

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

This form must accompany ALL contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below.

PART I: OVERVIEW				
Department Office/Division/Program:	Maine Health Data Organization			
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Karynlee Harrington, Executive Director			
(If applicable) Department Reference #:				
Document Amount:	\$4,801,716.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20180518*3681	
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:	5/1/2018	Effective Date:	12/01/2024
	Previous End Date:	11/30/2024	New End Date:	11/30/2027
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:	
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:	
ALL OTHER	Proposed Start Date:		Proposed End Date:	
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) Cambridge, MA			
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	A data vendor responsible for assisting MHDO with meeting its legislative mandates to both create and maintain a secure, useful, objective, reliable and comprehensive health information database that is used to improve the health of Maine citizens; and data analysis to assist with public reporting requirements.			

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request.			
	A. Competitive Process		G. Grant
X	B. Amendment		H. State Statute/Agency Directed
	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

In 2012, the MHDO board of directors unanimously supported a transformation strategy to address criticism that the agency was receiving from both external and internal stakeholders. The strategy was designed to improve on all aspects of MHDO's operations using the following guiding principles as the foundation of the strategy:

1. Responsive and timely: Communicate data availability and manage data releases to published timeframes
2. Accurate: Ensure consistency and conformity of all data submissions
3. Accessible: Provide self-service applications where possible and remove barriers to access
4. Streamlined: Build efficient processes for data collection and release; leverage national standards when available
5. Secure: Protect the confidentiality of personal health data – electronic threats change, and systems must adapt to meet these challenges

In addition to MHDO's legislative framework as defined in Title 22, Chapter 1683, the MHDO board also adopted the following priorities:

1. Manage a high-quality, secure, comprehensive health information data warehouse
2. Manage the appropriate release of healthcare data and information
3. Promote the transparency of healthcare cost and quality information
4. Support ongoing stakeholder engagement with our data submitters, data users and consumers
5. Support a culture of change based on our stakeholders' needs

In 2013, after a competitive bidding process, MHDO contracted with Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), partnered with NORC at the University of Chicago. In the years that have followed, MHDO has invested significant resources working with HSRI and NORC in implementing its vision to build an efficient, effective operation that includes all aspects of data management and public reporting. MHDO's infrastructure supports data submissions from Commercial and Public Payors, Maine Hospitals, Maine Nursing Facilities, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, Wholesale Distributors and Pharmacy Benefit Managers, as defined in five separate agency regulations. In fact, our infrastructure supports maintaining over 1 billion healthcare records and that number grows monthly as new data files are submitted. Our structure also supports the release of data to authorized data users as defined in MHDO's regulation, Chapter 120, *Release of Data to the Public*.

MHDO is responsible in Statute to promote the transparency of health care costs along with other annual reporting mandates that have been enacted over the last several years as MHDO has reclaimed credibility with stakeholders, the legislature and the governor's office. HSRI assists the MHDO in the analysis of our data to produce these reports. Below is an overview of the legislative mandates MHDO's data and analyses support including, Surprise Billing, Workers Comp, MaineCare Rate Setting, Opioid Analyses, Insulin Costs, Primary Care and Behavioral Health Care Spending in Maine, Ambulance Costs, Prescription Drug Costs, Right to Shop, Maine's Reinsurance Program, and the Office of Affordable HealthCare. The investments MHDO has made in our operations over the last ten plus years with our data vendor, HSRI, has paid off both internally and externally. The criticism of the past has been replaced with the recognition that the work the MHDO does is a critical asset for the state in producing meaningful analysis in pursuit of improved health, health equity, and health care costs and quality for Maine people. MHDO's data is used internally and externally to, study health care disparities, health care costs, utilization, and outcomes; benchmarking; quality analysis; longitudinal research; other research; and administrative and planning purposes. Here is a link to the public posting of all data requests and releases.

https://mhdo.maine.gov/dataRequests_v2.htm

The investment in a modular infrastructure is what allows MHDO to use its data assets to conduct various analyses and produce annual mandated reports. It is not efficient or effective for MHDO and for the hundreds of data submitters and data users to spend time considering a change in structure. The most efficient and effective action at this time for MHDO and its stakeholders is to continue to leverage the investments made over the last ten years and focus on our ongoing enhancements in data collection, validation, integration and output. For these key reasons we are requesting the consideration that our contract with HSRI be extended for a three-year period.

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

As stated above Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), partnered with NORC at the University of Chicago has been MHDO's contracted data vendor responsible for developing and maintaining MHDO's healthcare database which includes over 1 billion health care records from payors (public and private), hospitals, nursing facilities, prescription drug manufacturers, wholesale distributors and pharmacy benefit managers. HSRI supports MHDO on all aspects of data collection, validation, processing, and data release. This includes developing the infrastructure, including data submission portals, training manuals, data dictionaries and data submission guides so that reporting entities can submit their data to MHDO via our secure portals. Additionally, HSRI assists MHDO with fulfilling its own reporting mandates as required in Title 22, Chapter 1683; as well as ad-hoc health care reporting requests from sister state agencies.

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

The fees associated with this amendment are consistent with the fee structure associated with MHDO's existing contract with HSRI.

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

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

MHDO will release a request for proposal for a data vendor(s) that can meet the deliverables and requirements described in our contract with HSRI and in the MHDO Operations Document in early calendar year 2027.

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>		
	<i>Karynlee Harrington</i>		
Printed Name:	Karynlee Harrington	Date:	9/8/2023
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>David Morris</i>		
Printed Name:	<small>2A644AF5681F482...</small> David Morris	Date:	12/6/2023