

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
OF NEW MEXICO**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Internal Audit Services

RFP#

RFP NO. 36600-2022-00004

RFP Release Date: February 18, 2022

Proposal Due Date: March 22, 2022

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The purpose of the Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit sealed proposals to establish a contract through competitive negotiations for the procurement of internal audit services. The Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico (“PERA” or “the Agency”) is requesting proposals from qualified firms that have demonstrated past excellence and knowledge in providing internal audit services. PERA administers 31 member coverage plans covering state, municipal and county employees, police, firefighters, judges, magistrates and legislators. As of June 30, 2021, PERA had 81,000 non-retired members and 44,850 retired members. These internal audit services are further described below.

B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PERA operates under the authority of the Public Employees Retirement Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 10-11-1 to 10-11-142, as amended, the Volunteer Firefighters Retirement Act, NMSA 1978, Section 10-11A-1 to 10-11A-8, as amended, the Judicial Retirement Act, NMSA 1978, Section 10-12B-1 to 10-12B-19, as amended, the Magistrate Retirement Act, NMSA 1978, Section 10-12C-1 to 10-12C-18, as amended, and the Public Employees Reciprocity Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 10-13A-1 to 10-13A-4, as amended. PERA is a public employee pension fund responsible for the investment of all moneys constituting the assets of the Public Employees Retirement Fund, the Judicial Retirement Fund, the Magistrate Retirement Fund, and the Volunteer Firefighters Retirement Fund. PERA is a qualified governmental plan under 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Funds’ assets were valued in excess of \$17.6 billion as of June 20, 2021.

C. SCOPE OF PROCUREMENT

PERA is seeking a contractor for a multi-year contract to provide internal audit services as further described in Section IV. A. to include, but are not limited to, independent evaluation and appraisal to determine the adequacy and reasonableness of internal controls, whether PERA resources are used effectively and efficiently, prescribed policies and procedures are followed, and PERA’s objectives are met.

The resulting contract will be a single award.

D. PROCUREMENT MANAGER

1. PERA has assigned a Procurement Manager who is responsible for the conduct of this procurement whose name, address, telephone number and e-mail address are listed below:

Name: Anna Williams, Chief Financial Officer
Address: Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico
33 Plaza La Prensa
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Telephone: (505) 259-8489
Email: anna.williams@state.nm.us

2. All deliveries of responses via U.S. Mail or express carrier must be addressed as follows:

Name: Anna Williams
Reference RFP Name: Internal Audit Services RFP No. NM 36600-2022-00004
Address: Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico
33 Plaza La Prensa
Santa Fe, NM 87507

1. **Any inquiries or requests** regarding this procurement should be submitted, in writing, to the Procurement Manager. Offerors may contact **ONLY** the Procurement Manager regarding this procurement. Other state employees or Evaluation Committee members do not have the authority to respond on behalf of the PERA. The evaluation committee members and procurement manager will comply with the requirements of Sections 5, 8, and 9 of the PERA Employee Code of Conduct throughout this procurement process.
- 2.
3. **Protests of the solicitation or award must be submitted in writing to the Protest Manager identified in Section II.B.13.** As a Protest Manager has been named in this Request for Proposals, pursuant to §13-1-172, NMSA 1978 and 1.4.1.82 NMAC, **ONLY** protests delivered directly to the Protest Manager in writing and in a timely fashion will be considered to have been submitted properly and in accordance with statute, rule and this Request for Proposals. Protests submitted or delivered to the Procurement Manager will **NOT** be considered properly submitted.

E. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Submissions of all proposals and deliveries of responses via U.S. Mail or express carrier must be addressed as follows:

Name: Anna Williams
Reference RFP Name: Internal Audit Services RFP No. NM 36600-2022-00004
Address: Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico
33 Plaza La Prensa
Santa Fe, NM 87507

F. DEFINITION OF TERMINOLOGY

This section contains definitions of terms used throughout this procurement document, including appropriate abbreviations:

1. “Agency” means the Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico.

2. “**Authorized Purchaser**” means an individual authorized by a Participating Entity to place orders against this contract.
3. “**Award**” means the final execution of the contract document.
4. “**Business Hours**” means 8:00 AM thru 5:00 PM MST/MDT, whichever is in effect on the date given.
5. “**Close of Business**” means 5:00 PM Mountain Standard or Daylight Time, whichever is in use at that time.
6. “**Confidential**” means confidential financial information concerning Offeror’s organization and data that qualifies as a trade secret in accordance with the Uniform Trade Secrets Act §§57-3-A-1 through 57-3A-7, NMSA 1978,. See also NMAC 1.4.1.45. The following items may **not** be labelled as confidential: Offeror’s submitted Cost response, Staff/Personnel Resumes/Bios (excluding personal information such as personal telephone numbers and/or home addresses), and other submitted data that is **not** confidential financial information or that qualifies under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act.
7. “**Contract**” means any agreement for the procurement of items of tangible personal property, services or construction.
8. “**Contractor**” means any business having a contract with a state agency or local public body.
9. “**Determination**” means the written documentation of a decision of a procurement officer including findings of fact required to support a decision. A determination becomes part of the procurement file to which it pertains.
10. “**Desirable**” – the terms “may,” “can,” “should,” “preferably,” or “prefers” identify a desirable or discretionary item or factor.
11. “**Electronic Version/Copy**” means a digital form consisting of text, images or both readable on computers or other electronic devices that includes all content that the Original and Hard Copy proposals contain. The digital form may be submitted using a compact disc (CD) or USB flash drive. The electronic version/copy can NOT be emailed.
12. “**Evaluation Committee**” means a body appointed to perform the evaluation of Offerors’ proposals.
13. “**Evaluation Committee Report**” means a report prepared by the Procurement Manager and the Evaluation Committee to support the Committee’s recommendation for contract award. It will contain scores and written evaluations of all responsive Offeror proposals.

14. “**Final Award**” means, in the context of this Request for Proposals and all its attendant documents, that point at which the final required signature on the contract(s) resulting from the procurement has been affixed to the contract(s) thus making it fully executed.
15. “**Finalist**” means an Offeror who meets all the mandatory specifications of this Request for Proposals and whose score on evaluation factors is sufficiently high to merit further consideration by the Evaluation Committee.
16. “**Hourly Rate**” means the proposed fully loaded maximum hourly rates that include travel, per diem, fringe benefits and any overhead costs for contractor personnel, as well as subcontractor personnel if appropriate.
17. “**IT**” means Information Technology.
18. “**Mandatory**” – the terms “must,” “shall” “will,” “is required,” or “are required,” identify a mandatory item or factor. Failure to meet a mandatory item or factor may result in the rejection of the Offeror’s proposal.
19. “**Minor Irregularities**” means anything in the proposal that does not affect the price, quality and/or quantity, or any other mandatory requirement.
20. “**Multiple Source Award**” means an award of an indefinite quantity contract for one or more similar services, items of tangible personal property or construction to more than one Offeror.
21. “**Offeror**” is any person, corporation, or partnership who chooses to submit a proposal.
22. “**Procurement Manager**” means any person or designee authorized by a state agency or local public body to enter into or administer contracts and make written determinations with respect thereto.
23. “**Procuring Agency**” means all State of New Mexico agencies, commissions, institutions, political subdivisions and local public bodies allowed by law to entertain procurements.
24. “**Project**” means a temporary process undertaken to solve a well-defined goal or objective with clearly defined start and end times, a set of clearly defined tasks, and a budget. The project terminates once the project scope is achieved and project acceptance is given by the project executive sponsor.
25. “**Redacted**” means a version/copy of the Offeror’s proposal with the information considered proprietary or confidential (as defined by §§57-3A-1 to 57-3A-7, NMSA 1978

and NMAC 1.4.1.45 and summarized herein and outlined in Section II.C.8 of this RFP) blacked-out BUT NOT omitted or removed.

26. **“Request for Proposals (RFP)”** means all documents, including those attached or incorporated by reference, used for soliciting proposals.
27. **“Responsible Offeror”** means an Offeror who submits a responsive proposal and who has furnished, when required, information and data to prove that his financial resources, production or service facilities, personnel, service reputation and experience are adequate to make satisfactory delivery of the services, or items of tangible personal property described in the proposal.
28. **“Responsive Offer”** or means an offer which conforms in all material respects to the requirements set forth in the request for proposals. Material respects of a request for proposals include, but are not limited to price, quality, quantity or delivery requirements.
29. **“Sealed”** means, in terms of a non-electronic submission, that the proposal is enclosed in a package which is completely fastened in such a way that nothing can be added or removed. Open packages submitted will not be accepted except for packages that may have been damaged by the delivery service itself. The State reserves the right, however, to accept or reject packages where there may have been damage done by the delivery service itself. Whether a package has been damaged by the delivery service or left unfastened and should or should not be accepted is a determination to be made by the Procurement Manager. By submitting a proposal, the Offeror agrees to and concurs with this process and accepts the determination of the Procurement Manager in such cases.
30. **“SPD”** means State Purchasing Division of the New Mexico State General Services Department.
31. **“Staff”** means any individual who is a full-time, part-time, or an independently contracted employee with the Offerors’ company.
32. **“State (the State)”** means the State of New Mexico.
33. **“State Agency”** means any department, commission, council, board, committee, institution, legislative body, agency, government corporation, educational institution or official of the executive, legislative or judicial branch of the government of this state. “State agency” includes the Purchasing Division of the General Services Department and the State Purchasing Agent but does not include local public bodies.
34. **“State Purchasing Agent”** means the Director of the Purchasing Division of the General Services Department.

35. “**Statement of Concurrence**” means an affirmative statement from the Offeror to the required specification agreeing to comply and concur with the stated requirement(s). This statement shall be included in Offerors proposal. (E.g. “We concur,” “Understands and Complies,” “Comply,” “Will Comply if Applicable,” etc.)
36. “**Unredacted**” means a version/copy of the proposal containing all complete information; including any that the Offeror would otherwise consider confidential, such copy for use only for the purposes of evaluation.
37. “**Written**” means typewritten on standard 8 ½ x 11 inch paper. Larger paper is permissible for charts, spreadsheets, etc.

II. CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE PROCUREMENT

This section of the RFP contains the schedule of events, the descriptions of each event, and the conditions governing this procurement.

A. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The Procurement Manager will make every effort to adhere to the following schedule:

Action	Responsible Party	Due Dates
1. Issue RFP	SPD	February 18, 2022
2. Acknowledgement of Receipt Form	Potential Offerors	February 28, 2022
4. Deadline to submit Written Questions	Potential Offerors	March 2, 2022
5. Response to Written Questions	Procurement Manager	March 8, 2022
6. Submission of Proposal	Potential Offerors	March 22, 2022 3:00 pm MST or MDT
7.* Proposal Evaluation	Evaluation Committee	March 28 -April 22
8.* Selection of Finalists	Evaluation Committee	May 9, 2022
9.* Best and Final Offers	Finalist Offerors	May 16, 2022 (Optional)
10.* Oral Presentation(s)	Finalist Offerors	May 16, 2022 (Optional)
11.* Finalize Contractual Agreements	Agency/Finalist Offerors	June 1, 2022
12.* Contract Awards	Agency/ Finalist Offerors	July 1, 2022
13.* Protest Deadline	SPD	+15 days

* Dates indicated in Events 7 through 13 are estimates only, and may be subject to change without necessitating an amendment to the RFP.

B. EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

The following paragraphs describe the activities listed in the Sequence of Events shown in Section II.A., above.

1. Issue RFP

This RFP is being issued on behalf of the Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico (“PERA”) on February 18, 2022.

2. Acknowledgement of Receipt Form

Potential Offerors may e-mail the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form (APPENDIX A), to the Procurement Manager, Anna Williams at anna.williams@state.nm.us, to have their organization placed on the procurement Distribution List. The form must be returned to the Procurement Manager by 3:00 pm MST/ MDT on February 28, 2022.

The procurement distribution list will be used for the distribution of written responses to questions, and/or any amendments to the RFP. Failure to return the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form does not prohibit potential Offerors from submitting a response to this RFP. However, by not returning the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form, the potential Offeror’s representative shall not be included on the distribution list, and will be solely responsible for obtaining from the Procurement Library (Section I.G.) responses to written questions and any amendments to the RFP.

3. Deadline to Submit Written Questions

Potential Offerors may submit written questions to the Procurement Manager as to the intent or clarity of this RFP until 3:00 pm MST/MDT as indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events. All written questions must be addressed to the Procurement Manager as declared in Section I.D. Questions shall be clearly labeled and shall cite the Section(s) in the RFP or other document which form the basis of the question.

4. Response to Written Questions

Written responses to the written questions will be provided via e-mail, on or before the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events, to all potential Offerors who timely submitted an Acknowledgement of Receipt Form (Section II.B.2 and APPENDIX A).

5. Submission of Proposal

ALL OFFEROR PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED FOR REVIEW AND EVALUATION BY THE PROCUREMENT MANAGER OR DESIGNEE NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME/MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME ON March 28, 2022. Proposals received after this deadline will not be accepted. The date and time of receipt will be recorded on each proposal.

Proposals must be addressed and delivered to the Procurement Manager at the address listed in Section I, Paragraph D2. Proposals must be sealed and labeled on the outside of the package to clearly indicate that they are in response to the Internal Audit Services RFP Number NM 36600-2022-00004.

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 13-1-116, the contents of proposals shall not be disclosed to competing potential Offerors during the negotiation process. The negotiation process is deemed to be in effect until the contract is awarded pursuant to this Request for Proposals. Awarded in this context means the final required state agency signature on the contract(s) resulting from the procurement has been obtained.

A log will be kept of the names of all Offeror organizations that submitted proposals. Pursuant to §13-1-116, NMSA 1978, the contents of proposals shall not be disclosed to competing potential Offerors during the negotiation process. The negotiation process is deemed to be in effect until the contract is awarded pursuant to this Request for Proposals. Awarded in this context means the final required state agency signature on the contract(s) resulting from the procurement has been obtained.

6. Proposal Evaluation

An Evaluation Committee will perform the evaluation of proposals. This process will take place as indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events, depending upon the number of proposals received. During this time, the Procurement Manager may initiate discussions with Offerors who submit responsive or potentially responsive proposals for the purpose of clarifying aspects of the proposals. However, proposals may be accepted and evaluated without such discussion. Discussions SHALL NOT be initiated by the Offerors.

7. Selection of Finalists

The Evaluation Committee will select and the Procurement Manager will notify the finalist Offerors as per schedule Section II.A, Sequence of Events or as soon as possible thereafter. A schedule for Oral Presentation, if any, will be determined at this time.

8. Best and Final Offers

Finalist Offerors may be asked to submit revisions to their proposals for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers by as per schedule Section II. A., Sequence of Events or as soon as possible. Best and final offers may also be clarified and amended at finalist Offeror's oral presentation.

9. Oral Presentations

Finalist Offerors, as selected per Section II.B.8 above, may be required to conduct an oral presentation at a venue to be determined as per schedule Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. If oral presentations are held, Finalist Offerors may be required to make their presentations through electronic means (GoToMeeting, Zoom, etc). The Agency will provide Finalist Offerors with applicable details. Whether or not Oral Presentations will be held is at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee and PERA.

10. Finalize Contractual Agreements

After approval of the Evaluation Committee Report, any contractual agreement(s) resulting from this RFP will be finalized with the most advantageous Offeror(s), taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in this RFP, as per Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. The most advantageous proposal may or may not have received the most points. In the event mutually agreeable terms cannot be reached with the apparent most advantageous Offeror in the timeframe specified, the PERA reserves the right to finalize a contractual agreement with the next most advantageous Offeror(s) without undertaking a new procurement process.

11. Contract Awards

Upon receipt of the signed contractual agreement, the Agency Procurement office will award as per Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. The award is subject to appropriate Department and State approval.

12. Protest Deadline

Any protest by an Offeror must be timely submitted and in conformance with §13-1-172, NMSA 1978 and applicable procurement regulations. As a Protest Manager has been named in this Request for Proposals, pursuant to §13-1-172, NMSA 1978 and 1.4.1.82 NMAC, ONLY protests delivered directly to the Protest Manager in writing and in a timely fashion will be considered to have been submitted properly and in accordance with statute, rule and this Request for Proposals. The 15 calendar day protest period shall begin on the day following the notice of award of contract(s) and will end at 5:00 pm MST/MDT on the 15th day. Protests must be written and must include the name and address of the protestor and the request for proposal number. It must also contain a statement of the grounds for protest including appropriate supporting exhibits and it must specify the ruling requested from the party listed below. The protest must be delivered to:

Protest Manager:
Marlena Riggs
Chief Procurement Officer
Marlenas.riggs@state.nm.us
33 Plaza La Prensa
Santa Fe, NM 87507

PROTESTS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Acceptance of Conditions Governing the Procurement

Potential Offerors must indicate their acceptance of these Conditions Governing the Procurement, Section II.C, by completing and signing the Letter of Transmittal form, pursuant to the requirements in Section II.C.30, located in APPENDIX E.

2. Incurring Cost

Any cost incurred by the potential Offeror in preparation, transmittal, presentation of any proposal or material submitted in response to this RFP; cost incurred for travel to Santa Fe, NM, to make an oral presentation or to participate in negotiations; or for Offeror's expense in connection with a due diligence visit by PERA shall be borne solely by the Offeror. PERA shall pay its own expenses associated with a due diligence visit.

3. Prime Contractor Responsibility

Any contractual agreement that may result from this RFP shall specify that the prime contractor is solely responsible for fulfillment of all requirements of the contractual agreement with a State Agency which may derive from this RFP. The State Agency entering into a contractual agreement with a vendor will make payments to only the prime contractor.

4. Subcontractors/Consent

The use of subcontractors is/allowed. The prime contractor shall be wholly responsible for the entire performance of the contractual agreement whether or not subcontractors are used. Additionally, the prime contractor must receive approval, in writing, from the agency awarding any resultant contract, before any subcontractor is used during the term of this agreement.

5. Amended Proposals

An Offeror may submit an amended proposal before the deadline for receipt of proposals. Such amended proposals must be complete replacements for a previously submitted proposal and must be clearly identified as such in the transmittal letter. **Agency personnel will not merge, collate, or assemble proposal materials.**

6. Offeror's Rights to Withdraw Proposal

Offerors will be allowed to withdraw their proposals at any time prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. The Offeror must submit a written withdrawal request addressed to the Procurement Manager and signed by the Offeror's duly authorized representative.

The approval or denial of withdrawal requests received after the deadline for receipt of the proposals is governed by the applicable procurement regulations, 1.4.1.5 & 1.4.1.36 NMAC.

7. Proposal Offer Firm

Responses to this RFP, including proposal prices for services, will be considered firm for one-hundred twenty (120) days after the due date for receipt of proposals or ninety (90) days after the due date for the receipt of a best and final offer, if the Offeror is invited or required to submit one.

8. Disclosure of Proposal Contents

The contents of all submitted proposals will be kept confidential until the final award has been completed by the Agency. At that time, all proposals and documents pertaining to the proposals will be available for public inspection, *except* for proprietary or confidential material as follows:

- a. ***Proprietary and Confidential information is restricted to:***
 1. confidential financial information concerning the Offeror's organization; and
 2. information that qualifies as a trade secret in accordance with the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, §§57-3A-1 through 57-3A-7, NMSA 1978.
- b. An additional but separate redacted version of Offeror's proposal, as outlined and identified in Sections III.B.1.a.i and III.B.2.a.i, shall be submitted containing the blacked-out proprietary or confidential information, in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential version of Offeror's proposal.

IMPORTANT: The price of products offered or the cost of services proposed **SHALL NOT** be designated as proprietary or confidential information.

If a request is received for disclosure of proprietary or confidential materials, the Agency shall examine the request and make a written determination that specifies which portions of the proposal should be disclosed. Unless the Offeror takes legal action to prevent the disclosure, the proposal will be so disclosed. The proposal shall be open to public inspection subject to any continuing prohibition on the disclosure of proprietary or confidential information.

9. No Obligation

This RFP in no manner obligates the State of New Mexico or any of its Agencies to the use of any Offeror's services until a valid written contract is awarded and approved by appropriate authorities.

10. Termination

This RFP may be canceled at any time and any and all proposals may be rejected in whole or in part when the Agency determines such action to be in the best interest of the State of New Mexico.

11. Sufficient Appropriation

Any contract awarded as a result of this RFP process may be terminated if sufficient appropriations or authorizations do not exist. Such terminations will be affected by sending written notice to the contractor. The Agency's decision as to whether sufficient appropriations and authorizations are available will be accepted by the contractor as final.

12. Legal Review

The Agency requires that all Offerors agree to be bound by the General Requirements contained in this RFP. Any Offeror's concerns must be promptly submitted in writing to the attention of the Procurement Manager.

13. Governing Law

This RFP and any agreement with an Offeror which may result from this procurement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

14. Basis for Proposal

Only information supplied in writing by the Procurement Manager or contained in this RFP shall be used as the basis for the preparation of Offeror proposals.

15. Contract Terms and Conditions

The contract between an agency and a contractor will follow the format specified by the Agency and contain the terms and conditions set forth in the Draft Contract Appendix C. However, the contracting agency reserves the right to negotiate provisions in addition to those contained in this RFP (Draft Contract) with any Offeror. The contents of this RFP, as revised and/or supplemented, and the successful Offeror's proposal will be incorporated into and become part of any resultant contract.

The Agency discourages exceptions from the contract terms and conditions as set forth in the RFP Draft Contract. Such exceptions may cause a proposal to be rejected as nonresponsive when, in the sole judgment of the Agency (and its evaluation team), the proposal appears to be conditioned on the exception, or correction of what is deemed to be a deficiency, or an unacceptable exception is proposed which would require a substantial proposal rewrite to correct.

Should an Offeror object to any of the terms and conditions as set forth in the RFP Draft Contract (APPENDIX C) strongly enough to propose alternate terms and conditions in spite of the above, the Offeror must propose **specific** alternative language. The Agency may or may not accept the alternative language. General references to the Offeror's terms and conditions or attempts at complete substitutions of the Draft Contract are not acceptable to the Agency and will result in disqualification of the Offeror's proposal.

Offerors must provide a brief discussion of the purpose and impact, if any, of each proposed change followed by the specific proposed alternate wording.

If an Offeror fails to propose any alternate terms and conditions during the procurement process (the RFP process prior to selection as successful Offeror), no proposed alternate terms and conditions will be considered later during the negotiation process. Failure to propose alternate terms and conditions during the procurement process (the RFP process prior to selection as successful Offeror) is an **explicit agreement** by the Offeror that the contractual terms and conditions contained herein are **accepted** by the Offeror.

16. Offeror's Terms and Conditions

Offerors must submit with the proposal a complete set of any additional terms and conditions they expect to have included in a contract negotiated with the Agency. See Section II.C.15 for requirements.

17. Contract Deviations

Any additional terms and conditions, which may be the subject of negotiation (such terms and conditions having been proposed during the procurement process, that is, the RFP process prior to selection as successful Offeror), will be discussed only between the Agency and the Offeror selected and shall not be deemed an opportunity to amend the Offeror's proposal.

18. Offeror Qualifications

The Evaluation Committee may make such investigations as necessary to determine the ability of the potential Offeror to adhere to the requirements specified within this RFP. The Evaluation Committee will reject the proposal of any potential Offeror who is not a Responsible Offeror or fails to submit a Responsive Offer as defined in §13-1-83 and §13-1-85, NMSA 1978.

19. Right to Waive Minor Irregularities

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to waive minor irregularities, as defined in Section I.F.20. The Evaluation Committee also reserves the right to waive mandatory requirements, provided that **all** of the otherwise responsive proposals failed to meet the same mandatory requirements and the failure to do so does not otherwise materially affect the procurement. This right is at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

20. Change in Contractor Representatives

The Agency reserves the right to require a change in contractor representatives if the assigned representative(s) is (are) not, in the opinion of the Agency, adequately meeting the needs of the Agency.

21. Notice of Penalties

The Procurement Code, §§13-1-28 through 13-1-199, NMSA 1978, imposes civil, and misdemeanor and felony criminal penalties for its violation. In addition, the New Mexico criminal statutes impose felony penalties for bribes, gratuities and kickbacks.

22. Agency Rights

The Agency in agreement with the Evaluation Committee reserves the right to accept all or a portion of a potential Offeror's proposal.

23. Right to Publish

Throughout the duration of this procurement process and contract term, Offerors and contractors must secure from the agency written approval prior to the release of any information that pertains to the potential work or activities covered by this procurement and/or agency contracts deriving from this procurement. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in disqualification of the Offeror's proposal or removal from the contract.

24. Ownership of Proposals

All documents submitted in response to the RFP shall become property of the State of New Mexico. If the RFP is cancelled, all responses received shall be destroyed by the Agency or SPD unless the Offeror either picks up, or arranges for pick-up, the materials within three (3) business days of notification of the cancellation. Offeror is responsible for all costs involved in return mailing/shipping of proposals.

25. Confidentiality

Any confidential information provided to, or developed by, the contractor in the performance of the contract resulting from this RFP shall be kept confidential and shall not be made available to any individual or organization by the contractor without the prior written approval of the Agency.

The Contractor(s) agrees to protect the confidentiality of all confidential information and not to publish or disclose such information to any third party without the procuring Agency's written permission.

26. Electronic mail address required

A large part of the communication regarding this procurement will be conducted by electronic mail (e-mail). Offeror must have a valid e-mail address to receive this correspondence. (See also Section II.B.5, Response to Written Questions).

27. Use of Electronic Versions of this RFP

This RFP is being made available by electronic means. In the event of conflict between a version of the RFP in the Offeror's possession and the version maintained by the agency, the Offeror acknowledges that the version maintained by the agency shall govern. Please refer to:

28. New Mexico Employees Health Coverage

- A. If the Offeror has, or grows to, six (6) or more employees who work, or who are expected to work, an average of at least 20 hours per week over a six (6) month period during the term of the contract, Offeror must agree to have in place, and agree to maintain for the term of the contract, health insurance for those employees if the expected annual value in the aggregate of any and all contracts between Contractor and the State exceed \$250,000 dollars.
- B. Offeror must agree to maintain a record of the number of employees who have (a) accepted health insurance; (b) decline health insurance due to other health insurance coverage already in place; or (c) decline health insurance for other reasons. These records are subject to review and audit by a representative of the state.
- C. Offeror must agree to advise all employees of the availability of State publicly financed health care coverage programs by providing each employee with, as a minimum, the following web site link to additional information <https://bewellnm.com>.

- D. For Indefinite Quantity, Indefinite Delivery contracts (price agreements without specific limitations on quantity and providing for an indeterminate number of orders to be placed against it); these requirements shall apply the first day of the second month after the Offeror reports combined sales (from state and, if applicable, from local public bodies if from a state price agreement) of \$250,000.

29. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form

Offeror must complete, sign, and return the Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form, APPENDIX B, as a part of their proposal. This requirement applies regardless whether a covered contribution was made or not made for the positions of Governor and Lieutenant Governor or other identified official. **Failure to complete and return the signed, unaltered form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

30. Letter of Transmittal

Offeror's proposal must be accompanied by an **unaltered** Letter of Transmittal Form (APPENDIX E), which must be **completed** and **signed** by the individual authorized to contractually obligate the company, identified in #2 below. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY OF THE ITEMS ON THE FORM BLANK** (N/A, None, Does not apply, etc. are acceptable responses).

The Letter of Transmittal MUST:

1. Identify the submitting business entity (its Name, Mailing Address and Phone Number);
2. Identify the Name, Title, Telephone, and E-mail address of the person authorized by the Offeror's organization to (A) contractually obligate the business entity providing the Offer, (B) negotiate a contract on behalf of the organization; and/or (C) provide clarifications or answer questions regarding the Offeror's proposal content (*A response to B and/or C is only required if the responses differs from the individual identified in A*);
3. Identify sub-contractors, if any, anticipated to be utilized in the performance of any resultant contract award;
4. Describe any relationship with any other entity (such as State Agency, reseller, etc., that is not a sub-contractor identified in #3), if any, which will be used in the performance of this awarded contract; and
5. Be signed and dated by the person identified in #2 above; attesting to the veracity of the information provided, and acknowledging (a) the organization's acceptance of the Conditions Governing the Procurement stated in Section II.C.1, (b) the organizations acceptance of the Section V Evaluation Factors, and (c) receipt of any and all amendments to the RFP.

Failure to respond to ALL items as indicated above, will result in Offeror's disqualification.

31. Disclosure Regarding Responsibility

- A. Any prospective Contractor and any of its Principals who enter into a contract greater than sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) with any state agency or local public body for professional services, tangible personal property, services or construction agrees to disclose whether the Contractor, or any principal of the Contractor's company:
1. is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for award of contract by any federal entity, state agency or local public body;
 2. has within a three-year period preceding this offer, been convicted in a criminal matter or had a civil judgment rendered against them for:
 - a. the commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) contract or subcontract;
 - b. violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes related to the submission of offers; or
 - c. the commission in any federal or state jurisdiction of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violation of Federal criminal tax law, or receiving stolen property;
 3. is presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by any (federal state or local) government entity with the commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph A of this disclosure;
 4. has, preceding this offer, been notified of any delinquent Federal or state taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000.00 of which the liability remains unsatisfied. Taxes are considered delinquent if the following criteria apply.
 - a. The tax liability is finally determined. The liability is finally determined if it has been assessed. A liability is not finally determined if there is a pending administrative or judicial challenge. In the case of a judicial challenge of the liability, the liability is not finally determined until all judicial appeal rights have been exhausted.
 - b. The taxpayer is delinquent in making payment. A taxpayer is delinquent if the taxpayer has failed to pay the tax liability when full payment was due and required. A taxpayer is not delinquent in cases where enforced collection action is precluded.
 - c. Have within a three-year period preceding this offer, had one or more contracts terminated for default by any federal or state agency or local public body.)
- B. Principal, for the purpose of this disclosure, means an officer, director, owner, partner, or a person having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity or related entities.
- C. The Contractor shall provide immediate written notice to the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement if, at any time during the term of this Agreement, the Contractor learns that the Contractor's disclosure was at any time erroneous or became erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

- D. A disclosure that any of the items in this requirement exist will not necessarily result in termination of this Agreement. However, the disclosure will be considered in the determination of the Contractor's responsibility and ability to perform under this Agreement. Failure of the Contractor to furnish a disclosure or provide additional information as requested will render the Offeror nonresponsive.
- E. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render, in good faith, the disclosure required by this document. The knowledge and information of a Contractor is not required to exceed that which is the normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- F. The disclosure requirement provided is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when making an award and is a continuing material representation of the facts during the term of this Agreement. If during the performance of the contract, the Contractor is indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by any government entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any offenses named in this document the Contractor must provide immediate written notice to the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement. If it is later determined that the Contractor knowingly rendered an erroneous disclosure, in addition to other remedies available to the Government, the State Purchasing Agent or Central Purchasing Officer may terminate the involved contract for cause. Still further the State Purchasing Agent or Central Purchasing Officer may suspend or debar the Contractor from eligibility for future solicitations until such time as the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the State Purchasing Agent or Central Purchasing Officer.

32. New Mexico Preferences

To ensure adequate consideration and application of §13-1-21, NMSA 1978 (as amended), Offerors **must** include a copy of their preference certificate with their proposal. Certificates for preferences must be obtained through the New Mexico Department of Taxation & Revenue <http://www.tax.newmexico.gov/Businesses/in-state-veteran-preference-certification.aspx>.

A. New Mexico Business Preference

A copy of the certification must accompany Offeror's proposal.

B. New Mexico Resident Veterans Business Preference

A copy of the certification must accompany Offeror's proposal.

An agency shall not award a business both a resident business preference and a resident veteran business preference.

III. RESPONSE FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION

A. NUMBER OF RESPONSES

Offerors shall submit only one proposal in response to this RFP.

B. PROPOSAL FORMAT

1. Hard Copy Responses

Offeror's proposal must be clearly labeled and numbered and indexed as outlined in **Section III.C. Proposal Format**. Proposals must be submitted as outlined below. The original copy shall be clearly marked as such on the front of the binder. Each portion of the proposal (technical/cost) must be submitted in separate binders and must be prominently displayed on the front cover. Envelopes, packages or boxes containing the original and the copies must be clearly labeled and submitted in a sealed envelope, package, or box bearing the following information:

Offerors should deliver:

1. **Technical Proposals** – One (1) ORIGINAL, six (6) HARD COPY, and one (1) electronic copy of the proposal containing ONLY the Technical Proposal; ORIGINAL and COPY shall be in separate labeled binders. **The electronic version/copy can NOT be emailed.**
 - i. Proposals containing confidential information **must** be submitted as two separate binders:
 - **Unredacted** version for evaluation purposes
 - **Redacted** version (information blacked out and not omitted or removed) for the public file
2. **Cost Proposals** – One (1) ORIGINAL, six (6) HARD COPY, and one (1) electronic copy of the proposal containing ONLY the Cost Proposal; ORIGINAL and COPY of Cost Proposal shall be in separate labeled binders from the Technical Proposals. **The electronic copy can NOT be emailed.**

The original, hard copy and electronic copy information **must** be identical. In the event of a conflict between versions of the submitted proposal, the Original hard copy shall govern.

Any proposal that does not adhere to the requirements of this Section and **Section III.C.1 Response Format and Organization** may be deemed non-responsive and rejected on that basis.

C. PROPOSAL FORMAT

All proposals must be submitted as follows:

Hard copies must be typewritten on standard 8 ½ x 11 inch paper (larger paper is permissible for charts, spreadsheets, etc.) and placed within binders with tabs delineating each section.

Organization of folders/envelopes for hard copy proposals and electronic copy proposals

1. Proposal Content and Organization

Direct reference to pre-prepared or promotional material may be used if referenced and clearly marked. Promotional material must be minimal. The proposal must be organized and indexed in the following format and must contain, at a minimum, all listed items in the sequence indicated.

Technical Proposal – DO NOT INCLUDE ANY COST INFORMATION IN THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.

- A. Signed Letter of Transmittal
- B. Signed Campaign Contribution Form
- C. Table of Contents
- D. Response to Contract Terms and Conditions (from Section II.C.15)
- E. Offeror's Additional Terms and Conditions (from Section II.C.16)
- F. Response to Specifications (**except Cost information which shall be included ONLY in Cost Proposal/Binder 2**)
 1. Organizational Experience
 2. Organizational References
 3. Internal Audit Services Procedures and Process
 4. Corporate Operations
 5. Client Services
 6. Financial Stability –(Financial information considered confidential, as defined in Section I.E. and detailed in Section II.C.8, should be placed in the **Confidential Information** file, per Section II.B.1.a.i or Section II.B.2.a.i, as applicable)
 7. New Mexico Preferences (if applicable)
- G. Other Supporting Material (if applicable)

Cost Proposal:

1. Completed Cost Response Form

Within each section of the proposal, Offerors should address the items in the order indicated above. All forms provided in this RFP must be thoroughly completed and included in the appropriate section of the proposal. **Any and all discussion of proposed costs, rates or expenses must occur ONLY in the Cost Proposal.**

A Proposal Summary may be included in Offeror's Technical Proposal, to provide the Evaluation Committee with an overview of the proposal; however, this material will not be

used in the evaluation process unless specifically referenced from other portions of the Offeror's proposal. **DO NOT INCLUDE COST INFORMATION IN THE PROPOSAL SUMMARY.**

IV. SPECIFICATIONS

A. DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK

1. Contractor shall provide to PERA independent, objective assurance and consulting services designed to determine whether PERA's risk management, control, and governance processes as designed and represented by management and the board at all levels are adequate and functioning in a manner to ensure:
 - a. Financial and operational reports are reliable, accurate, and timely;
 - b. Risk management process are effective and significant risks are appropriate identified and managed.
 - c. Ethic and values are promoted within the organization and governance level;
 - d. Agency is in compliance with policies, standards, procedures, and applicable laws and regulations.
 - e. Significant legislative or regulatory compliance issues impacting the organization's risk management and control processes;
 - f. Communication of information among the various governance groups occur as needed;
 - g. Information technology security practices adequately protect informational assets and are in compliance with applicable policies, rules, and regulations;
 - h. Internal controls are working appropriate to ensure PERA's assets are properly safeguard.
2. The internal audit plan will be initiated, developed and finalized by the contractor after its initial surveys and reviews and presented with alternatives as a recommendation to the Audit and Budget Committee. The plan shall be designed to:
 - a. Provide a wide range of quality independent internal auditing services for the Audit and Budget Committee and the Public Employees Retirement Association Board,
 - b. Perform independent assessments on the systems of risk management, internal controls and operating efficiency, guided by professional standards; and
 - c. Support the Agency's efforts to achieve its objectives through independent internal auditing services
3. The objectives of these services will assist the Agency in accomplishing its objectives by contributing to the evaluation and improvement of the effectiveness of risk management, internal control, and governance processes. The Firm should submit as part of its proposal suggested, pro-forma or ideal internal audit work plans/schedules covering a two-year rotational approach. The proposal shall set forth a draft work plan, including timing, and an explanation of the methodologies to be followed, to perform the services required. The plan shall include the start and end date and an estimate of time to complete major segments (planning, interim field work, fieldwork and reporting).

B. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. Organizational Experience

Offeror **must**:

- a) provide a brief description of relevant internal audit experience with state government and private sector. The experience of all proposed subcontractors must be described. The narrative **must** thoroughly describe how the Offeror has supplied expertise for similar contracts and must include the extent of their experience, expertise and knowledge as a provider of internal audit. All internal audit provided to private sector will also be considered;
- b) provide a copy of a copy of the report on its most recent external quality control review, with a statement whether that quality control review included a review of specific government engagements.

Provide information shall provide information on the circumstances and status of any disciplinary action taken or pending against the firm during the past three (3) years with any federal or state regulatory bodies or professional organizations.

- c) provide a brief resume/bio of all key personnel Offeror proposes to use in performance of the resulting contract, should Offeror be awarded. Key personnel is identified as staff who are properly licensed to practice as a certified public accountant, certified internal auditor and/or certified information systems auditor. Offeror must include key personnel education, work experience, and applicable certifications/licenses.
- d) The Offeror has a positive net worth as of the submission date of this proposal and shall maintain a positive net worth for the duration of any contract entered into with PERA.
- e) describe at least two project successes and failures of an internal audit engagement. Include how each experience improved the Offeror's services.
- f) The Offeror provides warrants that it currently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest direct or indirect that would conflict in any manner of degree with the performance of services required under any professional service agreement entered into by PERA.

2. Organizational References

Offeror must provide a list of a minimum of three (3) external references from similar projects/programs performed for private, state or large local government clients within the last three (3) years.

Offeror shall include the following Business Reference information as part of its proposals:

- a) Client name;
- b) Project description;
- c) Project dates (starting and ending);
- d) Technical environment (i.e. internal audit);
- e) Staff assigned to reference engagement that will be designated for work per this RFP; and
- f) Client project manager name, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.

Offeror is required to submit APPENDIX F, Organizational Reference Questionnaire (“Questionnaire”), to the business references it lists. **The business references must submit the Questionnaire directly to the designee identified in APPENDIX F. The business references must not return the completed Questionnaire to the Offeror.** It is the Offeror’s responsibility to ensure the completed forms are submitted on or before the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events, for inclusion in the evaluation process.

Organizational References that are not received or are not complete, may adversely affect the Offeror’s score in the evaluation process. Offerors are encouraged to specifically request that their Organizational References provide detailed comments.

3. Internal Audit Services Procedures and Process

- a) Describe your internal audit services procedures, including technical plans and related time estimates, staffing plan and approach for planning and conducting work efforts.
- b) Identify the data elements and format required to receive data from PERA.
- c) Describe your approach to ensure efforts and related test work during the external audit are not duplicated in the internal audit process.
- d) Discuss in detail how your firm would communicate results and suggestions to the PERA Audit and Budget Committee following the completion of the internal audit report.

4. Corporate Operations

- a) Give a brief history of the firm including, but not limited to, the month and year the firm began offering internal audit services to public sector clients. Describe the nature of the firm’s ownership and specific details with regard to any affiliated companies or joint ventures. Describe the material developments in your organization (change in ownership, personnel, business, etc.) over the past three (3) years. Describe any anticipated change in ownership, personnel, business, etc. that would occur during the term of the contract.

- b) List all key professional staff to be assigned to the performance of the contract and the specific responsibilities of each person. Include the following information: person's name; professional certifications held; highest degree attained, indicating school and year; position in the firm; total years with the firm; experience with the firm; experience performing internal audit functions of pension funds or other public sector clients; and number of other clients assigned to each individual. Provide a listing or chart detailing the organization of your firm with the number of employees in each position and a breakdown by position of employees involved in internal audit services and their physical location.
- c) Describe your firm's backup procedures in the event the key professional(s) assigned to this account should leave the firm or be transferred to other accounts or duties.
- d) Describe the financial condition of your firm including any recent material changes.
- e) Describe the levels of coverage for errors and omissions insurance and fiduciary or professional liability coverage that your firm carries. Is the coverage on a per occurrence basis, or is the dollar amount applied to the firm as a whole? List the insurance carrier(s) providing the coverage(s). **(Attach proof of liability insurance coverage to the proposal.)**
- f) Discuss the overall business objectives of your firm with respect to future growth in internal audit services. Comment on any present or planned areas of emphasis over the near future. Describe future staffing requirements in relation to growth. Does your firm have a written code of conduct or set of standards for professional behavior? If so, how are they monitored and enforced?
- g) Over the past five years, has your organization, your parent organization or any of its affiliates or any officer or principal been involved in any business litigation or regulatory proceedings? If so, provide an explanation and indicate the current status.
- h) Describe your information systems including research databases and auditing software. Describe your firm's disaster recovery plan as it relates to the equipment, software, and data tapes and personnel that would be used in providing the services required by PERA.
- i) Describe your firm's security of its information systems and IT hardware

5. Client Services

- a) Which of your firm's offices would manage the account relationship? Provide a summary of services to be provided by other offices, if applicable.
- b) Key professional(s) assigned to this account must attend scheduled meetings in New Mexico at locations and dates to be mutually agreed upon. Currently, the meetings include quarterly presentations of internal audit results to the PERA Audit and Budget Committee.

- c) Provide a copy of an internal audit report your firm has prepared for a similar governmental client. Briefly discuss the major sections of each report.
- d) What distinguishes your firm's internal audit services in communicating with a retirement board that is comprised of non-audit professionals? Please be specific.

B. BUSINESS SPECIFICATIONS

1. Financial Stability

Offerors must submit copies of the most recent years independently audited financial statements and the most current 10K, as well as financial statements for the preceding three years, if they exist. The submission must include the audit opinion, the balance sheet, and statements of income, retained earnings, cash flows, and the notes to the financial statements. If independently audited financial statements do not exist, Offeror must state the reason and, instead, submit sufficient information (e.g. D & B report).

2. Letter of Transmittal Form

The Offeror's proposal **must** be accompanied by the Letter of Transmittal Form located in APPENDIX E. The form **must** be completed and must be signed by the person authorized to obligate the company. **Failure to respond to ALL items, as indicated in Section II.C.30 and APPENDIX E, and to return a signed, unaltered form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

3. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form

The Offeror must complete an unaltered Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form and submit a signed copy with the Offeror's proposal. This must be accomplished whether or not an applicable contribution has been made. (See APPENDIX B). **Failure to complete and return the signed, unaltered form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

4. Cost

Offerors must complete the Fee Proposal Form in APPENDIX D. All amounts represented in the fee proposal will be considered as "not to exceed" amounts. All charges listed on APPENDIX D must be justified and evidence of need documented in the proposal.

The Offeror shall quote a composite hourly rate based on a minimum of 500 hours and a maximum of 1000 for a 12-month time frame. This rate shall include the applicable gross receipt taxes and any out-of-pocket expenses. The hourly composite rate shall include

personnel services, fringe benefits and overhead costs for contractor personnel. All out-of-pocket audit-related expenses, including travel, must be included in the composite rate.

5. Resident Business or Resident Veterans Preference

To ensure adequate consideration and application of NMSA 1978, § 13-1-21 (as amended), Offerors must include a copy of their preference certificate in this section. In addition, for resident Veterans Preference, the attached certification Form (APPENDIX G) must accompany any Offer and any business wishing to receive the preference must complete and sign the form.

V. EVALUATION

A. EVALUATION POINT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of evaluation factors with point values assigned to each. These weighted factors will be used in the evaluation of individual potential Offeror proposals by sub-category.

Evaluation Factors <i>(Correspond to section IV.B and IV C)</i>	Points Available
B. Technical Specifications	
B. 1. Organizational Experience	50
B. 2. Organizational References	75
B. 3. Internal Audit Services Procedures and Process	100
B. 4. Corporate Operations	75
B. 5. Client Services	100
C. Business Specifications	
C.1. Financial Stability	Pass/Fail
C.2. Performance Surety Bond	Pass/Fail
C.3. Letter Of Transmittal	Pass/Fail
C.4. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form	Pass/Fail
C.6. Cost	100
TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE	500
C.7. New Mexico Preference - Resident Vendor Points per Section IV C. 7	25
C.7. New Mexico Preference - Resident Veterans Points per Section IV C.7	50

Table 1: Evaluation Point Summary

B. EVALUATION FACTORS

1. B.1 Organizational Experience (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of Offeror's response in this Section. The Evaluation Committee will also weigh the relevancy and extent of Offeror's experience, expertise and knowledge; and personnel education, experience and certifications/licenses. In addition, points will be awarded based on Offeror's candid and well-thought-out response to successes and failures, as well as the ability of the Offeror to learn from its failures and grow from its successes.

2. B.2 Organizational References (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based upon an evaluation of the responses to a series of questions on the Organizational Reference Questionnaire (Appendix F). Offeror will be evaluated on references that show positive service history, successful execution of services and evidence of satisfaction by each reference. References indicating significantly similar services/scopes of work and comments provided by a submitted reference will add weight and value to a recommendation during the evaluation process. Points will be awarded for each individual response up to 1/3 of the total points for this category. Lack of a response will receive zero (0) points.

The Evaluation Committee may contact any or all business references for validation of information submitted. If this step is taken, the Procurement Manager and the Evaluation Committee must all be together on a conference call with the submitted reference so that the Procurement Manager and all members of the Evaluation Committee receive the same information. Additionally, the Agency reserves the right to consider any and all information available to it (outside of the Organizational Reference information required herein), in its evaluation of Offeror responsibility per Section II.C.18.

3. B.3 Internal Audit Services Procedures (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of Offeror's response in this Section. The Evaluation Committee will also weigh responses from the Offeror on their technical plans, approach to test work and communication with the Audit and Budget Committee.

4. B.4 Corporate Operations (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of Offeror's response in this Section. In addition, points will be awarded based on Offeror's candid and well-thought-out response to firms' history, the key professional that will be assigned to this contract, firm's backup procedure in the event that a key professional leaves the firms, future growth and business litigation.

5. B.5 Client Services (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of Offeror’s response in this Section. In addition, points will be awarded based on Offeror’s well-thought-out response to firms’ key professional assigned to the contract, their ability to attend meeting in the New Mexico, and communicating to boards.

6. C.1 Financial Stability (See Table 1)

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

7. C.2 Letter of Transmittal (See Table 1)

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

8. C.3 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form (See Table 1)

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

9. C.4 Cost (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the quality, organization and effectiveness of communication of the information presented, as well as the professionalism of the presenters and technical knowledge of the proposed staff.

10. C.5 Cost (See Table 1)

The evaluation of each Offeror’s cost proposal will be conducted using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Lowest Responsive Offeror's Cost}}{\text{Each Offeror's Cost}} \times \text{Available Award Points}$$

11. C.6. New Mexico Preferences

Percentages will be determined based upon the point-based system outlined in NMSA 1978, § 13-1-21 (as amended).

A. New Mexico Resident Business Preference

If the Offeror has provided a copy of their Preference Certificate the Preference Points for a New Mexico Resident Business is 5% of the total points available in this RFP.

B. New Mexico Resident Veterans Business Preference

If the Offeror has provided a copy of their Preference Certificate the Preference Points for a New Mexico Resident Veteran Business is 10% of the total points available in this RFP.

C. EVALUATION PROCESS

1. All Offeror proposals will be reviewed for compliance with the requirements and specifications stated within the RFP. Proposals deemed non-responsive will be eliminated from further consideration.
2. The Procurement Manager may contact the Offeror for clarification of the response as specified in Section II. B.7.
3. Responsive proposals will be evaluated on the factors in Section IV, which have been assigned a point value in Section V. The responsible Offerors with the highest scores will be selected as finalist Offerors, based upon the proposals submitted. In accordance with 13-1-117 NMSA 1978, the responsible Offerors whose proposals are most advantageous to the State taking into consideration the Evaluation Factors in Section V will be recommended for award (as specified in Section II.B.12). Please note, however, that a serious deficiency in the response to any one factor may be grounds for rejection regardless of overall score.

APPENDIX A

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Internal Audit Services

RFP # 36600-2022-00004

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM

This Acknowledgement of Receipt Form should be signed and submitted no later than 3:00 pm MST or MDT February 28, 2022. Only potential Offerors who elect to return this form will receive copies of all submitted questions and the written responses to those questions, as well as any RFP amendments, if any are issued.

In acknowledgement of receipt of this Request for Proposal, the undersigned agrees that he or she has received a complete copy of the RFP, beginning with the title page, and ending with APPENDIX F.

The name and address below will be used for all correspondence related to the Request for Proposal.

ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

TITLE: _____ PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Submit Acknowledgement of Receipt Form to:

To: Anna Williams, Chief Financial Officer

E-mail: anna.williams@state.nm.us

Subject Line: Internal Audit Services RFP# 36600-2022-00004

APPENDIX B

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM

Pursuant to the Procurement Code, Sections 13-1-28, *et seq.*, NMSA 1978 and NMSA 1978, § 13-1-191.1 (2006), as amended by Laws of 2007, Chapter 234, a prospective contractor subject to this section shall disclose all campaign contributions given by the prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor to an applicable public official of the state or a local public body during the two years prior to the date on which a proposal is submitted or, in the case of a sole source or small purchase contract, the two years prior to the date on which the contractor signs the contract, if the aggregate total of contributions given by the prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor to the public official exceeds two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) over the two-year period. A prospective contractor submitting a disclosure statement pursuant to this section who has not contributed to an applicable public official, whose family members have not contributed to an applicable public official or whose representatives have not contributed to an applicable public official shall make a statement that no contribution was made.

A prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor shall not give a campaign contribution or other thing of value to an applicable public official or the applicable public official's employees during the pendency of the procurement process or during the pendency of negotiations for a sole source or small purchase contract.

Furthermore, a solicitation or proposed award for a proposed contract may be canceled pursuant to Section [13-1-181](#) NMSA 1978 or a contract that is executed may be ratified or terminated pursuant to Section [13-1-182](#) NMSA 1978 if a prospective contractor fails to submit a fully completed disclosure statement pursuant to this section; or a prospective contractor or family member or representative of the prospective contractor gives a campaign contribution or other thing of value to an applicable public official or the applicable public official's employees during the pendency of the procurement process.

The state agency or local public body that procures the services or items of tangible personal property shall indicate on the form the name or names of every applicable public official, if any, for which disclosure is required by a prospective contractor.

THIS FORM MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND MUST BE FILED BY ANY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR WHETHER OR NOT THEY, THEIR FAMILY MEMBER, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE HAS MADE ANY CONTRIBUTIONS SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE.

The following definitions apply:

“**Applicable public official**” means a person elected to an office or a person appointed to complete a term of an elected office, who has the authority to award or influence the award of the contract for which the prospective contractor is submitting a competitive sealed proposal or who has the

authority to negotiate a sole source or small purchase contract that may be awarded without submission of a sealed competitive proposal.

“Campaign Contribution” means a gift, subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or other thing of value, including the estimated value of an in-kind contribution, that is made to or received by an applicable public official or any person authorized to raise, collect or expend contributions on that official’s behalf for the purpose of electing the official to statewide or local office. “Campaign Contribution” includes the payment of a debt incurred in an election campaign, but does not include the value of services provided without compensation or unreimbursed travel or other personal expenses of individuals who volunteer a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or political committee, nor does it include the administrative or solicitation expenses of a political committee that are paid by an organization that sponsors the committee.

“Family member” means a spouse, father, mother, child, father-in-law, mother-in-law, daughter-in-law or son-in-law of (a) a prospective contractor, if the prospective contractor is a natural person; or (b) an owner of a prospective contractor;

“Pendency of the procurement process” means the time period commencing with the public notice of the request for proposals and ending with the award of the contract or the cancellation of the request for proposals.

“Prospective contractor” means a person or business that is subject to the competitive sealed proposal process set forth in the Procurement Code [Sections [13-1-28](#) through [13-1-199](#) NMSA 1978] or is not required to submit a competitive sealed proposal because that person or business qualifies for a sole source or small purchase contract.

“Representative of a prospective contractor” means an officer or director of a corporation, a member or manager of a limited liability corporation, a partner of a partnership or a trustee of a trust of the prospective contractor.

Name(s) of Applicable Public Official(s) if any: _____
(Completed by State Agency or Local Public Body)

DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR:

Contribution Made By: _____

Relation to Prospective Contractor: _____

Date Contribution(s) Made: _____

Amount(s) of Contribution(s) _____

Nature of Contribution(s) _____

Purpose of Contribution(s)

(Attach extra pages if necessary)

Signature

Date

Title (position)

--OR--

NO CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE AGGREGATE TOTAL OVER TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250) WERE MADE to an applicable public official by me, a family member or representative.

Signature

Date

Title (Position)

APPENDIX C

DRAFT CONTRACT

[Insert Procuring Agency Name]

Agreement No. _____

THIS Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between the State of New Mexico, [Insert Procuring Agency Name], hereinafter referred to as the “Procuring Agency” and [Insert Contractor Name], hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor” and collectively referred to as the “Parties”.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Procurement Code, NMSA 1978 13-1-28 *et. seq.* and Procurement Code Regulations, NMAC 1.4.1 *et. seq.* the Contractor has held itself out as an entity with the ability to provide the required services to implement the Scope of Work as contained herein and the Procuring Agency has selected the Contractor as the offeror most advantageous to the State of New Mexico; and

[CHOICE #1 - If procurement method is a RFP, ITB or Sole Source, as applicable, use the following language: WHEREAS, all terms and conditions of the [RFP, ITB Number and Name] [SOLE SOURCE] and the Contractor’s response to such document(s) are incorporated herein by reference; and]

[CHOICE #2 – If procurement method is a state price agreement, use the following language: “WHEREAS, this Agreement is issued against the state or agency price agreement, established and maintained by the New Mexico State Purchasing Division of the General Services Department, SPD [Insert state price agreement number and name], and through this language hereby incorporates this price agreement by reference and gives the price agreement’s terms and conditions precedence over the terms and conditions contained in this present Agreement;”]

[CHOICE #3 - WHEREAS, all Parties agree that, pursuant to the Procurement Code, Section 13-1-125 NMSA 1978 and Sections 1.4.1.51 and 1.4.1.52 NMAC the total amount of this Agreement is \$60,000.00 or less, excluding taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE MUTUALLY AGREED BETWEEN THE PARTIES:

1. **Definitions.** [Alphabetize after list of standard Clauses and required definitions are agreed upon. Remove those definitions which do not belong or are not relevant to the present Agreement.]

A. "Agreement Administrator" means the individual appointed by the SPA to administer the Price Agreement. [Remove this language if this is a not a Price Agreement but is an Agreement between the Contractor and a single Procuring Agency or entity.]

B. "Business Hours" means 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time.

C. "ITB" means Invitation to Bid as defined in statute and rule.

D. "Local public body" means every political subdivision of the state and the agencies, instrumentalities and institutions thereof. [This language is unnecessary if this is a not a Price Agreement but is an Agreement between the Contractor and a single Procuring Agency or entity.]

E. "New Mexico State Purchasing Agent" or "NMSPA" means the purchasing agent for the State of New Mexico or a designated representative. May be used interchangeably with "State Purchasing Agent" or "SPA".

F. "Price Agreement" means a definite quantity contract or indefinite quantity contract which requires the Contractor to furnish items of tangible personal property or service to the Procuring Agency which issues a purchase order, if the purchase order is within the quantity limitations of the contract, if any. [Remove this language if this is a not a Price Agreement but is an Agreement between the Contractor and a single Procuring Agency or entity.]

G. "Procuring Agency" means any state agency or local public body that enters into an Agreement to procure products or services.

H. "Products and Services schedule" refers to the complete list of products and services offered under this Agreement and the price for each. Product and service descriptions may be amended only through a written amendment signed by all required signatories and with the prior approval of the Agreement Administrator, if any. New products and services beyond those in the original procurement (whether RFP or ITB) shall not be added to the Products and Services Schedule.

I. "RFP" means Request for Proposals as defined in statute and rule.

J. "We," "us" or "our" refers to the State of New Mexico, agencies, commissions, institutions, political sub-divisions and local public bodies allowed by law to participate in the Agreement and whose accounts are created under this Agreement.

K. "You" and "your" refers to **(Contractor Name)**.

2. **Scope of Work**.

The Contractor shall perform the work as outlined in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. [Alternatively, the contracting entity can forego placing the scope of work in an exhibit and state it in this section.]

3. **Compensation.**

A. **Compensation Schedule.** The Procuring Agency shall pay to the Contractor based upon fixed prices for each Deliverable, per the schedule outlined in Exhibit A, less retainage, if any, as identified in paragraph D of this Clause.

[For an hourly-rate based contract use the following language:]

A. The Procuring Agency shall pay to the Contractor in full payment for services satisfactorily performed at the rate of _____ dollars (\$ _____) per hour, such compensation not to exceed (AMOUNT), excluding gross receipts tax. The New Mexico gross receipts tax levied on the amounts payable under this Agreement totaling (AMOUNT) shall be paid by the Procuring Agency to the Contractor. **The total amount payable to the Contractor under this Agreement, including gross receipts tax and expenses, shall not exceed (AMOUNT).**

B. **Payment.** The total compensation under this Agreement shall not exceed [Insert Dollar

Amount] [CHOICE #1- excluding New Mexico gross receipts tax. **PLEASE NOTE NO PROPERTY TAX WILL BE PAID TO THE CONTRACTOR BY THE STATE. CHOICE #2 - including New Mexico gross receipts tax.] This amount is a maximum and not a guarantee that the work assigned to be performed by Contractor under this Agreement shall equal the amount stated herein. The Parties do not intend for the Contractor to continue to provide Services without compensation when the total compensation amount is reached. Contractor is responsible for notifying the Procuring Agency when the Services provided under this Agreement reach the total compensation amount. In no event will the Contractor be paid for Services provided in excess of the total compensation amount without this Agreement being amended in writing prior to services, in excess of the total compensation amount being provided.**

Payment shall be made upon Acceptance of each Deliverable and upon the receipt and Acceptance of a detailed, certified Payment Invoice. Payment will be made to the Contractor's designated mailing address. In accordance with Section 13-1-158 NMSA 1978, payment shall be tendered to the Contractor within thirty (30) days of the date of written certification of Acceptance. All Payment Invoices **MUST BE** received by the Procuring Agency no later than fifteen (15) days after the termination of this Agreement. Payment Invoices received after such date **WILL NOT BE PAID.**

C. **Taxes.** [CHOICE #1- Use if Agreement is between two public entities -] Not Applicable as the Agreement is between two public entities.

[CHOICE #2 -] The Contractor shall be reimbursed by the Procuring Agency for

applicable New Mexico gross receipts taxes, excluding interest or penalties assessed on the Contractor by any authority. **PLEASE NOTE NO PROPERTY TAX WILL BE PAID TO THE CONTRACTOR BY THE STATE.** The payment of taxes for any money received under this Agreement shall be the Contractor's sole responsibility and should be reported under the Contractor's Federal and State tax identification number(s).

Contractor and any and all subcontractors shall pay all Federal, state and local taxes applicable to its operation and any persons employed by the Contractor. Contractor shall require all subcontractors to hold the Procuring Agency harmless from any responsibility for taxes, damages and interest, if applicable, contributions required under Federal and/or state and local laws and regulations and any other costs, including transaction privilege taxes, unemployment compensation insurance, Social Security and Worker's Compensation.

D. Retainage. [**CHOICE #1 -**] The Procuring Agency shall retain [INSERT percentage which is recommended at - twenty percent (20%)] of the fixed-price Deliverable cost for each Deliverable that is the subject of this Agreement as security for full performance of this Agreement. All amounts retained shall be released to the Contractor upon Acceptance of the final Deliverable. [**CHOICE #2 -**] Not Applicable – The Parties agree there is no retainage.

E. Performance Bond. [**CHOICE #1-** If the amount of the Agreement exceeds \$1Million OR, if the Agreement is for custom developed software/application, OR Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) software with greater than 20% Enhancement, OR for any other critical project execution concerns, use the following language.] Contractor shall execute and deliver to Procuring Agency, contemporaneously with the execution of this Agreement, a Performance Bond in the amount of [**Insert Total Amount** of agreed upon Performance Bond] in the name of the Procuring Agency. The Performance Bond shall be in effect for the duration of this Agreement and any renewals thereof. The required Performance Bond shall be conditioned upon and for the full performance, Acceptance and actual fulfillment of each and every Deliverable, term, condition, provision, and obligation of the Contractor arising under this Agreement. The Procuring Agency's right to recover from the Performance Bond shall include all costs and damages associated with the transfer of Services provided under this Agreement to another Contractor or to the State of New Mexico as a result of Contractor's failure to perform.

[**CHOICE #2 -**] Not Applicable. The Parties agree there is no Performance Bond.

4. **Term.**

THIS AGREEMENT SHALL NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL APPROVED BY THE FINAL REQUIRED SIGNATORY. This Agreement shall begin on the date approved by the Final Required Signatory and shall end on (**DATE**) unless terminated pursuant to this Agreement's Termination Clause or Appropriations Clause. The Procuring Agency reserves the right to renew the Agreement through a written amendment signed by all required signatories and in accordance with the term of the request for proposals, if this contract was based on a request for proposals.

5. **Termination**

A. Grounds. The Procuring Agency may terminate this Agreement for convenience or cause. The Contractor may only terminate this Agreement based upon the Procuring Agency's uncured, material breach of this Agreement.

B. Notice; Procuring Agency Opportunity to Cure.

1. Except as otherwise provided in sub-paragraph A of this Clause and the Appropriations Clause of this Agreement, the Procuring Agency shall give Contractor written notice of termination at least thirty (30) days prior to the intended date of termination.

2. Contractor shall give Procuring Agency written notice of termination at least thirty (30) days prior to the intended date of termination, which notice shall (i) identify all the Procuring Agency's material breaches of this Agreement upon which the termination is based and (ii) state what the Procuring Agency must do to cure such material breaches. Contractor's notice of termination shall only be effective (i) if the Procuring Agency does not cure all material breaches within the thirty (30) day notice period or (ii) in the case of material breaches that cannot be cured within thirty (30) days, the Procuring Agency does not, within the thirty (30) day notice period, notify the Contractor of its intent to cure and begin with due diligence to cure the material breach.

3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Agreement may be terminated immediately upon written notice to the Contractor (i) if the Contractor becomes unable to perform the services contracted for, as determined by the Procuring Agency; (ii) if, during the term of this Agreement, the Contractor is suspended or debarred by the State Purchasing Agent; or (iii) the Agreement is terminated pursuant to the Appropriations Clause of this Agreement.

C. Liability. Except as otherwise expressly allowed or provided under this Agreement, the Procuring Agency's sole liability upon termination shall be to pay for acceptable work performed prior to the Contractor's receipt or issuance of a notice of termination; provided, however, that a notice of termination shall not nullify or otherwise affect either party's liability for pre-termination defaults under or breaches of this Agreement. The Contractor shall submit an invoice for such work within thirty (30) days of receiving or sending the notice of termination. *THIS PROVISION IS NOT EXCLUSIVE AND DOES NOT WAIVE THE PROCURING AGENCY'S OTHER LEGAL RIGHTS AND REMEDIES CAUSED BY THE CONTRACTOR'S DEFAULT/BREACH OF THIS AGREEMENT.*

6. Appropriations.

The terms of this Agreement are contingent upon sufficient appropriations and authorization being made by the Legislature of New Mexico for the performance of this Agreement. If sufficient appropriations and authorization are not made by the Legislature, this Agreement shall terminate immediately upon written notice being given by the Procuring Agency to the Contractor. The Procuring Agency's decision as to whether sufficient appropriations are available shall be accepted by the Contractor and shall be final. If the Procuring Agency proposes an amendment to the Agreement to unilaterally reduce funding, the Contractor shall have the option to terminate the Agreement or to agree to the reduced funding, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the proposed amendment.

7. **Status of Contractor.**

The Contractor and its agents and employees are independent contractors performing professional or general services for the Procuring Agency and are not employees of the State of New Mexico. The Contractor and its agents and employees shall not accrue leave, retirement, insurance, bonding, use of state vehicles, or any other benefits afforded to employees of the State of New Mexico as a result of this Agreement. The Contractor acknowledges that all sums received hereunder are reportable by the Contractor for tax purposes, including without limitation, self-employment and business income tax. The Contractor agrees not to purport to bind the State of New Mexico unless the Contractor has express written authority to do so, and then only within the strict limits of that authority.

8. **Conflict of Interest; Governmental Conduct Act.**

A. The Contractor represents and warrants that it presently has no interest and, during the term of this Agreement, shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance or services required under the Agreement.

B. The Contractor further represents and warrants that it has complied with, and, during the term of this Agreement, will continue to comply with, and that this Agreement complies with all applicable provisions of the Governmental Conduct Act, Chapter 10, Article 16 NMSA 1978. Without in any way limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Contractor specifically represents and warrants that:

1) in accordance with NMSA 1978, § 10-16-4.3, the Contractor does not employ, has not employed, and will not employ during the term of this Agreement any Procuring Agency employee while such employee was or is employed by the Procuring Agency and participating directly or indirectly in the Procuring Agency's contracting process;

2) this Agreement complies with NMSA 1978, § 10-16-7(A) because (i) the Contractor is not a public officer or employee of the State; (ii) the Contractor is not a member of the family of a public officer or employee of the State; (iii) the Contractor is not a business in which a public officer or employee or the family of a public officer or employee has a substantial interest; or (iv) if the Contractor is a public officer or employee of the State, a member of the family of a public officer or employee of the State, or a business in which a public officer or employee of the State or the family of a public officer or employee of the State has a substantial interest, public notice was given as required by NMSA 1978, § 10-16-7(A) and this Agreement was awarded pursuant to a competitive process;

3) in accordance with NMSA 1978, § 10-16-8(A), (i) the Contractor is not, and has not been represented by, a person who has been a public officer or employee of the State within the preceding year and whose official act directly resulted in this Agreement and (ii) the Contractor is not, and has not been assisted in any way regarding this transaction by, a former public officer or employee of the State whose official act, while in State employment, directly resulted in the Procuring Agency's making this Agreement;

4) this Agreement complies with NMSA 1978, § 10-16-9(A) because (i) the Contractor is not a legislator; (ii) the Contractor is not a member of a legislator's family; (iii) the Contractor is not a business in which a legislator or a legislator's family has a substantial

interest; or (iv) if the Contractor is a legislator, a member of a legislator's family, or a business in which a legislator or a legislator's family has a substantial interest, disclosure has been made as required by NMSA 1978, § 10-16-7(A), this Agreement is not a sole source or small purchase contract, and this Agreement was awarded in accordance with the provisions of the Procurement Code;

5) in accordance with NMSA 1978, § 10-16-13, the Contractor has not directly participated in the preparation of specifications, qualifications or evaluation criteria for this Agreement or any procurement related to this Agreement; and

6) in accordance with NMSA 1978, § 10-16-3 and § 10-16-13.3, the Contractor has not contributed, and during the term of this Agreement shall not contribute, anything of value to a public officer or employee of the Procuring Agency.

C. Contractor's representations and warranties in paragraphs A and B of this Clause are material representations of fact upon which the Procuring Agency relied when this Agreement was entered into by the parties. Contractor shall provide immediate written notice to the Procuring Agency if, at any time during the term of this Agreement, Contractor learns that Contractor's representations and warranties in paragraphs A and B of this Clause were erroneous on the effective date of this Agreement or have become erroneous by reason of new or changed circumstances. If it is later determined that Contractor's representations and warranties in paragraphs A and B of this Clause were erroneous on the effective date of this Agreement or have become erroneous by reason of new or changed circumstances, in addition to other remedies available to the Procuring Agency and notwithstanding anything in the Agreement to the contrary, the Procuring Agency may immediately terminate the Agreement.

D. All terms defined in the Governmental Conduct Act have the same meaning in this Agreement.

9. **Amendment.**

A. This Agreement shall not be altered, changed or amended except by instrument in writing executed by the parties hereto and all other required signatories.

B. If the Procuring Agency proposes an amendment to the Agreement to unilaterally reduce funding due to budget or other considerations, the Contractor shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the proposed Amendment, have the option to terminate the Agreement, pursuant to the termination provisions as set forth in the Terminations Clause of this Agreement, or to agree to the reduced funding.

10. **Merger.**

This Agreement incorporates all the Agreements, covenants and understandings between the parties hereto concerning the subject matter hereof, and all such covenants, Agreements and understandings have been merged into this written Agreement. No prior Agreement or understanding, oral or otherwise, of the parties or their agents shall be valid or enforceable unless embodied in this Agreement.

11. **Penalties for violation of law.**

The Procurement Code, NMSA 1978 §§ 13-1-28 through 13-1-199, imposes civil and criminal penalties for violation of the statute. In addition, the New Mexico criminal statutes impose felony penalties for illegal acts, including bribes, gratuities and kickbacks.

12. **Equal Opportunity Compliance.**

The Contractor agrees to abide by all federal and state laws and rules and regulations, and executive orders of the Governor of the State of New Mexico, pertaining to equal employment opportunity. In accordance with all such laws of the State of New Mexico, the Contractor assures that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental handicap, or serious medical condition, spousal affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identity, be excluded from employment with or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity performed under this Agreement. If Contractor is found not to be in compliance with these requirements during the life of this Agreement, Contractor agrees to take appropriate steps to correct these deficiencies.

13. **Workers Compensation.**

The Contractor agrees to comply with state laws and rules applicable to workers compensation benefits for its employees. If the Contractor fails to comply with the Workers Compensation Act and applicable rules when required to do so, this Agreement may be terminated by the Procuring Agency.

14. **Applicable Law.**

The laws of the State of New Mexico shall govern this Agreement, without giving effect to its choice of law provisions. Venue shall be proper only in a New Mexico court of competent jurisdiction in accordance with NMSA 1978, § 38-3-1 (G). By execution of this Agreement, Contractor acknowledges and agrees to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of New Mexico over any and all lawsuits arising under or out of any term of this Agreement.

15. **Records and Financial Audit.**

The Contractor shall maintain detailed time and expenditure records that indicate the date, time, nature and cost of services rendered during the Agreement's term and effect and retain them for a period of three (3) years from the date of final payment under this Agreement. The records shall be subject to inspection by the Procuring Agency, the Department of Finance and Administration and the State Auditor. The Procuring Agency shall have the right to audit billings both before and after payment. Payment under this Agreement shall not foreclose the right of the Procuring Agency to recover excessive or illegal payments

16. **Invalid Term or Condition.**

If any term or condition of this Agreement shall be held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected and shall be valid and enforceable.

17. **Enforcement of Agreement**

A party's failure to require strict performance of any provision of this Agreement shall not waive or diminish that party's right thereafter to demand strict compliance with that or any other provision. No waiver by a party of any of its rights under this Agreement shall be effective unless express and in writing, and no effective waiver by a party of any of its rights shall be effective to waive any other rights.

18. **Non-Collusion**

In signing this Agreement, the Contractor certifies the Contractor has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with this offer submitted to the State Purchasing Agent or agency or entity.

19. **Notices.**

Any notice required to be given to either party by this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered in person, by courier service or by U.S. mail, either first class or certified, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, as follows:

To the Procuring Agency:

[insert name, address and email].

To the Contractor:

[insert name, address and email].

20. **Succession**

This Agreement shall extend to and be binding upon the successors and assigns of the parties.

21. **Headings**

Any and all headings herein are inserted only for convenience and ease of reference and are not to be considered in the construction or interpretation of any provision of this Agreement. Numbered or lettered provisions, sections and subsections contained herein, refer only to provisions, sections and subsections of this Agreement unless otherwise expressly stated.

22. **Default/Breach.**

In case of Default and/or Breach by the Contractor, for any reason whatsoever, the Procuring Agency and the State of New Mexico may procure the goods or Services from another source and hold the Contractor responsible for any resulting excess costs and/or damages, including but not limited to, direct damages, indirect damages, consequential damages, special damages and the Procuring Agency and the State of New Mexico may also seek all other remedies under the terms of this Agreement and under law or equity.

23. **Equitable Remedies.**

Contractor acknowledges that its failure to comply with any provision of this Agreement will cause the Procuring Agency irreparable harm and that a remedy at law for such a failure would be an inadequate remedy for the Procuring Agency, and the Contractor consents to the Procuring Agency's obtaining from a court of competent jurisdiction, specific performance, or injunction, or any other equitable relief in order to enforce such compliance. Procuring Agency's rights to obtain equitable relief pursuant to this Agreement shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedy that Procuring Agency may have under applicable law, including, but not limited to, monetary damages.

24. **New Mexico Employees Health Coverage.**

A. If Contractor has, or grows to, six (6) or more employees who work, or who are expected to work, an average of at least 20 hours per week over a six (6) month period during the term of this Agreement, Contractor certifies, by signing this agreement, to have in place, and agree to maintain for the term of the Agreement, health insurance for those employees and offer that health insurance to those employees if the expected annual value in the aggregate of any and all contracts between Contractor and the State exceed \$250,000 dollars.

B. Contractor agrees to maintain a record of the number of employees who have (a) accepted health insurance; (b) declined health insurance due to other health insurance coverage already in place; or (c) declined health insurance for other reasons. These records are subject to review and audit by a representative of the state.

C. Contractor agrees to advise all employees of the availability of State publicly financed health care coverage programs by providing each employee with, as a minimum, the following web site link to additional information: <https://bewellnm.com>.

25. **Indemnification.**

The Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Procuring Agency and the State of New Mexico from all actions, proceedings, claims, demands, costs, damages, attorneys' fees and all other liabilities and expenses of any kind from any source which may arise out of the performance of this Agreement, caused by the negligent act or failure to act of the Contractor, its officers, employees, servants, subcontractors or agents, resulting in injury or damage to persons or property during the time when the Contractor or any officer, agent, employee, servant or

subcontractor thereof has or is performing services pursuant to this Agreement. In the event that any action, suit or proceeding related to the services performed by the Contractor or any officer, agent, employee, servant or subcontractor under this Agreement is brought against the Contractor, the Contractor shall, as soon as practicable but no later than two (2) days after it receives notice thereof, notify the legal counsel of the Procuring Agency and the Risk Management Division of the New Mexico General Services Department by certified mail.

26. **Default and Force Majeure.**

The State reserves the right to cancel all, or any part of any orders placed under this Agreement without cost to the State, if the Contractor fails to meet the provisions of this Agreement and, except as otherwise provided herein, to hold the Contractor liable for any excess cost occasioned by the State due to the Contractor's default. The Contractor shall not be liable for any excess costs if failure to perform the order arises out of causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor; such causes include, but are not restricted to, acts of God or the public enemy, acts of the State or Federal Government, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes, unusually severe weather and defaults of subcontractors due to any of the above, unless the State shall determine that the supplies or services to be furnished by the subcontractor were obtainable from other sources in sufficient time to permit the Contractor to meet the required delivery scheduled. The rights and remedies of the State provided in this Clause shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights now being provided by law or under this Agreement.

27. **Assignment.**

The Contractor shall not assign or transfer any interest in this Agreement or assign any claims for money due or to become due under this Agreement without the prior written approval of the Procuring Agency.

28. **Subcontracting.**

The Contractor shall not subcontract any portion of the services to be performed under this Agreement without the prior written approval of the Procuring Agency. No such subcontract shall relieve the primary Contractor from its obligations and liabilities under this Agreement, nor shall any subcontract obligate direct payment from the Procuring Agency.

29. **Inspection of Plant.**

The State Purchasing Agent or agency or entity that is a party to this Agreement may inspect, at any reasonable time during Contractor's regular business hours and upon prior written notice, the Contractor's plant or place of business, or any subcontractor's plant or place of business, which is related to the performance of this Agreement.

30. **Commercial Warranty.**

The Contractor agrees that the tangible personal property or services furnished under this Agreement shall be covered by the most favorable commercial warranties the Contractor gives to any customer for such tangible personal property or services, and that the rights and remedies provided herein shall extend to the State and are in addition to and do not limit any rights afforded to the State by any other Clause of this Agreement or order. Contractor agrees not to disclaim warranties of fitness for a particular purpose or merchantability.

31. **Condition of Proposed Items.**

Where tangible personal property is a part of this Agreement, all proposed items are to be NEW and of most current production, unless otherwise specified.

32. **Release.**

Final payment of the amounts due under this Agreement shall operate as a release of the Procuring Agency, its officers and employees, and the State of New Mexico from all liabilities, claims and obligations whatsoever arising from or under this Agreement.

33. **Confidentiality.**

Any Confidential Information provided to the Contractor by the Procuring Agency or, developed by the Contractor based on information provided by the Procuring Agency in the performance of this Agreement shall be kept confidential and shall not be made available to any individual or organization by the Contractor without the prior written approval of the Procuring Agency. Upon termination of this Agreement, Contractor shall deliver all Confidential Information in its possession to the Procuring Agency within thirty (30) Business Days of such termination. Contractor acknowledges that failure to deliver such Confidential Information to the Procuring Agency will result in direct, special, and incidental damages.

34. **Contractor Personnel.**

A. **Key Personnel.** Contractor's key personnel shall not be diverted from this Agreement without the prior written approval of the Procuring Agency. Key personnel are those individuals considered by the Procuring Agency to be mandatory to the work to be performed under this Agreement. Key personnel shall be:

[Insert Contractor Staff Name(s)]

B. **Personnel Changes.** Replacement of any personnel shall be made with personnel of equal ability, experience, and qualification and shall be approved by the Procuring Agency. For all personnel, the Procuring Agency reserves the right to require submission of their resumes prior to approval. If the number of Contractor's personnel assigned to the Project is reduced for any reason, Contractor shall, within ten (10) Business Days of the reduction, replace with the same or greater number of personnel with equal ability, experience, and qualifications, subject to Procuring Agency approval. The Procuring Agency, in its sole discretion, may approve additional time beyond the ten (10) Business Days for replacement

of personnel. The Contractor shall include status reports of its efforts and progress in finding replacements and the effect of the absence of the personnel on the progress of the Project. The Contractor shall also make interim arrangements to assure that the Project progress is not affected by the loss of personnel. The Procuring Agency reserves the right to require a change in Contractor's personnel if the assigned personnel are not, in the sole opinion of the Procuring Agency, meeting the Procuring Agency's expectations.

35. **Incorporation by Reference and Precedence.**

If this Agreement has been procured pursuant to a request for proposals, this Agreement is derived from (1) the request for proposal, (including any written clarifications to the request for proposals and any agency response to questions); (2) the Contractor's best and final offer; and (3) the Contractor's response to the request for proposals.

In the event of a dispute under this Agreement, applicable documents will be referred to for the purpose of clarification or for additional detail in the following order of precedence: (1) amendments to the Agreement in reverse chronological order; (2) the Agreement, including the scope of work and all terms and conditions thereof; (3) the request for proposals, including attachments thereto and written responses to questions and written clarifications; (4) the Contractor's best and final offer if such has been made and accepted by the SPA or Procuring Agency or entity; and (5) the Contractor's response to the request for proposals.

36. **Inspection.**

If this Agreement is for the purchase of tangible personal property (goods), final inspection and acceptance shall be made at Destination. Tangible personal property rejected at Destination for non-conformance to specifications shall be removed at Contractor's risk and expense promptly after notice of rejection and shall not be allowable as billable items for payment.

37. **Inspection of Services.**

If this Agreement is for the purchase of services, the following terms shall apply.

A. Services, as used in this Clause, include services performed, workmanship, and material furnished or utilized in the performance of services.

B. The Contractor shall provide and maintain an inspection system acceptable to the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement covering the services under this Agreement. Complete records of all inspection work performed by the Contractor shall be maintained and made available to the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement during the term of performance of this Agreement and for as long thereafter as the Agreement requires.

C. The State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement has the right to inspect and test all services contemplated under this Agreement to the extent practicable at all times and places during the term of the Agreement. The State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement shall perform inspections and tests in a manner that will not unduly delay or interfere with Contractor's performance.

D. If the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement performs inspections or tests on the premises of the Contractor or a subcontractor, the Contractor shall furnish, and shall require subcontractors to furnish, at no increase in Agreement price, all reasonable facilities and assistance for the safe and convenient performance of such inspections or tests.

E. If any part of the services do not conform with the requirements of this Agreement, the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement may require the Contractor to re-perform the services in conformity with the requirements of this Agreement at no increase in Agreement amount. When the defects in services cannot be corrected by re-performance, the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement may:

(1) require the Contractor to take necessary action(s) to ensure that future performance conforms to the requirements of this Agreement; and

(2) reduce the Agreement price to reflect the reduced value of the services performed.

F. If the Contractor fails to promptly re-perform the services or to take the necessary action(s) to ensure future performance in conformity with the requirements of this Agreement, the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement may:

(1) by Agreement or otherwise, perform the services and charge to the Contractor any cost incurred by the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement that is directly related to the performance of such service; or

(2) terminate the Agreement for default.

THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CLAUSE ARE NOT EXCLUSIVE AND DO NOT WAIVE THE STATE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT OTHER LEGAL RIGHTS AND REMEDIES CAUSED BY THE CONTRACTOR'S DEFAULT/BREACH OF THIS AGREEMENT.

38. **Insurance.**

If the services contemplated under this Agreement will be performed on or in State facilities or property, Contractor shall maintain in force during the entire term of this Agreement, the following insurance coverage(s), naming the State of New Mexico, General Services Department, or other party to this Agreement as additional insured.

A. Workers Compensation (including accident and disease coverage) at the statutory limit. Employers' liability: \$100,000.

B. Comprehensive general liability (including endorsements providing broad form property damage, personal injury coverage and contractual assumption of liability for all liability the Contractor has assumed under this Agreement). Limits shall not be less than the following:

a. Bodily injury: \$1,000,000 per person /\$1,000,000 per occurrence.

b. Property damage or combined single limit coverage: \$1,000,000.

c. Automobile liability (including non-owned automobile coverage): \$1,000,000.

d. Umbrella: \$1,000,000.

C. Contractor shall maintain the above insurance for the term of this Agreement and name the State of New Mexico, General Services Department or other party to this Agreement as an additional insured and provide for 30 days cancellation notice on any Certificate of Insurance form furnished by Contractor. Such certificate shall also specifically state the

coverage provided under the policy is primary over any other valid and collectible insurance and provide a waiver of subrogation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereby execute this Agreement, which will take effect on the last signature date of the required approval authorities below. Each of the signatories, below, may execute this Agreement by hard copy original, facsimile, digital or electronic signature, any of which shall be deemed to be a true and original signature hereunder.

By: _____ Date: _____
[Insert Procuring Agency Cabinet Secretary Name], Cabinet Secretary
[Insert Agency Name]

By: _____ Date: _____
[Insert Contractor Name, Title]
[Company Name]

Approved for legal sufficiency:

By: _____ Date: _____
[Insert Procuring Agency General Counsel Name], General Counsel
[Insert Procuring Agency Name]

APPENDIX D

COST RESPONSE FORM

Provide your fee proposal for the subject services on an annual basis for each of the four years that any professional services agreement entered into by PERA may be in effect. The fee proposal shall include all charges whatsoever that the Contractor intends to charge PERA for providing the services specified in the Scope of Work, including New Mexico gross receipts taxes and other taxes, research, travel, and incidental and out-of-pocket expenses of any kind. PERA shall not pay amounts that are not included in the fee proposal.

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
Composite Hourly rate – 12 months (500- 1000 hours)				
Out-of-Pocket Expenses, including Travel				
Other Expenses (specify)				
Subtotal				
Gross Receipts Tax (specify applicable rate)				
Total Fee				

Name of Offeror

Authorized Signature/Title

Date

APPENDIX E

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL FORM

APPENDIX E

Letter of Transmittal Form

**ITEMS #1 to #4 EACH MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL (pursuant to Section II.C.30).
FAILURE TO RESPOND TO ALL FOUR (4) ITEMS WILL RESULT IN THE
DISQUALIFICATION OF OFFEROR'S PROPOSAL! DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEM BLANK!
(N/A, None, Does not apply, etc. are acceptable responses.)**

RFP#: 36600-2022-00004

1. Identify the following information for the submitting organization:

Offeror Name	
Mailing Address	
Telephone	
FED ID#	
NM CRS#	

2. Identify the individual(s) authorized by the organization to (A) contractually obligate, (B) negotiate, and/or (C) clarify/respond to queries on behalf of this Offeror:

	A Contractually Obligate	B Negotiate*	C Clarify/Respond to Queries*
Name			
Title			
E-mail			
Telephone			

* If the individual identified in Column A also performs the functions identified in Columns B & C, then no response is required for those Columns. If separate individuals perform the functions in Columns B and/or C, they must be identified.

3. Use of subcontractors (Select one):

- No subcontractors will be used in the performance of any resultant contract, OR
 The following subcontractors will be used in the performance of any resultant contract:

 (Attach extra sheets, as needed)

4. Describe any relationship with any entity (such as a State Agency, reseller, etc. that is not a subcontractors listed in #3 above), if any, which will be used in the performance of any resultant contract. (N/A, None, Does not apply, etc. are acceptable responses to this item.)

 (Attach extra sheets, as needed)

By signing the form below, the Authorized Signatory attests to the accuracy and veracity of the information provided on this form, and explicitly acknowledges the following:

- On behalf of the submitting-organization identified in item #1, above, I accept the Conditions Governing the Procurement, as required in Section II.C.1. of this RFP;
- I concur that submission of our proposal constitutes acceptance of the Evaluation Factors contained in Section V of this RFP; and
- I acknowledge receipt of any and all amendments to this RFP, if any.

_____, 20____

Authorized Signature and Date (*Must be signed by the individual identified in item #2.A, above.*)

APPENDIX F

ORGANIZATIONAL REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

The State of New Mexico, as a part of the RFP process, requires Offerors to list a minimum of three (3) organizational references in their proposals. The purpose of these references is to document Offeror's experience relevant to the Section IV.A, Detailed Scope of Work in an effort to evaluate Offeror's ability to provide goods and/or services, performance under similar contracts, and ability to provide knowledgeable and experienced staffing.

Offeror is required to send the following Organizational Reference Questionnaire to each business reference listed in its proposal, as per Section IV.B.2. The business reference, if it chooses to respond, is required to submit its response to the Organizational Reference Questionnaire directly to: Anna Williams @ anna.williams@state.nm.us by March 28, 2022 3:00 pm MST/MDT for inclusion in the evaluation process. The Questionnaire and information provided will become a part of the submitted proposal. Businesses/Organizations providing references may be contacted for validation of content provided therein.

RFP # 366-2022-00004
ORGANIZATIONAL REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR:

(Name of Offeror)

This form is being submitted to your company for completion as a reference for the organization listed above. This Questionnaire is to be submitted to the State of New Mexico, PERA via e-mail at:

Name: Anna Williams
Email: annae.williams@state.nm.us

Forms must be submitted no later than March 28, 3:00 pm, and **must not** be returned to the organization requesting the reference. References are **strongly encouraged** to provide comments in response to organizational ratings.

For questions or concerns regarding this form, please contact the PERA **Procurement Manager** 505-259-8489 & annae.williams@state.nm.us. When contacting the Procurement Manager, include the Request for Proposal number provided at the top of this page.

Organization providing reference	
Contact name and title/position	
Contact telephone number(s)	
Contact e-mail address	
Project description	
Project dates (start and end dates)	

QUESTIONS:

1. In what capacity have you worked with this vendor in the past?

COMMENTS:

2. How would you rate this firm's knowledge and expertise?

____ (3 = Excellent; 2 = Satisfactory; 1 = Unsatisfactory; 0 = Unacceptable)

COMMENTS:

3. How would you rate the vendor's flexibility relative to changes in the project scope and timelines?

____ (3 = Excellent; 2 = Satisfactory; 1 = Unsatisfactory; 0 = Unacceptable)

COMMENTS:

4. What is your level of satisfaction with hard-copy materials produced by the vendor?

____ (3 = Excellent; 2 = Satisfactory; 1 = Unsatisfactory; 0 = Unacceptable, N/A = Not applicable)

COMMENTS:

5. How would you rate the dynamics/interaction between vendor personnel and your staff?

_____ (3 = Excellent; 2 = Satisfactory; 1 = Unsatisfactory; 0 = Unacceptable)

COMMENTS:

6. Who are/were the vendor's principal representatives involved in your project and how would you rate them individually? Would you, please, comment on the skills, knowledge, behaviors or other factors on which you based the rating?

_____ (3 = Excellent; 2 = Satisfactory; 1 = Unsatisfactory; 0 = Unacceptable)

Name: _____ Rating: _____

Name: _____ Rating: _____

Name: _____ Rating: _____

Name: _____ Rating: _____

COMMENTS:

7. How satisfied are/were you with the products developed by the vendor?

_____ (3 = Excellent; 2 = Satisfactory; 1 = Unsatisfactory; 0 = Unacceptable, N/A = Not applicable)

COMMENTS:

8. With which aspect(s) of this vendor's services are/were you most satisfied?

COMMENTS:

9. With which aspect(s) of this vendor's services are you most and least satisfied?

COMMENTS:

10. Would you recommend this vendor's services to your organization again?

COMMENTS: