



PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$10,000 submitted to the Office of State 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 Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW

Department Office/Division/Program:	DHHS/MECDC/Environmental and Community Health/Environmental Health Program			
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Stephanie Wood/ Jennifer Levesque			
(If applicable) Department Reference #:	CD0-26-5323			
Agency Department Code:	10A	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20260217000CD0265323	
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$199,955.61			
CONTRACT	Proposed/Original Start Date:	10/1/2025	Proposed/Most Recent End Date:	1/31/2027
AMENDMENT	New Effective Date:		New End Date (if Applicable):	
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:	
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:	
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	MaineHealth (Maine Medical Center), Portland, ME			
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	Study of medical interventions that can accelerate the reduction of body burdens of PFAS among highly exposed individuals.			

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION

Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
☐	A. Competitive Process	☐	G. Grant
☐	B. Amendment	☐	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
☒	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	☐	I. Federal Agency Directed
☐	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	☐	J. Willing and Qualified
☐	E. Emergency	☐	K. Client Choice
☐	F. Higher Education Cooperative Project	☐	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.
The 130th Legislature authorized a Fund to Address PFAS Contamination to be administered by DACF (7 M.R.S.A., Chapter 10-D). Expenditures from the PFAS Fund are guided by an implementation plan adopted by the PFAS Fund Advisory Committee on July 10, 2023, that was updated on March 5, 2025. The updated plan included an allocation of \$200,000 to make medical treatment options for accelerating the reduction of PFAS body burden among highly exposed individuals, with the funds provided to Maine CDC under an interagency MOU with DACF. Specifically, these funds are to be used to contract with a vendor to publish a peer-reviewed protocol for the use of the FDA-approved cholesterol-lowering drug cholestyramine to accelerate the removal of PFAS from highly exposed individuals, and to summarize and publish results from this treatment modality. This contract will allow Maine CDC to fulfill these obligations under the MOU with DACF. The contract will include three areas of work: 1) Assembly of panels of medical professionals and patients to review and vet a protocol for administering Cholestyramine to reduce body burden of PFAS. The Contract will cover stipends for panel members, contractor time spent meeting with the panel to complete the review, and contractor vetting of the protocol and documentation of the results. 2) Compilation and assembly of clinical data from a case series of individuals who have already been administered Cholestyramine to reduce body burden of PFAS, analysis of the data, and preparation of a report on findings to document the efficacy of this treatment. 3) Preparation of reports and a manuscript describing the panel and clinical case series to obtain scientific peer review and widespread dissemination of findings. Taken together, these resources will provide information for Maine clinicians to use in treating patients with elevated PFAS exposure. Over the past several years, studies by state agencies and researchers have documented widespread contamination of soil and private wells with per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) from the historical application of biosolids on farmland. Individuals with very elevated blood levels of PFAS have been identified. Some of these PFAS chemicals have very long residence times in the human body even after exposure has ended (years), and health impacts of exposure can be serious. Recent research suggests a few possible approaches to reducing body burden of PFAS quickly, such as serial phlebotomy and folate supplementation, with the most promising approach to date appearing to be treatment with the bile acid sequestrant drug cholestyramine. A 2024 Danish clinical trial found a 60% reduction in levels of the PFAS perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) after a 12-week course of the medication without adverse events. The results of this clinical trial showed both the efficacy and safety of this approach, advancing our understanding of and ability to act on PFAS body burden reduction. Supporting other State agencies is part of the statutory mission of the Maine CDC's Environmental Health Program, which advises State agencies and boards, including the DACF, on questions of exposure to potentially harmful environmental chemicals, and which has statutory authority to conduct and contract for investigations as necessary to determine whether particular health problems are related to environmental factors.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the solicitation (RFP/RFA/RFQ) number if applicable.

In recent years there has been growing interest among Mainers with high exposures to PFAS to learn more about clinical options for reducing PFAS body burden. In response, Dr. Rachel Criswell at Redington-Fairview General Hospital (RFGH) and Dr. Abby Fleisch at MaineHealth, in collaboration with a MaineHealth gastroenterologist with extensive experience prescribing cholestyramine and MaineHealth's bioethicist, have developed a clinical protocol for outpatient administration of cholestyramine for PFAS body burden reduction that has been vetted and approved by RFGH's and MaineHealth's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committees. Cholestyramine treatment requires blood testing at the start and end of a 12-week course, with variable insurance coverage of the labs and medication. Currently, Dr. Criswell has seven patients who have started or completed treatment, and Dr. Fleisch has one. Preliminary results indicate success in body burden reduction similar to results found in a Danish clinical trial, with few side effects. To our knowledge, few other practicing physicians in Maine have administered this type of treatment to PFAS-exposed patients, and no other hospitals have approved protocols.

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

Costs for personnel, fringe, travel, stipends, and supplies were negotiated with the vendor, are based on their standard rates, and were capped by the available funds allocated by the DACF PFAS Fund of \$200,000. Note that the proposed agreement represents a 16-month agreement rather than the standard 24-month agreement based on the proposed vendor's assessment that the time needed to complete the requested work and deliverables is 16 months.

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

We expect that this study will be completed by the end of the 16-month period of the contract, and we do not anticipate needing future competition for these services.

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) or (026) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.
- ☒ No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE

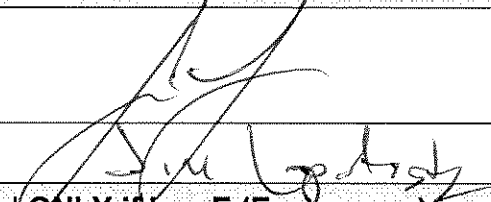
Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS [Title 5, §18](#) and [§18-A](#), in harmony with MRS [Title 17, §3104](#).

- ☒ The requesting department's signatory affirms, understands, and acknowledges Maine's Conflict of Interest statutes and, in accordance with those statutes and to the best of their knowledge, has determined that no conflict of interest exists at the time of this contract, renewal, or amendment.

PART VI: APPROVALS

Governor/Department Commissioner or Designee

1. The signature below indicates approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:		Date:	5-13-May-26

2. Additional signature required **ONLY if box E (Emergency) is selected in PART II**. The signature below indicates approval by the Department's Commissioner, or the designee specifically authorized to approve emergency procurement requests.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:		Date:	

****OSPS Section Only****

Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	Signed by: 		
Typed Name:	41C2BA36FAF44CD... Kathy Blais	Date:	5/26/2026