



**STATE OF MARYLAND**

**MARYLAND STATE RETIREMENT AGENCY (SRA)**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

**GOVERNANCE CONSULTANT SERVICES**

**RFP NUMBER BPM055313**

**ISSUE DATE: MARCH 18, 2026**

A Prospective Offeror that has received this document from a source other than eMarylandMarketplace Advantage (eMMA) <https://procurement.maryland.gov> should register on eMMA <https://emma.maryland.gov/>

**NOTICE TO OFFERORS**

**SMALL BUSINESS PREFERENCE**

This procurement has been designated for a small business preference under COMAR 21.11.01.05. The procurement agency will accept the most favorable responsive bid from a responsible small business (COMAR 21.01.02.01B(80)) if the bid of the small business does not exceed the most favorable responsive bid received from a responsible bidder who is not a small business by: (1) more than 5 percent; (2) more than 7% for a veteran-owned small business; (3) more than 8% for a disabled-veteran-owned small business; or (4) the percentage otherwise identified in the solicitation as the small business preference.

**MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND TO THIS SOLICITATION.**

**STATE OF MARYLAND  
STATE RETIREMENT AGENCY (SRA)  
KEY INFORMATION SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Request for Proposals</b>	Services- Governance Consultant Services RFP
<b>Solicitation Number:</b>	BPM055313
<b>RFP Issue Date:</b>	March 18, 2026
<b>RFP Issuing Office:</b>	Maryland State Retirement Agency (SRA or the "Agency")
<b>Procurement Officer:</b>	Bonita Rose 120 East Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21202
<b>Email:</b>	brose@sra.state.md.us
<b>Proposals are to be sent to:</b>	Submit on emma.maryland.gov under Solicitation Number BPM055313  To submit a proposal, offerors must first register on emma.maryland.gov. We recommend registering in advance to become acquainted with the site.
<b>No Bid/Proposal Notice Feedback Form</b>	*If you are not submitting a proposal for this solicitation, submit <b>Attachment 1</b> with your reasons why.
<b>Pre-Proposal Conference:</b>	March 25, 2026 at 10:00 am EST (Local Time), Virtual Meeting Info: Microsoft Teams meeting Join: <a href="https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24871748204153?p=BgFTEfwLdBxwhXTIJJ">https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24871748204153?p=BgFTEfwLdBxwhXTIJJ</a> Meeting ID: 248 717 482 041 53 Passcode: ms6pf3ZB See <b>Section 4.3</b> for additional details.
<b>Scheduled Site Visit</b>	N/A
<b>Questions Due Date and Time:</b>	April 6, 2026 by 12:00 pm EST (Local Time) Questions submitted after the due date may not be answered or posted on eMMA

<b>Proposal Due (Closing) Date and Time:</b>	April 22, 2026 by 12:00 pm EST (Local Time)  Offerors are reminded that a completed Feedback Form is requested if a no-bid/proposal decision is made (see <b>Attachment 1 - No Bid Notice/Vendor Feedback Form</b> ).
<b>MBE Subcontracting Goal:</b>	N/A There are no subcontractable parts
<b>VSBE Subcontracting Goal:</b>	N/A There are no subcontractable parts
<b>Procurement Method:</b>	A Contract will be awarded in accordance with the Competitive Sealed Proposals method under COMAR 21.05.03.
<b>Multiple or Alternate Bids:</b>	Multiple or alternate Proposals will not be accepted.
<b>Contract Type:</b>	Firm Fixed Price
<b>Contract Duration:</b>	Five (5) years base period with One (1)- Two (2) year option period.
<b>Primary Place of Performance:</b>	Maryland State Retirement Agency Truist Building 120 East Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21202 <b>Or</b> Contractor location
<b>SBR Designation:</b>	No
<b>SBR Preference</b>	Yes
<b>Federal Funding:</b>	No

**TABLE OF CONTENTS – RFP**

**1 Minimum Qualifications ..... 6**

1.1 Offeror Minimum Qualifications..... 6

**2 Contractor Requirements: Scope of Work ..... 7**

2.1 Summary Statement..... 7

2.2 Background and Purpose..... 7

2.3 Contractor Responsibilities and Tasks ..... 8

2.4 Experience and Personnel..... 9

2.5 Substitution of Personnel..... 9

**3 Standard Terms and Conditions..... 10**

3.1 Contract Initiation Requirements..... 10

3.2 End of Contract Transition ..... 10

3.3 Invoicing..... 10

3.4 Liquidated Damages ..... 11

3.5 Problem Escalation Procedure..... 11

3.6 Work Orders ..... 12

3.7 Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer..... 12

3.8 Prompt Payment Policy ..... 12

3.9 Federal Funding Acknowledgement..... 12

3.10 Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure ..... 12

3.11 Non-Disclosure Agreement ..... 13

3.12 Maryland Healthy Working Families Act Requirements ..... 13

3.13 The State of Maryland’s Commitment to Purchasing Environmentally Preferred Products and Services (EPPs) ..... 13

3.14 Insurance Requirements ..... 13

3.15 Non-Compete Clause Prohibition..... 14

**4 Proposal Submission Information and Instructions..... 15**

4.1 eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA) ..... 15

4.2 Electronic Means ..... 15

4.3 Pre-Proposal Conference ..... 15

4.4 Questions ..... 16

4.5 Proposal Due (Closing) Date and Time..... 16

4.6 Economy of Preparation ..... 16

4.7 Public Information Act Notice ..... 16

4.8 Oral Presentation ..... 17

4.9 Duration of Proposals ..... 17

4.10 Revisions to the RFP ..... 17

4.11 Cancellations ..... 17

4.12 Incurred Expenses ..... 18

4.13 Protest/Disputes ..... 18

4.14 Offeror Responsibilities..... 18

4.15 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions..... 18

4.16 Compliance with Laws/Arrearages ..... 19

4.17 Verification of Registration and Tax Payment ..... 19

4.18 False Statements ..... 19

**5 Proposal Format..... 20**

5.1 Two Part Submission..... 20

5.2 Proposal Delivery and Packaging..... 20

5.3 Volume I - Technical Proposal..... 21

5.4 Volume II – Financial Proposal..... 29

**6 Evaluation and Selection Process..... 30**

6.1 Evaluation Committee ..... 30

6.2 Technical Proposal Evaluation Criteria..... 30

6.3 Financial Proposal Evaluation Criteria..... 30

6.4 Reciprocal Preference..... 30

6.5 Selection Procedures..... 31

6.6 Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award RFP Attachments  
(Table B)..... 32

**7 RFP Appendices and Exhibits..... 34**

7.1 Appendices (Table C)..... 34

7.2 Exhibits (Table D)..... 35

## **1 Minimum Qualifications**

### **1.1 Offeror Minimum Qualifications**

The Offeror must document in its Proposal that it satisfies the following Minimum Qualifications:

- A. The Offeror shall have at least three (3) years of experience providing Governance Consultant Services to public pension plans or investment boards, preferably multi-employer pension plans.

Required Documentation: The Offeror shall provide with its proposal at least three (3) or more references from the past ten (10) years that collectively are able to attest to the Offeror's required years of experience in providing Governance Consultant Services.

Please note that only Governance Consultant Services is the area of interest; substitute fields will not be considered.

**THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.**

## 2 Contractor Requirements: Scope of Work

### 2.1 Summary Statement

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued to solicit a consultant to provide services related to Pension System governance and oversight, as outlined in Section 2.

It is the State's intention to obtain goods and services, as specified in this RFP, from a single contract between the selected Offeror and the Maryland State Retirement Agency ("Agency") for the use of the Board of Trustees ("Board") for the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System ("System").

See RFP **Section 6.5 Selection Procedures** for more Contract award information.

A Contract award does not ensure a Contractor will receive all or any State business under the Contract.

### 2.2 Background and Purpose

The Agency, on behalf of the Board, is the administrator of the System, which is comprised of the individual State-sponsored retirement and pension systems ("State systems") established and administered under Division II of the State Personnel and Pensions Article ("SPP") of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The System provides retirement allowances and other benefits to State employees, teachers, judges, legislators, state police, law enforcement officers, correctional officers and employees of participating governmental units (PGUs), participating municipal corporations, local boards of education, libraries, and community colleges within the State. The combined State systems' net assets held in trust to pay pensions and other defined benefits now total approximately \$73.2 billion as of June 30, 2025. Additionally, the System has in excess of 431,000 participants, of which approximately 208,000 are active members, administered by a full-time staff of more than 200 employees.

Responsibility for the System's administration and operations is vested in a 15-member Board of Trustees made up of State public officials serving *ex officio*, State employees and retirees elected by the System's membership, and representatives of participating governmental units and the public appointed by the Governor of Maryland. The State Retirement Agency is an agency of the Board and is responsible for carrying out the administrative duties of the System. The Agency is led by an Executive Director who serves at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees appoints a Chief Investment Officer on the recommendation of the Executive Director and the Board's Investment Committee, who serves as the head of the Investment Division.

The Agency is issuing this solicitation for the purposes of securing Consultant Services that will support the System's governance. Strong governance is crucial for the success and sustainability of any organization. It ensures that the Board and leadership operate effectively, making informed decisions that align with the organization's mission and strategic goals. A well-governed board provides a clear framework for accountability, transparency, and ethical behavior, which are essential for maintaining stakeholder trust and confidence.

The Board first established its governance policies and charters in December 2003. Agency staff and the Board's principal counsel, provided by the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, has conducted its own review and modification of the policies and charters every three years. The Board seeks to engage a consultant to complete projects as needed for ongoing review, training, and improvement.

**2.2.1 Project Goals**

- A. Secure consultant services that will support the System's governance.
- B. Engage a standing consultant to allow for on-going review, training, and improvement.
- C. Complete special projects for the Board as requested.

**2.3 Contractor Responsibilities and Tasks****Governance Structure, Policy, and Process**

- 2.3.1** The Contractor shall perform a comprehensive review and assessment of the governance structure of the System, within the context of current best practices for fiduciary governance of a public pension system, evaluating governance features including:
- a) the composition, structure, and roles and responsibilities of the Board and senior leadership positions of the Agency;
  - b) the process for setting compensation and staffing levels by the Board for positions with investment discretion; and
  - c) the charters, policies, procedures, and practices governing the System.
- 2.3.2** The Contractor shall evaluate the adequacy of the laws, charters and policies concerning delineation of roles and responsibilities of the Board, staff, investment managers, and others with administrative or oversight responsibilities.
- 2.3.3** The Contractor shall complete a thorough review of current System policies and charters, as well as relevant statute, within the context of current leading practices for fiduciaries governing a public pension plan.
- 2.3.4** The Contractor shall provide recommendations on improvements to the governance structure, policies and charters, or documentation thereof. No later than two months after the contract start date, the Contractor shall provide initial recommendations and plan of action to the Executive Director and participate in a preliminary meeting(s) with the Executive Director, Board Chair and Vice-Chair, and other staff as desired. Following the preliminary meeting(s), the Contractor shall finalize and present the recommendations at one or more meetings of the Administrative Committee, other Committees if appropriate, and the Board of Trustees.

**Evaluations of Board and Staff**

- 2.3.5** The Contractor shall draft and administer an annual Board member self-evaluation, compile results, provide a summary report, and provide recommendations for performance improvement based on evaluation results. Contractor will work with the Executive Director and Administrative Committee of the Board under the parameters of the Board Performance Evaluation Policy. The Contractor shall attend one or more meetings of the Board to introduce the self-evaluation and provide recommendations.
- 2.3.6** The Contractor shall advise the Board on leading practices regarding performance evaluations for the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer.

- 2.3.7** If requested by the Contract Monitor, the Contractor shall facilitate one or more annual performance evaluations of the Executive Director as required by Board policy, in consultation with the Administrative Committee of the Board.
- 2.3.8** If requested by the Contract Monitor, the Contractor shall facilitate one or more annual performance evaluations of the Chief Investment Officer as required by Board policy, in consultation with the Executive Director, Investment Committee of the Board.

**Board Education**

- 2.3.9** The Contractor shall work with the Executive Director, Chief Investment Officer, Board officers, and Agency staff to develop a comprehensive Board education plan.
- 2.3.10** The Contractor shall provide educational sessions for the Board and staff as requested.

**Other**

- 2.3.11** Subject to the findings of the governance structure review and recommendations, the Contractor may assist the Executive Director and Board in strategic planning.
- 2.3.12** The Contractor may provide ongoing governance-related tasks as requested by the Board, Executive Director, or Chief Investment Officer.
- 2.3.13** Other potential services: the Agency is interested in other proposed services that Respondents offer in areas related to Board governance.

**2.4 Experience and Personnel****2.4.1 Preferred Offeror Experience**

THIS SECTION IS INAPPLICABLE TO THIS RFP.

**2.4.2 Personnel Experience**

THIS SECTION IS INAPPLICABLE TO THIS RFP.

**2.5 Substitution of Personnel****2.5.1 Continuous Performance of Key Personnel**

When Key Personnel are identified for the Contract, the following apply:

- A. Key Personnel shall be available to perform Contract requirements as of the NTP Date. Unless explicitly authorized by the Contract Monitor or specified in the Contract, Key Personnel shall be assigned to the State of Maryland as a dedicated resource.
- B. Key Personnel shall perform continuously for the duration of the Contract, or such lesser duration as specified in the Technical Proposal. Key Personnel may not be removed by the Contractor from working under the Contract without the prior written approval of the Contract Monitor.
- C. The provisions of this section apply to Key Personnel identified in any Task Order proposal and agreement, if issued, and any Work Order Request and Work Order, if issued.

### 3 Standard Terms and Conditions

#### 3.1 Contract Initiation Requirements

Once all approvals have been obtained and the Contract is fully executed, the Procurement Officer may schedule a kickoff meeting to be held prior to commencement of Contract performance.

#### 3.2 End of Contract Transition

The Contractor shall cooperate in the orderly transition of services from it to a subsequent contractor at the end of the contract term or upon receipt of a Notice of Termination from the State. Transition shall be provided in a prompt and timely manner and shall proceed in accordance with the schedule provided to the Contractor by the State in the Notice of Transition. Additional instructions regarding transition services may be provided in the event of a Notice of Termination issued by the State.

#### 3.3 Invoicing

Submission of an invoice constitutes the Contractor's verification that the information in the invoice is accurate as of the time of submission.

An invoice not satisfying the requirements of a Proper Invoice (as defined in COMAR 21.06.09) will not be processed for payment. To be considered a Proper Invoice, invoices must include the following information, without error:

- A. Contractor name and address;
- B. Remittance address;
- C. Federal taxpayer identification (FEIN) number, social security number, as appropriate;
- D. Invoice period (i.e. time period during which services covered by invoice were performed);
- E. Invoice date;
- F. Invoice number;
- G. State assigned Contract number;
- H. State assigned (Blanket) Purchase Order number(s);
- I. Goods or services provided;
- J. Amount due; and
- K. Any additional documentation required by regulation or the Contract.

Invoices that contain both fixed price and labor hour or time and material items shall clearly identify each item as either fixed price, and labor hour, or time and material billing.

The State reserves the right to reduce or withhold Contract payment in the event the Contractor does not provide all required deliverables within the time frame specified in the Contract or otherwise fails to satisfy the terms and conditions of the Contract until such time as the Contractor brings itself into full compliance with the Contract.

The State is generally exempt from federal excise taxes, Maryland sales and use taxes, District of Columbia sales taxes and transportation taxes. The Contractor, however, is not exempt from such sales and use taxes and may be liable for the same.

Invoices for final payment shall be clearly marked as "FINAL" and submitted when all work requirements have been completed and no further charges are to be incurred under the Contract. In no event shall any invoice be submitted later than 60 calendar days from the Contract termination date.

### 3.3.1 Invoice Submission Schedule

The Contractor shall submit invoices in accordance with the following schedule:

- A. For items of work for which there is one-time pricing (see **Attachment B** –The Price Form), those items shall be billed in the month following the acceptance of the work by the State.
- B. Invoices for deliverables shall be submitted upon completion and acceptance of the deliverables as defined in **Section 2 of the RFP**.

### 3.3.2 Deliverable Invoicing

Deliverable invoices shall be accompanied by a Deliverable Product Acceptance Form (DPAF) signed notice(s) of acceptance issued by the State for all invoices submitted for payment. Payment of invoices will be withheld if a signed DPAF is not submitted (see online example at [http://doit.maryland.gov/contracts/Documents/\\_procurementForms/DeliverableProductAcceptanceForm-DPAFsample.pdf](http://doit.maryland.gov/contracts/Documents/_procurementForms/DeliverableProductAcceptanceForm-DPAFsample.pdf)).

Payment for deliverables will only be made upon completion and acceptance of the deliverables as defined in **Section 2 of the RFP**.

### 3.3.3 Travel Reimbursement

Travel will not be reimbursed under this RFP.

## 3.4 Liquidated Damages

### 3.4.1 MBE Liquidated Damages

Inapplicable because there is no MBE goal for this RFP.

### 3.4.2 Liquidated Damages other than MBE

This section is inapplicable to this RFP.

## 3.5 Problem Escalation Procedure

No later than ten (10) Business Days after notice of recommended award or after the date of the Notice to Proceed, whichever is earlier, the Contractor must provide, and thereafter, maintain a Problem Escalation Procedure (PEP) for both routine and emergency situations. The PEP must state how the Contractor will address problem situations as they occur during the performance of the Contract, especially problems that are not resolved to the satisfaction of the State within appropriate timeframes and must include:

- A. Contact information
- B. The process for establishing the existence of a problem;
- C. Names, titles, and contact information for progressively higher levels of personnel in the Contractor's organization who would become involved in resolving a problem;
- D. For each individual listed in the Contractor's PEP, the maximum amount of time a problem will remain unresolved with that individual before the problem escalates to the next contact person listed in the Contractor's PEP;
- E. Expedited escalation procedures and any circumstances that would trigger expediting them;
- F. The method of providing feedback on resolution progress, including the frequency of feedback to be provided to the State;

- G. Contact information for persons responsible for resolving issues after normal business hours (e.g., evenings, weekends, holidays) and on an emergency basis; and
- H. A process for updating and notifying the Contract Monitor of any changes to the PEP.
- I. The PEP must be updated within ten (10) Business Days after any change in circumstance which changes the PEP but not less than annually within ten (10) Business Days after the start of each Contract year .

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any rights of the Contract Monitor or the State which may be allowed by the Contract or applicable law.

### 3.6 Work Orders

THIS SECTION IS INAPPLICABLE TO THIS RFP.

### 3.7 Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer

By submitting a Proposal in response to this solicitation, the Offeror, if selected for award:

Agrees to accept payments by electronic funds transfer (EFT) unless the State Comptroller's Office grants an exemption. Payment by EFT is mandatory for contracts exceeding \$200,000. The successful Offeror shall register using the COT/GAD X-10 Vendor Electronic Funds (EFT) Registration Request Form.

Any request for exemption must be submitted to the State Comptroller's Office for approval at the address specified on the COT/GAD X-10 form, must include the business identification information as stated on the form, and must include the reason for the exemption. The COT/GAD X-10 form may be downloaded from the Comptroller's website at:

[http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.com/Vendor\\_Services/Accounting\\_Information/Static\\_Files/GADX10Form20150615.pdf](http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.com/Vendor_Services/Accounting_Information/Static_Files/GADX10Form20150615.pdf).

### 3.8 Prompt Payment Policy

This procurement and the Contract(s) to be awarded pursuant to this solicitation are subject to the Prompt Payment Policy Directive issued by the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) and dated August 1, 2008. Promulgated pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §§ 11-201, 13-205(a), and Title 14, Subtitle 3, and COMAR 21.01.01.03 and 21.11.03.01, the Directive seeks to ensure the prompt payment of all subcontractors on non-construction procurement contracts. The Contractor shall comply with the prompt payment requirements outlined in the Contract, **Section 31** "Prompt Pay Requirements" (see **Exhibit 2 - Sample Contract**). Additional information is available on GOSBA's website at:

<http://www.gomdsmbiz.maryland.gov/documents/legislation/promptpaymentfaqs.pdf>.

### 3.9 Federal Funding Acknowledgement

This Contract does not contain federal funds.

### 3.10 Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure

The Offeror shall complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure (**Attachment I**) and submit it with its Proposal.

By submitting a Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure, the Contractor shall be construed as certifying all Contractor Personnel and subcontractors are also without a conflict of interest as defined in COMAR 21.05.08.08A.

Additionally, a Contractor has an ongoing obligation to ensure that all Contractor Personnel are without conflicts of interest prior to providing services under the Contract. For policies and procedures applying specifically to Conflict of Interests, the Contract is governed by COMAR 21.05.08.08.

Participation in Drafting of Specifications: Disqualifying Event: Offerors are advised that Md. Code Ann. State Finance and Procurement Article §13-212.1(a) provides generally that “an individual who assists an executive unit in the drafting of specifications, an invitation for bids, a request for proposals for a procurement, or the selection or award made in response to an invitation for bids or a request for proposals, or a person that employs the individual, may not: (1) submit a bid or proposal for that procurement; or (2) assist or represent another person, directly or indirectly, who is submitting a bid or proposal for that procurement.” Any Offeror submitting a Bid in violation of this provision shall be classified as “not responsible.”

### 3.11 Non-Disclosure Agreement

#### 3.11.1 Non-Disclosure Agreement (Bidder/Offeror)

A Non-Disclosure Agreement (Bidder/Offeror) is not required for this procurement.

#### 3.11.2 Non-Disclosure Agreement (Contractor)

This solicitation and any Contract(s) are subject to the terms of the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) contained in this solicitation as **Attachment S**. This Agreement must be provided within five (5) Business Days of notification of recommended award; however, to expedite processing, it is suggested that this document be completed and submitted with the Proposal.

### 3.12 Maryland Healthy Working Families Act Requirements

On February 11, 2018, the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act went into effect. All Bidders should be aware of how this Act could affect your potential contract award with the State of Maryland. See the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations website for Maryland Healthy Working Families Act Information: <https://dllr.state.md.us/paidleave/>.

### 3.13 The State of Maryland’s Commitment to Purchasing Environmentally Preferred Products and Services (EPPs)

[Maryland’s State Finance & Procurement Article §14-410](#) defines environmentally preferable purchasing as “the procurement or acquisition of goods and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing goods or services that serve the same purpose.” Accordingly, Bidders are strongly encouraged to offer EPPs to fulfill this contract, to the greatest extent practicable.

### 3.14 Insurance Requirements

The Contractor shall maintain, at a minimum, the insurance coverages outlined below, or any minimum requirements established by law if higher, for the duration of the Contract, including option periods, if exercised:

3.14.1 The following type(s) of insurance and minimum amount(s) of coverage are required:

- A. Commercial General Liability - One million dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury, property damage, and personal and advertising injury and three million dollars (\$2,000,000) annual aggregate. The minimum limits required

herein may be satisfied through any combination of primary and umbrella/excess liability policies.

- B. Worker's Compensation - The Contractor shall maintain such insurance as necessary or as required under Workers' Compensation Acts, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, and the Federal Employers' Liability Act, to not be less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence (unless a state's law requires a greater amount of coverage). Coverage must be valid in all states where work is performed.
- 3.14.2 The State shall be listed as an additional insured on the faces of the certificates associated with the coverages listed above, including umbrella policies, excluding Workers' Compensation Insurance and professional liability.
- 3.14.3 All insurance policies shall be endorsed to include a clause requiring the insurance carrier to provide the Procurement Officer, by certified mail, not less than 30 days' advance notice of any non-renewal, cancellation, or expiration. The Contractor shall notify the Procurement Officer in writing, if policies are canceled or not renewed within five (5) days of learning of such cancellation or nonrenewal. The Contractor shall provide evidence of replacement insurance coverage to the Procurement Officer at least 15 days prior to the expiration of the insurance policy then in effect.
- 3.14.4 Any insurance furnished as a condition of the Contract shall be issued by a company authorized to do business in the State of Maryland.
- 3.14.5 The recommended awardee must provide current certificate(s) of insurance with the prescribed coverages, limits and requirements set forth in this section within five (5) Business Days from notice of recommended award. During the period of performance for multi-year contracts, the Contractor shall provide certificates of insurance annually, or as otherwise directed by the Contract Monitor.
- 3.14.6 Subcontractor Insurance

The Contractor shall require any subcontractors to obtain and maintain comparable levels of coverage and shall provide the Contract Monitor with the same documentation as is required of the Contractor.

### 3.15 Non-Compete Clause Prohibition

The State of Maryland seeks to maximize the retention of personnel working under the Contract whenever there is a transition of the Contract from one contractor to another so as to minimize disruption due to a change in contractor and maximize the maintenance of institutional knowledge accumulated by such personnel. To help achieve this objective of staff retention, each Offeror shall agree that if awarded the Contract, the Offeror's employees and agents filling the positions set forth in the staffing requirements of **Section 2.4 Experience and Personnel** working on the State contract shall be free to work for the contractor awarded the State contract notwithstanding any non-competes clauses to which the employee(s) may be subject. The Offeror agrees not to enforce any non-competes restrictions against the State with regard to these employees and agents if a different vendor succeeds it in the performance of the Contract. To evidence compliance with this non-competes clause prohibition, each Offeror must include an affirmative statement in its technical Proposal that the Offeror, if awarded a Contract, agrees that its employees and agents shall not be restricted from working with or for any successor contractor that is awarded the State business.

## 4 Proposal Submission Information and Instructions

### 4.1 eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA)

eMMA is the electronic commerce system for the State of Maryland. The RFP, Pre-Proposal Conference (Conference) summary and attendance sheet, Offerors' questions and the Procurement Officer's responses, addenda, and other solicitation-related information will be made available via eMMA.

To receive a contract award, a vendor must be registered on eMMA. Registration is free. Go to [emma.maryland.gov](http://emma.maryland.gov), click on "New Vendor? Register Now" to begin the process, and then follow the prompts.

### 4.2 Electronic Means

The following transactions related to this procurement and any Contract awarded pursuant to it are not authorized to be conducted by electronic means:

- A. Submission of Bond documents determined by the State to require original signatures; or
- B. Any transaction, submission, or communication where the Procurement Officer has specifically directed that a response from the Contractor or Offeror be provided in writing or hard copy.

Any e-mail transmission is only authorized to the email addresses for the identified person as provided in the solicitation, the Contract, or in the direction from the Procurement Officer or Contract Monitor.

"Electronic means" refers to exchanges or communications using electronic, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or other means of electronically conducting transactions. Electronic means includes e-mail, internet-based communications, electronic funds transfer, specific electronic bidding platforms (e.g., <https://procurement.maryland.gov>), and electronic data interchange.

### 4.3 Pre-Proposal Conference

If a Conference will be held, the date, time, and location is indicated on the **Key Information Summary Sheet**. Attendance at the Conference is not mandatory, but all interested parties are encouraged to attend in order to facilitate better preparation of their Proposals.

It is highly recommended that all Prime Contractors bring their intended subcontractors to the Conference/Site Visit to ensure that all parties understand the RFP requirements and the socio-economic goals for this solicitation.

MBE subcontractors are encouraged to attend the Conference to market their participation to potential prime contractors.

If there is a need for sign language interpretation or other special accommodations due to a disability, please notify the Procurement Officer no later than 12:00 pm March 23, 2026. Reasonable effort will be made to provide such special accommodation.

#### 4.4 Questions

All questions, including concerns regarding any applicable MBE or VSBE participation goals, shall identify in the subject line the Solicitation Number and Title for this RFP, must be submitted in writing via e-mail or eMMA to the Procurement Officer no later than the date and time specified in the **Key Information Summary Sheet**. The Procurement Officer, based on the availability of time to research and communicate an answer, shall decide whether an answer can be given before the Proposal due date.

- 4.4.1 Answers to all questions that are not clearly specific only to the requestor will be distributed via the same mechanism as for RFP amendments and posted on eMMA.
- 4.4.2 The statements and interpretations contained in responses to any questions, whether responded to verbally or in writing, are not binding on the State unless it issues an amendment to the solicitation in writing.

#### 4.5 Proposal Due (Closing) Date and Time

Proposals must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than the Proposal due date and time indicated on the **Key Information Summary Sheet** to be considered. Except as provided in COMAR 21.05.03.02.F and 21.05.02.10, Proposals received after that date will not be considered. Requests for extension of this date or time shall not be granted.

For Proposals accepted via email, the time stamp to indicate receipt of the Proposal by the State, is the posted date and time in the Procurement Officer's email inbox.

Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by written notice received by the Procurement Officer before the time and date set forth in the **Key Information Summary Sheet** for receipt of Proposals.

Proposals may not be submitted by e-mail or facsimile. Proposals will not be opened publicly.

Potential Offerors not responding to this solicitation are requested to submit the "No Bid/Proposal Notice/Vendor Feedback" form **Attachment 1**, which includes company information and the reason for not responding (e.g., too busy, cannot meet mandatory requirements).

#### 4.6 Economy of Preparation

Proposals should be prepared simply and economically and provide a straightforward and concise description of the Offeror's Proposal to meet the requirements of this RFP.

#### 4.7 Public Information Act Notice

The Offeror should give specific attention to the clear identification of those portions of its Proposal that it considers confidential and/or proprietary commercial information or trade secrets, and provide justification why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by the State under the Public Information Act, Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Article, Title 4 (See also RFP **Section 5.3.2. Table A, Tab B** "Claim of Confidentiality"). This information should be identified by page and section number and placed after the Title Page and before the Table of Contents in the Technical Proposal and if applicable, separately in the Financial Proposal.

Offerors are advised that, upon request for this information from a third party, the Procurement Officer is required to make an independent determination whether the information must be disclosed.

## 4.8 Oral Presentation

Offerors may be required to make oral presentations to State representatives. Oral presentations are considered part of the Technical Proposal. Offerors must confirm in writing any substantive oral clarification of, or change in, their Proposals made in the course of discussions. Any such written clarifications or changes then become part of the Offeror's Proposal. The Procurement Officer will notify Offerors of the time and place of oral presentations.

## 4.9 Duration of Proposals

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP are irrevocable for the latest of the following: 120 days following the Proposal due date and time, best and final offers if requested (see **Section 6.5.2**), or the date any protest concerning this RFP is finally resolved. This period may be extended at the Procurement Officer's request only with the Offeror's written agreement.

## 4.10 Revisions to the RFP

- 4.10.1 All revisions to the RFP before the due date for Proposals will be published in an addendum to the RFP and posted on eMMA and reasonable effort will be made to provide such addenda to all prospective Offerors that were sent this RFP or are otherwise known by the Procurement Officer to have obtained this RFP. It is the responsibility of all prospective Offerors to check eMMA for any addenda issued prior to the submission of Proposals.
- 4.10.2 Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda to this RFP issued before the Proposal due date in the Transmittal Letter accompanying the Offeror's Technical Proposal.
- 4.10.3 Addenda made after the due date for Proposals will be sent only to those Offerors that remain under award consideration as of the issuance date of the addenda.
- 4.10.4 Acknowledgement of the receipt of addenda to the RFP issued after the Proposal due date shall be in the manner specified in the addendum notice.
- 4.10.5 Failure to acknowledge receipt of an addendum does not relieve the Offeror from complying with the terms, additions, deletions, or corrections set forth in the addendum, and may cause the Proposal to be deemed not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

## 4.11 Cancellations

- 4.11.1 This RFP may be cancelled as provided in COMAR 21.06.02.02.
- 4.11.2 The State reserves the right to cancel this RFP, accept or reject any and all Proposals, in whole or in part, received in response to this RFP, waive or permit the cure of minor irregularities, and conduct discussions with all qualified or potentially qualified Offerors in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of the State.
- 4.11.3 The State reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to award a Contract based upon the written Proposals received without discussions or negotiations.
- 4.11.4 In the event a government entity proposes and receives the recommendation for award, the procurement may be cancelled and the award processed in accordance with COMAR 21.01.03.01.A(4).
- 4.11.5 If the services that are the subject of the RFP are currently being provided under an interagency agreement with a public institution of higher education and the State

determines that the services can be provided more cost effectively by the public institution of higher education, then the RFP may be canceled in accordance with Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Art., § 3-207(b)(2).

#### 4.12 Incurred Expenses

The State will not be responsible for any costs incurred by any Offeror in preparing and submitting a Proposal, in making an oral presentation, providing a demonstration, or performing any other activities related to submitting a Proposal in response to this solicitation.

#### 4.13 Protest/Disputes

Any protest or dispute related to this solicitation or the Contract award shall be subject to the provisions of COMAR 21.10 (Administrative and Civil Remedies).

#### 4.14 Offeror Responsibilities

- 4.14.1 An Offeror, either directly or through its subcontractor(s), must be able to provide all goods and services and meet all of the requirements requested in this solicitation and the successful Offeror (the Contractor) shall remain responsible for Contract performance regardless of subcontractor participation in the work. Offerors must be able to provide all goods and services and meet all of the requirements requested.
- 4.14.2 If the Offeror is the subsidiary of another entity, all information submitted by the Offeror, including but not limited to references, financial reports, or experience and documentation (e.g. insurance policies, bonds, letters of credit) used to meet minimum qualifications, if any, shall pertain exclusively to the Offeror, unless the parent organization will guarantee the performance of the subsidiary. If applicable, the Offeror's Proposal shall contain an explicit statement, signed by an authorized representative of the parent organization, stating that the parent organization will guarantee the performance of the subsidiary.
- 4.14.3 A parental guarantee of the performance of the Offeror under this Section will not automatically result in crediting the Offeror with the experience or qualifications of the parent under any evaluation criteria pertaining to the actual Offeror's experience and qualifications. Instead, the Offeror will be evaluated on the extent to which the State determines that the experience and qualifications of the parent are applicable to and shared with the Offeror, any stated intent by the parent to be directly involved in the performance of the Contract, and the value of the parent's participation as determined by the State.

#### 4.15 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, the Offeror, if selected for award, shall be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of this RFP and the Contract, attached hereto as **Exhibit 2 – Sample Contract**. Any exceptions to this RFP or the Contract shall be clearly identified in the Executive Summary of the Technical Proposal. **All exceptions will be taken into consideration when evaluating the Offeror's Proposal. The State reserves the right to accept or reject any exceptions.**

#### **4.16 Compliance with Laws/Arrearages**

By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, the Offeror, if selected for award, agrees that it will comply with all federal, State, and local laws applicable to its activities and obligations under the Contract.

By submitting a response to this solicitation, each Offeror represents that it is not in arrears in the payment of any obligations due and owing the State, including the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and shall not become so in arrears during the term of the Contract if selected for Contract award.

#### **4.17 Verification of Registration and Tax Payment**

Before a business entity can do business in the State, it must be registered with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). SDAT is located at 123 Market Place Baltimore, MD 21202. For registration information, visit <https://www.egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress>.

It is strongly recommended that any potential Offeror complete registration prior to the Proposal due date and time. The Offeror's failure to complete registration with SDAT may disqualify an otherwise successful Offeror from final consideration and recommendation for Contract award.

#### **4.18 False Statements**

Offerors are advised that Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, § 11-205.1 provides as follows:

In connection with a procurement contract a person may not willfully:

- A. Falsify, conceal, or suppress a material fact by any scheme or device;
- B. Make a false or fraudulent statement or representation of a material fact; or
- C. Use a false writing or document that contains a false or fraudulent statement or entry of a material fact.

A person may not aid or conspire with another person to commit an act under this section.

A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or imprisonment not exceeding five (5) years or both.

**THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.**

## 5 Proposal Format

### 5.1 Two Part Submission

Offerors shall submit Proposals in separate volumes (or envelopes):

- A. Volume I – Technical Proposal
  - i. Technical Proposal shall be submitted by the due date and time stated on the Key Information Summary Sheet, page iii of the RFP.
- B. Volume II – Financial Proposal
  - i. Financial Proposal shall be submitted by the due date and time stated on the Key Information Summary Sheet, page iii of the RFP.

### 5.2 Proposal Delivery and Packaging

- 5.2.1 Proposals delivered by courier, postal service, facsimile, or email shall not be considered.
- 5.2.2 Pricing information shall not be included in the Technical Proposal. Pricing information shall not be included on the media submitted in the Technical Proposal.
- 5.2.3 Proposals shall only be accepted via the State’s internet-based electronic procurement system, eMMA.
- 5.2.4 The Procurement Officer must receive all electronic Proposal materials by the RFP due date and time specified in the Key Information Summary Sheet. Requests for extension of this date or time will not be granted. Except as provided in COMAR 21.05.03.02F, Proposals received by the Procurement Officer after the due date will not be considered.
- 5.2.5 Offerors shall provide their Proposals in two separate envelopes through eMMA following the Quick Reference Guides (QRG) labeled “5 - eMMA QRG Responding to Solicitations (RFP)” for double envelope submissions.
- 5.2.6 Two Part (Double Envelope) Submission:
  - A. Technical Proposal consisting of:
    - 1. Technical Proposal in searchable Adobe PDF format, and
    - 2. a second searchable Adobe copy of the Technical Proposal, with confidential and proprietary information redacted (see **Section 4.7**), and
  - B. Financial Proposal consisting of:
    - 1. Financial Proposal entered into the price form spreadsheet within eMMA and all supporting material in excel format,
    - 2. Financial Proposal in searchable Adobe PDF format,
    - 3. a second searchable Adobe copy of the Financial Proposal, with confidential and proprietary information removed (see **Section 4.7**).

**5.3 Volume I - Technical Proposal**

NOTE: Omit all **pricing information** from the Technical Proposal (Volume I). Only include pricing information in the Financial Proposal (Volume II).

- 5.3.1 In addition to the instructions below, responses in the Offeror’s Technical Proposal shall reference the organization and numbering of Sections in the RFP (e.g., “Section 2.2.1 Response . . . ; “Section 2.2.2 Response . . .”). All pages of both Proposal volumes shall be consecutively numbered from beginning (Page 1) to end (Page “x”).
- 5.3.2 Attachments, Documents, and Information Required with the Technical Proposal (Table A)

The Technical Proposal shall include the following documents and information in the order specified as follows. Each section of the Technical Proposal shall be separated by a **TAB** as detailed below:

Attachments A through E = Proposal will be rejected if the required Attachment is not submitted or is inaccurate or incomplete.

Attachments F through R = Proposal may be rejected if the required Attachment is not submitted or is inaccurate or incomplete.

<b>TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal</b>		
<b>Proposal TAB</b>	<b>Attachment #</b>	<b>Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description</b>
<b>Tab A</b>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Title Page and Table of Contents</b></p> <p>The Technical Proposal should begin with a Title Page bearing the name and address of the Offeror and the name and number of this RFP. A Table of Contents shall follow the Title Page for the Technical Proposal, organized by section, subsection, and page number.</p>

**TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal**

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
Tab B		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Claim of Confidentiality (If Applicable)</b></p> <p>Any information which is claimed to be confidential and/or proprietary information should be identified by page and section number and placed after the Title Page and before the Table of Contents in the Technical Proposal, and if applicable, separately in the Financial Proposal. An explanation for each claim of confidentiality shall be included (see Section 4.7 “Public Information Act Notice”). The entire Proposal cannot be given a blanket confidentiality designation - any confidentiality designation must apply to specific sections, pages, or portions of pages of the Proposal and an explanation for each claim shall be included. Otherwise, note under TAB B - “Not applicable”.</p>
Tab C	F	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bidder/Offeror Information Sheet</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-F.-Bidder-Offeror-Information-Sheet.pdf">https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-F.-Bidder-Offeror-Information-Sheet.pdf</a></p>
Tab D		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Executive Summary &amp; Acknowledgement</b> of all addenda to this RFP.</p> <p>The Offeror shall condense and highlight the contents of the Technical Proposal in a separate section titled “Executive Summary.</p> <p>In addition, the Summary shall indicate whether the Offeror is the subsidiary of another entity, and if so, whether all information submitted by the Offeror pertains exclusively to the Offeror. If not, the subsidiary Offeror shall include a guarantee of performance from its parent organization as part of its Executive Summary (see <b>Section 4.16 “Offeror Responsibilities”</b>).</p> <p>The Executive Summary shall also identify any exceptions the Offeror has taken to the requirements of this RFP, the Contract (<b>Exhibit 2</b>), or any other exhibits, appendices, supplementals, or attachments. Acceptance or rejection of exceptions is within the sole discretion of the State. <b>Exceptions to terms and</b></p>

**TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal**

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
		<p><b>conditions, including requirements, may result in having the Proposal determined to be unacceptable or classified as not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award or the Offeror determined to be not responsible.</b></p>
<p><b>Tab E</b></p>		<p><b>Minimum Qualifications</b>                      The Offeror shall submit any Minimum Qualifications documentation that may be required, as set forth in RFP Section 1. If references are required in RFP Section 1, those references shall be included in <b>Attachment L</b>.</p>
<p><b>Tab F</b></p>		<p><b>Offeror Technical Response to RFP Requirements and Proposed Work Plan</b></p> <p>The Offeror shall address each RFP requirement (RFP <b>Section 2</b>) in its Technical Proposal with a cross reference to the requirement and describe how its proposed goods and services, including the goods and services of any proposed subcontractor(s), will meet or exceed the requirement(s). If the State is seeking Offeror agreement to any requirement(s), the Offeror shall state its agreement or disagreement. Any paragraph in the Technical Proposal that responds to an RFP requirement shall include an explanation of how the work will be performed. The response shall address each requirement in <b>Section 2</b> in order and shall contain a cross reference to the requirement.</p> <p>The Offeror shall provide a draft Problem Escalation Procedure (PEP) that includes, at a minimum, titles of individuals to be contacted by the Contract Monitor should problems arise under the Contract and explains how problems with work under the Contract will be escalated in order to resolve any issues in a timely manner. Final procedures shall be submitted as indicated in <b>Section 3.5</b>.</p> <p>Non-Compete Clause Prohibition – To evidence compliance with the non-compete clause prohibition, each Offeror must include an affirmative statement in its technical Proposal that the Offeror, if awarded a Contract, agrees that its employees</p>

**TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal**

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
		and agents shall not be restricted from working with or for any successor contractor that is awarded the State business.
		Other information as requested for <b>Tab F</b> in the <b>Supplemental</b> .
<p><b>Tab G</b></p>		<p align="center"><b>Experience and Qualifications of Proposed Staff</b></p> <p>The Offeror shall identify the qualifications and types of staff proposed to be utilized under the Contract including information in support of the Personnel Experience criteria in <b>Section 2.4</b>. Specifically, the Offeror shall:</p>
		<p>Describe in detail how the proposed staff's experience and qualifications relate to their specific responsibilities, including any staff of proposed subcontractor(s), as detailed in the Work Plan.</p>
		<p>Include individual resumes for Key Personnel, including Key Personnel for any proposed subcontractor(s), who are to be assigned to the project if the Offeror is awarded the Contract. Each resume should include the amount of experience the individual has had relative to the Scope of Work set forth in this solicitation.</p>
		<p>Include letters of intended commitment to work on the project, including letters from any proposed subcontractor(s). If proposed personnel are included, offerors should be aware of restrictions on substitution of Key Personnel prior to RFP award (see Substitution Prior to and Within 30 Days After Contract Execution in <b>Section 2.5.5</b>).</p>
		<p>Provide an Organizational Chart outlining Personnel and their related duties. The Offeror shall include job titles and the percentage of time each individual will spend on his/her assigned tasks. Offerors using job titles other than those commonly used by industry standards must provide a crosswalk reference document.</p>

**TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal**

<b>Proposal TAB</b>	<b>Attachment #</b>	<b>Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description</b>
		If proposing differing personnel work hours than identified in the RFP, describe how and why it proposes differing personnel work hours.
<b>Tab H</b>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Offeror Qualifications and Capabilities</b></p> <p>The Offeror shall include information on past experience with similar projects and services including information in support of the Offeror Experience criteria in <b>Section 2.4.1</b>. The Offeror shall describe how its organization can meet the requirements of this RFP and shall also include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of years the Offeror has provided the similar goods and services;</li> <li>• The number of clients/customers and geographic locations that the Offeror currently serves;</li> <li>• The names and titles of headquarters or regional management personnel who may be involved with supervising the services to be performed under the Contract;</li> <li>• The Offeror’s process for resolving billing errors; and</li> <li>• An organizational chart that identifies the complete structure of the Offeror including any parent company, headquarters, regional offices, and subsidiaries of the Offeror.</li> </ul>
<b>Tab I</b>	<b>L</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reference Checks</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(Each reference shall be from a customer for whom the Offeror has provided goods or services within the most recent past five (5) years)</b></p>
<b>Tab J</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>List of Current or Prior State Contracts</b>
<b>Tab K</b>		<p><b>Financial Capability. (Submit under TAB K)</b> The Offeror must include in its Bid a commonly-accepted method to prove its fiscal integrity.</p> <p><b>If available, the Offeror shall include Financial Statements, preferably a Profit and Loss (P&amp;L)</b></p>

**TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal**

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
		<p><b>statement and a Balance Sheet, for the last two (2) years (independently audited preferred).</b></p> <p>In addition, the Offeror may supplement its response to this Section by including one or more of the following with its response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dun &amp; Bradstreet Number and Rating;</li> <li>• Standard and Poor’s Rating;</li> <li>• Lines of credit;</li> <li>• Evidence of a successful financial track record; and</li> <li>• Evidence of adequate working capital.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tab L</b></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Certificate of Insurance</b></p> <p>The Offeror shall provide a copy of its current certificate of insurance showing the types and limits of insurance in effect as of the Proposal submission date. (The current insurance types and limits do not have to be the same as described in <b>Section 3.14, but would be the required</b> insurance certificate submission for the apparent awardee.)</p>
<p><b>Tab M</b></p>	<p><b>P</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Prime Contractor List of ALL Subcontractors Anticipated/Used During Contract</u></b></p> <p>The Offeror shall provide a complete list of all subcontractors that will work on the Contract if the Offeror receives an award, including those utilized in meeting the MBE and VSBE subcontracting goal(s), if applicable. This list shall include a full description of the duties each subcontractor will perform and why/how each subcontractor was deemed the most qualified for this project. If applicable, subcontractors utilized in meeting the established MBE or VSBE participation goal(s) for this solicitation shall be identified as provided in the appropriate attachment(s) of this RFP.</p>
<p><b>Tab N</b></p>	<p><b>N</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Legal Action Summary</b></p> <p>This summary shall include:</p>

**TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal**

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A statement as to whether there are any outstanding legal actions or potential claims against the Offeror and a brief description of any action;</li> <li>• A brief description of any settled or closed legal actions or claims against the Offeror over the past five (5) years;</li> <li>• A description of any judgments against the Offeror within the past five (5) years, including the court, case name, complaint number, and a brief description of the final ruling or determination; and</li> <li>• In instances where litigation is ongoing and the Offeror has been directed not to disclose information by the court, provide the name of the judge and location of the court.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tab O</b></p>		<p><b>Economic Benefit Factors</b>                      If Section 6.2.4 Economic Benefit to State of Maryland are required as an evaluation criterion, see <b>Appendix 8</b> for guidance.</p>
<p><b>Tab P</b></p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b>Bid/Proposal Affidavit</b>                      A Bid submitted by the Bidder must be accompanied by a completed Bid/Proposal Affidavit.  <a href="https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-A.-Bid-Proposal-Affidavit.pdf">https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-A.-Bid-Proposal-Affidavit.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Tab Q</b></p>	<p><b>G</b></p>	<p><b>Maryland Living Wage Requirements Affidavit of Agreement</b>                      (for Services and Facilities Maintenance Contracts - See Appendix 6 for Details)  <a href="https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-G.-Maryland-Living-Wage-Requirements-Affidavit-of-Agreement.pdf">https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-G.-Maryland-Living-Wage-Requirements-Affidavit-of-Agreement.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>I</b></p>	<p><b>Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure</b>  <a href="https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-I.-Conflict-of-">https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-I.-Conflict-of-</a></p>

**TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal**

<b>Proposal TAB</b>	<b>Attachment #</b>	<b>Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description</b>
		<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Interest-Affidavit.pdf</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: If this solicitation will result in the “selection of a contractor who will assist a unit in the formation, evaluation, selection, award, or execution of another State contract” the Bidder shall provide this Affidavit and other times as requested by the Procurement Officer.</i></p>

**THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**

**5.4 Volume II – Financial Proposal**

**TABLE A (Continued) - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal**

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
<p><b>Financial Proposal submitted separately from Technical Proposal</b></p>	<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><b>The Price Form</b> (as specified within eMMA)  <b><u>Do not alter this Price Form</u></b> or leave blank any items on the Price Form or include additional clarifying or contingent language on or attached to the Price Form. Failure to adhere to any of these instructions may result in the Proposal being determined to be not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award and rejected by the State. The Price Form must be signed and dated, where requested, by an individual who is authorized to bind the Offeror to the prices entered on the Price Form.                      (See <b>Appendix 2</b> for specific <b>Price Form Instructions</b>.)</p>

**THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**

## 6 Evaluation and Selection Process

### 6.1 Evaluation Committee

Evaluation of Proposals will be performed in accordance with COMAR 21.05.03 by a committee established for that purpose and based on the evaluation criteria set forth below. The Evaluation Committee will review Proposals, participate in Offeror oral presentations and discussions, and provide input to the Procurement Officer. The Agency reserves the right to utilize the services of individuals outside of the established Evaluation Committee for advice and assistance, as deemed appropriate.

During the evaluation process, the Procurement Officer may determine at any time that a particular Offeror is not susceptible for award.

### 6.2 Technical Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The criteria to be used to evaluate each Technical Proposal are listed below in descending order of importance. Unless stated otherwise, any sub-criteria within each criterion have equal weight.

#### 6.2.1 Offeror's Technical Response to Requirements and Work Plan

The State prefers the Offeror's Technical Proposal to illustrate a comprehensive understanding of work requirements and mastery of the subject matter, including an explanation of how the work will be performed. Proposals which include limited responses to work requirements such as "concur" or "will comply" will receive a lower ranking than those Proposals that address and demonstrate an understanding of the work requirements and include plans to meet or exceed them.

#### 6.2.2 Experience and Qualifications of Proposed Staff

#### 6.2.3 Offeror Qualifications and Capabilities

#### 6.2.4 Oral Presentations

#### 6.2.5 Reference Checks

### 6.3 Financial Proposal Evaluation Criteria

All Qualified Offerors (see **Section 6.5.2.D**) will be ranked from the lowest price (most advantageous) to the highest price (least advantageous) based on the Total Proposal Price within the stated guidelines set forth in this RFP and as submitted on Attachment B - The Price Form.

### 6.4 Reciprocal Preference

6.4.1 Although Maryland law does not authorize procuring agencies to favor resident Offerors in awarding procurement contracts, many other states do grant their resident businesses preferences over Maryland contractors. COMAR 21.05.01.04 permits procuring agencies to apply a reciprocal preference under the following conditions:

- A. The Maryland resident business is a responsible Offeror;
- B. The most advantageous Proposal is from a responsible Offeror whose principal office, or principal base of operations is in another state;
- C. The other state gives a preference to its resident businesses through law, policy, or practice; and

- D. The preference does not conflict with a federal law or grant affecting the procurement Contract.
- 6.4.2 The preference given shall be identical to the preference that the other state, through law, policy, or practice gives to its resident businesses.

## 6.5 Selection Procedures

### 6.5.1 General

- A. The Contract will be awarded in accordance with the Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) method found at COMAR 21.05.03. The CSP method allows for the conducting of discussions and the revision of Proposals during these discussions. Therefore, the State may conduct discussions with all Offerors that have submitted Proposals that are determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for contract award or potentially so. However, the State reserves the right to make an award without holding discussions.
- B. With or without discussions, the State may determine the Offeror to be not responsible or the Offeror's Proposal to be not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award at any time after the initial closing date for receipt of Proposals and prior to Contract award.

### 6.5.2 Selection Process Sequence

- A. A determination is made that the MDOT Certified MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit (**Attachment D-1A**) is included and is properly completed, if there is a MBE goal. In addition, a determination is made that the VSBE Utilization Affidavit and subcontractor Participation Schedule (**Attachment E-1**) is included and is properly completed, if there is a VSBE goal.
- B. Technical Proposals are evaluated for technical merit and ranked. During this review, oral presentations and discussions may be held. The purpose of such discussions will be to assure a full understanding of the State's requirements and the Offeror's ability to perform the services, as well as to facilitate arrival at a Contract that is most advantageous to the State. Offerors will be contacted by the State as soon as any discussions are scheduled.
- C. Offerors must confirm in writing any substantive oral clarifications of, or changes in, their Technical Proposals made in the course of discussions. Any such written clarifications or changes then become part of the Offeror's Technical Proposal. Technical Proposals are given a final review and ranked.
- D. The Financial Proposal of each Qualified Offeror (a responsible Offeror determined to have submitted an acceptable Proposal) will be evaluated and ranked separately from the Technical evaluation. After a review of the Financial Proposals of Qualified Offerors, the Evaluation Committee or Procurement Officer may again conduct discussions to further evaluate the Offeror's entire Proposal.
- E. When in the best interest of the State, the Procurement Officer may permit Qualified Offerors to revise their initial Proposals and submit, in writing, Best and Final Offers (BAFOs). The State may make an award without issuing a request for a BAFO.

**6.5.3 Award Determination**

Upon completion of the Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal evaluations and rankings, each Offeror will receive an overall ranking. The Procurement Officer will recommend award of the Contract to the responsible Offeror that submitted the Proposal determined to be the most advantageous to the State. In making this most advantageous Proposal determination, technical factors will receive greater weight than financial factors.

**6.6 Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award  
RFP Attachments (Table B)**

Upon receipt of a Notification of Recommendation for Contract award, the apparent awardee shall complete and furnish the documents and attestations as directed in **TABLE B - Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award** below.

<b>TABLE B - Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award</b>	
<b>Attachment</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>MBE Forms D-1B, D-1C, D-2, D-3A, D-3B</b> N/A
<b>E</b>	<b>VSBE Forms E-1B, E-2, E-3</b> N/A
<b>S</b>	<b>Non-Disclosure Agreement (Contractor)</b> <a href="https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-S.-Non-Disclosure-Agreement-Contractor.pdf">https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-S.-Non-Disclosure-Agreement-Contractor.pdf</a>
<b>T</b>	<b>HIPAA Business Associate Agreement</b> <a href="https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-T.-HIPAA-Business-Associate-Agreement.pdf">https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-T.-HIPAA-Business-Associate-Agreement.pdf</a>
<b>U</b>	<b>Contract Affidavit</b> <a href="https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-U.-Contract-Affidavit.pdf">https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-U.-Contract-Affidavit.pdf</a>

<b>V</b>	<b>DHS Hiring Agreement</b> N/A
<b>W</b>	<b>Performance Bond</b> N/A
<b>X</b>	<b>Payment Bond</b> N/A
<b>Y</b>	<b>Date Use Agreement</b> N/A

**THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.**

## 7 RFP Appendices and Exhibits

The Appendices and Exhibits listed below in Tables C and D are reference documents needed to assist the offerors in preparing their proposals in response to this solicitation. If a specific Appendix or Exhibit is not required for this solicitation, it is listed in the tables as “Not applicable” or “N/A”.

### 7.1 Appendices (Table C)

<b>TABLE C - APPENDICES</b>	
<b>Appendix #</b>	<b>Appendix Name</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Abbreviations and Definitions</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Price Form Instructions</b>
<b>3</b>	N/A
<b>4</b>	N/A
<b>5</b>	N/A
<b>6</b>	N/A
<b>7</b>	N/A
<b>8</b>	N/A

**7.2 Exhibits (Table D)**

<b>TABLE D - Exhibits</b>	
<b>Exhibit #</b>	<b>Exhibit Name</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Sample Contract</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>N/A</b>