



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				
Department Office/Division/Program:		DHHS/OCFS		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Althea Harris / Jennifer Levesque		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		CFS-24-619		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 100,000.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	10A 20230512000000003182	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	07/01/2023	Proposed End Date:	06/30/2025
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:		University of Maine System dba University of Southern Maine Portland, ME		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		MYTC/LEAP		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 Department's Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) is legally mandated to ensure the successful transition of youth in foster care to adulthood. The matching funds provided through this contract serve to leverage additional private funding and community-based resources to increase the opportunities, resources, services, and supports to youth in foster care; thereby ensuring OCFS meets its legal mandates to prepare youth in foster care for adulthood.

The primary goal of this contract is to improve educational and career outcomes that lead to economic self-sufficiency for youth under the care and responsibility of the OCFS. Through this contract, the Provider will continue to convene and expand the Maine Youth Transition Collaborative (MYTC), through key public and private partnerships, which for the past decade has successfully engaged hundreds of young people to improve individual outcomes and systems policies and practices. The Provider will work with MYTC partners to implement Maine Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential (LEAP) and Jobs for the Future, Back on Track competency-based model of learning to connect older youth in foster care with education and employment opportunities and supports to improve secondary and post-secondary outcomes for youth in foster care.

This contract will also ensure continued public-private partnerships that lead to increased and effective utilization of community-based resources for youth, efficient public and private systems collaborative efforts to support youth success, and that youth will have resources and opportunities in their communities that normalize their growing up experiences.

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

The Provider is the sole grantee of private funds for the MYTC and Maine Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential (LEAP) Partnership. The Provider is the only entity, in or outside of Maine which, can receive these matching funds that are a requirement of the Grant. The Provider is the only entity that has stepped forward to serve as the Backbone Organization of the MYTC, to date, and the Provider has successfully accomplished the services outlined for this contract. They have cultivated the necessary skill set required to deliver these services as they employ staff with relevant lived experience, and they are culturally immersed in the populations being served. This service meets the OCFS Strategic Plan and OCFS Practice Model and would be counter to the OCFS Practice Model to have a disruption in this service while the RFP process is followed.

The partnership between the Department and The Provider has provided the State of Maine with significant private foundation funding (as awarded to the Provider) to support and expand the work of OCFS, as well as having engaged significant private partners, both in Maine and nationally, to increase resources and opportunities for youth in foster care. Because of this partnership, Maine has been able to leverage significant additional funds and resources at no cost to the taxpayer. Additionally, over the past several years, OCFS has been meeting regularly with the Provider and aligning services with OCFS priorities and strategic plans. This partnership has been critical to provide consistency of services to youth in foster care to improve their educational and employment outcomes.

The Provider, through the Maine Youth Transition Collaborative, has helped secure local, regional, and national private funding to help the Department meet its mandates for youth in foster care. These private foundations include: Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative; Annie E. Casey Foundation; John T. Gorman Foundation; Sam L. Cohen Foundation; and Maine Community Foundation.

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

The administrative costs associated with this contract are based on previously approved rates as determined through the RFP Process for similar activities.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The cost of this contract generates substantial private funding to augment state funds used to serve this legally mandated population.

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

The Provider is the sole grantee of private funds that established the Maine Youth Transition Collaborative (MYTC) and the Maine Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential (LEAP) Partnership. The Provider is the only entity, in or outside of Maine which, can receive these matching funds that are a requirement of the Grant. The Provider has successfully accomplished the services outlined for this contract and have cultivated the necessary skill set required to deliver these services as they employ staff with relevant lived experience, and they are culturally immersed in the populations being served. This service meets the OCFS Strategic Plan and OCFS Practice Model and would be counter to the OCFS Practice Model to have a disruption in this service.

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

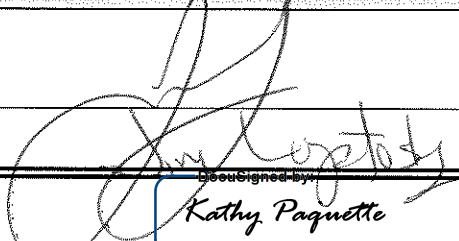
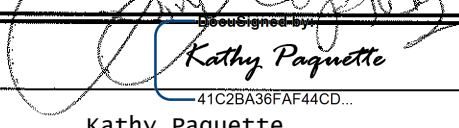
Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

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

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):			Date:	27-Jun-23
Typed Name:			Date:	
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:			Date:	7/11/2023
Typed Name:	Kathy Paquette	41C2BA36FAF44CD...	Date:	