

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:		Education/Office of Learning Systems			
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Janette Kirk			
(If applicable) Department Reference #:					
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$110,250	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20210504000000003025		
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	9/1/2021	Proposed End Date:	9/21/2022	
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:		National Center for Education on the Economy 221 K. Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20037			
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		The Provider is responsible for providing materials and technical assistance to support the implementation the National Institute for School Leadership's (NISL) 24-day Executive Development Program (EDP).			

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.**

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Today, Maine school and district leaders are expected to be effective managers and instructional leaders. The NISL training is available at a significant reduction of cost to Maine educators. The successful completion of the coursework may be accepted by the University of Maine at Orono for course credit toward a M.Ed. and/or PhD.

MEPRI's 2021 Report, School Leadership Development Programs in Maine: Building Statewide Capacity and Addressing Challenges (Janet Fairman, Ian Mette, and Maria Frankland) acknowledges opportunities and gaps in leadership development. The report addresses the urgency of building a strong school leader pipeline to ensure that there are enough well-prepared school and district leaders. "Overall, the leadership landscape in Maine features larger numbers of school leaders with fewer years of experience, difficulty filling vacant positions, and high turnover particularly in rural and lower resourced districts. In the 2019-20 school year, there were 583 principals in Maine schools with publicly funded students, of whom 23% were in their first two years of experience. Of the 323 assistant principals, 43% were in their first two years. A similar pattern is seen with district leadership: 20% of the 364 superintendents and 52% of assistant superintendents were in their first two years of experience in those roles."

Given these statistics, it is important that current and aspiring school leaders across the state are equipped with support and professional learning experiences.

Additionally, this need was expressed by former Focus and Priority school and district leaders and research completed by Gordon Donaldson and George Marnik. Donaldson and Marnik identified contributors to success as outlined below.

Contributors to Success:

Principals were asked to assess the degree to which a variety of activities and experiences contributed to their success as a principal. Their "experience as a teacher", "graduate training in educational leadership" and "attending professional development conferences and seminars" rated the highest (mean scores indicate that these contribute "substantially" or "a great deal" to their success).

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

Studies conducted by both the RAND Corporation and George W. Bush Institute aimed to identify ESSA eligible programs, and NISL is the only one to appear in both as having the necessary research rigor and evidence of positively impacting student results (2) NISL is the only Professional Development to have that dual designation (study rigor and positive student results) in the Bush report and (3) NISL is the only organization to appear in the Professional Learning category of the RAND study to have that dual designation (others appear under separate designations).

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

In 2019, Maine completed Cohort 1 of the Maine Leadership program and then moved to a train the trainer model. Over the 2020-2021 SY, a second cohort engaged in this professional learning experience with Maine certified facilitators leading the work. Again, for the 2021-2022 SY (cohort 3), costs and payment to the vendor are significantly reduced as Maine trained facilitators will be utilized to train the next cohort for the 24 sessions. Associated costs are for course materials per participant. Extensive research and development regarding the EDP model have been completed with \$14 million dollars invested by the vendor to complete this work. A cost of the contract is deemed fair and reasonable due to the quality of the materials provided, high quality/caliber of professional learning related to the level of academic content.



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

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In order to ensure the opportunity for future competition, the Department continues to seek out "evidence-based" vendors that could provide a similar course at this cost. Currently the Department is not aware of any other vendors offering a similar or rigorous executive leadership development program.

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:	Daniel Chuhta	Date:	7/7/2021
	<small>DocuSigned by:</small>		
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:			
	<small>066BBD96EE5347F...</small>		
Printed Name:	Michelle Fournier	Date:	7/29/2021


Certificate Of Completion

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Subject: Please DocuSign This Document	
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Document Pages: 3	Signatures: 1
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AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator: Daniel A. Chuhta Daniel.Chuhta@maine.gov
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Daniel A. Chuhta Daniel.Chuhta@maine.gov Deputy Commissioner Maine Department of Education Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	Sent: 7/7/2021 12:02:05 PM Viewed: 7/7/2021 12:02:49 PM Signed: 7/7/2021 12:03:55 PM Freeform Signing
	
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Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	7/7/2021 12:02:06 PM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	7/7/2021 12:02:49 PM
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Completed	Security Checked	7/7/2021 12:03:55 PM

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