

State of Maine Waiver of Competitive Bidding Request Form

Form Instructions: Please provide the requested information in the white boxes below. This form is to precede all contract requests that are not the direct result of a competitive bid process.

DHHS/DCM Contract Administrator:	Matt Galletta/Ryan Roberts	Office/Division/Program of Contract Administrator:	DHHS/OFI/HOPE Program
Est. Contract Amount:	\$ 1,110,162.00	Contract or RQS Number:	CT 10A 20191023*1371
		Purchasing Maine ID:	
		DHHS Agreement Number:	OFI-20-003
Proposed Start Date:	1/1/2020	Proposed End Date:	12/31/2021
Vendor/Provider Name, City, State	University of Maine operating as Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) Orono, ME		
Short Description of Good or Service:	Student Navigators		
Please note, for transparency purposes, Waivers of Competitive Bidding will be publicly posted. Public postings are placed on the Division of Procurement Services website for a period of seven consecutive calendar days.		To be completed by the Division of Procurement Services Posting dates on Division of Procurement Services website: From: <u>1/13/2020</u> To: <u>1/19/2020</u>	
Notice of Intent to Waive Competitive Bidding Number:		NOI# 0120200044	
1. Statutory Justification State of Maine statute (5 M.R.S. §1825-B(2)) allows waivers of competitive bidding only for the specific reasons listed below. Please mark the appropriate box (X) next to the justification which applies to this specific request.			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. The procurement of goods or services by the State for county commissioners pursuant to Title 30-A, section 124, involves the expenditure of \$2,500 or less, and the interests of the State would best be served;		
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. The Director of the Bureau of General Services is authorized by the Governor, or the Governor's designee, to make purchases without competitive bidding because, in the opinion of the Governor or the Governor's designee, an emergency exists that requires the immediate procurement of goods or services;		
	<i>If citing the above justification for this Waiver of Competitive Bidding request, please have the requesting Department's Commissioner or Chief Executive (as the Governor's "designee") sign and date on the right.</i>	<i>By signing below, I signify as the Governor's designee there is an emergency that necessitates this non-competitive procurement.</i> Signature:	
		Printed Name:	Date:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. After reasonable investigation by the Director of the Bureau of General Services, it appears that any required unit or item of supply, or brand of that unit or item, is procurable by the State from only one source;		
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. It appears to be in the best interest of the State to negotiate for the procurement of petroleum products;		
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. The purchase is part of a cooperative project between the State and the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, the Maine Maritime Academy, or a private, nonprofit, regionally accredited institution of higher education with a main campus in this State involving: (1) An activity assisting a state agency and enhancing the ability of the university system, community college system, Maine Maritime Academy, or a private, nonprofit, regionally accredited institution of higher education with a main campus in this State to fulfill its mission of teaching, research, and public service; (2) A sharing of project responsibilities and, when appropriate, costs;		
	<i>If citing the above justification for this sole source request, please note that the specific approval of the Governor's Office is required, in accordance with Executive Order 26 FY 11/12, "An Order to Enhance Competitive Bidding". The approval must be documented on DAFS/BGS/Division of Procurement Services "GOVCOOP" form, found here: http://www.maine.gov/purchases/info/forms/govcoop.doc.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. The procurement of goods or services involves expenditures of \$10,000 or less, in which case the Director of the Bureau of General Services may accept oral proposals or bids;		

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	G. The procurement of goods or services involves expenditures of \$10,000 or less, and procurement from a single source is the most economical, effective and appropriate means of fulfilling a demonstrated need.
	If a different authorization specifically allows for this non-competitive procurement, please provide that reference here:

Please note that the following four points below (#2 through 5) all require a response.

2. Description of Specific Need

Please identify, and fully describe, the specific problem, requirement, or need the resulting non- competitive contract would address and which makes the goods or services necessary. Explain how the requesting Department determined that the goods or services are critical and/or essential to agency responsibilities or operations.

The Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment (HOPE) Program is required under [22 MRSA 1054-C](#) to provide campus-based student support and navigation to its program participants to promote program completion and student success.

The HOPE Program provides participants a package of supports that integrates financial assistance for costs related to education with individualized guidance provided by student navigators. Providing these supports, the HOPE program aims to increase the persistence and attainment rate of Maine parents and caretaker relatives at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in their post-secondary training and education endeavors.

3. Availability of other Public Resources

Please explain how the requesting Department concluded that sufficient staffing, resources, or expertise is not available within the State of Maine's government, or other governmental entities (local, other state, or federal agencies) external to the requesting Department, which would be able to address the identified need more efficiently and effectively than the identified vendor.

The Department does not have the requisite knowledge of Maine's colleges and universities campus specific processes and policies nor the established network provided by the Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC).

4. Cost

Since a waiver of competitive bidding is being requested for this procurement, please explain how the requesting Department concluded the negotiated costs, fees, or rates are **fair and reasonable**.

The Federal Student Support Services TRIO grant awarded to Maine's TRIO campuses for the 2018-19 year provided for an average of \$1,652 per student served for the year. This closely resembles the average national TRIO Student Support Services grant award amount per student served for 2018-19, which is \$1,590. A comparison to this award is being used because TRIO Student Support Services mirrors the type of service that MEOC Student Navigators will provide when under contract with the Department to support HOPE Participants. These award amounts can be found here: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/triostudsupp/awards.html>. The per student cost for HOPE participants using MEOC navigators is at least 30 percent lower than the national TRIO cost per student.

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5. Future Competition

Please describe potential opportunities which may be available to foster competition for these goods or services in the future.

The Department does not intend to competitively bid these services.

Please note that only one of the two points below ("Uniqueness" or "Timeframe") requires a response. Requesting Departments are not required to respond to both points.

6. Uniqueness

Please explain if the goods or services required are unique to a specific vendor. Describe the unique qualifications, abilities, and/or expertise of the vendor and how those particular unique factors address the specific need identified above. If the vendor has unique equipment, facilities, or proprietary data, also explain the necessity of these particular unique assets.

The Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) is a federal education initiative established to promote access to post-secondary education for traditionally under-represented adult populations within the State of Maine. As part of its pre-entry service, MEOC Advisors coordinate efforts for all Maine schools, colleges, and other service agencies to provide information and assistance to students in completing college admission and financial aid forms. Through this relationship MEOC advisors have the ability to access the institutions' databases, in order to refer students to community resources while helping them stay on track and obtain success with their postsecondary education endeavors.

In addition, MEOC is uniquely positioned to support the needs of HOPE program participants through student navigation.

7. Timeframe (Complete only if B. is the Statutory Justification marked on Page 1)

Please explain if time is of the essence and an emergency exists which requires the immediate procurement of goods or services. Describe the nature of this emergency, provide the date by which the goods or services must be delivered, and explain how that date was determined and its significance (i.e. impact if delayed beyond this date). Also, provide information as to how it was determined this vendor is the best option to address this time-sensitive procurement.

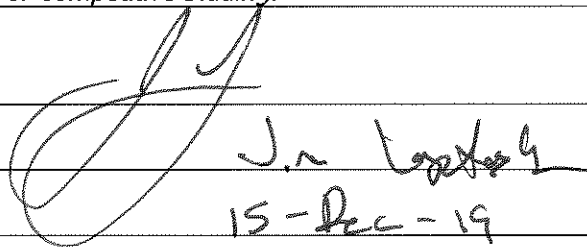
N/A

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner or Chief Executive (or designee within the Commissioner's Office):

By signing below, I signify that my Department requests, and I approve of, this Waiver of Competitive Bidding.

Printed Name:

Date:


 J. N. Lopez
 15-Dec-19