sample training manual.

18.2 Vendor must provide onsite training sessions utilizing the Train-the-Trainer concept for up to 10 internal users.

18.3 Vendor must provide onsite technical support staff/System Administrator training for up to 4 technical/System Administrator users. Training must include, at a minimum:

18.3.1 How to create additional customization;

18.3.2 How to create and maintain business rules;

18.3.3 How to create and maintain reports;

18.3.4 How to archive records and retrieve records from archive;

18.3.5 System security;

18.3.6 Configuration and administration of system tables and parameters;
and

18.3.7 Training on any additional software necessary for successful implementation and support of the proposed solution.

18.4 Vendor must provide training in the following modes:

18.4.1 Media based; and

18.4.2 Instructor-led hands-on delivery modes.

- 18.5 Training must be provided on-site at a facility provided by the State in Jackson, Mississippi.
- 18.6 All training must be customized and address the proposed solution as it pertains to the needs of MDHC.
 - 18.6.1 All training materials and documentation are considered deliverables and must be submitted to MSDH with adequate time for MSDH to review and approve all such material prior to the beginning of the actual training.
- 18.7 Vendor must provide all training materials and documentation on electronic media (CD ROM). Data provided on CD ROM should be searchable.
- 18.8 MSDH must be allowed to reproduce and/or edit, as needed, any training materials provided, including electronic or printed form. This reproduction of training materials will be for the sole purpose of this project. The State must be given a royalty free license to use, reproduce or modify any of the training material for its own use.
- 18.9 MSDH will determine when training is sufficient for successful operations. If the initial training session is insufficient and the State determines that additional training is needed, the Vendor will be required to provide such additional training at no additional cost to the State.
- 18.10 If there are system changes, upgrades, enhancements, new releases, or customizations to the software that require additional training. Vendor shall provide the additional training needed for the successful operation of the software.
- 18.11 Vendor must include in the proposal submitted a description of the training provided for new releases or upgrades to the system.
- 18.12 Vendor must include in their proposal a list of recommended training courses/topics.
- 18.13 Vendor must include in their proposal a training manual that the Vendor has produced in the past.
- 18.14 The Vendor must include in their *Cost Information Submission* a separate line item cost for each type of training identified in this section and recommended by the Vendor.

19. **Cost Proposal**

- 19.1 Vendor must provide detailed cost information for all hardware, software and service components, implementation costs, and training costs proposed in

response to this RFP. All costs should be fully-loaded for any travel, lodging, and per diem related expenses.

19.2 Vendor must provide a fully loaded hourly change order rate in Section VIII *Cost Information Submission* for any services that may be deemed necessary or desirable by MDE.

19.2.1 The Vendor agrees that each Change Order Rate shall be a fully loaded rate, that it includes, but is not limited to the cost of all materials, travel expenses, per diem and all other expenses and incidentals incurred by the Vendor in the performance of the Change Order.

19.3 Vendor must provide all cost information for a full implementation and then a 5-year life cycle.

19.4 Vendor must agree that any additional user licenses, as may be required by the State in the two years following system acceptance, may be purchased at the rate listed in the cost proposal, or at the then current price, whichever is less.

19.5 Vendor must itemize any and all third party software costs including platform systems in the cost proposal.

20. **Scoring Methodology**

20.1 An Evaluation Team composed of MSDH and **ITS** staff will review and evaluate all proposals. All information provided by the Vendors, as well as any other information available to evaluation team, will be used to evaluate the proposals.

20.1.1 Each category included in the scoring mechanism is assigned a weight between one and 100.

20.1.2 The sum of all categories, other than Value-Add, equals 100 possible points.

20.1.3 Value-Add is defined as product(s) or service(s), exclusive of the stated functional and technical requirements and provided to the State at no additional charge, which, in the sole judgment of the State, provide both benefit and value to the State significant enough to distinguish the proposal and merit the award of additional points. A Value-Add rating between 0 and 5 may be assigned based on the assessment of the evaluation team. These points will be added to the total score.

20.1.4 For the evaluation of this RFP, the Evaluation Team will use the following categories and possible points:

Category	Possible Points
Non-Cost Categories:	
Vendor Qualifications, Project Maintenance, and ABCS Requirements	30
Technical, Database, and Security Management	10
Database Lifecycle, Installation, Testing, Final Acceptance, and Post Implementation Support	10
Warranty, Maintenance, Training	10
Total Non-Cost Points	60
Cost	40
Total Base Points	100
Value Add	5
Maximum Possible Points	105

20.2 The evaluation will be conducted in four stages as follows:

20.2.1 Stage 1 – Selection of Responsive/Valid Proposals – Each proposal will be reviewed to determine if it is sufficiently responsive to the RFP requirements to permit a complete evaluation. A responsive proposal must comply with the instructions stated in this RFP with regard to content, organization/format, Vendor experience, number of copies, bond requirement, timely delivery, and must be responsive to all mandatory requirements. No evaluation points will be awarded in this stage. Failure to submit a complete proposal may result in rejection of the proposal.

20.2.2 Stage 2 – Non-cost Evaluation (all requirements excluding cost)

20.2.2.1 Non-cost categories and possible point values are as follows:

Non-Cost Categories	Possible Points
Vendor Qualifications, Project Maintenance, and ABCS Requirements	30
Technical, Database, and Security Management	10
Database Lifecycle,	10

Installation, Testing, Final Acceptance, and Post Implementation Support	
Warranty, Maintenance, Training	10
Maximum Possible Points	60

20.2.2.2 Proposals meeting fewer than 80% of the requirements in the non-cost categories may be eliminated from further consideration.

20.2.2.3 ITS scores the non-cost categories on a 10-point scale, with 9 points for meeting the requirement. The ‘Meets Specs’ score for each category is 90% of the total points allocated for that category. For example, the ‘Warranty, Maintenance, Training’ category was allocated 10 points; a proposal that fully met all requirements in that section would have scored 9 points. The additional 10% is used for a proposal that exceeds the requirement for an item in a way that provides additional benefits to the state.

20.3 Stage 3 – Cost Evaluation

20.3.1 Points will be assigned using the following formula:

$$(1 - ((B - A) / A)) * n$$

Where:

A = Total lifecycle cost of lowest valid proposal

B = Total lifecycle cost of proposal being scored

n = Maximum number of points allocated to cost for acquisition

20.3.2 Cost categories and maximum point values are as follows:

Cost Category	Possible Points
Lifecycle Cost	40
Maximum Possible Points	40

20.4 Stage 4 – Selection of the successful Vendor (NOTE: WILL NEED TO CUSTOMIZE THIS SECTION TO FIT YOUR RFP)

20.4.1 On-site Demonstrations and Interviews

- 20.4.1.1 At the discretion of the State, evaluators may request interviews, on-site presentations, demonstrations or discussions with any and all Vendors for the purpose of system overview and/or clarification or amplification of information presented in any part of the proposal.
- 20.4.1.2 If requested, Vendors must be prepared to make on-site demonstrations of system functionality and/or proposal clarifications to the evaluation team and its affiliates within seven calendar days of notification. Each presentation must be made by the project manager being proposed by the Vendor to oversee implementation of this project.
- 20.4.1.3 Proposed key team members must be present at the on-site demonstration. The evaluation team reserves the right to interview the proposed key team members during this onsite visit.
- 20.4.1.4 Although on-site demonstrations may be requested, the demonstration will not be allowed in lieu of a written proposal.

20.4.2 Site Visits

- 20.4.2.1 At the State's option, Vendors that remain within a competitive range must be prepared to provide a reference site within seven calendar days of notification. If possible, the reference site should be in the Southeastern region of the United States. Vendor must list potential reference sites in the proposal.

20.5 Final Quantitative Evaluation - Following any requested presentations, demonstrations, and/or site visits, the Evaluation Team will re-evaluate any technical/functional scores as necessary. The technical/functional and cost scores will then be combined to determine the Vendor's final score.

SECTION VIII COST INFORMATION SUBMISSION

Vendors must propose a summary of all applicable project costs in the matrix that follows. The matrix must be supplemented by a cost itemization fully detailing the basis of each cost category. The level of detail must address the following elements as applicable: item, description, quantity, retail, discount, extension, and deliverable. Any cost not listed in this section may result in the Vendor providing those products or services at no charge to the State or face disqualification.

Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
Software Costs:			
Software license fee cost (one-time perpetual)		\$	\$
		\$	\$
Software Installation/Implementation Services (fully loaded with travel, subsistence and associated per diem costs) Break out costs by:			
Pre-installation (Requirements Analysis, System Design, Profiling, Database Conversion and other related costs)		\$	\$
Implementation Costs		\$	\$
Other Costs (specify)		\$	\$
Hardware Costs:			
Please list		\$	\$
Training/Knowledge Transfer Costs			
Internal-User Training (10 students)		\$	\$
Administrator Training –system controls, security, interfaces and configuration (4 students)		\$	\$
Warranty and Maintenance Costs			

Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
Maintenance and Support Costs (4 years with 1 year free warranty) 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Central Time, Monday through Friday Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5		\$ \$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$ \$
Miscellaneous Costs (must specify)		\$ \$	\$ \$
Cost of obtaining performance bond		\$	\$
Tiered software license cost (for additional licenses if enterprise license not quoted – guaranteed rate for two years following system acceptance)	25 users 50 users 100 users	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$
If Change Order Rate varies depending on the level of support, Vendor should specify the Change Order Rate according to position.			
Fully Loaded Hourly Change Order Rate		\$	\$
Unloaded Hourly Change Order Rate		\$	\$

SECTION IX REFERENCES

Please return the following Reference Forms, and if applicable, Subcontractor Reference Forms.

1. References

- 1.1 The Vendor must provide at least 3 references consisting of Vendor accounts that the State may contact. Required information includes customer contact name, address, telephone number, email address, and engagement starting and ending dates. Forms for providing reference information are included later in this RFP section. The Vendor must make arrangements in advance with the account references so that they may be contacted at the Project team's convenience without further clearance or Vendor intercession.
- 1.2 Any of the following may subject the Vendor's proposal to being rated unfavorably relative to these criteria or removed from further consideration, at the State's sole discretion:
 - 1.2.1 Failure to provide reference information in the manner described;
 - 1.2.2 Inability of the State to substantiate minimum experience or other requirements from the references provided;
 - 1.2.3 Non-responsiveness of references to the State's attempts to contact them; or
 - 1.2.4 Unfavorable references that raise serious concerns about material risks to the State in contracting with the Vendor for the proposed products or services.
- 1.3 References should be based on the following profiles and be able to substantiate the following information from both management and technical viewpoints:
 - 1.3.1 The reference installation must be for a project similar in scope and size to the project for which this RFP is issued;
 - 1.3.2 The reference installation must have been operational for at least six (6) months.
- 1.4 The State reserves the right to request information about the Vendor from any previous customer of the Vendor of whom the State is aware, including the procuring agency and/or other agencies or institutions of the State, even if that customer is not included in the Vendor's list of references, and to utilize such information in the evaluation of the Vendor's proposal.

- 1.5 Unless otherwise indicated in the Scoring Methodology in Section VII, reference information available to the State will be used as follows:
 - 1.5.1 As documentation supporting mandatory experience requirements for companies, products, and/or individuals, as required in this RFP;
 - 1.5.2 To confirm the capabilities and quality of a Vendor, product, or individual for the proposal deemed lowest and best, prior to finalizing the award.
- 1.6 The State reserves the right to forego reference checking when, at the State's sole discretion, the evaluation team determines that the capabilities of the recommended Vendor are known to the State.

2. **Subcontractors**

The Vendor's proposal must identify any subcontractor that will be used and include the name of the company, telephone number, contact person, type of work subcontractor will perform, number of certified employees to perform said work, and three (3) references for whom the subcontractor has performed work that the State may contact. Forms for providing subcontractor information and references are included at the end of this section.

Unless otherwise noted, the requirements found in the References section may be met through a combination of Vendor and subcontractor references and experience. Vendor's proposal should clearly indicate any mandatory experience requirements met by subcontractors. NOTE: The State reserves the right to eliminate from further consideration proposals in which the prime Vendor does not, in the State's sole opinion, provide substantive value or investment in the total solution proposed. (i.e. the State does not typically accept proposals in which the prime Vendor is only a brokering agent.)

REFERENCE FORM

Complete 3 Reference Forms.

Contact Name:

Company Name:

Address:

Phone #:

E-Mail:

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

Description of product/services/project, including start and end dates:

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SUBCONTRACTOR REFERENCE FORM

Complete a separate form for each subcontractor proposed.

Contact Name:
Company name:
Address:
Phone #:
E-Mail:

Scope of services/products to be provided by subcontractor:

Complete three (3) Reference Forms for each Subcontractor.

Contact Name:
Company name:
Address:
Phone #:
E-Mail:

Description of product/services/project, including start and end dates:

**EXHIBIT A
STANDARD CONTRACT**

A properly executed contract is a requirement of this RFP. After an award has been made, it will be necessary for the winning Vendor to execute a contract with **ITS**. The inclusion of this contract does not preclude **ITS** from, at its sole discretion, negotiating additional terms and conditions with the selected Vendor(s) specific to the projects covered by this RFP.

If Vendor cannot comply with any term or condition of this Standard Contract, Vendor must list and explain each specific exception on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form* included in Section V.

**PROJECT NUMBER 39474
SOFTWARE TURNKEY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
INSERT VENDOR NAME
AND
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
AS CONTRACTING AGENT FOR THE
MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

This Software Turnkey Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement") is entered into by and between **INSERT VENDOR NAME**, a **INSERT STATE OF INCORPORATION** corporation having its principal place of business at **INSERT VENDOR ADDRESS** (hereinafter referred to as "Seller"), and Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services having its principal place of business at 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211 (hereinafter referred to as "ITS"), as contracting agent for the Mississippi State Department of Health located at 570 East Woodrow Wilson Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39216 (hereinafter referred to as "Purchaser"). ITS and Purchaser are sometimes collectively referred to herein as "State."

WHEREAS, Purchaser, pursuant to Request for Proposals ("RFP") Number 3682, requested proposals for the acquisition of certain software, installation and conversion services, and technical support (collectively "Turnkey Operation") necessary for the implementation of an Initiatives Tracking and ABCS Surveillance Reporting System; and

WHEREAS, Seller was the successful proposer in an open, fair, and competitive procurement process to provide the system and services described above;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual understandings, promises, consideration, and agreements set forth, the parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

1.1 This Agreement will become effective on the date it is signed by all parties and will continue in effect until all tasks required herein, including any post warranty maintenance/support specified in Exhibit A, have been completed. Seller agrees to complete all tasks required under this Agreement, with the exception of warranty service and post warranty maintenance, on or before September 30, 2012, or within such other period as may be agreed to by the parties.

1.2 This Agreement will become a binding obligation on the State only upon the issuance of a valid purchase order by the Purchaser following contract execution and the issuance by ITS of the CP-1 Acquisition Approval Document.

ARTICLE 2 TURNKEY OPERATION AND INSTALLATION

2.1 The Seller agrees to provide Purchaser with a turnkey system consisting of software, installation and conversion services, technical support, and training for the implementation of an Initiatives Tracking and ABCS Surveillance Reporting System, as specified in RFP No. 3682. Seller agrees to facilitate the integration of the hardware and software for the particular purpose set forth in RFP No. 3682. Seller further agrees that the system as set forth in RFP No. 3682 and Seller's Proposal in response thereto shall operate efficiently and optimally in light of industry standards and as further specified in RFP No. 3682 and Seller's Proposal in response thereto. RFP No. 3682 and Seller's Proposal as accepted by the State in response thereto are incorporated herein by reference.

2.2 In matters of proposals, negotiations, contracts, and resolution of issues and/or disputes, the parties agree that: (a) Seller is solely responsible for all products and services being provided in this project; (b) Seller is responsible for the fulfillment of this project; and (c) Seller represents all contractors, third parties, and/or subcontractors Seller has assembled for this project. The Purchaser is required to negotiate only with Seller, as Seller's commitments, as specified in this Agreement, are binding on all proposed contractors, third parties, and subcontractors.

ARTICLE 3 PROCUREMENT OF SOFTWARE AND PURCHASE ORDERS

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein, Seller agrees to provide, at the location specified by Purchaser, and Purchaser agrees to buy as needed the software and services listed in the attached Exhibit A, which is incorporated herein and at the purchase price set forth therein. Purchaser shall submit a purchase order signed by a representative of Purchaser itemizing the items to be purchased. The purchase order shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The parties agree that Purchaser reserves the right to adjust the quantities of purchases based upon the availability of funding or as determined necessary by Purchaser. Seller guarantees pricing for a period of ninety (90) days from the effective date of this Agreement. In

the event there is a national price decrease of the products specified in Seller's Proposal during this time, Seller agrees to extend the new, lower pricing to Purchaser.

ARTICLE 4 DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, AND RISK OF LOSS

4.1 Seller shall deliver the software to the location specified by Purchaser, pursuant to the delivery schedule set forth by Purchaser.

4.2 Seller shall complete installation of the software pursuant to the requirements set forth in RFP No. 3682 and Article 5 herein. Seller acknowledges that installation of the system shall be accomplished with minimal interruption of Purchaser's normal day-to-day operations.

4.3 Seller shall assume and shall bear the entire risk of loss and damage to the software from any cause whatsoever while in transit and at all times throughout its possession thereof.

ARTICLE 5 SCHEDULE AND ACCEPTANCE

5.1 Seller warrants that all software shall be properly delivered, installed, and integrated for acceptance testing within the scheduling deadlines set forth by Purchaser, as the site is deemed ready for installation. Seller shall provide Purchaser with an installation schedule identifying the date, time, and location within the scheduling deadlines set forth in RFP No. 3682, or as may be agreed to by the parties.

5.2 During the project initiation, Seller and Purchaser will develop a mutually agreed upon project plan including the division of responsibility between Purchaser's staff and Seller's staff. It is understood by the parties that the project work plan must be in place prior to any other work being performed. Once this mutually agreed upon project plan, which will identify specific time frames and deliverable target dates for this project, has been developed, it will be incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement. The dates in the project plan will define the agreed upon period of performance. The parties acknowledge that the project plan will evolve and change from time to time upon the mutual written agreement of both parties. The parties agree that the deliverables and schedule set forth in the latest version of the project plan will take precedence over any prior plans.

5.3 Seller shall provide all documentation for the software being tested before acceptance testing will begin. Purchaser shall have five (5) business days to review each deliverable and to either notify Seller of acceptance or to provide Seller a detailed list of deficiencies that must be remedied prior to payment being made. In the event the Purchaser notifies the Seller of deficiencies, the Seller, at Seller's sole expense, shall correct such deficiencies within ten (10) business days, unless the Purchaser consents in writing to a longer period of time.

5.4 Upon notification by Seller that the turnkey system has been fully implemented and is ready for final system acceptance testing, Purchaser shall have thirty (30) business days to evaluate and test the system to confirm that it performs without any defects and performs pursuant to the specifications set forth in RFP No. 3682 and the Seller's Proposal in response thereto. Seller shall participate, as agreed upon by both parties, in the acceptance testing of the system by providing technical staff at Purchaser's location to provide assistance in demonstrating all functions of the system. The Purchaser's official representative must sign off on each application to ensure that the applications meet the functional and technical requirements. In the event that one (1) or more applications supplied by Seller are not accepted, the Seller shall correct the deficiencies or provide at its own expense whatever software that may be required to meet the acceptance criteria within ten (10) business days or a mutually agreed upon time period. In the event the system fails to perform to Purchaser's satisfaction, Purchaser shall immediately notify Seller. Seller, at Seller's sole expense, shall correct defects identified by Purchaser within ten (10) business days, or such other period as the parties may agree upon. The thirty (30) business day testing period will be extended by system down-time. In the event Seller is unable to repair or replace the defective software, the Purchaser reserves the right to return defective software to Seller at Seller's expense and to cancel this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6 SOFTWARE LICENSE AND TERMS

6.1 Seller shall furnish the software to Purchaser as set forth in purchase orders submitted and executed by Purchaser and shall acquire the right to license the software to Purchaser. For purposes of this Article, the term "Purchaser" means the Mississippi State Department of Health, its employees, and any third party consultants or outsourcers engaged by Purchaser who have a need to know and who shall be bound by the terms and conditions of this license and Agreement.

6.2 Seller accepts sole responsibility for: (a) Purchaser's system configuration, design, and requirements; (b) the selection of the software to achieve Purchaser's intended results; (c) the results obtained from the software; and (d) modifications, changes, or alterations to the software provided by Seller.

6.3 Seller understands and agrees that Purchaser shall have: (a) a non-exclusive, non-transferable, enterprise-wide unlimited, and perpetual license for the software listed in Exhibit A; (b) the right to use and customize the software products and the related documentation for Purchaser's business operations in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement; (c) unlimited use by licensed users of the software products acquired for Purchaser's operations; (d) use of such software products with a backup platform system, should it be deemed necessary by Purchaser; (e) the right to copy such software for safekeeping, backup, and disaster recovery purposes; (f) the right to combine the software with other programs and modules and the right to create interfaces to other programs; and (g) the right to reproduce any and all physical documentation supplied under the terms of this Agreement.

6.4 Purchaser agrees that, except as noted herein, it will not otherwise copy, translate, modify, adapt, decompile, disassemble, or reverse engineer any of the software without the prior written consent of Seller. All title and proprietary rights, whether tangible or intangible, including but not limited to copyright, trademark, and trade secret rights, in and to the software are retained by the Seller or the third party software manufacturer as applicable. Purchaser agrees to reproduce and include the copyright, trademark, and other proprietary rights notices on any copies made of the software and documentation.

ARTICLE 7 CONVERSION AND TRAINING

Seller shall, for the fees specified in the attached Exhibit A, provide the conversion activities as well as the training specified in RFP No. 3682 and Seller's Proposal, as accepted by Purchaser, in response thereto. Seller and Purchaser shall mutually agree on the time for the training and an outline of the training to be provided. Seller specifically understands and agrees that Purchaser will not accept the system until Seller completes the conversion and training requirements. Seller agrees to provide, upon delivery, all user documentation and technical manuals needed to fully acquaint the user with operation of the software.

ARTICLE 8 CONSIDERATION AND METHOD OF PAYMENT

8.1 Except as provided in the Change Order Rate and Procedure Article of this Agreement, the total compensation to be paid to the Seller by the Purchaser shall not exceed the fixed price of **INSERT TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT** for all software, products, services, travel, performances and expenses under this Agreement, payable as described in Exhibit A, unless prior written authorization from ITS has been obtained. Authorization of payments is subject to the written approval of the Purchaser.

8.2 The Seller and the Purchaser agree to the Deliverable Schedule as set forth in the Payment Schedule and Deliverables List included as Exhibit A to this Agreement. The Seller will receive payment in the amount indicated in Article 8.1 herein, less retainage to be withheld in accordance with the Retainage Article herein, upon written acceptance by the Purchaser of each of the deliverables defined therein. The parties agree that as the project work plan is revised by written agreement of the parties during the term of this Agreement, the anticipated dates for acceptance of deliverables and for the corresponding payments to the Seller, but not the amounts of those payments, may likewise be revised only by written agreement of the parties.

8.3 Upon written acceptance, as set forth in Article 5 herein, by the Purchaser of a deliverable which has an associated payment, the Seller will invoice the Purchaser for the invoice amount of that payment as indicated in the attached Exhibit A, less retainage to be withheld in accordance with the Retainage Article herein. Seller shall certify that the billing is true and correct. Seller shall submit invoices and supporting documentation to Purchaser

electronically during the term of this Agreement using the processes and procedures identified by the State. Purchaser agrees to pay Seller in accordance with Mississippi law on “Timely Payments for Purchases by Public Bodies,” Sections 31-7-301, et seq. of the 1972 Mississippi Code Annotated, as amended, which generally provides for payment of undisputed amounts by the State within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the invoice. Seller understands and agrees that Purchaser is exempt from the payment of taxes. All payments should be made in United States currency. Payments by state agencies using the Statewide Automated Accounting System (“SAAS”) shall be made and remittance information provided electronically as directed by the State. These payments by SAAS agencies shall be deposited into the bank account of the Seller’s choice. No payment, including final payment, shall be construed as acceptance of defective products or incomplete work, and the Seller shall remain responsible and liable for full performance in strict compliance with the contract documents specified in the article herein titled “Entire Agreement.”

8.4 Acceptance by the Seller of the last payment from the Purchaser shall operate as a release of all claims against the State by the Seller and any subcontractors or other persons supplying labor or materials used in the performance of the work under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9 WARRANTIES

9.1 Seller represents and warrants that all software and services provided by Seller shall meet or exceed the minimum specifications set forth in RFP No. 3682 and Seller’s Proposal in response thereto.

9.2 Seller represents and warrants that Seller has the right to license the software provided under this Agreement.

9.3 Seller represents and warrants that all software furnished will be free from material defects for a period of one (1) year after final acceptance of the complete system and will provide Purchaser complete functionality necessary for the operation of the system as stated in RFP No. 3682 and the Seller’s Proposal in response thereto. This warranty shall cover all components of the system, including but not limited to all programs, screens, reports, subroutines, utilities, file structures, documentation, interfaces, or other items provided by the Seller. This warranty will apply to the base package plus any customized programs, screens, reports, subroutines, interfaces, utilities, file structures, documentation, or other items proposed and delivered by the Seller specifically for this project. The Seller shall give immediate high priority attention to any mission critical corrections that are needed. If the software does not function accordingly, Seller shall, within five (5) working days and at no cost to Purchaser, correct the defects identified, or replace the software with software that is compliant with this warranty. In the event Seller cannot repair or replace the software, Seller shall at the State’s election, either refund the fees paid for

the software and for any services that directly relate to the defective software, or secure alternate software, acceptable to the Purchaser which will insure functionality of the system.

9.4 Seller represents and warrants that the turnkey system is fit for the particular purpose set forth in this Agreement and RFP No. 3682, with regard to Purchaser's foreseeable or projected needs.

9.5 Seller represents and warrants that it has and will obtain and pass through to Purchaser any and all warranties obtained or available from the licensor of software supplied to Seller.

9.6 Seller represents and warrants that all work performed hereunder, including but not limited to consulting, conversion, training, technical support, and maintenance, shall be performed by competent personnel, shall be of professional quality consistent with generally accepted industry standards for the performance of such services, and shall comply in all respects with the requirements of this Agreement. For any breach of this warranty, the Seller shall, for a period of ninety (90) days from the performance of service, perform the services again at no cost to the Purchaser, or if the Seller is unable to perform the services as warranted, the Seller shall reimburse the Purchaser the fees paid to the Seller for the unsatisfactory services.

9.7 Seller represents and warrants that there is no disabling code or a lockup program or device embedded in the software provided to Purchaser. Seller further agrees that it will not under any circumstances, including enforcement of a valid contract right, (a) install or trigger a lockup program or device, or (b) take any step which would in any manner interfere with Purchaser's use of the software and/or which would restrict Purchaser from accessing its data files or in any way interfere with the transaction of Purchaser's business. For any breach of this warranty, Seller, at its expense, shall, within five (5) working days after receipt of notification of the breach, deliver Products to Purchaser that are free of such disabling code or a lockup program or device.

9.8 Seller represents and warrants that the software, as delivered to Purchaser, does not contain a computer virus. For any breach of this warranty, Seller, at its expense, shall, within five (5) working days after receipt of notification of the breach, deliver Products to Purchaser that are free of any virus and shall be responsible for repairing, at Seller's expense, any and all damage done by the virus to Purchaser's site.

9.9 Seller represents and warrants that upon completion of the project the Seller and all subcontractors shall convey to Purchaser copies of all interim reports, data collection forms, and any working papers that support the final acceptance of the system.

9.10 Seller represents and warrants that it presently has and will continue to maintain, at its own expense, throughout the term of this Agreement, valid licenses for all software, trademarks, service marks, patents and copyrighted material and any other proprietary information of a third party that it will deploy in support of all products Seller uses in the performance of this Agreement. Seller further represents and warrants that upon Purchaser's request, Seller shall pass through such licenses to Purchaser at no cost to Purchaser. In the event the licenses are passed through to Purchaser, such licenses shall name the Purchaser as the license holder of record and such licenses shall be established in such a manner so as to survive the termination/expiration of this Agreement. For any breach of the preceding warranty, Seller at its own expense shall within five (5) business days after receipt of notification of the breach, secure and/or pass through, as applicable, the necessary licenses. Failure of the Seller to secure and/or pass through such licenses to Purchaser shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement and the Purchaser may, at its sole discretion, pursue its rights as set forth in the Termination Article herein and any other rights and remedies it may have at law or in equity.

9.11 Seller represents and warrants that it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act, Section 71-11-1, et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp2008), and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Seller agrees to maintain records of such compliance and, upon request of the State and approval of the Social Security Administration or Department of Homeland Security where required, to provide a copy of each such verification to the State. Seller further represents and warrants that any person assigned to perform services hereunder meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws of the State of Mississippi. Seller understands and agrees that any breach of these warranties may subject Seller to the following: (a) termination of this Agreement and ineligibility for any state or public contract in Mississippi for up to three (3) years, with notice of such cancellation/termination being made public, or (b) the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Seller by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year, or (c) both. In the event of such termination/cancellation, Seller would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit.

9.12 Seller represents and warrants that the system provided pursuant to this Agreement will pass both internal security audits and independent security audits. For any breach of the preceding warranty at any time during which the system is covered by warranty, maintenance and/or support, Seller shall, at its own expense and at no cost to Purchaser, remediate any defect,

anomaly or security vulnerability in the system by repairing and/or replacing any and all components of the system necessary in order for the system to be secure.

9.13 Seller represents and warrants that no official or employee of Purchaser or of ITS, and no other public official of the State of Mississippi who exercises any functions or responsibilities in the review or approval of the undertaking or carrying out of the project shall, prior to the completion of said project, voluntarily acquire any personal interest, direct or indirect, in this Agreement. The Seller warrants that it has removed any material conflict of interest prior to the signing of this Agreement, and that it shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its responsibilities under this Agreement. The Seller also warrants that in the performance of this Agreement no person having any such known interests shall be employed.

9.14 The Seller represents and warrants that no elected or appointed officer or other employee of the State of Mississippi, nor any member of or delegate to Congress has or shall benefit financially or materially from this Agreement. No individual employed by the State of Mississippi shall be admitted to any share or part of the Agreement or to any benefit that may arise therefrom. The State of Mississippi may, by written notice to the Seller, terminate the right of the Seller to proceed under this Agreement if it is found, after notice and hearing by the ITS Executive Director or his/her designee, that gratuities in the form of entertainment, gifts, jobs, or otherwise were offered or given by the Seller to any officer or employee of the State of Mississippi with a view toward securing this Agreement or securing favorable treatment with respect to the award, or amending or making of any determinations with respect to the performing of such contract, provided that the existence of the facts upon which the ITS Executive Director makes such findings shall be in issue and may be reviewed in any competent court. In the event this Agreement is terminated under this article, the State of Mississippi shall be entitled to pursue the same remedies against the Seller as it would pursue in the event of a breach of contract by the Seller, including punitive damages, in addition to any other damages to which it may be entitled at law or in equity.

ARTICLE 10 INFRINGEMENT INDEMNIFICATION

Seller represents and warrants that neither the software, its elements, nor the use thereof violates or infringes on any copyright, patent, trademark, servicemark, trade secret, or other proprietary right of any person or entity. Seller, at its own expense, shall defend or settle any and all infringement actions filed against Seller or Purchaser which involves the software provided under this Agreement and shall pay all settlements, as well as all costs, attorney fees, damages, and judgment finally awarded against Purchaser. If the continued use of the products for the purpose intended is threatened to be enjoined or is enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction, Seller shall, at its expense: (a) first procure for Purchaser the right to continue using such products, or upon failing to procure such right; (b) modify or replace them with non-

infringing products while maintaining substantially similar software functionality or data/informational content, or upon failing to secure either such right; (c) refund to Purchaser the software license fees previously paid by Purchaser for the products Purchaser may no longer use. Said refund shall be paid within ten (10) working days of notice to Purchaser to discontinue said use.

ARTICLE 11 SOFTWARE SUPPORT

11.1 Prior to expiration of the warranty period, Seller shall notify Purchaser in writing of the impending warranty expiration, and Purchaser shall in turn notify Seller of its decision to either obtain software support or to forgo it. Upon notification of intent to obtain software support, Seller shall provide Purchaser, for the annual fee specified in the attached Exhibit A, the software support services as herein described.

11.2 Seller shall provide, for the periods set forth in Exhibit A, software support services as specified in RFP No. 3682 and Seller's Proposal, as accepted by Purchaser, in response thereto, with said support to include, but not be limited to, the following: (a) upon notification of software errors, Seller shall provide all remedial support and assistance needed to correct the errors which affect the operation of the software; (b) the provision of regular updates, new releases, and enhancements as they are released, but no less than one (1) annually; (c) unlimited toll-free technical telephone support in the operation of the software system Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Central Time), with a guaranteed one (1) hour telephone response time; priority placement in the support queue shall be given to all system locking situations or problems claimed by Purchaser to be a mission critical process; and (d) on-site support in the operation of the software products if reasonably convenient or necessary in the opinion of the Seller. It is further understood that in the event the software product lines are discontinued, Seller shall be responsible for supporting the last software release implemented by the Purchaser for a minimum of five (5) years thereafter, with the same level of support as described in this Article. Should Seller migrate away from the database currently required for the software installed for Purchaser to a different database, Seller shall provide updated product and new database licensing to Purchaser at no cost to Purchaser.

11.3 Sixty (60) days prior to expiration of the initial software support period or any renewal term thereof, Seller shall notify Purchaser in writing of the impending expiration, and Purchaser shall have thirty (30) days in which to notify Seller of its decision to either renew or cancel any further software support. In no event shall the cost for software support increase by more than five percent (**Error! Reference source not found.**%) per year.

ARTICLE 12 EMPLOYMENT STATUS

12.1 Seller shall, during the entire term of this Agreement, be construed to be an independent contractor. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to nor shall it be construed to create an employer-employee relationship or a joint venture relationship.

12.2 Seller represents that it is qualified to perform the duties to be performed under this Agreement and that it has or will secure, if needed, at its own expense, applicable personnel who shall be qualified to perform the duties required under this Agreement. Such personnel shall not be deemed in any way, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, to be employees of Purchaser. Seller shall pay, when due, all salaries and wages of its employees, and it accepts exclusive responsibility for the payment of federal income tax, state income tax, social security, unemployment compensation, and any other withholdings that may be required. Neither Seller nor employees of Seller are entitled to state retirement or leave benefits.

12.3 Any person assigned by Seller to perform the services hereunder shall be the employee of Seller, who shall have the sole right to hire and discharge its employee. Purchaser may, however, direct Seller to replace any of its employees under this Agreement. If Seller is notified within the first eight (8) hours of assignment that the person is unsatisfactory, Seller will not charge Purchaser for those hours.

12.4 It is further understood that the consideration expressed herein constitutes full and complete compensation for all services and performances hereunder and that any sum due and payable to Seller shall be paid as a gross sum with no withholdings or deductions being made by Purchaser for any purpose from said contract sum.

ARTICLE 13 BEHAVIOR OF EMPLOYEES/SUBCONTRACTORS

Seller will be responsible for the behavior of all its employees and subcontractors while on the premises of any Purchaser location. Any employee or subcontractor acting in a manner determined by the administration of that location to be detrimental, abusive, or offensive to any of the staff will be asked to leave the premises and may be suspended from further work on the premises. All Seller employees and subcontractors who will be working at such locations to install or repair Products shall be covered by Seller's comprehensive general liability insurance policy.

ARTICLE 14 MODIFICATION OR RENEGOTIATION

This Agreement may be modified only by written agreement signed by the parties hereto, and any attempt at oral modification shall be void and of no effect. The parties agree to renegotiate the Agreement if federal and/or state revisions of any applicable laws or regulations make changes in this Agreement necessary.

ARTICLE 15 AUTHORITY, ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACTS

15.1 In matters of proposals, negotiations, contracts, and resolution of issues and/or disputes, the parties agree that Seller represents all contractors, third parties, and/or subcontractors Seller has assembled for this project. The Purchaser is required to negotiate only with Seller, as Seller's commitments are binding on all proposed contractors, third parties, and subcontractors.

15.2 Neither party may assign or otherwise transfer this Agreement or its obligations hereunder without the prior written consent of the other party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any attempted assignment or transfer of its obligations without such consent shall be null and void. This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties' respective successors and assigns.

15.3 Seller must obtain the written approval of Purchaser before subcontracting any portion of this Agreement. No such approval by Purchaser of any subcontract shall be deemed in any way to provide for the incurrence of any obligation of Purchaser in addition to the total fixed price agreed upon in this Agreement. All subcontracts shall incorporate the terms of this Agreement and shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and to any conditions of approval that Purchaser may deem necessary.

15.4 Seller represents and warrants that any subcontract agreement Seller enters into shall contain a provision advising the subcontractor that the subcontractor shall have no lien and no legal right to assert control over any funds held by the Purchaser, that the subcontractor acknowledges that no privity of contract exists between the Purchaser and the subcontractor, and that the Seller is solely liable for any and all payments which may be due to the subcontractor pursuant to its subcontract agreement with the Seller. The Seller shall indemnify and hold harmless the State from and against any and all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses, costs, and expenses of every kind and nature whatsoever arising as a result of Seller's failure to pay any and all amounts due by Seller to any subcontractor, materialman, laborer, or the like.

15.5 All subcontractors shall be bound by any negotiation, arbitration, appeal, adjudication, or settlement of any dispute between the Seller and the Purchaser, where such dispute affects the subcontract.

ARTICLE 16 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligation of Purchaser to proceed under this Agreement is conditioned upon the appropriation of funds by the Mississippi State Legislature and the receipt of state and/or federal funds for the performances required under this Agreement. If the funds anticipated for the fulfillment of this Agreement are not forthcoming or are insufficient, either through the failure of the federal government to provide funds or of the State of Mississippi to appropriate funds, or if there is a discontinuance or material alteration of the

program under which funds were available to Purchaser for the payments or performance due under this Agreement, Purchaser shall have the right to immediately terminate this Agreement without damage, penalty, cost, or expense to Purchaser of any kind whatsoever. The effective date of termination shall be as specified in the notice of termination. Purchaser shall have the sole right to determine whether funds are available for the payments or performances due under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 17 TERMINATION

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary, this Agreement may be terminated, in whole or in part, as follows: (a) upon the mutual, written agreement of the parties; (b) by Purchaser, without the assessment of any penalties, upon thirty (30) days written notice to Seller, if Seller becomes the subject of bankruptcy, reorganization, liquidation, or receivership proceedings, whether voluntary or involuntary; (c) by Purchaser, without the assessment of any penalties, for any reason after giving thirty (30) days written notice specifying the effective date thereof to Seller; or (d) by either party in the event of a breach of a material term or provision of this Agreement where such breach continues for thirty (30) days after the breaching party receives written notice from the other party. Upon termination, Purchaser will be entitled to a refund of applicable unexpended prorated annual software support fees/charges, if any. In the event of termination, Seller shall be paid for satisfactory work completed or services rendered by Seller in connection with this Agreement and accepted by Purchaser as of the date of receipt of notification of termination. In no case shall said compensation exceed the total contract price. The provisions of this Article do not limit either party's right to pursue any other remedy available at law or in equity.

ARTICLE 18 GOVERNING LAW

This Agreement shall be construed and governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi, and venue for the resolution of any dispute shall be Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi. Seller expressly agrees that under no circumstances shall Purchaser or ITS be obligated to pay an attorney's fee, prejudgment interest, or the cost of legal action to Seller. Further, nothing in this Agreement shall affect any statutory rights Purchaser may have that cannot be waived or limited by contract.

ARTICLE 19 WAIVER

Failure of either party hereto to insist upon strict compliance with any of the terms, covenants, and conditions hereof shall not be deemed a waiver or relinquishment of any similar right or power hereunder at any subsequent time or of any other provision hereof, nor shall it be construed to be a modification of the terms of this Agreement. A waiver by the State, to be effective, must be in writing, must set out the specifics of what is being waived, and must be signed by an authorized representative of the State.

ARTICLE 20 SEVERABILITY

If any term or provision of this Agreement is prohibited by the laws of the State of Mississippi or declared invalid or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Agreement shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law, provided that the State's purpose for entering into this Agreement can be fully achieved by the remaining portions of the Agreement that have not been severed.

ARTICLE 21 CAPTIONS

The captions or headings in this Agreement are for convenience only and in no way define, limit, or describe the scope or intent of any provision or section of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 22 HOLD HARMLESS

To the fullest extent allowed by law, Seller shall indemnify, defend, save and hold harmless, protect, and exonerate Purchaser, ITS and the State, its Board Members, officers, employees, agents, and representatives from and against any and all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses, costs, and expenses of every kind and nature whatsoever, including, without limitation, court costs, investigative fees and expenses, attorney fees, and claims for damages arising out of or caused by Seller and/or its partners, principals, agents, employees, or subcontractors in the performance of or failure to perform this Agreement.

ARTICLE 23 THIRD PARTY ACTION NOTIFICATION

Seller shall notify Purchaser in writing within five (5) business days of Seller filing bankruptcy, reorganization, liquidation or receivership proceedings or within five (5) business days of its receipt of notification of any action or suit being filed or any claim being made against Seller or Purchaser by any entity that may result in litigation related in any way to this Agreement and/or which may affect the Seller's performance under this Agreement. Failure of the Seller to provide such written notice to Purchaser shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement and the Purchaser may, at its sole discretion, pursue its rights as set forth in the Termination Article herein and any other rights and remedies it may have at law or in equity.

ARTICLE 24 AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT

Seller warrants that it is a validly organized business with valid authority to enter into this Agreement, that entry into and performance under this Agreement is not restricted or prohibited by any loan, security, financing, contractual, or other agreement of any kind, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary, that there are no existing legal proceedings or prospective legal proceedings, either voluntary or otherwise, which may adversely affect its ability to perform its obligations under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 25 NOTICE

Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by electronic means, provided that the original of such notice is sent by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or overnight courier with signed receipt, to the party to whom the notice should be given at their business address listed herein. ITS' address for notice is: Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. Purchaser's address for notice is: Mr. Marc Wilson, Chief Information Officer, Mississippi State Department of Health, 570 East Woodrow Wilson Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39216. The Seller's address for notice is: **INSERT VENDOR NOTICE INFORMATION**. Notice shall be deemed given when actually received or when refused. The parties agree to promptly notify each other in writing of any change of address.

ARTICLE 26 RECORD RETENTION AND ACCESS TO RECORDS

Seller shall establish and maintain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records and such other records as may be necessary to reflect its performance of the provisions of this Agreement. The Purchaser, ITS, any state or federal agency authorized to audit Purchaser, and/or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have unimpeded, prompt access to this Agreement and to any of the Seller's proposals, books, documents, papers and/or records that are pertinent to this Agreement to make audits, copies, examinations, excerpts and transcriptions at the State's or Seller's office as applicable where such records are kept during normal business hours. All records relating to this Agreement shall be retained by the Seller for three (3) years from the date of receipt of final payment under this Agreement. However, if any litigation or other legal action, by or for the state or federal government has begun that is not completed at the end of the three (3) year period, or if an audit finding, litigation or other legal action has not been resolved at the end of the three (3) year period, the records shall be retained until resolution.

ARTICLE 27 INSURANCE

Seller represents that it will maintain workers' compensation insurance as prescribed by law, which shall inure to the benefit of Seller's personnel, as well as comprehensive general liability and employee fidelity bond insurance. Seller will, upon request, furnish Purchaser with a certificate of conformity providing the aforesaid coverage.

ARTICLE 28 DISPUTES

Any dispute concerning a question of fact under this Agreement, which is not disposed of by agreement of the Seller and Purchaser, shall be decided by the Executive Director of ITS or his/her designee. This decision shall be reduced to writing and a copy thereof mailed or furnished to the parties. Disagreement with such decision by either party shall not constitute a breach under the terms of this Agreement. Such disagreeing party shall be entitled to seek such other rights and remedies it may have at law or in equity.

ARTICLE 29 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

Seller shall comply with and all activities under this Agreement shall be subject to all Purchaser policies and procedures and all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures as now existing and as may be amended or modified. Specifically, but not limited to, Seller shall not discriminate against any employee nor shall any party be subject to discrimination in the performance of this Agreement because of race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

ARTICLE 30 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Seller shall notify Purchaser of any potential conflict of interest resulting from the representation of or service to other clients. If such conflict cannot be resolved to Purchaser's satisfaction, Purchaser reserves the right to terminate this Agreement.

ARTICLE 31 SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

By entering into this Agreement with Seller, the State of Mississippi does in no way waive its sovereign immunities or defenses as provided by law.

ARTICLE 32 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

32.1 Seller shall treat all Purchaser data and information to which it has access by its performance under this Agreement as confidential and shall not disclose such data or information to a third party without specific written consent of Purchaser. In the event that Seller receives notice that a third party requests divulgence of confidential or otherwise protected information and/or has served upon it a subpoena or other validly issued administrative or judicial process ordering divulgence of such information, Seller shall promptly inform Purchaser and thereafter respond in conformity with such subpoena to the extent mandated by state and/or federal laws, rules, and regulations. This Article shall survive the termination or completion of this Agreement, shall continue in full force and effect, and shall be binding upon the Seller and its agents, employees, successors, assigns, subcontractors, or any party or entity claiming an interest in this Agreement on behalf of or under the rights of the Seller, following any termination or completion of this Agreement.

32.2 With the exception of any attached exhibits which are labeled as "confidential", the parties understand and agree that this Agreement, including any amendments and/or change orders thereto, does not constitute confidential information, and may be reproduced and distributed by the State without notification to Seller. ITS will provide third party notice to Seller of any requests received by ITS for any such confidential exhibits so as to allow Seller the opportunity to protect the information by court order as outlined in ITS Public Records Procedures.

ARTICLE 33 EFFECT OF SIGNATURE

Each person signing this Agreement represents that he or she has read the Agreement in its entirety, understands its terms, is duly authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of the parties, and agrees to be bound by the terms contained herein. Accordingly, this Agreement shall not be construed or interpreted in favor of or against the State or the Seller on the basis of draftsmanship or preparation hereof.

ARTICLE 34 OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS AND WORK PRODUCTS

All data, electronic or otherwise, collected by Seller and all documents, notes, programs, databases (and all applications thereof), files, reports, studies, and/or other material collected and prepared by Seller in connection with this Agreement, whether completed or in progress, shall be the property of Purchaser upon completion of this Agreement or upon termination of this Agreement. Purchaser hereby reserves all rights to the databases and all applications thereof and to any and all information and/or materials prepared in connection with this Agreement. Seller is prohibited from use of the above described information and/or materials without the express written approval of Purchaser.

ARTICLE 35 NON-SOLICITATION OF EMPLOYEES

Seller agrees not to employ or to solicit for employment, directly or indirectly, any of the Purchaser's employees until at least one (1) year after the expiration/termination of this Agreement, unless mutually agreed to the contrary in writing by the Purchaser and the Seller, and provided that such an agreement between these two entities is not a violation of the laws of the State of Mississippi or the federal government.

ARTICLE 36 ENTIRE AGREEMENT

36.1 This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersedes and replaces any and all prior negotiations, understandings, and agreements, written or oral, between the parties relating hereto, including all terms of any unsigned or "shrink-wrap" license included in any package, media, or electronic version of Seller-furnished software, or any "click-wrap" or "browse-wrap" license presented in connection with a purchase via the Internet. The RFP No. 3682 and Seller's Proposal in response to RFP No. 3682 are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement.

36.2 The Agreement made by and between the parties hereto shall consist of and precedence is hereby established by the order of the following:

- A.** This Agreement signed by both parties;
- B.** Any exhibits attached to this Agreement;
- C.** RFP No. 3682 and written addenda; and
- D.** Seller's Proposal, as accepted by Purchaser, in response to RFP No. 3682.

36.3 The intent of the above listed documents is to include all items necessary for the proper execution and completion of the services by the Seller. The documents are complementary, and what is required by one shall be binding as if required by all. A higher order document shall supersede a lower order document to the extent necessary to resolve any conflict or inconsistency arising under the various provisions thereof, provided, however, that in the event an issue is addressed in one of the above mentioned documents but is not addressed in another of such documents, no conflict or inconsistency shall be deemed to occur by reason thereof. The documents listed above are shown in descending order of priority, that is, the highest document begins with the first listed document (“A. This Agreement”) and the lowest document is listed last (“D. Seller’s Proposal”).

ARTICLE 37 STATE PROPERTY AND LOCATION OF WORK

37.1 Seller shall be responsible for the proper custody of any Purchaser-owned property furnished for Seller’s use in connection with work performed pursuant to this Agreement. Seller shall reimburse the Purchaser for any loss or damage, normal wear and tear excepted.

37.2 All work provided in connection with this contract will be required to be performed on-site in the Purchaser’s offices in Jackson, Mississippi, unless written approval is received from the State. Seller accepts full responsibility for all problems arising out of a decision to perform off-site work.

ARTICLE 38 SURVIVAL

Articles 9, 10, 11, 18, 22, 26, 31, 32, 34, 35, and all other articles, which by their express terms so survive or which should so reasonably survive, shall survive any termination or expiration of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 39 DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION CERTIFICATION

Seller certifies that neither it nor its principals: (a) are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency; (b) have, within a three (3) year period preceding this Agreement, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state anti-trust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; (c) are presently indicted of or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with the commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state anti-trust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen

property; and (d) have, within a three (3) year period preceding this Agreement, had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

ARTICLE 40 COMPLIANCE WITH ENTERPRISE SECURITY POLICY

Seller and Purchaser understand and agree that all products and services provided by Seller under this Agreement must be and remain in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Security Policy. The parties understand and agree that the State's Enterprise Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines at the time of contract execution. The State reserves the right to introduce a new policy during the term of this Agreement and require the Seller to comply with same in the event the industry introduces more secure, robust solutions or practices that facilitate a more secure posture for the State of Mississippi.

ARTICLE 41 STATUTORY AUTHORITY

By virtue of Section 25-53-21 of the Mississippi Code Annotated, as amended, the Executive Director of ITS is the purchasing and contracting agent for the State of Mississippi in the negotiation and execution of all contracts for the acquisition of information technology equipment, software, and services. The parties understand and agree that ITS as contracting agent is not responsible or liable for the performance or non-performance of any of Purchaser's or Seller's contractual obligations, financial or otherwise, contained within this Agreement.

ARTICLE 42 RETAINAGE

To secure the Seller's performance under this Agreement, the Seller agrees that the Purchaser shall hold back as retainage fifteen percent (15%) of each amount payable, including amounts payable under change orders, under this Agreement. The retainage amount will continue to be held until final acceptance of the system by the State and the expiration of the warranty period.

For the faithful performance of the terms of this Agreement, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their undersigned representatives.

**State of Mississippi, Department of
Information Technology Services, on
behalf of Mississippi State Department of
Health**

INSERT VENDOR NAME

By: _____
Authorized Signature

By: _____
Authorized Signature

Printed Name: Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D.

Printed Name: _____

Title: Executive Director

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT A

Deliverable	Deliverable Due Date	Payment Amount	Less 15% Retainage	Actual Amount Paid

EXHIBIT B

Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative

Goals

ABCS of Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

Goals to address aspirin, hemoglobin A1c (A1C), blood pressure, cholesterol, and smoking:

ASPIRIN

Increase proportion of providers who adhere to current evidence-based aspirin therapy guidelines.

A1C

- Increase proportion of population that have diabetes under control as defined by current evidence-based guidelines.
- Increase proportion of patients with diabetes with an A1c level less than 7% of total hemoglobin.
- Increase proportion of patients who have had A1c level measured within the recommended timeframe.
- Increase proportion of population that have diabetes diagnosed based on A1C test.
- Increase proportion of people with diabetes who know that they have the condition.

BLOOD PRESSURE

- Increase proportion of adults who have achieved blood pressure control as defined by current evidence-based guidelines.
- Increase proportion of patients with high blood pressure in compliance with hypertensive medication regimens.
- Increase proportion of providers who follow current evidence-based guideline algorithms for pharmacological therapies to treat high blood pressure.
- Decrease average blood pressure levels among adults with high blood pressure.
- Proportion of individuals/patients on dialysis (Monitoring)

LDL-CHOLESTEROL

- Increase proportion of adults screened for blood cholesterol according to current evidence-based guidelines.
- Increase proportion of adults diagnosed with high cholesterol who have LDL cholesterol at or below goal as defined by current evidence-based guidelines.
- Increase proportion of providers who follow current evidence-based guideline algorithms for pharmacologic therapies to treat high cholesterol.
- Decrease average LDL cholesterol level among adults with high cholesterol.

SMOKING/TOBACCO

- Increase proportion of adults who have been asked by a health care professional about smoking.
- Increase proportion of smokers who have been advised to quit smoking by a health care professional.
- Increase proportion of adult and young smokers who have made a quit attempt.
- Decrease prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults and youth.