



## **Request for Proposals for Rural Certified Assister Partners**

**RFP #2023.008**

RFP Release Date: May 12, 2023

Proposals Due: June 12, 2023

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# **I. INTRODUCTION**

## **A. PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit sealed proposals to establish one or more contracts through competitive negotiations for the procurement of Rural Certified Assister Partners. For purposes of this procurement, a rural service area is defined as a county with a population of less than 75,000 people, based on New Mexico Census Bureau data.

## **B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange (NMHIX), also known as beWellnm or the Exchange, is New Mexico's health insurance marketplace. The Exchange was created in 2013 with the enactment of SB 221, the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange Act (the "Act"), NMSA 1978, § 59A-23F. The Act established NMHIX as a non-profit public corporation. NMHIX's mission is to promote efforts to educate and enroll New Mexicans in affordable health insurance coverage that promotes better access to timely, high quality health care. Its vision is to achieve a healthier New Mexico through access to affordable health insurance. NMHIX is governed by a 13-member board of directors. NMHIX recently concluded its tenth Open Enrollment Period, which began on November 1, 2022 and ended on January 15, 2023. More information about NMHIX is available online at <http://www.beWellnm.com>

To assist consumers in accessing health coverage offered through Exchanges (sometimes referred to as "Marketplaces"), the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires Exchanges, among other things, to conduct public education and establish consumer support programs. Certified Assister Partners serve as a trusted resource and play a critical role in educating New Mexico consumers about health coverage options and financial assistance available through the New Mexico Exchange.

Responsibilities of Certified Assister Partners include:

1. Conduct outreach, awareness and enrollment activities about the Exchange and the full range of health insurance coverage options.
2. Maintain expertise in eligibility, enrollment and program specifications.
3. Provide information and services in a fair, accurate and impartial manner.
4. Facilitate a consumer's selection of a Qualified Health Plan (QHP).
5. Provide assistance to consumers applying for premium subsidies and cost-sharing.
6. Provide information to help consumers understand how to use their insurance benefits and access the health care system. This includes follow-up services and ongoing support to help people understand how to report changes and retain coverage over time.

7. Provide all information and services in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate and ensures accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
8. Enter all consumer information related to application and enrollment through the NMHIX eligibility and enrollment platform, following security standards established by NMHIX.

Certified Assister Partners help to ensure that consumers have positive and successful experiences as they complete Exchange eligibility and enrollment activities. They assist consumers who request support and also reach out to offer services to vulnerable and hard-to-reach consumers who may have experienced barriers to health care coverage in the past.

**Please note:** The selected contractor(s) may not (1) be a health insurance issuer, a subsidiary of a health insurance issuer, an insurance agent or broker, or an individual not associated with an assister organization; (2) be an association that includes members of or lobbies on behalf of the insurance industry; (3) be an office of the Human Services Department (HSD), the Income Service Division (ISD), or other state agency; or (4) receive any consideration directly or indirectly from a health insurance issuer in connection with the enrollment of individuals in a QHP or non-QHP.

### **C. SCOPE OF PROCUREMENT**

The purpose of this RFP is to select Certified Assister Partners that will assist with outreach and enrollment activities, including in-person assistance, for consumers who reside in counties with a population of 75,000 or fewer based on [New Mexico Census Bureau data](#), and who are traditionally underserved and/or underinsured. This may include populations that may not be considered vulnerable or at risk, but who are likely to need in-person assistance to learn about new health coverage options available through the Exchange and enroll in coverage.

NMHIX seeks innovative and population-specific outreach strategies with the goals of ongoing (year-round) engagement and education among New Mexico's rural communities, as well as the facilitation of enrollments among these populations. NMHIX also welcomes proposals that leverage a partner's existing infrastructure, network, association membership or other resources to reach a target population and facilitate enrollment in health insurance coverage through the Exchange. Computers and other equipment required to enroll consumers through NMHIX's eligibility and enrollment platform will not be provided by NMHIX. See Section IV(B) for a detailed description of desired credentials and experience.

NMHIX expects to award multiple contracts as a result of this RFP. Contracts resulting from this RFP will be for a term of seventeen (17) months, through December 31, 2024. The anticipated contract term start date is August 1, 2023. Contracts may, however, be renewed in accordance with the New Mexico Procurement Code. Contractual agreements resulting from this RFP will be

between two parties and may be used only by those two parties exclusively. Subcontracts are not allowed.

#### **D. PROCUREMENT MANAGER**

NMHIX has assigned a Procurement Manager who is responsible for the conduct of this procurement whose name, address, telephone number and email address are listed below:

Name: Aryn Fitzwater, Procurement Manager  
Address: 7601 Jefferson Street NE, Suite #120, Albuquerque, NM 87109  
Telephone: (505) 314-5215  
Email: [Proposals@nmhix.com](mailto:Proposals@nmhix.com)

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 employees or Evaluation Committee members do not have the authority to respond on behalf of NMHIX.
2. **Protests of the solicitation or award must be submitted in writing to the Protest Manager identified in Section II.B.12.** As a Protest Manager has been named in this RFP, 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 RFP.** Protests submitted or delivered to the Procurement Manager will **NOT** be considered properly submitted.

#### **E. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Proposals should be submitted via email to [Proposals@nmhix.com](mailto:Proposals@nmhix.com). Hard copies of proposals are NOT required.

Although discouraged by NMHIX, if necessary, proposals may be submitted by hard copy to the Procurement Manager at 7601 Jefferson St. NE, Ste. 120, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

#### **F. DEFINITION OF TERMINOLOGY**

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

1. “**Affordable Care Act**” is the name for the comprehensive health care reform law and its amendments. The law addresses health insurance coverage, health care costs, and preventive care. The law was enacted in two parts: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was signed into law on March 23, 2010 and was amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act on March 30, 2010. The Affordable Care Act created the Individual Market and SHOP insurance programs.
2. “**Agency**” is the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange
3. “**Assisters**” are individuals or organizations that are trained and able to provide one-on-one in-person assistance to help to consumers understand health insurance program options available through the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange, complete an application and facilitate the selection of an insurance plan or program for enrollment purposes. Assisters includes Certified Enrollment Counselors (sometimes called Certified Application Counselors), Navigators, and non-Navigator assistance personnel. These individuals and organizations are required to be unbiased. Their services are free to consumers.
4. “**Award**” means the final execution of the contract document.
5. “**beWellnm**” is the brand name that the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange uses.
6. “**Business Hours**” means 8:00 AM thru 5:00 PM MST/MDT, whichever is in effect on the date given.
7. “**Close of Business**” means 5:00 PM Mountain Standard or Daylight Time, whichever is in use at that time.
8. “**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.
9. “**Contract**” means any agreement for the procurement of items of tangible personal property, services or construction.
10. “**Contractor**” means any business having a contract with NMHIX.
11. “**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.

12. “**Desirable**” – the terms “may,” “can,” “should,” “preferably,” or “prefers” identify a desirable or discretionary item or factor.
13. “**Evaluation Committee**” means a body appointed to perform the evaluation of Offerors’ proposals.
14. “**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.
15. “**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.
16. “**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.
17. “**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 applicable.
18. “**HSD**” means the New Mexico Human Services Department.
19. “**Individual Market**” means the market for health insurance coverage offered to individuals and families other than in connection with a group health plan, or other than coverage offered pursuant to a contract between the health insurance issuer with the Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program, or Basic Health programs.
20. “**IT**” means Information Technology.
21. “**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.
22. “**Minor Irregularities**” means anything in the proposal that does not affect the price, quality and/or quantity, or any other mandatory requirement.
23. “**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.
24. “**New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange**” is the Agency that administers the SHOP and the State-Based Exchange.
25. “**NMHIX**” is the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange.



26. **“Offeror”** is any person, corporation, or partnership who chooses to submit a proposal.
27. **“Price Agreement”** means a definite quantity contract or indefinite quantity contract which requires the contractor to furnish items of tangible personal property, services or construction to a state agency or a local public body which issues a purchase order, if the purchase order is within the quantity limitations of the contract, if any.
28. **“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.
29. **“Procuring Agency”**, for purposes of this procurement, means the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange.
30. **“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.
31. **Qualified Health Plan** is a major medical health insurance plan that covers all the mandatory benefits of the Affordable Care Act.
32. **“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.7 of this RFP) blacked-out BUT NOT omitted or removed.
33. **“Request for Proposals (RFP)”** means all documents, including those attached or incorporated by reference, used for soliciting proposals.
34. **“Responsible Offeror”** means the contractor/Offeror who submits a responsive proposal and who has furnished, when required, information and data to prove that production or service facilities, personnel, service reputation and experience are adequate to make satisfactory delivery of the services described in the proposal.
35. **“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.
36. **“Rural”** or “rural service area” for purposes of this procurement means a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer based on [New Mexico Census Bureau data](#).
37. **“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.

38. “**SPD**” means State Purchasing Division of the New Mexico State General Services Department.
39. “**Staff**” means any individual who is a full-time, part-time, or an independently contracted employee with the Offerors’ company.
40. “**State (the State)**” means the State of New Mexico.
41. **State-Based Exchange** means a State runs a State-based Marketplace and is responsible for performing all marketplace functions for the Individual Market. Consumers in these states apply for and enroll in coverage through marketplace websites established and maintained by the states.
42. “**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.)
43. “**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.

## **G. PROCUREMENT LIBRARY**

A procurement library has been established. Offerors are encouraged to review the material contained in the Procurement Library. The library contains the following information: Electronic copy of the RFP, questions and answers, RFP amendments, etc. Link to website:

<https://www.bewellnm.com/vendor-employment/>

## **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:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
1. Issue RFP	NMHIX	May 12, 2023
2. Acknowledgement of Receipt Form	Potential Offerors	May 22, 2023
1. Deadline to submit Questions	Potential Offerors	May 24, 2023
2. Response to Written Questions	Procurement Manager	May 29, 2023
<b>5. Submission of Proposal</b>	<b>Potential Offerors</b>	<b>June 12, 2023</b>
6.* Proposal Evaluation	Evaluation Committee	June 13 – June 16, 2023
7.* Selection of Finalists	Evaluation Committee	June 16, 2023
8.* Best and Final Offers	Finalist Offerors	Week of June 19, 2023
9.* Oral Presentation(s)	Finalist Offerors	Week of June 19, 2023
10.* Finalize Contractual Agreements	Agency/Finalist Offerors	Week of July 3, 2023
11.* Contract Awards	Agency/ Finalist Offerors	Week of July 3, 2023
12.* Protest Deadline	NMHIX	+15 days

\* Dates indicated in events 6 through 12 are estimates only and may be subject to change without necessitating an amendment to this RFP.

## B. EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

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

### 1. Issuance of RFP

This RFP is being issued on May 12, 2023.

### 2. Acknowledgment of Receipt

Potential Offerors must email the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form (APPENDIX A), to the Procurement Manager at [Proposals@nmhix.com](mailto:Proposals@nmhix.com) to have themselves or their organization placed on the procurement distribution list. The form must be returned to the Procurement Manager by 5:00 pm MST/MDT on the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events.

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 5:00 PM MST/MDT as indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events. All written questions must be addressed to the Procurement Manager identified 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. Questions should be emailed to [Proposals@nmhix.com](mailto:Proposals@nmhix.com).

### **4. Response to Written Questions**

Responses to the written questions will be provided via email, 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). An electronic version of the questions and answers will be posted to: <https://www.bewellnm.com/vendor-employment/>.

### **5. Submission of Proposals**

*Proposals must be submitted via email to the Procurement Manager at [Proposals@nmhix.com](mailto:Proposals@nmhix.com) with the subject line "Rural Certified Assister Partners RFP #2023.008."* Proposals submitted by facsimile will not be accepted.

Hard copies of proposals are NOT required and are discouraged. However, if necessary, proposals may be submitted by hard copy to the Procurement Manager at 7601 Jefferson St. NE, Ste. 120, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

ALL OFFEROR PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PROCUREMENT MANAGER OR DESIGNEE NO LATER THAN **5:00 PM** MST/MDT ON THE DATE INDICATED IN SECTION II.A, SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. **LATE PROPOSALS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.** The date and time of receipt will be recorded for each proposal. Such electronic submissions will be considered sealed in accordance with statute.

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 other potential Offerors during the negotiation process. The negotiation process is deemed to be in effect until the contract(s) are awarded pursuant to this RFP. "Awarded" in this context means the final required 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 during this time SHALL NOT be initiated by the Offerors.

## **7. Selection of Finalists**

If applicable, 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. NMHIX will select the finalists based upon the technical proposal scoring. The top scores may be asked to participate in a Best and Final Offer as described in Section III.9 and/or Oral Presentations as described in Section III.8.

Finalists will be comprised of Offerors receiving the highest cumulative scores in the Section IV.B, Organizational Experience and Mandatory Specifications.

## **8. Oral Presentations**

Finalist Offerors, as selected per Section II.B.7 above, may be required to conduct an oral presentation at a location to be determined as per schedule Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. Whether or not Oral Presentations will be held is at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee and the Procurement Manager.

## **9. 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.

## **10. Finalize Contractual Agreement(s)**

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(s) in the timeframe specified, NMHIX reserves the right to finalize a contractual agreement with the next most advantageous Offeror(s) without undertaking a new procurement process.

## **11. Contract Award(s)**

Upon receipt of the signed contractual agreement(s), NMHIX will award as per Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. Contract awards are subject to approval by the appropriate State authority and the NMHIX Board of Directors.

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> day. Protests must be written and must include the name and address of the protestor and the RFP number. They must also contain a statement of the grounds for protest including appropriate supporting exhibits and must specify the ruling requested from the party listed below. Protests must be directed to:

Anita Schwing, Protest Manager  
[Protests@nmhix.com](mailto:Protests@nmhix.com)

**PROTESTS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## **C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Acceptance of Conditions Governing the Procurement**

Offerors must indicate their acceptance of these Conditions Governing the Procurement, Section II.C, and Evaluation, Section V, by completing and signing the Letter of Transmittal form, pursuant to the requirements in Section II.C.28, located in APPENDIX E.

### **2. Incurring Cost**

Any cost incurred by the potential Offeror in preparation, transmittal, and/or presentation of any proposal or material submitted in response to this RFP shall be borne solely by the Offeror. Any cost incurred by the Offeror for set up and demonstration of the proposed equipment and/or system shall be borne solely by the Offeror.

### **3. Prime Contractor Responsibility and Use of Subcontractors**

The contractor is solely responsible for fulfillment of all requirements of the contractual resulting from this RFP. The use of subcontractors for this project is not allowed.

### **4. 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. NMHIX will not merge, collate, or assemble proposal materials.

### **5. 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.

## 6. 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.

## 7. Disclosure of Proposal Contents

The contents of all submitted proposals will be kept confidential until the final award has been completed by NMHIX. 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:***
  - i. confidential financial information concerning the Offeror and/or the Offeror's organization; and
  - ii. 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. **IMPORTANT:** An additional but separate redacted version of Offeror's proposal, as outlined and identified in Section III.B, 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, NMHIX 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.

## 8. No Obligation

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



## **9. Termination**

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

## **10. Sufficient Funding**

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

## **11. Legal Review**

NMHIX 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.

## **12. 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.

## **13. 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.

## **14. Contract Terms and Conditions**

The contract between NMHIX and a contractor will follow the format specified by NMHIX and contain the terms and conditions set forth in the Draft Contract, APPENDIX C. However, NMHIX 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.

NMHIX 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 NMHIX (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. NMHIX 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 NMHIX 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.

## **15. 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 NMHIX. See Section II.C.15 for requirements.

## **16. 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 NMHIX and the Offeror selected and shall not be deemed an opportunity to amend the Offeror's proposal.

## **17. 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.

### **18. Right to Waive Minor Irregularities**

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to waive minor irregularities, as defined in Section I.F.22. 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.

### **19. Change in Contractor Representatives**

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

### **20. 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.

### **21. NMHIX Rights**

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

### **22. Right to Publish**

Throughout the duration of this procurement process and contract term, Offerors and contractors must secure from NMHIX written approval prior to the release of any information that pertains to the potential work or activities covered by this procurement and/or NMHIX 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.

## **23. Ownership of Proposals**

All documents submitted in response to the RFP shall become property of NMHIX. If the RFP is cancelled, all responses received shall be destroyed by NMHIX.

## **24. 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 NMHIX.

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 NMHIX's written permission.

## **25. Electronic mail address required**

Some or all of the communication regarding this procurement will be conducted by electronic mail (email). Offeror must have a valid email address to receive this correspondence. (See also Section II.B.4, Response to Written Questions).

## **26. 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 NMHIX, the Offeror acknowledges that the version maintained by NMHIX shall govern.

## **27. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form**

Offeror must complete, sign, and return the Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form, APPENDIX B, as a part of its proposal. This requirement applies regardless of whether a covered contribution was made or not made for the positions of Governor and Lieutenant Governor or other identified official.

## **28. Letter of Transmittal**

Offeror's proposal must be accompanied by a Letter of Transmittal Form (APPENDIX E), which must be **signed** by the individual authorized to contractually obligate the Offeror organization, identified in #2 below.

Provide the following information:

1. Identify the submitting business entity; Name, Mailing Address, Phone Number, Federal Tax ID Number (TIN), and New Mexico Business Tax ID Number (BTIN, formerly CRS);
2. Identify the Name, Title, Telephone, and Email 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 any other entities (such as a state agency, reseller, etc.) that may be used in the performance of this awarded contract; and
4. The individual identified in #2 above must sign and date the form, 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 submit a signed Letter of Transmittal Form (APPENDIX E) will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

## **29. 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.

### **30. New Mexico Preferences**

To ensure adequate consideration and application of §13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended), Offeror must submit a copy of its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Preference Certificate or its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference with its 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>. In accordance with §13-1-21(H) NMSA 1978, an agency shall not award any combination of New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences.

### III. RESPONSE FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION

#### A. NUMBER OF RESPONSES

Each Offeror shall submit only one proposal in response to this RFP.

#### B. NUMBER OF COPIES

The Offeror need only submit one single electronic (via email) copy of each portion of its proposal (Technical and Cost) as outlined below. Separate the proposal as described below into separate electronic files for submission.

Proposals must be submitted in the manner outlined below. Technical and Cost portions of Offerors proposal **must** be submitted in separate files as indicated below in this section, and **must** be prominently identified on the front page as “Technical Proposal” or “Cost Proposal.”

- a) **Technical Proposals** – The proposal must be organized in accordance with **Section III.C**. All information for the Technical Proposal must be combined into a single file/document. The Technical Proposals **SHALL NOT** contain any cost information.
  - i. **Confidential Information:** If Offeror’s proposal contains confidential information, as defined in Section I.F.8 and detailed in Section II.C.7, Offeror **must** submit **two (2) separate copies:**
    - One version of the proposal as **unredacted** (def. Section I.F.43) versions for evaluation purposes; and
    - One (1) **redacted** (def. Section I.F.32) version for the public file, in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential version of Offeror’s proposal. Redacted versions **must** be clearly marked as “REDACTED” or “CONFIDENTIAL” on the first page.
- b) **Cost Proposals** – One (1) copy of the proposal containing **ONLY** the Cost Proposal. All information for the cost proposal **must be combined into a single file.**

**The email submission must be received no later than the time and date indicated in Section II.B.5, Sequence of Events, Submission of Proposals.**

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



## C. 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. Within each section of the proposal, Offerors must organize and address the RFP requirements in the order indicated below. All forms provided in this RFP must be thoroughly completed and included in the appropriate section of Offeror's proposal. **Any and all discussion of proposed costs, rates or expenses must occur ONLY in the Cost Proposal.**

### **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) Proposal Summary (Optional)
- e) Response to Contract Terms and Conditions (from Section II.C.14)
- f) Offeror's Additional Terms and Conditions (from Section II.C.15)
- g) Response to Specifications (except Cost information which shall be included ONLY in Cost Proposal)
  - i. Organizational Experience
  - ii. Mandatory Specifications
  - iii. Desirable Specifications
  - iv. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences (if applicable)
- h) Other Supporting Material (if applicable)

### **Cost Proposal:**

- a) Completed Cost Response Form (APPENDIX D)

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**

The selected contractor(s) will provide the following services:

1. Implement a comprehensive outreach plan approved by NMHIX. The Offeror's plan submitted in response to this RFP should detail the proposed outreach strategy covering the rural service area(s) included in the Offeror's proposal.
2. Conduct a minimum of 10 outreach/enrollment events in the contractor's rural service area(s) during the contract term, including 1 event each quarter, and at least 2 additional events in support of each annual Open Enrollment period during the contract term (note: the annual Open Enrollment period typically runs from November 1 – January 15).
3. Complete a minimum of fifty (50) new enrollments (not renewals) with consumers in the contractor's rural service area(s) during each annual Open Enrollment period. Enrollments will be completed by utilizing the NMHIX enrollment platform and tracked through the enrollment platform to be accepted as an enrollment.
4. Serve as a year-round referral source for consumers in the service area.
5. Participate in monthly assister network meetings hosted by NMHIX.
6. Participate in status meetings with NMHIX, as requested by NMHIX.
7. Report to NMHIX on individuals assisted by the Certified Assister Partner.
8. Report to NMHIX on outreach and enrollment events in a manner and cadence determined by NMHIX.

### **B. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **1. Organizational Experience**

Offeror must:

- a) provide a brief description of relevant experience, including experience with state government and/or private sector. The narrative should describe how the Offeror has supplied expertise for similar contracts and should include a summary of the Offeror organization's mission statement or purpose; a description of the programs and services administered; specific examples of outreach and/or enrollment activities conducted by the Offeror, including activities related to health care programs or services (if applicable) in the past 24 months; a description of the Offeror's experience delivering services to consumers with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and the Offeror's strategies for meeting this need (if applicable); a description of the Offeror's experience

delivering services to consumers with diverse needs and backgrounds (socio-economic, culture, age, disability) in the service area (if applicable); and

- b) provide a brief resume of all key personnel Offeror proposes to use in performance of the resulting contract, should Offeror be awarded. Key personnel are identified as executive, account management team, and staff primarily responsible for the satisfactory completion of the work. Offeror should include key personnel education, work experience, and relevant certifications/licenses.
- c) describe at least two project successes and failures of an engagement for similar services. Include how each experience improved the Offeror's services.
- d) confirm an ability to complete the contract scope of work without the use of subcontractors.

## 2. Mandatory Specification

The Offeror must demonstrate an ability to perform the services in Section IV and should also:

**a. Submit an outreach plan.** Offerors should include in their proposal an outreach plan demonstrating how they intend to meet the contract deliverables. The Offeror's plan submitted in response to this RFP should detail a proposed outreach strategy that covers the full rural service area(s) included in the Offeror's proposal. If selected for this project, the Offeror will implement their approved outreach plan during the contract term.

**b. Innovative, community-based approach.** Offerors should **define their proposed rural service area(s)** and demonstrate an ability and commitment, as it relates to their rural service area, to:

- support an innovative, community-based approach to outreach;
- connect to rural communities in its service area in a localized way;
- engage with New Mexico's diverse populations, including (but not limited to) underserved, vulnerable, and/or eligible but not enrolled (EBNE) communities in the Offeror's service area(s);
- attend community events specific to eligible but not enrolled (EBNE) and underserved populations and schedule enrollments;
- coordinate with community partner organizations to ensure effective communication and outreach to communities;
- promote year-round visibility and awareness of beWellnm; and
- leverage existing relationships (or relationships that could readily be established) with uninsured and underinsured consumers.

- c. **Additional Assister Partner requirements.** Offerors must also indicate an agreement and ability to do the following:
- *NMHIX System.* Assister Partners must use the Assister Portal of the NMHIX online eligibility and enrollment system/platform to complete enrollments. Enrollments must be tracked through the NMHIX system to be accepted as an enrollment. The NMHIX platform provides consumers with the tools they need to explore plan benefits and costs, to apply for cost reductions and tax credits, and to initiate enrollment in health care coverage. The system is available in English and Spanish.
  - *Scheduling Tool.* Participate in (register with) the NMHIX Certified Assister scheduling tool. The tool is designed to quickly and easily connect New Mexico consumers with Certified Assistors in the consumers' service area for in-person or virtual appointments. The tool can be accessed on the NMHIX website at: [www.bewellnm.com/certified-assister/](http://www.bewellnm.com/certified-assister/)
  - *Collateral.* Use only materials and collateral provided by NMHIX to ensure approved and consistent messaging. Materials are available in English and Spanish, and may be offered in other languages to accommodate specific needs and outreach goals.
  - *Certification.* All Assistors must be certified by NMHIX prior to performing application and enrollment functions through the NMHIX platform. Certification requires Assistors to pass a background check and complete training courses and pass an exam through the NMHIX Learning Management System (LMS). It also requires Assistors to sign an agreement with NMHIX, including an agreement to adhere to Exchange privacy and security standards. Once an individual is certified, NMHIX will provide access to the NMHIX platform. NMHIX will be available for technical assistance and support through the certification process.
  - *Privacy and Security.* Comply with Exchange privacy and security standards (outlined in Appendix C, Draft Contract).
  - *Nonduplication of funding.* Offeror will not supplant or duplicate existing local, state, or federal funding for any activities within the scope of work of a contract resulting from this RFP. If other sources of funding are used to perform similar functions, Offeror will be responsible for assuring appropriate recordkeeping is in place to adequately account for the work performed under each fund source.
  - *Conflicts of Interest.* Offeror will comply with conflict of interest requirements designed to ensure that Assistors do not have relationships that could interfere with their ability to provide unbiased outreach and enrollment assistance and fair, accurate, and impartial information to consumers.
  - *Business location.* The Offeror has a physical presence, and can accommodate in-person/walk-in appointments, in the Offeror's proposed service area(s).

### **3. Desirable Specification**

- a. NMHIX encourages Offerors to apply who can provide services to consumers in the Offeror's rural service area in both English and Spanish, and/or other language(s) commonly spoken in the Offeror's rural service area.

## **C. BUSINESS SPECIFICATIONS**

### **1. 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 submit a signed form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

### **2. 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).

### **3. Oral Presentation**

If oral presentations are held, finalist Offeror(s) may be required to explain, demonstrate, detail, and/or clarify any aspect of its submitted proposal, to which the Evaluation Committee may ask questions and/or seek clarifications. Pursuant to Section II.B.8, Oral Presentations may held at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

### **4. Cost**

Offerors must complete the Cost Response Form in APPENDIX D. Cost will be measured by the formula in V.B.8 below.

### **5. Resident Business or Resident Veterans Preference**

To ensure application of § 13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended), an Offeror **MUST** submit a copy, in this section, of its valid New Mexico/Native Resident Preference Certificate or its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference Certificate, as issued by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. In accordance with §13-1-21(H) NMSA 1978, an agency shall not award any combination of the Resident Preferences.

## 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.

<b>Evaluation Factors</b> <i>(Correspond to section IV.B and IV C)</i>	<b>Points Available</b>
<b>B. Technical Specifications (Total Points: 700)</b>	
B.1 Organizational Experience	100
<b>B.2 Mandatory Specification (Total Points: 550)</b>	
B.2.a Scope of work and outreach plan	250
B.2.b Innovative, community-based approach	200
B.2.c Additional Assister Partner Requirements	100
B.3 Desirable Specification	50
<b>C. Business Specifications (Total Points: 300)</b>	
C.1 Letter of Transmittal	Pass/Fail
C.2 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form	Pass/Fail
C.3 Oral Presentations	100
C.4 Cost	200
<b>TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>1,000</b>
C.5 New Mexico / Native American Resident Preference	80
C.5 New Mexico / Native American Resident Veteran Preference Points per Section IV C.5	100

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 of 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 Mandatory Specification**

NMHIX will award points based upon a five-point scale.

<b>Point Scale</b>	<b>Response Criteria</b>
0	Doesn't address the requirement at all
1	Minimally addresses the requirement
2	Partially addresses the requirement
3	Addresses the requirement with few gaps, but lacks innovation or differentiators
4	Addresses the requirement with no gaps, and demonstrates innovation or differentiators

**3. B.3 Desirable Specification**

NMHIX will award points for this item based upon a five-point scale.

<b>Point Scale</b>	<b>Response Criteria</b>
0	Doesn't address the requirement at all
1	Minimally addresses the requirement
2	Partially addresses the requirement
3	Addresses the requirement with few gaps, but lacks innovation or differentiators
4	Addresses the requirement with no gaps, and demonstrates innovation or differentiators

**4. C.1 Letter of Transmittal (See Table 1)**

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

**5. C.2 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form (See Table 1)**

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

**6. C.3 Oral Presentation (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. Prior to Oral Presentation, Agency will provide the Offeror a presentation agenda. (If no Oral Presentations are held all Offerors will receive the maximum amount of total points for this Evaluation Factor).

**7. C.4 Cost (See Table 1)**

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

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

**8. C.5 New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences**

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

**A. New Mexico Resident Business Preference / Native American Resident Preference**

If an Offeror has provided a copy of its New Mexico Resident Preference Certificate or Native American Resident Preference Certificate, the points awarded will be calculated as 8% of the total points available in this RFP.

**B. New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference**

If an Offeror has provided a copy of its New Mexico Resident Veteran Preference Certificate or Native American Resident Veteran Preference Certificate the points awarded will be calculated as 10% of the total points available in this RFP.

In accordance with §13-1-21(H) NMSA 1978, an agency shall not award any combination of New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences.

**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.6.
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 NMHIX taking into consideration the Evaluation Factors in Section V will be



recommended for award. 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**  
**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR**  
**RURAL CERTIFIED ASSISTERS PARTNERS**  
**RFP #2023.008**

This optional Acknowledgement of Receipt Form establishes a distribution list to 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.

The information below will be used for all correspondence related to the RFP. Only one contact per Offeror is permitted.

OFFEROR/ORGANIZATION:

\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

This name and address will be used for all correspondence related to the Request for Proposals.

**Submit Acknowledgement of Receipt Form to:**

To: Aryn Fitzwater

Email: [Proposals@nmhix.com](mailto:Proposals@nmhix.com)

Subject Line: Rural Certified Assister Partners RFP #2023.008

## APPENDIX B

### CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM

Pursuant to the Procurement Code, Sections 13-1-28, *et seq.* NMSA 1978 and § 13-1-191.1 NMSA 1978 (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:** Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales

**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)

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(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**

The agreement included in this Appendix C represents the contract that NMHIX intends to use to make an award. NMHIX reserves the right to modify the agreement prior to, or during, the award process, as necessary.

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO**  
**NEW MEXICO HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE**  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT # \_\_\_\_\_

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange, hereinafter referred to as NMHIX or the "Agency," and **NAME OF CONTRACTOR**, hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor," and is effective as of the date set forth below upon which it is executed by the General Services Department/State Purchasing Division (GSD/SPD Contracts Review Bureau).

IT IS AGREED BETWEEN THE PARTIES:

**1. Scope of Work.**

The Contractor shall perform the work as outlined in Exhibit A, Scope of Work, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

**2. Compensation.**

A. The Agency shall pay to the Contractor in full payment for services satisfactorily performed at the rate of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$\_\_\_\_\_) per hour (OR BASED UPON DELIVERABLES, MILESTONES, BUDGET, ETC.), 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 Agency to the Contractor. **The total amount payable to the Contractor under this Agreement, including gross receipts tax and expenses, shall not exceed (AMOUNT). 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 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 those services in excess of the total compensation amount being provided.**

B. Payment is subject to availability of funds pursuant to Paragraph 5, Funding, set forth below and to any negotiations between the parties from year to year pursuant to Paragraph 1, Scope of Work, and to approval by the GSD/SPD. Payment shall be made upon acceptance of services or deliverables and upon the receipt and acceptance of a detailed 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. All invoices, including a detailed statement accounting for completion of the deliverables outlined in Exhibit A, Scope of Work, shall be sent to NMHIX at [accountspayable@nmhix.com](mailto:accountspayable@nmhix.com) and received by NMHIX no later than fifteen (15) business days after each calendar month in which services were performed, as outlined in Exhibit A, Scope of Work. Failure to timely submit an invoice shall be a material breach of this Agreement.

C. Contractor must submit a detailed statement accounting for all services performed and expenses incurred. If the Agency finds that the services are not acceptable, within thirty days after the date of receipt of written notice from the Contractor that payment is requested, it shall provide the Contractor a letter of exception explaining the defect or objection to the services, and outlining steps the Contractor may take to provide remedial action. Upon certification by the Agency that the services have been received and accepted, payment shall be tendered to the Contractor within thirty days after the date of acceptance. If payment is made by mail, the payment shall be deemed tendered on the date it is postmarked. However, the agency shall not incur late charges, interest, or penalties for failure to make payment within the time specified herein.

**3. Term.**

THIS AGREEMENT SHALL NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL APPROVED BY THE GSD/SPD Contracts Review Bureau. This Agreement shall terminate on **(DATE)** unless terminated pursuant to paragraph 4 (Termination), or paragraph 5 (Funding). In accordance with NMSA 1978, § 13-1-150, no contract term for a professional services contract, including extensions and renewals, shall exceed four years, except as set forth in NMSA 1978, § 13-1-150.

**4. Termination.**

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

B. Notice; Agency Opportunity to Cure.

1. Except as otherwise provided in Paragraph (4)(B)(3), the Agency shall give Contractor written notice of termination at least thirty (30) days prior to the intended date of termination.

2. Contractor shall give Agency written notice of termination at least thirty (30) days prior to the intended date of termination, which notice shall (i) identify all the Agency's material breaches of this Agreement upon which the termination is based and (ii) state what the Agency must do to cure such material breaches. Contractor's notice of termination shall only be effective (i) if the 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 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 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 Paragraph 5, Funding, of this Agreement.

C. **Liability.** Except as otherwise expressly allowed or provided under this Agreement, the 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 AGENCY'S OTHER LEGAL RIGHTS AND REMEDIES CAUSED BY THE CONTRACTOR'S DEFAULT/BREACH OF THIS AGREEMENT.**

D. **Termination Management.** Immediately upon receipt by either the Agency or the Contractor of notice of termination of this Agreement, the Contractor shall: 1) not incur any further obligations for salaries, services or any other expenditure of funds under this Agreement without written approval of the Agency; 2) comply with all directives issued by the Agency in the notice of termination as to the performance of work under this Agreement; and 3) take such action as the Agency shall direct for the protection, preservation, retention or transfer of all property titled to the Agency and records generated under this Agreement. Any non-expendable personal property or equipment provided to or purchased by the Contractor with contract funds shall become property of the Agency upon termination and shall be submitted to the agency as soon as practicable.

**5. Funding.**

The terms of this Agreement are contingent upon continued authorization of the NMHIX by the Legislature of New Mexico and the ability of NMHIX to obtain necessary funds by assessments, grants, or other means. In the absence of legislative authorization or funding, this Agreement shall terminate immediately upon written notice by NMHIX to the Contractor. NMHIX's determination regarding legislative authorization and funding shall be accepted by the Contractor and shall be final. If NMHIX 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.

**6. Status of Contractor.**

The Contractor and its agents and employees are independent contractors performing professional services for the Agency and are not employees of NMHIX or 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 NMHIX or 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.

**7. 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 Agency.



**8. Subcontracting.**

The Contractor shall not subcontract any portion of the services to be performed under this Agreement without the prior written approval of the 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.

**9. Release.**

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

**10. Confidentiality.**

Any confidential information provided to or developed by the Contractor 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 Agency. Upon termination of this Agreement, Contractor shall deliver all confidential information in its possession to NMHIX within thirty (30) business days of such termination. Contractor acknowledges that failure to deliver such confidential information to NMHIX will result in direct, special and incidental damages.

**11. Product of Service -- Copyright.**

All materials developed or acquired by the Contractor under this Agreement shall become the property of NMHIX and shall be delivered to the Agency no later than the termination date of this Agreement. Nothing developed or produced, in whole or in part, by the Contractor under this Agreement shall be the subject of an application for copyright or other claim of ownership by or on behalf of the Contractor.

**12. 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 anyway 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 Agency employee while such employee was or is employed by the Agency and participating directly or indirectly in the 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 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 Agency.

C. Contractor's representations and warranties in Paragraphs A and B of this Article 12 are material representations of fact upon which the Agency relied when this Agreement was entered into by the parties. Contractor shall provide immediate written notice to the 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 Article 12 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 Article 12 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 Agency and notwithstanding anything in the Agreement to the contrary, the Agency may immediately terminate the Agreement.

D. All terms defined in the Governmental Conduct Act have the same meaning in this Article 12(B).

### **13. 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 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 Article 4 herein, or to agree to the reduced funding.

**14. 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.

**15. Penalties for violation of law.**

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

**16. 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.

**17. Applicable Law.**

A. **Applicable Law.** The laws of the State of New Mexico shall govern this Agreement, without giving effect to its choice of law provisions.

B. **Dispute Resolution.** Parties to this Agreement shall utilize methods of alternative dispute resolution to resolve disputes arising under this Agreement. NMHIX and Contractor agree to resolve disputes first through good faith negotiation, and if unsuccessful, through mediation and/or arbitration. No dispute arising under or relating to this Agreement may be brought in a court of law. The process for alternative dispute resolution is as follows:

- (1) Negotiation. The parties are encouraged to resolve disputes through negotiation prior to mediation or arbitration. In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising from or relating to a contract or the breach thereof, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle the dispute, claim, question, or disagreement. To this effect, NMHIX and Contractor shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests, attempt to reach a just and equitable solution satisfactory to both parties. If they do not reach such solution within a period of 30 days, then, upon notice by either party to the other, all disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be mediated or finally settled pursuant to the Uniform Arbitration Act, NMSA, § 44-7A-1.

- (2) Mediation. If a dispute arises out of or relates to this Agreement, or the breach thereof, and if the dispute cannot be settled through negotiation, the parties may first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation. The Parties may agree upon a mediator and the terms of the mediation including scheduling, pre-mediation information exchange and attendance of appropriate parties at the mediation conference. The mediation shall be scheduled within 30 days of notice to the other party that one party seeks to mediate the dispute.
- (3) Arbitration. If negotiation and mediation fail to resolve the dispute, or the time frames established for negotiation or mediation pass, a controversy or claim arising out of this Agreement, or the breach of this Agreement, shall be settled by arbitration pursuant to the Uniform Arbitration Act, NMSA, § 44-7A-1 and judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator(s) may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.
- (4) Time periods. The time periods established in this Paragraph 17 may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties.

**18. 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 Agency.

**19. 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 ten (10) years from the date of completion of this Agreement. The Records shall be subject to inspection by NMHIX and the Department of Finance and Administration, and may be disclosed by NMHIX to third parties as required or allowed by law. The Agency shall have the right to audit billings both before and after payment, including but not limited to a financial statement audit performed in accordance with government accounting standards for financial reporting. The Contractor agrees to be subject to findings and sanctions assessed as a result of any audit and will make repayment of any excessive or illegal payments by NMHIX. Payment under this Agreement shall not foreclose the right of the Agency to recover excessive or illegal payments.

**20. Indemnification.**

The Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Agency and the State of New Mexico from all actions, proceeding, 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, or if caused by the actions of any client of the Contractor 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 Agency and the Risk Management Division of the New Mexico General Services Department by certified mail.

**22. 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.

**23. 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.

**24. 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 Agency:

[insert name, address and email].

To the Contractor:

[insert name, address and email].

**25. Authority.**

If Contractor is other than a natural person, the individual(s) signing this Agreement on behalf of Contractor represents and warrants that he or she has the power and authority to bind Contractor, and that no further action, resolution, or approval from Contractor is necessary to enter into a binding contract.

**26. Contractor Personnel.**

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

B. Personnel Changes. Replacement of key personnel shall be made with personnel of equal ability, experience, and qualification and shall be approved by NMHIX. For all key personnel, NMHIX reserves the right to require submission of their resumes prior to approval. If the number of Contractor's key 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 key personnel with equal

ability, experience, and qualifications, subject to NMHIX approval. NMHIX, in its sole discretion, may approve additional time beyond the ten (10) Business Days for replacement of key personnel. The Contractor shall include status reports of its efforts and progress in finding replacements and the effect of the absence of the key 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 key personnel. NMHIX reserves the right to require a change in Contractor's key personnel if the assigned key personnel are not, in the sole opinion of NMHIX, meeting NMHIX's expectations.

**27. Insurance.**

A. Professional Liability. For the Contractor and all of the Contractor's employees who are to perform professional services under this Agreement, the Contractor shall keep in full force and effect, Professional Liability insurance for any professional acts, errors or omissions. Such policy shall provide a limit of not less than \$1,000,000 per claim and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate. The Contractor shall ensure both that: (1) the policy retroactive date is on or before the date of commencement of the first work performed under this Agreement; and (2) the policy will be maintained in force for a professionally reasonable period of time after substantial completion of the project or termination of this Agreement, whichever occurs last. If professional services rendered under this Agreement include work relating to environmental or pollution hazards, the Contractor's policy shall not contain exclusions for those activities.

B. Contractor shall maintain in force during the entire term of this Agreement the following insurance coverages, naming NMHIX as additional insured:

- Workers Compensation (including accident and disease coverage) at the statutory limit. Employers liability: \$100,000.
- 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:
  - Bodily injury: \$1,000,000 per person /\$1,000,000 per occurrence.
  - Property damage or combined single limit coverage: \$1,000,000.
  - Automobile liability (including non-owned automobile coverage): \$1,000,000.
  - Umbrella: \$1,000,000.

Contractor shall maintain the above insurance for the term of this Agreement and name NMHIX as an additional insured on the general liability policy and provide for reasonable advance 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 on the general liability policy.

C. The Contractor shall not begin the services required under this Agreement until it has: (a) obtained, and upon NMHIX's request provided to NMHIX, insurance certificates reflecting evidence of all insurance required herein; and (b) confirmed that all policies contain the specific

provisions required. Contractor's liabilities, including but not limited to Contractor's indemnity obligations, under this Agreement, shall not be deemed limited in any way to the insurance coverage required herein. Maintenance of specified insurance coverage is a material element of this Agreement and Contractor's failure to maintain or renew coverage or to provide evidence of renewal during the term of this Agreement may be treated as a material breach of Agreement by NMHIX.

Further, the Contractor shall not modify any policy or endorsement thereto which increases NMHIX's exposure to loss for the duration of this Agreement.

The Contractor shall provide a blanket endorsement on the general liability policy that the insurer waives the right of subrogation against NMHIX and its respective officials, officers, employees, agents, volunteers and representatives.

D. Cancellation. Except as provided for under New Mexico law, all policies of insurance required hereunder, except for the Professional Liability Policy, must provide that the NMHIX is entitled to reasonable written notice period of cancellation or non-renewal of the policy or policies. Cancellation provisions in insurance certificates shall include reasonable cancellation provisions, in line with insurance industry standards.

E. Insurer Requirements. All insurance required by express provision of this Agreement shall be carried only by responsible insurance companies that have rated "A-" and "V" or better by the A.M. Best Key Rating Guide, that are authorized to do business in the State of New Mexico, and that have been approved by the NMHIX. The NMHIX will accept insurance provided by non-admitted, "surplus lines" carriers only if the carrier is authorized to do business in the State of New Mexico.

F. Deductibles. All deductibles or co-payments on any policy shall be the responsibility of the Contractor.

G. All policies required herein, except for the Workers Compensation policy and Professional Liability policy, are primary and non-contributory to any insurance that may be carried by the NMHIX and its officials, officers, employees, agents, volunteers and representatives, as reflected in an endorsement which shall be submitted to the NMHIX. The Contractor shall obtain a blanket endorsement from the Workers Compensation insurers that the insurers waive the right of subrogation against NMHIX and its respective officials, officers, employees, agents, volunteers and representatives.

H. The Contractor agrees that for the duration of this Agreement, and for a period of three years after substantial completion of the project or termination of this Agreement, there will be no changes or endorsements to the above policies that increase the NMHIX's exposure to loss.

I. The NMHIX reserves the right, from time to time, to review the Contractor's insurance coverage, limits, and deductible and self-insured retentions to determine if they are acceptable to the NMHIX. The NMHIX will reimburse the Contractor for the cost of the additional premium for any coverage requested by the NMHIX in excess of that required by this Agreement without overhead, profit, or any other markup.

J. The Contractor may obtain additional insurance not required by this Agreement.

**28. Communications.**

NMHIX desires to maintain a consistent and coherent public message regarding the work of NMHIX, its contracting partners, and the contractual relationship between NMHIX and its contracting partners. The Contractor expressly acknowledges NMHIX's interest in this regard and agrees that the Contractor shall not communicate with the media or the public regarding this Agreement or the work performed pursuant to this Agreement, during the term of the Agreement and for a reasonable period of time following the termination of this Agreement, without requesting and receiving authorization from NMHIX to engage in the communications. Contractor also agrees to comply with NMHIX Communications Policy, as it may be amended from time to time.

**29. New Mexico Tort Claims Act.**

Any liability incurred by NMHIX in connection with this Agreement is subject to the immunities and limitations of the New Mexico Tort Claims Act, NMSA 1978, § 41-4-1, *et seq.*, as amended. NMHIX and its "public employees" as defined in the New Mexico Tort Claims Act, do not waive sovereign immunity, do not waive any defense, and do not waive any limitation of liability pursuant to law. No provision in this Agreement modifies or waives any provision of the New Mexico Tort Claims Act.

**30. Compliance with Law.**

The Contractor agrees to comply with all laws and regulations that are applicable to this Agreement and the Contractor's Scope of Work now enacted or that become effective during the term of this Agreement, including but not limited to, laws and regulations enacted pursuant to the Affordable Care Act.

**31. 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.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date of signature by the GSD/SPD Contracts Review Bureau below.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency's Legal Counsel – Certifying legal sufficiency

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency's Chief Financial Officer

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor

The records of the Taxation and Revenue Department reflect that the Contractor is registered with the Taxation and Revenue Department of the State of New Mexico to pay gross receipts and compensating taxes.

ID Number: **00-000000-00-0**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Taxation and Revenue Department

This Agreement has been approved by the GSD/SPD Contracts Review Bureau:

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
GSD/SPD Contracts Review Bureau

## APPENDIX D

### COST RESPONSE FORM

Offerors should submit their Cost Proposal in the following, or a similar, format. Cost proposals should account for the following:

1. The contract(s) resulting from this RFP will be set up for the Assister Partner to invoice NMHIX on a monthly, flat fee basis. However, a minimum of 20% of the total contract funds will be held back and payable only upon completion of meeting the minimum enrollment and outreach event requirements (i.e., 10% of total contract funds will be payable upon meeting the minimum contractual requirements per Open Enrollment Period). Please note that contracts resulting from this RFP may be terminated in the event the minimum requirements are not met during the first Open Enrollment period (November 1, 2023 – January 15, 2024).

2. Cost proposals should itemize applicable New Mexico gross receipts tax.

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Price</b>

## APPENDIX E

### LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL FORM

Please complete this form in its entirety. Failure to **sign and/or submit** this form will result in the disqualification of Offeror's proposal.

**RFP#: 2023.008**

**1. Identify the following information for the submitting organization:**

<b>Offeror Name</b>	
<b>Mailing Address</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>FED TIN#</b>	
<b>NM BTIN#</b>	

**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*
<b>Name</b>			
<b>Title</b>			
<b>Email</b>			
<b>Telephone</b>			

\* 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. Will any subcontractor/s be used in the performance of any resultant contract? (NOTE: Subcontractors are not allowed for this project) (Select one):**

No.  
 Yes. Identify subcontractor/s: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Will any other entity/-ies (such as a State Agency, reseller, etc., that is not a subcontractor identified in #3 above) be used in the performance of any resultant contract? (Select one)**

No.  
 Yes. Identify entity/-ies: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Must be signed by the individual identified in item #2.A, above.)*