

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services website (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW				
Department Office/Division/Program:		DHHS/MECDC/Environmental and Community Health/Environmental and Occupational Health Program		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Chris Moiles / Lora Blackwell		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		CD0-21-5373		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 24,945.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT 10A 20201222000000001923	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	1/1/2021	Proposed End Date:	08/31/2021
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:	
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:	
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:	
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:	
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Well Water Safety Outreach and Evaluation		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
	A. Competitive Process		G. Grant
	B. Amendment		H. State Statute/Agency Directed
X	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor		I. Federal Agency Directed
	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents		J. Willing and Qualified
	E. Emergency		K. Client Choice
	F. University Cooperative Project		L. Other Authorization

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
Please respond to ALL of the following:
1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.
This agreement will provide Maine CDC's Environmental and Occupational Health Program with arsenic well water test results collected from Maine households in hot spots for arsenic in well water. In addition, the vendor will design and pilot an evaluation of Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory's (MDIBL's) school-based model to educate students and community members about well water testing for arsenic, a harmful and naturally occurring contaminant found at unsafe levels in about 10% of Maine wells. The purpose of the evaluation is to examine whether this type of school-based intervention is effective at increasing well water testing and reducing

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

arsenic exposure among residents. If found to be effective, this program could be a model for other schools and communities in Maine.

Maine is among a handful of U.S. states having exceptionally high reliance on private wells for drinking water: 51% of Maine households use their own well water supply. Private domestic wells in Maine are largely unregulated and the burden is on homeowners to test their well water for safety and mitigate any hazards. About 10% of private wells have arsenic levels above the public water supply standard of 10 parts per billion (ppb). While everyone who gets drinking water from a private well should regularly test the water, some areas may be at higher risk than others for exposure to harmful chemicals. Hancock County, where MDIBL focuses its testing and education efforts, is one such area: more than 20% of private wells in Hancock County exceed the standard of 10 ppb. Arsenic is a contaminant of significant concern, as it is a known human carcinogen with an estimated cancer risk from lifetime exposure to 10 ppb arsenic in water that approaches 1-in-1,000. Further, there is emerging evidence that exposure to arsenic in drinking water is associated with an increase in cardiovascular disease, as well as neurotoxic effects in young children, resulting in potential loss of intellectual function, akin to the effects of lead exposure. Despite the significant usage of private wells, widespread instances of arsenic above the health-based standard, and well-documented and serious health outcomes associated with arsenic and other contaminants, survey data from Maine's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) show that only about 60% of all households with wells in Maine have ever tested their well water for arsenic. Among well water reliant households with income less than \$15,000 per year, only 35% have tested their well water for arsenic.

Services under this contract align with several programmatic and statutory requirements. Most importantly, Maine's Department of Health and Human Services is required under Maine Public Law 2017 Chapter 230 to conduct educational outreach regarding residential private drinking water wells and the importance of testing, among other required activities. Targeted education and well water testing through this contract support this public law requirement. Additionally, testing and evaluation services under this contract ensure Maine CDC will fulfill deliverables under a federal grant from U.S. CDC ("Strengthening environmental health capacity to detect, prevent, and control environmental health hazards through data-driven, evidence-based approaches") to increase the number of addressed, prevented, and controlled environmental health hazards in Maine, and to increase efficiency and effectiveness of environmental health interventions to address environmental health hazards. Finally, this contract will assist Maine CDC in meeting a key goal of the Maine Community Health Needs Assessment: to increase the percentage of homes that have tested their wells for arsenic.

Because water testing is key to MDIBL's school-based project and confers a public health benefit to the community by providing information on exposure, Maine CDC identified MDIBL as a partner in our cooperative agreement with the U.S. CDC to strengthen Maine's environmental health capacity. MDIBL has already received a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to support the majority of the school-based project and is in year three of this grant award. Dartmouth College's Trace Element Analysis Core laboratory had previously covered the cost of the water analyses but is no longer able to do so due to the loss of some of their federal funding. Maine CDC has received federal CDC funding specifically allocated to pay for the costs of the water analyses and thereby ensure the continuity of the project. The combination of these funding sources to execute the full educational project helps to ensure that federal grants to Maine agencies are as effective and efficient as possible.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II.

MDIBL is appropriate as the sole source in this agreement because they are the only organization in Maine that has an established school-based well water safety and testing intervention. MDIBL's project is aimed at creating a national Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) educational model that uses student projects on arsenic in well water to teach science and data literacy concepts to middle and high school students. Through this project, MDIBL has engaged 13 Maine schools in well water education and 1,200 students have tested their wells. Preliminary survey data show more than half (58%) of the residents who provided water samples through this project answered "no" or "I don't know" to the question, "Have you tested your water for

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

arsenic before?" Among the wells sampled, 14% identified unsafe levels of arsenic. These results indicate MDIBL is already reaching residents who are at higher risk for arsenic in well water identifying a high prevalence of wells with unsafe levels of arsenic.

In addition, MDIBL is in a unique position to provide evaluation services for the school-based project as they already have a contractor who is evaluating the educational/student learning outcomes of the intervention. However, there is currently no mechanism to support an evaluation of the effect of their intervention on public health (e.g. well water testing behavior and arsenic reduction among Maine residents). This agreement will allow Maine CDC to leverage this vendor's unique qualifications and established evaluator to expand the evaluation to include outcomes of importance to the public health of Maine residents.

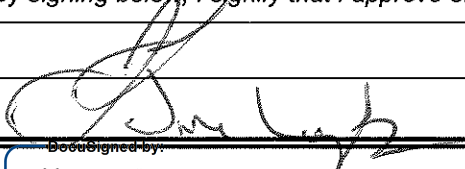
3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

Since MDIBL has established a relationship with the Dartmouth College Trace Element Analysis Core to analyze well water samples for this project, they are able to secure a Researcher rate of \$21 for every well water sample. The cost to analyze the sample at Dartmouth's lab is significantly less than the cost of analyzing the same sample at Maine's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (approximately \$70) or at a private lab in Maine (approximately \$100). The cost for MDIBL to evaluate a project such as this is consistent with the cost for a State of Maine evaluator or evaluator contracted by State of Maine. A contracted evaluator for Maine CDC's federally funded Asthma and Cancer programs costs \$105 per hour. The cost for the evaluator for Maine's Environmental Public Health Tracking program was \$75 per hour. The evaluator MDIBL has been working with costs \$80 per hour.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

The Department does not anticipate these services to continue beyond the contract end date. If the services are to continue the Department will complete an RFP of the services.

PART IV: APPROVALS

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	<i>By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.</i>		
Printed Name:		Date:	19-Jan-21
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<i>Kathy Paquette</i>		
Printed Name:	41C2BA36FAF44CD... Kathy Paquette	Date:	2/9/2021