

## 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:	DOL/BRS/DBVI			
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Annette Stevens			
(If applicable) Department Reference #:				
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 382,701	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20210716000000000107	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	10/1/2021	Proposed End Date:	9/30/2022
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:	The Iris Network 189 Park Ave. Portland, Me. 04102			
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	24/7 on-campus vocational rehabilitation services, To include assessment, direct instruction, consultation and support. This also includes housing, meals, shuttle transportation, resident support services, and recreational activities.			

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

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### PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The State of Maine Department of Labor, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) identified the need for an in-state comprehensive, immersion-model blindness rehabilitation and vocational training center that would integrate blindness-specific skills instruction into activities promoting employment preparation and vocational training.

In 2015, renovations of the Ryan Building, which is owned by The Iris Network and located at 189 Park Avenue in Portland, Maine, were completed in order to establish this type of blindness rehabilitation and vocational training center through an Establishment Project funded by DBVI, utilizing VR grant award funds from the U.S. DOE Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and The Iris Network.

The services provided at the center are essential to DBVI consumers and provide a less costly option of staying in-state to receive them.

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

The Iris Network has the only residential Rehab Center in Maine and has been providing services to Maine's citizens that are blind and visually impaired since 1905. Due to blindness being such a low incidence disability population and the Iris Network's longevity in this arena, they have the unique assets, knowledge needed, and certified staff to provide quality services in this format.

These services cannot be performed by a State Agency due to lack of sufficient staffing and facilities.


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

The costs associated with this contract were negotiated and agreed upon based after discussion of program expenditures and calculation of fee for service rates. The services provided will be delivered by Nationally Certified and/or State Licensed Rehabilitation professionals.

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

It is unknown if there will be an agency that provide these services in the future in the State of Maine.

### PART IV: APPROVALS

<b>Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):</b>	<i>By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.</i>		
			
<b>Printed Name:</b>	Laura A Fortman, Commissioner	<b>Date:</b>	9/17/2021
<b>Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:</b>	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Kathy Paquette</i>		
<b>Printed Name:</b>	<small>41C2BA36FAF44CD...</small> Kathy Paquette	<b>Date:</b>	9/22/2021