



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: | | DOL/BRS/DBVI | |
| Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator: | | Annette Stevens | |
| (If applicable) Department Reference #: | | | |
| Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant) | \$408,103 | Advantage CT / RQS #: | 20230831*0585 |
| CONTRACT | Proposed Start Date: | 10/1/2023 | Proposed End Date: 9/30/2024 |
| 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

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. 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 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. At the time, the Iris Network was the only vendor able to provide a facility that met these needs.

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. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

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. The Iris Network remains the only comprehensive blindness rehabilitation facility in Maine.

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.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

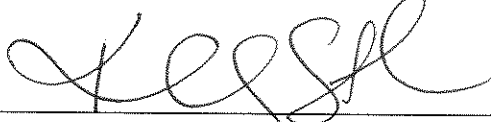

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

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): |  | | |
| Typed Name: | Laura A Fortman, Commissioner | Date: | 9/14/2023 |
| Signature of DAFS Procurement Official: |  <small>DocuSigned by: Kathy Paquette 41C2BA36FAF44CD...</small> | | |
| Typed Name: | Kathy Paquette | Date: | 10/11/2023 |