

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:		DHHS/Rural Health and Primary Care Program/Nicole Breton		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Chris Moiles/ Arlene Jones		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		CD0-22-2251		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 380,500.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT 10A 20211029000000001104	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	09/01/2021	Proposed End Date:	08/31/2023
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:		New England Rural Health Association (NERHA) Newfield, Maine		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		New England Performance Improvement Healthcare Collaborative and education and training for health professionals in rural areas		

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

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 received grant funding to specifically address multi-state rural healthcare challenges, such as the Dental, Hospital and Clinic financial transition to value-based purchasing and the sustainability of essential health care services such as telehealth. The Department is required under these grants to develop evidence-based strategies for improving small and rural hospitals, and dental health care centers to provide operational performance, collect rural healthcare data across the New England states and coordinate support for critical professional certifications of health professionals working in rural areas. The Department doesn't have in-house program staff capacity to fulfill all of these grant requirements following this multi-state model for implementation, data tracking/reporting, health care services capacity and business development.

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

The Provider coordinates and facilitates multi-state collaborations including an annual conference, coordination of the New England Performance Improvement Collaborative (NEPI) and Critical Access Hospital (CAH) professional education/certification for Quality Improvement/Infection Control/Patient Safety/Value-Based Purchasing through the Institute for Health Care Improvement (IHI) including Open School services. The NERHA is the only Provider servicing rural Providers and State Offices of Rural Health for each of the New England states with these forms of technical assistance, content expertise, network facilitation, and training support services to rural health care facilities. No other entity within the New England States has the unique business attributes as well as the stated mission or expertise to provide these services to the HRSA-19-024 Flex Program, and HRSA-21-106 rural Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grant recipients from the New England states.

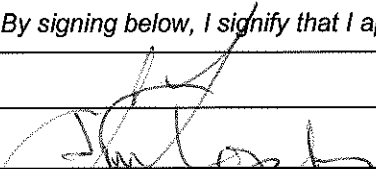
3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The administrative and operational costs of the NERHA are divided among the New England States. This cost sharing collaborative reduces per state costs while increasing resources that are available to Maine's Healthcare providers and other stakeholders that would otherwise be unobtainable in a single-state project scope and cost. The NERHA reduces duplication of limited resources, improves efficiency, and provides rural focused content expertise for all New England states.

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

The Department doesn't intend to competitively bid for these services in the future due to the uniqueness of the services supported by the Provider.

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:		Date:	1-12-21
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Kathy Paquette</i>		
Printed Name:	<small>41C2BA36FAF44CD...</small> Kathy Paquette	Date:	12/29/2021