



PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

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 intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW
Table with fields: Department Office/Division/Program, Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator, (If applicable) Department Reference #, Amount, Advantage CT / RQS #, CONTRACT, AMENDMENT, GRANT, Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State, Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant.

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

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

### PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

In 2022, Maine ranked 16th among US states for overall health of women and children according to America's Health Rankings (AHR), up from 21st in 2016. However, the 2022 AHR report also ranks Maine among states with the highest suicide rates at over 16.8 per 100,000 for youth ages 15-19. In the 2021 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey, 31.6% of middle schoolers and 42.7% of high schoolers reported their mental health as "not good," exemplifying the profound impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Maine's youth. 35.9% of high schoolers noted they felt sad or hopeless in the past 12 months, up from 32.1% in 2019. The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative shows that in 2019-2020, close to three in 10 (29.5%) of Maine children aged three to 17 experiences a mental, emotional, developmental or behavioral (MEDB) problem. Further, the 2021 Maine Kids Count data show that of calls to Maine Emergency Medical Services for children and youth under the age of 18 years, 16.8% related to behavioral health concerns.

The Maine OCFS was awarded the Pediatric Mental Health Access Program grant from HRSA to increase access to behavioral health care by expanding the ability of pediatric primary and specialty care providers to detect, assess, treat and refer children with behavioral health disorders. This grant had previously been awarded and managed by the Maine CDC. The Maine OCFS intends to utilize consistent vendors from the previous grant period for a 9-month contract period in order to successfully transition the grant work between the offices without disruption to the existing services and to assess the plan for future services.

The Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Grant requires the Department to work with partners to provide behavioral health care for clients while using onsite and telehealth visits as a way to be more accessible. This grant also requires the Department to provide training and resources to healthcare and social service providers on screening and referral.

This vendor has provided these services consistently and successfully for the prior 4-year grant period.

This contract will allow the current vendor to continue to provide peer-to-peer telehealth consultations, be subject matter experts at the ECHO Webinar Series and to provide additional education to clinical providers through technical assistance and Lunch & Learns sessions without disruption while the Department transitions management of the grant and evaluates any necessary program changes prior to future competitive procurement.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

This vendor houses a distinct Integrated Behavioral Health program, which is consultative and designed to maximize patient and provider access to behavioral health expertise within outpatient medical practices. The Provider uses on-site/telehealth experts and whose primary functions include Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) that provide mental health diagnostic clarification, evidence-based behavioral therapy for mental health and substance use, individual and group therapy, advance directives educational sessions and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

(PMHNP's) who provide mental health diagnostic clarification, psychiatric assessment, prescribing and monitoring psychiatric medications, treating behavioral complications of medical diagnoses and treatment.

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

Costs were based on actual staff time costs and materials needed to complete the deliverables in the Agreement. The Department determined the costs were fair and reasonable for comparable services across the State.

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

The Department intends to competitively procure these services for a 7/1/2025 contract start date.

**PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)**

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

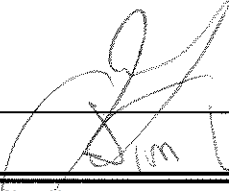

Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

Yes, ARPA funds (025) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.

No – If No, proceed to Part V.

**PART V: APPROVALS**

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:	Jim Lepore	Date:	18 Mar 24
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> 		
Typed Name:	41C2BA36FAF44CD... Kathy Paquette	Date:	5/10/2024