



### 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/Toxicology and Environmental Epidemiology Program		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Brienne Carrero / Melinda Farrell		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		CD0-26-5322		
Agency Department Code:	10A	Advantage CT / RQS # :	20250512000CD0265322	
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant		\$99,983.00		
CONTRACT	Proposed/Original Start Date:	7/1/2025	Proposed/Most Recent End Date:	6/30/2027
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:		Johns Hopkins University/Sarah Lupolt - Chicago, IL		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		This contract will provide the Department with guidance and support from an exposure and risk scientist at Johns Hopkins University who is an expert in assessing farm worker exposure to environmental chemicals in soils, and who is uniquely qualified to assist the Department. This contract will support an interagency MOU with the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry (DACF) to conduct a study of farm worker exposure to PFAS contaminated soil.		

### PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION

Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" 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. Higher Education 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 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 will be guided by an implementation plan adopted by the PFAS Fund Advisory Committee on July 10, 2023. The adopted plan included an allocation of funds for a study focused on farmers and farm workers to investigate whether certain levels of PFAS contaminated soil represent a significant source of ongoing exposure to people who work with soil. A farmer/farm worker soil exposure study will combine blood testing, environmental measurements of PFAS soil levels, and empirical and modeled estimates of soil exposure through incidental ingestion, inhalation, and skin contact to determine the magnitude of soil-related PFAS exposures and to better understand the most important pathways for soil-related PFAS exposure for farmers. Results will help to inform better guidance for farmers on actions to reduce exposure as appropriate. The PFAS Fund will support MECDC as it undertakes a two-year study to examine whether certain levels of PFAS-contaminated soil represent a significant source of ongoing exposure to agricultural workers and, if so, what mitigation measures are advisable.

Maine CDC has been provided funding under an interagency MOU with the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry (DACF) to conduct a study of farm worker exposure to PFAS contaminated soil. Supporting other State agencies is part of the statutory mission of the MECDC's public health programs that specifically focus on environmental health and that are staffed by individuals with training in toxicology, epidemiology, environmental medicine, and related fields (22 M.R.S.A. § 1692). These professionals advise State agencies and boards, including the DACF, and have statutory authority to conduct and contract for investigations as necessary to determine whether particular problems are related to environmental factors. To undertake this study, Maine CDC will require the assistance of scientific experts on farm worker soil exposure.

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

Sara Lupolt, PhD, MPH is an exposure and risk scientist uniquely qualified to assist Maine CDC on an investigation of farmer exposure to perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) present in contaminated farm soil. Dr. Lupolt is an Assistant Scientist in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has over 8 years of training and practical experience in the exposure and risk sciences, environmental epidemiology, occupational and environmental health, and environmental risk policy and communication. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals on environmental contaminants in urban and rural agricultural settings. Her doctoral dissertation research was grounded in time-activity pattern methods for exposure science and generated novel exposure factors for assessing farm workers' exposure to soil. Dr. Lupolt is the co-Principal Investigator of a US Environmental Protection Agency funded Star Award that aims to advance methodologies for improving estimates

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

of children's soil and dust ingestion rates. She has expertise in various exposure assessment approaches and methodologies, including qualitative interviews, questionnaire/survey development, time-activity pattern data collection, videography, and tracer identification for biomonitoring, which she will leverage to assist with the design of a Maine study of farmers' soil-related PFAS exposure. Dr. Lupolt has additionally consulted pro-bono with the Maine CDC over the past year on the preparation of a report on farm worker exposure to PFAS present in contaminated soil, and in doing so is uniquely familiar with the potential for soil-related PFAS exposure among Maine farmers.

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, and supplies were negotiated with the vendor, and are based on their standard rates. These rates are comparable to other personnel, travel, and supplies costs negotiated for other university-based contracts managed by our Program.

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 two-year 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) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.

No – If No, proceed to Part V.

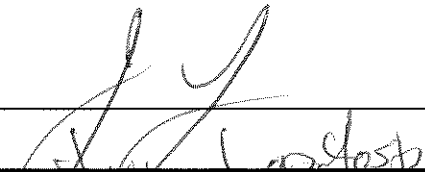
**PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE**

*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 signatory understands and acknowledges Maine's Conflict of Interest statutes.

**PART VI: APPROVALS**


The signature below indicates approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:		Date:	28-Aug-25

**PART VII: EMERGENCY – Required only if selecting E. Emergency Justification**

The signature below indicates approval by the Commissioner or designee of this procurement request.

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

Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:			
Typed Name:	Kathy Paquette	Date:	9/29/2025