

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:	Office of School and Student Supports, Maine Department of Education			
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Amelia Lyons, McKinney Vento Homeless Education Consultant			
(If applicable) Department Reference #:				
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 40,000	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20210903*0583	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	9/13/21	Proposed End Date:	8/31/24
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:	Gateway Community Services Maine, 501 Forest Ave, Portland, ME 04103			
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	McKinney-Vento Implementation through American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth, State Reservation			

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

The services to be provided under this contract are to support the identification, outreach, and provision of services to children, youth, and families who qualify as McKinney-Vento. The provider will offer wrap around services and referrals for the children and youth and connect them to their local McKinney-Vento liaison for additional support. This provider will also assist the Maine Department of Education with a professional development project to Local Education Agencies throughout the state regarding their unique expertise in the field of serving people experiencing homelessness.

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

Gateway Community Services Maine is uniquely qualified to provide these services in the Southern and Western region of the state because they are already the recognized provider in this region.

Gateway Community Services Maine (GCSM) is a nonprofit organization based in Greater Portland and Lewiston Maine, founded in 2016 by Abdullahi Ali. Our mission is to encourage, support and build healthy connections within oneself and others in order to promote vibrancy and well-being, along with welcoming communities where all people feel accepted, valued and have a sense of belonging. Our work welcomes all community members, while centering community members who are immigrants, refugees and asylees. From our founding, GCSM has focused on programs encouraging youth leadership, empowerment and voice while working to connect young people to networks and resources to combat social isolation.

GCSM was founded in connection with our sister agency, Gateway Community Services, LLC (GCS). GCS, also founded by Abdullahi Ali, was created in order to provide mental health services that are rooted in cultural competence and are available to all, with a particular focus on supporting immigrant community members. At GCS, they provide clinical services in the form of case management, counseling, and therapy. We work alongside GCS by providing a community-based approach to wellness. Learning from and building off of the mental health expertise within GCS, GCSM is able to expand mental health and stress management supports to community members outside of the confines of MaineCare. This allows us to overcome MaineCare barriers connected not only to who is eligible for services, but also what types of services and mental health supports are covered and funded (thus providing more space for culturally familiar stress management alternatives to clinical settings).

Since the pandemic, GCSM has been working to develop our youth programming, including a 20-person Youth Coalition employed to provide critical public health information and resource sharing throughout their peer networks. Additionally, we have created a highly committed team of Community Health Workers who have been supporting community members with a comprehensive set of wrap-around services. These are provided out in the community, including providing that resource directly within shelters to support community members who are unhoused.

GCSM combines their experience working in community-based wrap around support services, including from within homes and local shelters, together with our extensive work around youth empowerment, leadership and voice (along with working with youth on educational, employment and social goals within our Youth Mentor Program). This organization would be uniquely qualified to support the State of Maine's Department of Education to bring culturally competent and relevant wrap around supports to young people in the community who are unhoused in a comprehensive and connected way.

This organization is uniquely positioned because they are already doing this work and have been for many years. This contract will be a natural extension of their work into the schools and use their unique voice and experience to provide valuable professional development to districts. This organization is uniquely qualified because of their expertise in working with English Learners and immigrant students and families, and those experiencing homelessness.

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION


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

This funding was allocated to the grantee as it was divided up equally between all contracts to fully cover the state. This cost is fair and reasonable to support, at a minimum, .5 FTE for a staff person to dedicate time to these projects.

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

This funding is only available through 2024 and is a one time payment of the American Rescue Plan. If additional funds are made available by the US Department of Education at a later date, then plans will be made on how to approach future competition for the services.

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 A. Chuhta Deputy Commissioner	Date:	9/3/2021
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Michelle Fournier</i>		
	Printed Name:	<small>066BBD96EE5347F...</small> Michelle Fournier	Date: