



# ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

<b>RFP Number:</b> 062 24000000082	<b>RFP Title:</b> Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost Program
<b>RFP Due Date and Time:</b> October 21, 2024, by 5:00pm Central Time	<b>Number of Pages:</b> 46
<b>PROCUREMENT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project Director:</b> Amanda Singletary	<b>Issue Date:</b> August 28, 2024
<b>E-mail Address:</b> AACRFP@medicaid.alabama.gov <b>Website:</b> http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov	<b>Issuing Division:</b> Clinical Services and Support
<b>INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS</b>	
<b>Return Proposal to:</b> Alabama Medicaid Agency Attn: Amanda Singletary Lurleen B. Wallace Building 501 Dexter Avenue PO Box 5624 Montgomery, AL 36103-5624	<b>Mark Face of Envelope/Package:</b> Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost Program RFP RFP Number: 062 24000000082 <b>RFP Due Date:</b> October 21, 2024, by 5:00 pm CT <b>Firm and Fixed Price:</b>
<b>VENDOR INFORMATION</b> <i>(Vendor must complete the following and return with RFP response)</i>	
<b>Vendor Name/Address:</b>	<b>Authorized Vendor Signatory:</b> (Please print name and sign in ink)
<b>Vendor Phone Number:</b>	<b>Vendor FAX Number:</b>
<b>Vendor Federal I.D. Number:</b>	<b>Vendor E-mail Address:</b>

## Section A. RFP Checklist

1. \_\_\_\_ **Read the entire document.** Note critical items such as: mandatory requirements; supplies/services required; submittal dates; number of copies required for submittal; licensing requirements; contract requirements (i.e., contract performance security, insurance requirements, performance and/or reporting requirements, etc.).
2. \_\_\_\_ **Note the project director’s name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address.** This is the only person you are allowed to communicate with regarding the RFP and is an excellent source of information for any questions you may have.
3. \_\_\_\_ **Take advantage of the “question and answer” period.** Submit your questions to the project director by the due date(s) listed in the Schedule of Events and view the answers as posted on the WEB. All addenda issued for an RFP are posted on the State’s website and will include all questions asked and answered concerning the RFP.
4. \_\_\_\_ **Use the forms provided,** i.e., cover page, disclosure statement, etc.
5. \_\_\_\_ **Check the State’s website for RFP addenda.** It is the Vendor’s responsibility to check the State’s website at [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov) for any addenda issued for this RFP, no further notification will be provided. Vendors must submit a signed cover sheet for each addendum issued along with your RFP response.
6. \_\_\_\_ **Review and read the RFP document again** to make sure that you have addressed all requirements. Your original response and the requested copies must be identical and be complete. The copies are provided to the evaluation committee members and will be used to score your response.
7. \_\_\_\_ **Submit your response on time.** Note all the dates and times listed in the Schedule of Events and within the document, and be sure to submit all required items on time. Late proposal responses are *never* accepted.
8. \_\_\_\_ **Prepare to sign and return the Contract, Contract Review Report, Business Associate Agreement and other documents** to expedite the contract approval process. The selected vendor’s contract will have to be reviewed by the State’s Contract Review Committee which has strict deadlines for document submission. Failure to submit the signed contract can delay the project start date but will not affect the deliverable date.

**This checklist is provided for assistance only and should not be submitted with Vendor’s Response.**

## Section B. Schedule of Events

The following RFP Schedule of Events represents the State's best estimate of the schedule that shall be followed. Except for the deadlines associated with the vendor question and answer periods and the proposal due date, the other dates provided in the schedule are estimates and will be impacted by the number of proposals received. The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust this schedule as it deems necessary. Notification of any adjustment to the Schedule of Events shall be posted on the RFP website at [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>RFP Issued</b>	08/28/2024
<b>Questions Due by 5 pm CST</b>	09/13/2024
<b>Final Posting of Questions and Answers</b>	10/07/2024
<b>Proposals Due by 5 pm CST</b>	10/21/2024
<b>Evaluation Period</b>	10/22/2024-12/13/2024
<b>Beginning of Transition Period (60 days), if needed</b>	02/01/2025
<b>Contract Review Committee</b>	03/06/2025
<b>Contractor Begins Providing AAC Services</b>	04/01/2025

\* \*By State law, this contract must be reviewed by the Legislative Contract Review Oversight Committee. The Committee meets monthly and can, at its discretion, hold a contract for up to forty-five (45) days. The “Vendor Begins Work” date above may be impacted by the timing of the contract submission to the Committee for review and/or by action of the Committee itself.

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## **I. Background**

The Alabama Medicaid Agency is requesting proposals from vendors with expertise for a plan to operate and update an Average Acquisition Cost (AAC) pharmacy reimbursement program based on pharmacy average acquisition drug pricing. Due to the complexity of the scope of work, the Vendor should have expertise and experience in accounting, pharmacy reimbursement strategies, and statistical analysis. The Vendor will be required to collect invoices from randomly selected Alabama Medicaid enrolled pharmacies while maintaining the confidentiality of the invoices submitted for use in determining an appropriate reimbursement rate based on prices from actual invoices. The goal of the program is to determine the appropriate ingredient cost of product(s) to use as a basis for pharmacy reimbursement, while maintaining compliance with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) reimbursement guidelines. Services required are outlined through this Request for Proposal (RFP). The Vendor will be required by the State to operate under all provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) 1990, the Social Security Act, and all applicable state and federal laws. State regulatory authority is derived from Alabama Act No. 2003-297 and Alabama Medicaid Agency Administrative Code Chapter 16. The projected implementation date of the RFP is April 1, 2025.

Currently, Alabama Medicaid uses First Data Bank (FDB) for the management of their drug file, to include pricing. Gainwell Technologies is the current fiscal agent responsible for the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) system and claims processing. The selected Vendor would be required to coordinate with Gainwell for the final AAC pricing on a routine, scheduled basis.

In the current AAC program, Alabama Medicaid conducts bi-annual (i.e. twice yearly) surveys of randomly selected enrolled pharmacies. Pharmacies are selected no more than once every two years. Provider participation in the survey analysis is mandatory. Drug rates are updated weekly through a coordinated effort of the AAC Vendor and Gainwell.

Current data shows the Alabama Medicaid Agency currently has 780 DME providers and approximately 1400 pharmacy providers. For FY 2023, the Agency processed a total of approximately 7.9 million pharmacy claims. More pharmacy and DME specific information can be found on the Alabama Medicaid website [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

The selected Vendor to whom the contract is awarded shall be responsible for the performance of all duties contained within this RFP for the firm and fixed price quoted in the Vendor's proposal to this RFP. All proposals must state a firm and fixed price for the services described.

All information and amendments contained in this RFP reflect the best and most accurate information available to Medicaid at the time of the RFP preparation. No inaccuracies in such data shall constitute a basis for change of the payments to the Vendor or a basis for legal recovery of damages, actual, consequential, or punitive.

## **II. Scope of Work**

Vendor's proposal must present a plan to operate and update an AAC program, based on actual acquisition drug prices, to accurately reimburse enrolled pharmacies based on actual enrolled pharmacy invoices for both brand and generic drugs as well as Medicaid specified over-the-counter drugs, and selected Durable Medical Equipment (DME) items that are routinely supplied through a pharmacy. The goal of the AAC program is to determine the appropriate ingredient cost of product(s) to use as a basis for pharmacy reimbursement, while maintaining compliance with CMS reimbursement guidelines.

- A. **Survey:** The Vendor's proposed plan must include a detailed description for an approach that streamlines the process of requesting, obtaining, analyzing, and reporting acquisition cost data, reduces administrative burdens on providers, and generally improves the timeliness of the pricing and reimbursement process. The Vendor must include recommendations in its detailed proposal for a bi-annual (twice yearly) survey submission process and schedule to best address the fluctuating prices for both brand and generic drugs, at minimum allowing for weekly rate updates. Alabama Medicaid anticipates the reporting associated with this project to result in no additional charges to the pharmacy provider and must ensure data integrity. Vendor must be able to accept surveys/invoices via fax, mail, and electronic means from the pharmacy and/or wholesaler. The Vendor must detail a process for the electronic collection of this data directly from the wholesaler with the allowance for manual submission only if requested by the provider. Alabama Medicaid anticipates the Vendor to be responsible for, at minimum, all requesting and gathering of information/invoices from pharmacies and wholesalers, and maintenance of confidentiality of the invoices submitted.
- B. **AAC determination and dissemination process:** The Vendor's proposed plan must include a detailed description for an approach for the determination of AAC via a statistical analysis and averaging process of acquisition costs; interface/coordination of AAC rates with Agency fiscal agent; development and routine maintenance of web-based AAC list with current prices, frequently asked questions, a mechanism for providers to communicate issues and concerns, relevant reports, and appropriate links to other web sites; reviewing AAC policy and procedures and making recommendations regarding modifications and/or additions necessary to improve the AAC program (which may include rule development and support, drafting of provider communications, state plan amendments, and other correspondence as directed by the Agency); timely coordination (response time to provider within one business day) with providers with inquiries related to the AAC; adequate staffing of a toll-free help desk for providers during business hours in Central Time; maintenance of tracking provider issues; development of a retrospective routine reporting mechanism to the State; routine and ad hoc (as requested by Medicaid) evaluation, comparison, and recommendations of AAC and drug pricing. Currently, the Agency bases the AAC on a generic grouping and NDC level. The Vendor will need to accommodate the need to set AAC rates at a generic grouping and NDC level.
- C. **Review, maintenance, and reporting:** The Vendor's proposed plan must detail a rigorous and timely protocol for the review, update, and maintenance of rates based on AACs. This review must be performed routinely (as approved by Medicaid) and include examination of and comparison to published pricing information, current acquisition cost data, prescription drug patent expirations, and other state-specific market indicators. The detailed plan must outline plans to monitor important trends in reimbursement, service utilization, and fiscal outcomes, and recommend program changes, options, and tools as necessary to address any issues that adversely influence the objectives of the Alabama AAC program; internal quality monitoring functions necessary to assure program integrity and efficiency; and development of a retrospective routine reporting mechanism (to include routine reporting of drugs off patent, FUL analyses, and annual cost avoidance). Regular updates must include at a minimum: cost changes related to high expenditure drugs, cost changes on a weekly basis based on market fluctuations (currently the Agency uses WAC), investigations initiated by new cost or drug information, and new circumstances that warrant re-examination of drugs that were previously excluded from AAC. Vendor must maintain all lists and prices and other pertinent data on a public website that is linked from the Alabama Medicaid website.



- D. **Special processes:** The Vendor’s proposed plan must include a detailed description of its solution to address special processes, including but not limited to: reporting drugs with reassigned group numbers (i.e., reassigned classification groups from FDB), drug shortages, provider support, response to and tracking provider inquiry, AAC for drugs with limited reporting, exceptions to AAC, provider appeals process, verification process that products are available at the AAC amount with the state as well as nationally, comparison with the National Average Drug Acquisition Cost (NADAC), and routine notification/publication of updated AAC list/prices to providers. Inquiries from providers must have a response time of no less than one business day or 48 hours, whichever is less. The Vendor must provide a detailed description of an exception process that will encourage pharmacies to be prudent purchasers, and ensure pharmacies are appropriately reimbursed in the aggregate.
- E. **Meetings/Coordination:** The Vendor will be required to conduct detailed coordination activities with the State, as well as FDB, Gainwell Technologies, provider associations, or any additional vendors necessary to operate and update the program. This coordination may be in electronic format, via phone/conference calls, hard copy (memos, letters, etc.), or may require face-to-face meetings.
- a. **Optional AAC Services:** The Vendor’s proposed plan must include a detailed description and annual cost for an approach for the determination of AAC rates via a statistical analysis and averaging process of acquisition costs, operation, maintenance, and reporting of an AAC program for:
    - i. Hemophilia factor products
    - ii. Nutritional products
    - iii. Physician administered drugs
  - b. **Optional 340B Auditing:** The Vendor must include a detailed process and annual cost for an approach for creating a 340B audit process on claims submitted by enrolled Alabama Medicaid 340B providers. The audit process should include a plan for identification of 340B pharmacies, comparison of submitted 340B acquisition costs versus submitted claims, and overpayment amount identification on a claims-detail level.
- F. **Transition Period (February 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025)**  
 If the contract award results in a transition from the Incumbent Vendor to a new Contractor, a transition period prior to contract start shall be necessary to ensure all processes are implemented with a seamless transition and minimal interruption to the Medicaid recipients and providers. The incoming Contractor will not be compensated during the transition period. The incoming Contractor will appoint an individual to work with the Incumbent Vendor and Medicaid to ensure the integrity of the proposed solution is maintained and is viable through the switchover period. The Contractor’s transition period will include, but is not limited to:
- New Contractor to receive access to necessary Medicaid screens, MMIS systems, etc.
  - Technical coordination, testing, and interface with the fiscal agent.
  - Training of the staff prior to implementation.
  - Any other training or system testing/interface needed for a seamless transition with little/no interruption to the Medicaid recipients and providers.

Medicaid shall appoint an individual to be available to assist in communication and

coordination involving the Incumbent Vendor and the incoming Contractor. The incoming Contractor must have adequate staff, as determined by Medicaid, available during the uncompensated transition period in order to support Medicaid under the required timeline.

The Contractor will provide reports as required reflecting progress being made to initiate delivery of all services, effective February 1, 2025. The incoming Contractor will not be compensated for any preparation activity conducted in advance of the operations switchover to the new service which will occur effective April 1, 2025.

### **III. Pricing**

Vendor's response must specify a firm and fixed fee for all aspects of this RFP. The firm and fixed price for each year of the proposed contract, optional AAC services, and optional auditing service must be entered on Appendix C Pricing Form and must be separately stated in the RFP Cover Sheet on the first page of this document. Schedule A will provide the bidder with the annual reimbursement rate they will receive for the contract. Schedule B will provide the annual rate that the contractor will use should the state implement an optional AAC or auditing service.

### **IV. General**

The Alabama Medicaid Agency is responsible for the administration of the Alabama Medicaid Program under a federally approved State Plan for Medical Assistance. Through teamwork, the Agency strives to enhance and operate a cost-efficient system of payment for health care services rendered to low-income individuals through a partnership with health care providers and other health care insurers both public and private.

Medicaid's central office is located at 501 Dexter Avenue in Montgomery, Alabama. Central office personnel are responsible for data processing, program management, financial management, program integrity, general support services, professional services, and recipient eligibility services. For certain recipient categories, eligibility determination is made by Agency personnel located in eleven (11) district offices throughout the state and by one hundred forty (140) out-stationed workers in designated hospitals, health departments and clinics. Medicaid eligibility is also determined through established policies by the Alabama Department of Human Resources and the Social Security Administration. The Alabama Medicaid Agency serves approximately 1,200,000 Alabama citizens each year through a variety of programs.

Services covered by Medicaid include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Physician Services
- Inpatient and Outpatient Hospital Services
- Rural Health Clinic Services
- Laboratory and X-ray Services
- Nursing Home Services
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment
- Dental for children ages zero (0) to twenty (20)
- Home Health Care Services and Durable Medical Equipment
- Family Planning Services
- Nurse-Midwife Services
- Federally Qualified Health Center Services

- Hospice Services
- Prescription Drugs
- Optometric Services
- Transportation Services
- Hearing Aids
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
- Prosthetic Devices
- Outpatient Surgical Services
- Renal Dialysis Services
- Home and Community Based Waiver Services
- Prenatal Clinic Services
- Mental Health Services

Additional program information can be found at [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

### **Alabama Medicaid Enterprise Systems Modernization Program (AMMP)**

The Agency has embarked on a multi-module, multi-contractor enterprise project that requires data to be transferred amongst these modules in a secure and accurate manner. The overarching goal of the AMMP project is to move away from a monolithic system approach and instead implement a modular MES with the information, infrastructure, tools, and services necessary to efficiently administer Alabama Medicaid programs. This will be accomplished using a combination of technology-based procurements, related services, and business process outsourcing.

The Agency is moving forward with the modernization of the Alabama Medicaid program by replacing the Alabama Medicaid Management Information System (AMMIS). This modernization will be accomplished through the use of loosely coupled modules as required by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The Agency has organized the program to achieve the end-state MES in a proposed project timeline that aligns with the existing AMMIS architecture, and the constraints imposed through the existing contract term.

The Agency will use a modular approach that complies with CMS, promotes the use of industry standards for information exchange and interoperability, and provides a seamless business services environment for users.

This large-scale, high-complexity systems project will be implemented using a phased approach, with consideration of agency, program and business area requirements and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) funding requirements specified under 42 CFR § 433.112. The AMMP is expected to be completed over the course of several years and multiple projects.

### **Purpose**

This document outlines the qualifications which must be met in order for an entity to serve as Contractor. It is imperative that potential Contractors describe, **in detail**, how they intend to approach the Scope of Work specified in Section II of the RFP. The ability to perform these services must be carefully documented, even if the Contractor has been or is currently participating in a Medicaid Program. Proposals will be evaluated based on the written information that is presented in the response. This requirement underscores the importance and the necessity of providing in-depth information in the proposal with all supporting documentation necessary.

The Vendor must demonstrate in the proposal a thorough working knowledge of program policy requirements as described, herein, including but not limited to the applicable Operational Manuals, State Plan for Medical Assistance, Administrative Code and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) requirements.

Entities that are currently excluded under federal and/or state laws from participation in Medicare/Medicaid or any State's health care programs are prohibited from submitting bids.

## V. Corporate Background and References

### Entities submitting proposals must:

- a. Provide evidence that the Vendor possesses the qualifications required in this RFP. If a subcontractor is warranted, the Contractor must identify the percentage of work, as measured by the total Proposal price, to be performed by the subcontractor. *All contractor and subcontractor employees must work in the continental United States.*
- b. Provide a description of the Vendor's organization, including
  1. Date established.
  2. Ownership (public company, partnership, subsidiary, etc.). Include an organizational chart depicting the Vendor's organization in relation to any parent, subsidiary or related organization.
  3. Number of employees and resources.
  4. Names and resumes of Senior Managers and Partners in regards to this contract.
  5. A list of all similar projects the Vendor has completed within the last three years.
  6. A detailed breakdown of proposed staffing for this project, including names and education background of all employees that will be assigned to this project.
  7. A list of all Medicaid agencies or other entities for which the Vendor currently performs similar work.
  8. Evidence that the Vendor is financially stable and that it has the necessary infrastructure to complete this contract as described in the Vendor's Proposal. The Vendor must provide audited financial statements for the last three years, or similar evidence of financial stability for the last three years.
  9. Vendor's acknowledgment that the State will not reimburse the Contractor until: (a) the Project Director has approved the invoice; and (b) the Agency has received and approved all deliverables covered by the invoice.
  10. Details of any pertinent judgment, criminal conviction, investigation or litigation pending against the Vendor or any of its officers, directors, employees, agents or subcontractors of which the Vendor has knowledge, or a statement that there are none. The Agency reserves the right to reject a proposal solely on the basis of this information.
- c. The contractor and sub-contractor must have all necessary business licenses, registrations and professional certifications at the time of the contracting to be able to do business in Alabama. All companies submitting proposals in response to this RFP must be qualified to transact business in the State of Alabama in accordance with to include, but not limited to, Code of Alabama 1975, 10A-1-7.01 et seq., and shall have filed and possess a valid "Application for Registration" issued by the Secretary of State at the time of responding to this RFP. To obtain forms for the application, contact the Secretary of State, (334) 242-5324, [www.sos.state.al.us](http://www.sos.state.al.us).
- d. Furnish three (3) references for projects of similar size and scope, including contact name, title, telephone number, and address. Performance references should also include contract type, size, and duration of services rendered. **You may not use any Alabama Medicaid Agency personnel as a reference.**

The State reserves the right to use any information or additional references deemed necessary to establish the ability of the Vendor to perform the conditions of the contract.

## **VI. Submission Requirements**

### **A. Authority**

This RFP is issued under the authority of Section 41-4-110 et. seq. of the Alabama Code and 45 CFR part 75. The RFP process is a procurement option allowing the award to be based on stated evaluation criteria. The RFP states the relative importance of all evaluation criteria. No other evaluation criteria, other than as outlined in the RFP, will be used.

In accordance with 45 CFR part 75, the State encourages free and open competition among Vendors. Whenever possible, the State will design specifications, proposal requests, and conditions to accomplish this objective, consistent with the necessity to satisfy the State's need to procure technically sound, cost-effective services and supplies.

### **B. Single Point of Contact**

From the date this RFP is issued until a Vendor is selected and the selection is announced by the Project Director, all communication must be directed to the Project Director in charge of this solicitation.

**Vendors or their representatives must not communicate with any State staff or officials regarding this procurement with the exception of the Project Director.** Any unauthorized contact may disqualify the Vendor from further consideration. Contact information for the single point of contact is as follows:

<i>Project Director:</i>	<b>Amanda Singletary</b>
<i>Address:</i>	<b>Alabama Medicaid Agency Lurleen B. Wallace Bldg. 501 Dexter Avenue PO Box 5624 Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624</b>
<i>E-Mail Address:</i>	<b>AACRFP@medicaid.alabama.gov</b>

### **C. RFP Documentation**

All documents and updates to the RFP including, but not limited to, the actual RFP, questions and answers, addenda, etc., will be posted to the STAARS VSS portal and the Agency's website at [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

### **D. Questions Regarding the RFP**

Vendors with questions requiring clarification or interpretation of any section within this RFP must submit questions and receive formal, written replies from the State. Each question must be submitted to the Project Director via email. Questions and answers will be posted on the STAARS VSS portal and at [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

## **E. Acceptance of Standard Terms and Conditions**

Vendor must submit a statement stating that the Vendor has an understanding of and will comply with the terms and conditions as set out in this RFP. Additions or exceptions to the standard terms and conditions are not allowed.

## **F. Adherence to Specifications and Requirements**

Vendor must submit a statement stating that the Vendor has an understanding of and will comply with the specifications and requirements described in this RFP.

## **G. Order of Precedence**

In the event of inconsistencies or contradictions between language contained in the RFP and a Vendor's response, the language contained in the RFP will prevail. Should the State issue addenda to the original RFP, then said addenda, being more recently issued, would prevail against both the original RFP and the Vendor's proposal in the event of an inconsistency, ambiguity, or conflict.

## **H. Vendor's Signature**

The proposal must be accompanied by the RFP Cover Sheet signed in ink by an individual authorized to legally bind the Vendor. The Vendor's signature on a proposal in response to this RFP guarantees that the offer has been established without collusion and without effort to preclude the State from obtaining the best possible supply or service. Proof of authority of the person signing the RFP response must be furnished upon request.

## **I. Offer in Effect for 90 Days**

A proposal may not be modified, withdrawn or canceled by the Vendor for a 90-day period following the deadline for proposal submission as defined in the Schedule of Events, or receipt of best and final offer, if required, and Vendor so agrees in submitting the proposal.

## **J. State Not Responsible for Preparation Costs**

The costs for developing and delivering responses to this RFP and any subsequent presentations of the proposal as requested by the State are entirely the responsibility of the Vendor. The State is not liable for any expense incurred by the Vendor in the preparation and presentation of their proposal or any other costs incurred by the Vendor prior to execution of a contract.

## **K. State's Rights Reserved**

While the State has every intention to award a contract as a result of this RFP, issuance of the RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the State to award and execute a contract. Upon a determination such actions would be in its best interest, the State, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to:

- Cancel or terminate this RFP;
- Reject any or all of the proposals submitted in response to this RFP;
- Change its decision with respect to the selection and to select another proposal;
- Waive any minor irregularity in an otherwise valid proposal which would not jeopardize the overall program and to award a contract on the basis of such a waiver (minor irregularities are those which will not have a significant adverse effect on overall project cost or performance);

- Negotiate with any Vendor whose proposal is within the competitive range with respect to technical plan and cost;
- Adopt to its use all, or any part, of a Vendor's proposal and to use any idea or all ideas presented in a proposal;
- Amend the RFP (amendments to the RFP will be made by written addendum issued by the State and will be posted on the RFP website);
- Not award any contract.

## **L. Price**

Vendors must respond to this RFP by utilizing the RFP Cover Sheet to indicate the firm and fixed price for the implementation and updating/operation phase to complete the scope of work.

## **M. E-Verify Memorandum of Understanding**

The proposal response must include an E-Verify Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Homeland Security.

## **N. Proposal Format**

Proposals must be prepared on standard 8 ½" x 11" paper and must be bound. All proposal pages must be numbered unless specified otherwise. All responses, as well as, any reference material presented, must be written in English.

Proposals must not include references to information located elsewhere, such as Internet websites. Information or materials presented by the Vendor outside the formal response or subsequent discussion/negotiation, if requested, will not be considered, and will have no bearing on any award.

This RFP and its attachments are available on Medicaid's website. The Vendor acknowledges and accepts full responsibility to ensure that no changes are made to the RFP. In the event of inconsistencies or contradictions between language contained in the RFP and a Vendor's response, the language contained in the RFP will prevail. Should Medicaid issue addenda to the original RFP, then said addenda, being more recently issued, would prevail against both the original RFP and the Vendor's proposal.

## **O. Proposal Withdrawal**

The Vendor may withdraw a submitted proposal at any time before the deadline for submission. To withdraw a proposal, the Vendor must submit a written request, signed by a Vendor's representative authorized to sign the resulting contract, to the RFP Project Director. After withdrawing a previously submitted proposal, the Vendor may submit another proposal at any time up to the deadline for submitting proposals.

## **P. Proposal Amendment**

Medicaid will not accept any amendments, revisions, or alterations to proposals after the deadline for submitting proposals unless such is formally requested, in writing, by Medicaid.

## **Q. Proposal Errors**

The Vendor is liable for all errors or omissions contained in their proposals. The Vendor will not be allowed to alter proposal documents after the deadline for submitting proposals. If the Vendor needs to change a previously submitted proposal, the Vendor must withdraw the entire proposal and may submit the corrected proposal before the deadline for submitting proposals.

## **R. Disclosure of Proposal Contents**

Proposals and supporting documents are kept confidential until the evaluation process is complete, and a Vendor has been selected. The Vendor should be aware that any information in a proposal may be subject to disclosure and/or reproduction under Alabama law. Designation as proprietary or confidential may not protect any materials included within the proposal from disclosure if required by law. The Vendor should mark or otherwise designate any material that it feels is proprietary or otherwise confidential by labeling the page as "CONFIDENTIAL". The Vendor must also state any legal authority as to why that material should not be subject to public disclosure under Alabama open records law and is marked as Proprietary Information. By way of illustration but not limitation, "Proprietary Information" may include trade secrets, inventions, mask works, ideas, processes, formulas, source and object codes, data, programs, other works of authorship, know-how, improvements, discoveries, developments, designs and techniques.

Information contained in the Pricing Section may not be marked confidential. It is the sole responsibility of the Vendor to indicate information that is to remain confidential. Medicaid assumes no liability for the disclosure of information not identified by the Vendor as confidential. If the Vendor identifies its entire proposal as confidential, Medicaid may deem the proposal as non-compliant and may reject it.

## **S. Submission of Proposals**

Proposals must be sealed and labeled on the outside of the package to clearly indicate that they are in response to RFP 062 24000000082. Proposals must be sent to the attention of the Project Director and received at the Agency as specified in the Schedule of Events. It is the responsibility of the Vendor to ensure receipt of the Proposal by the deadline specified in the Schedule of Events.

## **T. Copies Required**

Vendors must submit one original Proposal with original signatures in ink, one additional hard copy in binder form, plus two electronic copies of the Proposal on CD/DVD or jump drive clearly labeled with the Vendor name. One electronic copy (Word and searchable PDF format) MUST be a complete version of the Vendor's response and the second electronic (searchable PDF format) copy MUST have any information asserted as confidential or proprietary removed. Vender must identify the original hard copy clearly on the outside of the proposal.

## **U. Late Proposals**

*Regardless of cause, late proposals will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration.* It shall be the Vendor's sole risk to assure delivery at the Agency by the designated deadline. Late proposals will not be opened and may be returned to the Vendor at the expense of the Vendor or destroyed if requested.

## **V. Proposal Clarifications**

The Agency reserves the right to request clarifications with any or all Vendors if they are necessary to properly clarify compliance with the requirements of this RFP. The Agency will not be liable for any



costs associated with such clarifications. The purpose of any such clarifications will be to ensure full understanding of the proposal. Clarifications will be limited to specific sections of the proposal identified by Medicaid. If clarifications are requested, the Vendor must put such clarifications in writing within the specified time frame.

## **VII. Evaluation and Selection Process**

### **A. Initial Classification of Proposals as Responsive or Non-responsive**

All proposals will initially be classified as either “responsive” or “non-responsive.” Proposals may be found non-responsive at any time during the evaluation process or contract negotiation if any of the required information is not provided; or the proposal is not within the plans and specifications described and required in the RFP. If a proposal is found to be non-responsive, it will not be considered further.

Proposals failing to demonstrate that the Vendor meets the mandatory requirements listed in Appendix A will be deemed non-responsive and not considered further in the evaluation process (and thereby rejected).

### **B. Determination of Responsibility**

The Project Director will determine whether a Vendor has met the standards of responsibility. In determining responsibility, the Project Director may consider factors such as, but not limited to, the vendor’s specialized expertise, ability to perform the work, experience and past performance. Such a determination may be made at any time during the evaluation process and through contract negotiation if information surfaces that would result in a determination of non-responsibility. If a Vendor is found non-responsible, a written determination will be made a part of the procurement file and mailed to the affected Vendor.

### **C. Opportunity for Additional Information**

The State reserves the right to contact any Vendor submitting a proposal for the purpose of clarifying issues in that Vendor’s proposal. Vendors should clearly designate in their proposal a point-of-contact for questions or issues that arise in the State’s review of a Vendor’s proposal.

### **D. Evaluation Committee**

An Evaluation Committee appointed by the Project Director will read the proposals, conduct corporate and personal reference checks, score the proposals, and make a written recommendation to the Commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency. The State may change the size or composition of the committee during the review in response to exigent circumstances.

### **E. Scoring**

The Evaluation Committee will score the proposals using the scoring system shown in the table below. The highest score that can be awarded to any proposal is 100 points.

<b>Evaluation Factor</b>	<b>Highest Possible Score</b>
Corporate Background and Experience	25
Scope of Work	35
References	5
Price	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## **F. Determination of Successful Proposal**

The Vendor whose proposal is determined to be in the best interest of the State will be recommended as the successful Contractor. The Project Director will forward this Vendor’s proposal through the supervisory chain to the Commissioner, with documentation to justify the Committee’s recommendation.

The Commissioner will review the Committee’s recommendation as well as the Vendor’s past performance under previously awarded contracts, if applicable. The Vendor whose proposal is determined by the Commissioner to be in the best interests of the State will be recommended as the successful contractor. When the final approval is received, the State will notify the selected Vendor. If the State rejects all proposals, it will notify all Vendors.

## **VIII. General Terms and Conditions**

### **A. General**

This RFP and Contractor’s response thereto shall be incorporated into a contract by the execution of a formal agreement. The contract and amendments, if any, are subject to approval by the Governor of the State of Alabama.

The contract shall include the following:

1. Executed contract,
2. RFP, attachments, and any amendments thereto,
3. Contractor’s response to the RFP, and shall be construed in accordance with and in the order of the applicable provisions of:
  - Title XIX of the Social Security Act, as amended and regulations promulgated hereunder by HHS and any other applicable federal statutes and regulations
  - The statutory and case law of the State of Alabama
  - The Alabama State Plan for Medical Assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, as amended
  - The Medicaid Administrative Code
  - Medicaid’s written response to prospective Vendor questions

### **B. Compliance with State and Federal Regulations**

Contractor shall perform all services under the contract in accordance with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. Medicaid retains full operational and administrative authority and responsibility over the Alabama Medicaid Program in accordance with the requirements of the federal statutes and regulations as the same may be amended from time to time.

### **C. Term of Contract**

The initial contract term shall be for two years effective April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2027. Alabama Medicaid shall have three, one-year options for extending this contract if approved by all required governmental entities. At the end of the contract period Alabama Medicaid may at its discretion, exercise the extension option and allow the period of performance to be extended at the rate indicated on the RFP Cover Sheet. The Vendor will provide pricing for each year of the contract, including any extensions.

Contractor acknowledges and understands that this contract is not effective until it has received all requisite state government approvals and Contractor shall not begin performing work under this contract until notified to do so by Medicaid. Contractor is entitled to no compensation for work performed prior to the effective date of this contract.

### **D. Contract Amendments**

No alteration or variation of the terms of the contract shall be valid unless made in writing and duly signed by the parties thereto. The contract may be amended by written agreement duly executed by the parties. Every such amendment shall specify the date its provisions shall be effective as agreed to by the parties.

The contract shall be deemed to include all applicable provisions of the State Plan and of all state and federal laws and regulations applicable to the Alabama Medicaid Program, as they may be amended. In the event of any substantial change in such Plan, laws, or regulations, that materially affects the operation of the Alabama Medicaid Program or the costs of administering such Program, either party, after written notice and before performance of any related work, may apply in writing to the other for an equitable adjustment in compensation caused by such substantial change.

### **E. Confidentiality**

Contractor shall treat all information, and in particular information relating to individuals that is obtained by or through its performance under the contract, as confidential information to the extent confidential treatment is provided under State and Federal laws including 45 CFR §160.101 – 164.534. Contractor shall not use any information so obtained in any manner except as necessary for the proper discharge of its obligations and rights under this contract.

Contractor shall ensure safeguards that restrict the use or disclosure of information concerning individuals to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Plan in accordance with 42 CFR Part 431, Subpart F, as specified in 42 CFR § 434.6(a)(8). Purposes directly related to the Plan administration include:

1. Establishing eligibility;
2. Determining the amount of medical assistance;
3. Providing services for recipients; and
4. Conducting or assisting an investigation, prosecution, or civil or criminal proceeding related to the administration of the Plan.

Pursuant to requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 (Public Law 104-191), the successful Contractor shall sign and comply with the terms of a Business Associate agreement with the Agency (Appendix B).

## **F. Security and Release of Information**

Contractor shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety and security of all information, data, procedures, methods, and funds involved in the performance under the contract, and shall require the same from all employees so involved. Contractor shall not release any data or other information relating to the Alabama Medicaid Program without prior written consent of Medicaid. This provision covers both general summary data as well as detailed, specific data. Contractor shall not be entitled to use of Alabama Medicaid Program data in its other business dealings without prior written consent of Medicaid. All requests for program data shall be referred to Medicaid for response by the Commissioner only.

## **G. Federal Nondisclosure Requirements**

Each officer or employee of any person to whom Social Security information is or may be disclosed shall be notified in writing by such person that Social Security information disclosed to such officer or employee can be only used for authorized purposes and to that extent and any other unauthorized use herein constitutes a felony punishable upon conviction by a fine of as much as \$5,000 or imprisonment for as long as five years, or both, together with the cost of prosecution. Such person shall also notify each such officer or employee that any such unauthorized further disclosure of Social Security information may also result in an award of civil damages against the officer or employee in an amount not less than \$1,000 with respect to each instance of unauthorized disclosure. These penalties are prescribed by IRC Sections 7213 and 7431 and set forth at 26 CFR 301.6103(n).

Additionally, it is incumbent upon the contractor to inform its officers and employees of penalties for improper disclosure implied by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 USC 552a. Specifically, 5 USC 552a (i) (1), which is made applicable to contractors by 5 USC 552a (m) (1), provides that any officer or employee of a contractor, who by virtue of his/her employment or official position, has possession of or access to agency records which contain individually identifiable information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by the Privacy Act or regulations established there under, and who knowing that disclosure of the specific material is prohibited, willfully discloses that material in any manner to any person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.

## **H. Contract a Public Record**

Upon signing of this contract by all parties, the terms of the contract become available to the public pursuant to Alabama law. Contractor agrees to allow public access to all documents, papers, letters, or other materials subject to the current Alabama law on disclosure. It is expressly understood that substantial evidence of Contractor's refusal to comply with this provision shall constitute a material breach of contract.

## **I. Termination for Bankruptcy**

The filing of a petition for voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy of a company or corporate reorganization pursuant to the Bankruptcy Act shall, at the option of Medicaid, constitute default by Contractor effective the date of such filing. Contractor shall inform Medicaid in writing of any such action(s) immediately upon occurrence by the most expeditious means possible. Medicaid may, at its option, declare default and notify Contractor in writing that performance under the contract is terminated and proceed to seek appropriate relief from Contractor.

## **J. Termination for Default**

Medicaid may, by written notice, terminate performance under the contract, in whole or in part, for failure of Contractor to perform any of the contract provisions. In the event Contractor defaults in the

performance of any of Contractor's material duties and obligations, written notice shall be given to Contractor specifying default. Contractor shall have 10 calendar days, or such additional time as agreed to in writing by Medicaid, after the mailing of such notice to cure any default. In the event Contractor does not cure a default within 10 calendar days, or such additional time allowed by Medicaid, Medicaid may, at its option, notify Contractor in writing that performance under the contract is terminated and proceed to seek appropriate relief from Contractor.

#### **K. Termination for Unavailability of Funds**

Performance by the State of Alabama of any of its obligations under the contract is subject to and contingent upon the availability of state and federal monies lawfully applicable for such purposes. If Medicaid, in its sole discretion, deems at any time during the term of the contract that monies lawfully applicable to this agreement shall not be available for the remainder of the term, Medicaid shall promptly notify Contractor to that effect, whereupon the obligations of the parties hereto shall end as of the date of the receipt of such notice and the contract shall at such time be cancelled without penalty to Medicaid, State or Federal Government.

#### **L. Proration of Funds**

In the event of proration of the funds from which payment under this contract is to be made, this contract will be subject to termination.

#### **M. Termination for Convenience**

Medicaid may terminate performance of work under the Contract in whole or in part whenever, for any reason, Medicaid, in its sole discretion determines that such termination is in the best interest of the State. In the event that Medicaid elects to terminate the contract pursuant to this provision, it shall so notify the Contractor by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. The termination shall be effective as of the date specified in the notice. In such event, Contractor will be entitled only to payment for all work satisfactorily completed and for reasonable, documented costs incurred in good faith for work in progress. The Contractor will not be entitled to payment for uncompleted work, or for anticipated profit, unabsorbed overhead, or any other costs.

#### **N. Force Majeure**

Contractor shall be excused from performance hereunder for any period Contractor is prevented from performing any services pursuant hereto in whole or in part as a result of an act of God, war, civil disturbance, epidemic, court order; such nonperformance shall not be a ground for termination for default.

#### **O. Nondiscriminatory Compliance**

Contractor shall comply with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375, both issued by the President of the United States, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and with all applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations implementing the foregoing statutes with respect to nondiscrimination in employment.

#### **P. Conflict of Interest**

The parties acknowledge and agree that the Contractor must be free of conflicts of interest in accordance with all federal and state regulations while performing the duties within the contract and this amendment. The Contractor and Medicaid agree that each has no conflict of interest preventing the execution of this

Contract amendment or the requirements of the original contract, and said parties will abide by applicable state and federal regulations, specifically those requirements found in the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act. 41 U.S.C.A. 2101 through 2107.

### **Q. Boycott Clauses**

In compliance with Ala Code § 41-16-5, the contractor hereby certifies that it is not currently engaged in, and will not engage in, the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with which this state can enjoy open trade.

In compliance with Ala Code § 41-16-163, by signing this contract, Contractor provides written verification that Contractor, without violating controlling law or regulation, does not and will not, during the term of the contract engage in economic boycotts as the term “economic boycott” is defined in Section 1 of the Act.

### **R. Small and Minority Business Enterprise Utilization**

In accordance with the provisions of 45 CFR Part 75.330 and OMB Circular A-102, affirmative steps shall be taken to assure that small and minority businesses are utilized when possible as sources of supplies, equipment, construction, and services.

### **S. Worker’s Compensation**

Contractor shall take out and maintain, during the life of this contract, Worker’s Compensation Insurance for all of its employees under the contract or any subcontract thereof, if required by state law.

### **T. Employment of State Staff**

Contractor shall not knowingly engage on a full-time, part-time, or other basis during the period of the contract any professional or technical personnel, who are or have been in the employment of Medicaid during the previous twelve (12) months, except retired employees or contractual consultants, without the written consent of Medicaid. Certain Medicaid employees may be subject to more stringent employment restrictions under the Alabama Code of Ethics, §36-25-1 et seq., Code of Alabama 1975.

### **U. Immigration Compliance**

Contractor will not knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama. Contractor shall comply with the requirements of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and the Beason- Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act (Ala, Act 2012- 491 and any amendments thereto) and certify its compliance by executing Attachment G. Contractor will document that the Contractor is enrolled in the E-Verify Program operated by the US Department of Homeland Security as required by Section 9 of Act 2012-491. During the performance of the contract, the Contractor shall participate in the E-Verify program and shall verify every employee that is required to be verified according to the applicable federal rules and regulations. Contractor further agrees that, should it employ or contract with any subcontractor(s) in connection with the performance of the services pursuant to this contract that the Contractor will secure from such subcontractor documentation that subcontractor is enrolled in the E-Verify program prior to performing any work on the project. The subcontractor shall verify every employee that is required to be verified according to the applicable federal rules and regulations. This subsection shall only apply to subcontractors performing work on a project subject to the provisions of this section and not to collateral persons or business entities

hired by the subcontractor. Contractor shall maintain the subcontractor documentation that shall be available upon request by the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

Pursuant to Ala. Code §31-13-9(k), by signing this contract, the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of the agreement, that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the state of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in termination of the agreement or subcontract.

## **V. Share of Contract**

No official or employee of the State of Alabama shall be admitted to any share of the contract or to any benefit that may arise there from.

## **W. Waivers**

No covenant, condition, duty, obligation, or undertaking contained in or made a part of the contract shall be waived except by written agreement of the parties.

## **X. Warranties Against Broker's Fees**

Contractor warrants that no person or selling agent has been employed or retained to solicit or secure the contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission percentage, brokerage, or contingency fee excepting bona fide employees. For breach of this warranty, Medicaid shall have the right to terminate the contract without liability.

## **Y. Novation**

In the event of a change in the corporate or company ownership of Contractor, Medicaid shall retain the right to continue the contract with the new owner or terminate the contract. The new corporate or company entity must agree to the terms of the original contract and any amendments thereto. During the interim between legal recognition of the new entity and Medicaid execution of the novation agreement, a valid contract shall continue to exist between Medicaid and the original Contractor. When, to Medicaid's satisfaction, sufficient evidence has been presented of the new owner's ability to perform under the terms of the contract, Medicaid may approve the new owner and a novation agreement shall be executed.

## **Z. Employment Basis**

It is expressly understood and agreed that Medicaid enters into this agreement with Contractor and any subcontractor as authorized under the provisions of this contract as an independent Contractor on a purchase of service basis and not on an employer-employee basis and not subject to State Merit System law.

## **AA. Disputes and Litigation**

Except in those cases where the proposal response exceeds the requirements of the RFP, any conflict between the response of Contractor and the RFP shall be controlled by the provisions of the RFP. Any dispute concerning a question of fact arising under the contract which is not disposed of by agreement shall be decided by the Commissioner of Medicaid.

The Contractor's sole remedy for the settlement of any and all disputes arising under the terms of this contract shall be limited to the filing of a claim with the board of Adjustment for the State of Alabama. Pending a final decision of a dispute hereunder, the Contractor must proceed diligently with the performance of the contract in accordance with the disputed decision.

In the event of any dispute between the parties, senior officials of both parties shall meet and engage in a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute. Should that effort fail, and the dispute involves the payment of money, a party's sole remedy is the filing of a claim with the Board of Adjustment of the State of Alabama.

For any and all other disputes arising under the terms of this contract which are not resolved by negotiation, the parties agree to utilize appropriate forms of non-binding alternative dispute resolution including, but not limited to, mediation. Such dispute resolution shall occur in Montgomery, Alabama, utilizing where appropriate, mediators selected from the roster of mediators maintained by the Center For Dispute Resolution of the Alabama State Bar.

Any litigation brought by Medicaid or Contractor regarding any provision of the contract shall be brought in either the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Alabama, or the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division, according to the jurisdictions of these courts. This provision shall not be deemed an attempt to confer any jurisdiction on these courts which they do not by law have, but is a stipulation and agreement as to forum and venue only.

## **BB. Records Retention and Storage**

Contractor shall maintain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to the Alabama Medicaid Program for a period of three years from the date of the final payment made by Medicaid to Contractor under the contract. However, if audit, litigation, or other legal action by or on behalf of the State or Federal Government has begun but is not completed at the end of the three- year period, or if audit findings, litigation, or other legal action have not been resolved at the end of the three year period, the records shall be retained until resolution.

## **CC. Inspection of Records**

Contractor agrees that representatives of the Comptroller General, HHS, the General Accounting Office, the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, and Medicaid and their authorized representatives shall have the right during business hours to inspect and copy Contractor's books and records pertaining to contract performance and costs thereof. Contractor shall cooperate fully with requests from any of the agencies listed above and shall furnish free of charge copies of all requested records. Contractor may require that a receipt be given for any original record removed from Contractor's premises.

## **DD. Use of Federal Cost Principles**

For any terms of the contract which allow reimbursement for the cost of procuring goods, materials, supplies, equipment, or services, such procurement shall be made on a competitive basis (including the use of competitive bidding procedures) where practicable, and reimbursement for such cost under the contract shall be in accordance with 48 CFR, Chapter 1, Part 31. Further, if such reimbursement is to be made with funds derived wholly or partially from federal sources, such reimbursement shall be subject to Contractor's compliance with applicable federal procurement requirements, and the determination of costs shall be governed by federal cost principles.



## **EE. Payment**

Contractor shall submit to Medicaid a detailed monthly invoice for compensation for the deliverable and/or work performed. Invoices should be submitted to the Project Director. Payments are dependent upon successful completion and acceptance of described work and delivery of required documentation.

## **FF. Notice to Parties**

Any notice to Medicaid under the contract shall be sufficient when mailed to the Project Director. Any notice to Contractor shall be sufficient when mailed to Contractor at the address given on the return receipt from this RFP or on the contract after signing. Notice shall be given by certified mail, return receipt requested.

## **GG. Disclosure Statement**

The successful Contractor shall be required to complete a financial disclosure statement with the executed contract.

## **HH. Debarment**

Contractor hereby certifies that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this contract by any Federal department or agency.

## **II. Not to Constitute a Debt of the State**

Under no circumstances shall any commitments by Medicaid constitute a debt of the State of Alabama as prohibited by Article XI, Section 213, Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended by Amendment 26. It is further agreed that if any provision of this contract shall contravene any statute or Constitutional provision or amendment, whether now in effect or which may, during the course of this Contract, be enacted, then that conflicting provision in the contract shall be deemed null and void. The Contractor's sole remedy for the settlement of any and all disputes arising under the terms of this agreement shall be limited to the filing of a claim against Medicaid with the Board of Adjustment for the State of Alabama.

## **JJ. Qualification to do Business in Alabama**

Should a foreign corporation (a business corporation incorporated under a law other than the law of this state) be selected to provide professional services in accordance with this RFP, it must be qualified to transact business in the State of Alabama and possess a valid "Application of Registration" issued by the Secretary of State at the time a professional services contract is executed. To obtain forms for an "Application for Registration", contact the Secretary of State at (334) 242-5324 or [www.sos.state.al.us](http://www.sos.state.al.us). The "Application for Registration" showing application has been made must be submitted with the proposal.

## **KK. Choice of Law**

The construction, interpretation, and enforcement of this contract shall be governed by the substantive contract law of the State of Alabama without regard to its conflict of laws provisions. In the event any provision of this contract is unenforceable as a matter of law, the remaining provisions will remain in full force and effect.

#### **LL. AMMIS Interface Standards**

Contractor hereby certifies that any exchange of MMIS data with the Agency's fiscal agent will be accomplished by following the AMMIS Interface Standards Document, which will be posted on the Medicaid website.

#### **MM. Non-appropriation and Proration Clause**

When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be cancelled, and, to the extent permissible by law, the supplier shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any nonrecurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the supplies or services delivered under the contract. To the extent permissible by law, this cost of cancellation may be paid from any appropriations available for that purpose.

In the event that proration of appropriated funds from which the State is to pay the supplier is declared by the Governor pursuant to Section 41-4-90 of the Code of Alabama, the contractor shall have the option, in addition to the other remedies of the contract, of renegotiating the contract to extend or change payment terms or amounts, or terminating the contract. In all circumstances, it is agreed that the terms and commitments of this contract shall not constitute a debt of the State of Alabama in violation of Section 213 of the Constitution of Alabama, as amended.

#### **NN. State of Alabama Accounting and Resources System (STAARS) Solicitation Document**

All information found in the STAARS Solicitation document, including standard Terms and Conditions, released by the Alabama Department of Finance, in reference to this RFP is incorporated by reference into this document.

## Appendix A: Proposal Compliance Checklist

### NOTICE TO VENDOR:

It is highly encouraged that the following checklist be used to verify completeness of Proposal content. It is not required to submit this checklist with your proposal.

Vendor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Project Director \_\_\_\_\_

Review Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Proposals for which **ALL** applicable items are marked by the Project Director are determined to be compliant for responsive proposals.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IF CORRECT	<b>BASIC PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Vendor's original proposal received on time at correct location.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Vendor submitted the specified copies of proposal and in electronic format.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. The Proposal includes a completed and signed RFP Cover Sheet.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. The Proposal is a complete and independent document, with no references to external documents or resources.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Vendor submitted signed acknowledgement of any and all addenda to RFP.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. The Proposal includes written confirmation that the Vendor understands and shall comply with all of the provisions of the RFP.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. The Proposal includes required client references (with all identifying information in specified format and order).
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. The Proposal includes a corporate background.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. The Proposal includes a detailed description of the plan to design, implement, monitor, and address special situations related to the AAC program as outlined in the request for proposal regarding each element listed in the scope of work.
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. The response includes (if applicable) an Application of Registration or letter/form showing the application has been made with the Secretary of State.
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. The response includes an E-Verify MOU with the Department of Homeland Security.
<b>Acknowledgment and Comply Statements</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. The Proposal must include a detailed description for an approach that streamlines the process of requesting, obtaining, analyzing, and reporting acquisition cost data, reduces administrative burdens on providers, and generally improves the timeliness of the pricing and reimbursement process.

<input type="checkbox"/>	13. The Proposal must include a detailed description for an AAC determination and dissemination process.
<input type="checkbox"/>	14. The Proposal must detail a rigorous and timely protocol for the review, update, and maintenance of rates based on AACs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	15. The Proposal must include a detailed description of its solution to address special processes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	16. The Proposal must acknowledge that the vendor will be required to conduct detailed coordination activities with the State, as well as FDB, Gainwell Technologies, provider associations, or any additional vendors necessary to operate and update the program.
<input type="checkbox"/>	17. For the vendor to be considered for the optional AAC Services and optional 340B Auditing, the Proposal must include a detailed process and annual cost for each approach.
<input type="checkbox"/>	18. The Proposal must acknowledge that, if the contract award results in a transition from the Incumbent Vendor to a new Contractor, a transition period prior to contract start shall be necessary to ensure all processes are implemented with a seamless transition and minimal interruption to the Medicaid recipients and providers. The incoming Contractor will not be compensated during the transition period.

## **Appendix B: Contract and Attachments**

The following are the documents that must be signed **AFTER** contract award notification and prior to the meeting of the Legislative Contract Oversight Committee Meeting.

### Sample Contract

*Attachment A:* Contract Review Report for Submission to Oversight Committee

*Attachment B:* Business Associate Addendum

*Attachment C:* Immigration Status

*Attachment D:* Instructions for Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion

*Attachment E:* Letter Regarding Reporting to Ethics Commission

*Attachment F:* Disclosure Statement

*Attachment G:* Beason-Hammon Certificate of Compliance

*Attachment H:* Governor's Additional Contract Questions

CONTRACT  
BETWEEN  
THE ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY  
AND  
Contractor's Name

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Alabama Medicaid Agency, an Agency of the State of Alabama, and Contractor's Name, Contractor, agree as follows:

Contractor shall furnish all labor, equipment, and materials and perform all of the work required under the Request for Proposal (RFP) Number Enter RFP , dated Enter date of RFP strictly in accordance with the requirements thereof and Contractor's response thereto.

Contractor shall be compensated for performance under this contract in accordance with the provisions of the RFP and the price provided on the RFP Cover Sheet response, in an amount not to exceed Enter Not to Exceed Amount.

Contractor and the Alabama Medicaid Agency agree that the initial term of the contract is Enter Begin Date to Enter End Date.

This contract specifically incorporates by reference the RFP, The State of Alabama Accounting and Resource System Solicitation Document, any attachments and amendments thereto, and Contractor's response.

In the event of any dispute between the parties, senior officials of both parties shall meet and engage in a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute. Should that effort fail and the dispute involves the payment of money, a party's sole remedy is the filing of a claim with the Board of Adjustment of the State of Alabama.

For any and all other disputes arising under the terms of this contract which are not resolved by negotiation, the parties agree to utilize appropriate forms of non-binding alternative dispute resolution including, but not limited to, mediation. Such dispute resolution shall occur in Montgomery, Alabama, utilizing where appropriate, mediators selected from the roster of mediators maintained by the Center for Dispute Resolution of the Alabama State Bar.

All services rendered by Contractor shall be as an independent contractor and not as an employee (merit or otherwise) of the State of Alabama, and Contractor shall not be entitled to or receive Merit System benefits.

By signing this contract, the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of the agreement, that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the state of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom.

When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be cancelled, and, to the extent permissible by law, the supplier shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any nonrecurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the supplies or services delivered under the contract. To the extent permissible by law, this cost of cancellation may be paid from any appropriations available for that purpose.

In the event that proration of appropriated funds from which the State is to pay the supplier is declared by the Governor pursuant to Section 41-4-90 of the Code of Alabama, the contractor shall have the option, in addition to the other remedies of the contract, of renegotiating the contract to extend or change payment terms or amounts, or terminating the contract. In all circumstances, it is agreed that the terms and commitments of this

contract shall not constitute a debt of the State of Alabama in violation of Section 213 of the Constitution of Alabama, as amended.

In compliance with Ala Code § 41-16-5, the contractor hereby certifies that it is not currently engaged in, and will not engage in, the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with which this state can enjoy open trade.

In compliance with Ala Code § 41-16-163, by signing this contract, Contractor provides written verification that Contractor, without violating controlling law or regulation, does not and will not, during the term of the contract engage in economic boycotts as the term “economic boycott” is defined in Section 1 of the Act.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in termination of the agreement or subcontract.

Contractor Name Alabama Medicaid Agency

This contract has been reviewed for and is approved as to content.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie McGee Azar  
Commissioner

Tax ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

This contract has been reviewed for legal form and complies with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations of the State of Alabama governing these matters.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Procurement Officer  
State Purchasing

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kay Ivey  
Governor, State of Alabama

**Contract Review Permanent Legislative Oversight Committee**  
Alabama State House --- Montgomery, Alabama 36130

**CONTRACT REVIEW REPORT**

(Separate review report required for each contract Contractor Information)

**Contractor Information**

Name of Governmental Body or Purchasing Agency: Alabama Medicaid Agency

Name of Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor's Physical Street Address (**No P.O. Box Accepted**) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Is Contractor a Sole Source? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ (**If Yes, Attach Sole Source Approval from the Chief Procurement Officer**)

Is Contractor organized as an Alabama Entity in Alabama? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If No, is Contractor Registered with Alabama Secretary of State to do Business in Alabama? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

List the Members/Owners (e.g. John Smith) of the Contracting Entity \_\_\_\_\_

Is Contractor a minority-owned business? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Is Contractor a woman-owned business? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Does Contractor have current member of Legislature or family member of Legislator employed? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Is a Lobbyist/Consultant Affiliated with this Contractor OR Used to Secure this Contract? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, Give Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contract Information**

Contract Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (**See Fiscal Policies & Procedures Manual**)

Contract Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (**Put Amount You Are Asking For Today Only; See Fiscal Policies & Procedures Manual**)

State Funds: \_\_\_\_\_ % Federal Funds: \_\_\_\_\_ % Other Funds: \_\_\_\_\_\*\*

\*\*Please Specify Source of Other Funds (Fees, Grants, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Contract Effective: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Contract Ends: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Contract: NEW: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL: \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

If AMENDMENT or RENEWAL, Complete A through C: If AMENDMENT, will it extend time? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

[A] ORIGINAL contract amount total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

[B] Contract Amount Total prior to this amendment or renewal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

[C] Contract Amount Total after this amendment or renewal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RFP:** **If RFQ, Answer RFQ Questions Below.**

Was Contract Secured through RFP Process? YES X NO \_\_\_\_\_

Date the RFP was solicited: \_\_\_\_\_ AND Date the RFP was awarded: \_\_\_\_\_ Was Contract

Posted to Statewide RFP Database at <http://rfp.alabama.gov/Login.aspx>? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If NO, give a brief explanation, including any statutory exemption, as to why not: \_\_\_\_\_

**RFQ:**

Was Contract Secured through RFQ Process? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X Date RFQ was solicited: \_\_\_\_\_ Date RFQ awarded: \_\_\_\_\_ Posted to

Division of Construction Management Website? [http://dcm.alabama.gov/ae\\_qualifications.aspx](http://dcm.alabama.gov/ae_qualifications.aspx) YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

If NO, give a brief explanation as to why not: This contract was procured through the RFP Process.

Summary of Contract Services to be Provided: \_\_\_\_\_

Why Contract Necessary AND why this service cannot be performed by merit employee: \_\_\_\_\_

*I certify that the above information is correct.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Governmental or Agency Head

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Contractor

**Stephanie McGee Azar**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Governmental or Agency Head

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Contractor

Governmental or Agency Contact: Stephanie Lindsay Phone: 334 353-3781

Revised 12/28/2022



**ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT**

*Revised 06/2019*

This Agreement is made effective the Enter Begin Date, by and between the Alabama Medicaid Agency (“Covered Entity”), an agency of the State of Alabama, and Contractor Name (“Business Associate”) (collectively the “Parties”).

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.** Business Associate agrees to perform the following services for or on behalf of Covered Entity: Enter a description below of the service(s) to be provided with sufficient detail to ensure clarity.
- 1.2.** The relationship between Covered Entity and Business Associate is such that the Parties believe Business Associate is or may be a “business associate” within the meaning of the HIPAA Rules (as defined below).
- 1.3.** The Parties enter into this Business Associate Agreement with the intention of complying with the HIPAA Rules allowing a covered entity to disclose protected health information to a business associate, and allowing a business associate to create or receive protected health information on its behalf, if the covered entity obtains satisfactory assurances that the business associate will appropriately safeguard the information.

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

### **2.1. General Definitions**

The following terms used in this Agreement shall have the same meaning as those terms in the HIPAA Rules: Breach, Data Aggregation, Designated Record Set, Disclosure, Electronic Protected Health Information, Health Care Operations, Individual, Minimum Necessary, Notice of Privacy Practices, Protected Health Information, Required By Law, Secretary, Security Incident, Subcontractor, Unsecured Protected Health Information, and Use.

### **2.2. Specific Definitions**

- 2.2.1. Business Associate.** “Business Associate” shall generally have the same meaning as the term “business associate” at 45 C.F.R. § 160.103
- 2.2.2. Covered Entity.** “Covered Entity” shall generally have the same meaning as the term “covered entity” at 45 C.F.R. § 160.103.
- 2.2.3. HIPAA Rules.** “HIPAA Rules” shall mean the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification, and Enforcement Rules at 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009, and the implementing regulations promulgated thereunder from time to time by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

## **3. OBLIGATIONS OF BUSINESS ASSOCIATE**

Business Associate agrees to the following:

- 3.1.** Use or disclose PHI only as permitted or required by this Agreement or as Required by Law.
- 3.2.** Use appropriate safeguards to prevent use or disclosure of PHI other than as provided for by this Agreement. Further, Business Associate will implement administrative, physical and technical safeguards (including written policies and procedures) that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of electronic PHI that it creates, receives, maintains or transmits on behalf of Covered Entity as required by Subpart C of 45 C.F.R. Part 164.
- 3.3.** Mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to Business Associate of a use or

disclosure of PHI by Business Associate in violation of the requirements of this Agreement.

- 3.4. Report to Covered Entity within five (5) business days any use or disclosure of PHI not provided for by this Agreement of which it becomes aware.
- 3.5. Ensure that any subcontractors that create, receive, maintain, or transmit protected health information on behalf of the Business Associate agree to the same restrictions, conditions, and requirements that apply to the Business Associate with respect to such information in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.502(e)(1)(ii) and § 164.308(b)(2), if applicable.
- 3.6. Provide Covered Entity with access to PHI within thirty (30) business days of a written request from Covered Entity, in order to allow Covered Entity to meet its requirements under 45 C.F.R. § 164.524, access to PHI maintained by Business Associate in a Designated Record Set.
- 3.7. Make amendment(s) to PHI maintained by Business Associate in a Designated Record Set that Covered Entity directs or agrees to, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.526 at the written request of Covered Entity, within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving the request.
- 3.8. Make internal practices, books, and records, including policies and procedures and PHI, relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from, or created or received by the Business Associate on behalf of, Covered Entity, available to Covered Entity or to the Secretary within five (5) business days after receipt of written notice or as designated by the Secretary for purposes of determining compliance with the HIPAA Rules.
- 3.9. Maintain and make available the information required for Covered Entity to respond to a request by an individual for an accounting of disclosures of PHI as necessary to satisfy the Covered Entity's obligations under 45 C.F.R. § 164.528.
- 3.10. Provide to the Covered Entity, within thirty (30) days of receipt of a written request from Covered Entity, the information required for Covered Entity to respond to a request by an Individual or an authorized representative for an accounting of disclosures of PHI in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.528.
- 3.11. Maintain a comprehensive security program appropriate to the size and complexity of the Business Associate's operations and the nature and scope of its activities as defined in the Security Rule.
- 3.12. Notify the Covered Entity within five (5) business days following the discovery of a breach of unsecured PHI on the part of the Contractor or any of its sub-contractors, and
  - 3.12.1. Provide the Covered Entity the following information:
    - 3.12.1(a) The number of recipient records involved in the breach.
    - 3.12.1(b) A description of what happened, including the date of the breach and the date of the discovery of the breach if known.
    - 3.12.1(c) A description of the types of unsecure protected health information that were involved in the breach (such as whether full name, social security number, date of birth, home address, account number, diagnosis, disability code, or other type information were involved).
    - 3.12.1(d) Any steps the individuals should take to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the breach.
    - 3.12.1(e) A description of what the Business Associate is doing to investigate the breach, to mitigate harm to individuals and to protect against any further breaches.
    - 3.12.1(f) Contact procedures for individuals to ask questions or learn additional information, which shall include the Business Associate's toll-free number, email address, Web site, or postal address.
    - 3.12.1(g) A proposed media release developed by the Business Associate.
  - 3.12.2 Work with Covered Entity to ensure the necessary notices are provided to the recipient, prominent media outlet, or to report the breach to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) as required by 45 C.F.R. Part 164, Subpart D.;
  - 3.12.3 Pay the costs of the notification for breaches that occur as a result of any act or failure to act on the part of any employee, officer, or agent of the Business Associate;
  - 3.12.4 Co-ordinate with the Covered Entity in determining additional specific actions that will be required

of the Business Associate for mitigation of the breach.

#### **4. PERMITTED USES AND DISCLOSURES**

Except as otherwise limited in this Agreement, Business Associate may

- 4.1.** Use or disclose PHI to perform functions, activities, or services for, or on behalf of, Covered Entity as agreed to, provided that such use or disclosure would not violate the Subpart E of 45 C.F.R. Part 164 if done by Covered Entity;
- 4.2.** Use PHI for the proper management and administration of the Business Associate or to carry out the legal responsibilities of the Business Associate.
- 4.3.** Disclose PHI for the proper management and administration of the Business Associate, provided that:
  - 4.3.1. Disclosures are Required by Law; or
  - 4.3.2. Business Associate obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that it will remain confidential and used or further disclosed only as Required by Law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notifies the Business Associate of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached.
- 4.4.** Use PHI to provide data aggregation services to Covered Entity as permitted by 42 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(2)(i)(B).

#### **5. REPORTING IMPROPER USE OR DISCLOSURE**

The Business Associate shall report to the Covered Entity within five (5) business days from the date the Business Associate becomes aware of:

- 5.1.** Any use or disclosure of PHI not provided for by this agreement
- 5.2.** Any Security Incident and/or breach of unsecured PHI

#### **6. OBLIGATIONS OF COVERED ENTITY**

The Covered Entity agrees to the following:

- 6.1.** Notify the Business Associate of any limitation(s) in its notice of privacy practices in accordance with 45 C.F.R. §164.520, to the extent that such limitation may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.
- 6.2.** Notify the Business Associate of any changes in, or revocation of, permission by an Individual to use or disclose PHI, to the extent that such changes may affect the Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.
- 6.3.** Notify the Business Associate of any restriction to the use or disclosure of PHI that Covered Entity has agreed to in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.522, to the extent that such restriction may affect the Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.
- 6.4.** Not request Business Associate to use or disclose PHI in any manner that would not be permissible under the Privacy Rule if done by Covered Entity.
- 6.5.** Provide Business Associate with only that PHI which is minimally necessary for Business Associate to provide the services to which this agreement pertains.

#### **7. TERM AND TERMINATION**

**7.1. Term.** The Term of this Agreement shall be effective as of the effective date stated above and shall terminate when the Business Associate no longer provides agreed upon services to the Covered Entity.

**7.2. Termination for Cause.** Upon Covered Entity's knowledge of a material breach by Business Associate,

Covered Entity may, at its option:

- 7.2.1. Provide an opportunity for Business Associate to cure the breach or end the violation, and terminate this Agreement if Business Associate does not cure the breach or end the violation within the time specified by Covered Entity;
- 7.2.2. Immediately terminate this Agreement; or
- 7.2.3. If neither termination nor cure is feasible, report the violation to the Secretary as provided in the Privacy Rule.

### **7.3. Effect of Termination.**

- 7.3.1. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this section, upon termination of this Agreement, for any reason, Business Associate shall return or destroy all PHI received from Covered Entity, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity. This provision shall apply to PHI that is in the possession of subcontractors or agents of Business Associate. Business Associate shall retain no copies of the PHI.
- 7.3.2. In the event that Business Associate determines that the PHI is needed for its own management and administration or to carry out legal responsibilities, and returning or destroying the PHI is not feasible, Business Associate shall provide to Covered Entity notification of the conditions that make return or destruction not feasible. Business Associate shall:
  - 7.3.2.a. Retain only that PHI which is necessary for Business Associate to continue its proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities;
  - 7.3.2.b. Return to Covered Entity or, if agreed to by Covered Entity, destroy the remaining PHI that the Business Associate still maintains in any form;
  - 7.3.2.c. Continue to use appropriate safeguards and comply with Subpart C of 45 C.F.R. Part 164 with respect to electronic protected health information to prevent use or disclosure of the protected health information, other than as provided for in this Section, for as long as Business Associate retains the PHI;
  - 7.3.2.d. Not use or disclose the PHI retained by Business Associate other than for the purposes for which such PHI was retained and subject to the same conditions set out at Section 4, "Permitted Uses and Disclosures" which applied prior to termination; and
  - 7.3.2.e. Return to Covered Entity or, if agreed to by Covered Entity, destroy the PHI retained by Business Associate when it is no longer needed by Business Associate for its proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities.

### **7.4. Survival**

The obligations of Business Associate under this Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

## **8. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 8.1. Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be resolved to permit Covered Entity to comply with the HIPAA Rules.
- 8.2. A breach of this Agreement by Business Associate shall be considered sufficient basis for Covered Entity to terminate the services of the Business Associate.
- 8.3. The Parties agree to take such action as is necessary to amend this Agreement from time to time for Covered Entity to comply with the requirements of the HIPAA Rules.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Covered Entity and Business Associate have executed this Agreement effective on the date as stated above

**ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Nakeshia James**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

**Privacy Analyst**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**IMMIGRATION STATUS**

I hereby attest that all workers on this project are either citizens of the United States or are in a proper and legal immigration status that authorizes them to be employed for pay within the United States.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Contractor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

**Instructions for Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension,  
Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion**

(Derived from Appendix B to 45 CFR Part 76--Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions)

1. By signing and submitting this contract, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out therein.

2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this contract was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Alabama Medicaid Agency (the Agency) may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the Agency if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or had become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

4. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, and voluntarily excluded, have the meaning set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this contract is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this contract that, should the contract be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.

6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this contract that it will include this certification clause without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Agency may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.



KAY IVEY  
Governor

## Alabama Medicaid Agency

501 Dexter Avenue  
P.O. Box 5624  
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624  
www.medicaid.alabama.gov  
e-mail: almedicaid@medicaid.alabama.gov

Telecommunication for the Deaf: 1-800-253-0799  
334-242-5000 1-800-362-1504



STEPHANIE MCGEE AZAR  
Commissioner

### MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT:** Reporting to Ethics Commission by Persons Related to Agency Employees

Section 36-25-16(b) Code of Alabama (1975) provides that anyone who enters into a contract with a state agency for the sale of goods or services exceeding \$7500 shall report to the State Ethics Commission the names of any adult child, parent, spouse, brother or sister employed by the agency.

Please review your situation for applicability of this statute. The address of the Alabama Ethics Commission is:

100 North Union Street  
RSA Union Bldg.  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

A copy of the statute is reproduced below for your information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Agency Office of General Counsel, at 242-5741.

**Section 36-25-16. Reports by persons who are related to public officials or public employees and who represent persons before regulatory body or contract with state.**

- (a) When any citizen of the state or business with which he or she is associated represents for a fee any person before a regulatory body of the executive branch, he or she shall report to the commission the name of any adult child, parent, spouse, brother, or sister who is a public official or a public employee of that regulatory body of the executive branch.
- (b) When any citizen of the State or business with which the person is associated enters into a contract for the sale of goods or services to the State of Alabama or any of its agencies or any county or municipality and any of their respective agencies in amounts exceeding seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7500) he or she shall report to the commission the names of any adult child, parent, spouse, brother, or sister who is a public official or public employee of the agency or department with whom the contract is made.
- (c) This section shall not apply to any contract for the sale of goods or services awarded through a process of public notice and competitive bidding.
- (d) Each regulatory body of the executive branch, or any agency of the State of Alabama shall be responsible for notifying citizens affected by this chapter of the requirements of this section. (Acts 1973, No. 1056, p. 1699, §15; Acts 1975, No. 130, §1; Acts 1995, No. 95-194, p. 269, §1.)





# State of Alabama Disclosure Statement

Required by Article 3B of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975

ENTITY COMPLETING FORM	
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	TELEPHONE NUMBER
STATE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT THAT WILL RECEIVE GOODS, SERVICES, OR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANT AWARD	
Alabama Medicaid Agency	
ADDRESS	
501 Dexter Avenue, Post Office Box 5624	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624	(334) 353-3781

This form is provided with:

- Contract     
  Proposal     
  Request for Proposal     
  Invitation to Bid     
  Grant Proposal

Have you or any of your partners, divisions, or any related business units previously performed work or provided goods to any State Agency/Department in the current or last fiscal year?

- Yes     
  No

If yes, identify below the State Agency/Department that received the goods or services, the type(s) of goods or services previously provided, and the amount received for the provision of such goods or services.

STATE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT	TYPE OF GOODS/SERVICES	AMOUNT RECEIVED

Have you or any of your partners, divisions, or any related business units previously applied and received any grants from any State Agency/Department in the current or last fiscal year?

- Yes     
  No

If yes, identify the State Agency/Department that awarded the grant, the date such grant was awarded, and the amount of the grant.

STATE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT	DATE GRANT AWARDED	AMOUNT OF GRANT

[A] List below the name(s) and address(es) of all public officials/public employees with whom you, members of your immediate family, or any of your employees have a family relationship and who may directly personally benefit financially from the proposed transaction. Identify the State Department/Agency for which the public officials/public employees work. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL/EMPLOYEE	ADDRESS	STATE DEPARTMENT/AGENCY

2. List below the name(s) and address(es) of all family members of public officials/public employees with whom you, members of your immediate family, or any of your employees have a family relationship and who may directly personally benefit financially from the proposed transaction. Identify the public officials/public employees and State Department/Agency for which the public officials/public employees work. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER	ADDRESS	NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL/ PUBLIC EMPLOYEE	STATE DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY WHERE EMPLOYED
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If you identified individuals in items one and/or two above, describe in detail below the direct financial benefit to be gained by the public officials, public employees, and/or their family members as the result of the contract, proposal, request for proposal, invitation to bid, or grant proposal. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

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Describe in detail below any indirect financial benefits to be gained by any public official, public employee, and/or family members of the public official or public employee as the result of the contract, proposal, request for proposal, invitation to bid, or grant proposal. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

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List below the name(s) and address(es) of all paid consultants and/or lobbyists utilized to obtain the contract, proposal, request for proposal, invitation to bid, or grant proposal:

NAME OF PAID CONSULTANT/LOBBYIST	ADDRESS
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***By signing below, I certify under oath and penalty of perjury that all statements on or attached to this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that a civil penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the transaction, not to exceed \$10,000.00, is applied for knowingly providing incorrect or misleading information.***

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notary's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date Notary Expires \_\_\_\_\_

*Article 3B of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975 requires the disclosure statement to be completed and filed with all proposals, bids, contracts, or grant proposals to the State of Alabama in excess of \$5,000.*

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )

County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE BEASON-HAMMON ALABAMA TAXPAYER AND CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT (ACT 2011-535, as amended by Act 2012-491)**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**RE Contract/Grant/Incentive (describe by number or subject):** Enter brief contract description by and between Enter Contractor Name (Contractor/Grantee) and Alabama Medicaid Agency (State Agency or Department or other Public Entity)

The undersigned hereby certifies to the State of Alabama as follows:

1. The undersigned holds the position of \_\_\_\_\_ with the Contractor/Grantee named above, and is authorized to provide representations set out in this Certificate as the official and binding act of that entity, and has knowledge of the provisions of THE BEASON-HAMMON ALABAMA TAXPAYER AND CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT (ACT 2011-535 of the Alabama Legislature, as amended by Act 2012-491) which is described herein as "the Act".
2. Using the following definitions from Section 3 of the Act, select and initial either (a) or (b), below, to describe the Contractor/Grantee's business structure.

**BUSINESS ENTITY.** Any person or group of persons employing one or more persons performing or engaging in any activity, enterprise, profession, or occupation for gain, benefit, advantage, or livelihood, whether for profit or not for profit. "Business entity" shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- a. Self-employed individuals, business entities filing articles of incorporation, partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, foreign corporations, foreign limited partnerships, foreign limited liability companies authorized to transact business in this state, business trusts, and any business entity that registers with the Secretary of State.
- b. Any business entity that possesses a business license, permit, certificate, approval, registration, charter, or similar form of authorization issued by the state, any business entity that is exempt by law from obtaining such a business license, and any business entity that is operating unlawfully without a business license.

**EMPLOYER.** Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, joint stock association, agent, manager, representative, foreman, or other person having control or custody of any employment, place of employment, or of any employee, including any person or entity employing any person for hire within the State of Alabama, including a public employer. This term shall not include the occupant of a household contracting with another person to perform casual domestic labor within the household.

\_\_\_\_\_(a) The Contractor/Grantee is a business entity or employer as those terms are defined in Section 3 of the Act.

\_\_\_\_\_(b) The Contractor/Grantee is not a business entity or employer as those terms are defined in Section 3 of the Act.

3. As of the date of this Certificate, Contractor/Grantee does not knowingly employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama and hereafter it will not knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama;
4. Contractor/Grantee is enrolled in E-Verify unless it is not eligible to enroll because of the rules of that program or other factors beyond its control.

Certified this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Contractor/Grantee/Recipient

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its \_\_\_\_\_

The above Certification was signed in my presence by the person whose name appears above, on

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_.

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Witness

**GOVERNOR'S ADDITIONAL CONTRACT QUESTIONS  
FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS**

**PART I. Procurement method.** Mark boxes as appropriate.

- Competitive sealed bids/ITBs (§ 41-4-132)**
- This is a professional-services contract; CPO approval for use of ITB is attached.  
Alabama Buys/STAARS solicitation number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - This is not a professional-services contract; no CPO approval for use of ITB required.
  - Adequate public notice of ITB was given for a reasonable time prior to bid opening.
  - Bids were opened publicly in the presence of one or more witnesses at time and place designated in the ITB.
- Competitive sealed proposals/RFPs (§ 41-4-133)**
- Number of providers the RFP was distributed to: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Number of responses/proposals the agency reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_
  - RFP was posted to online database as required by § 41-4-66  
Alabama Buys/STAARS solicitation number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - A written determination was made that accepted proposal is "most advantageous to the state."
  - Public notice of award was given promptly after contract award.
  - This is a contract for services governed by a DCM fee schedule.
    - Contract fees are within the approved DCM fee schedule.
    - DCM Director's approval for exceeding DCM fee schedule is attached.
  - This is a contract for an architect, landscape architect, engineer, land surveyor, or geoscientist.
    - A competitive, qualifications-based process was used per § 41-4-133(j).
- Small purchases (§ 41-4-134)**
- Contract fees are below the small-purchase thresholds set forth in [Rule 355-4-3-.05](#).
  - Lowest acceptable quote chosen from three written quotes solicited.  
Solicitation number in Alabama Buys/STAARS is: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Per [Rule 355-4-3-.05](#), no quotes required because: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sole-source procurement (§ 41-4-135)**
- Written determination by CPO that there is only one source for the required professional service is attached.
- Emergency procurements (§ 41-4-136)**
- Written determination for basis of the emergency and selection of the contractor attached.
  - Approval attached from CPO or agency head (not subject to delegation).
- Special procurements (§ 41-4-137)**
- Written determination for basis of the emergency and selection of the contractor attached.
  - Approval attached from CPO or agency head.
- Physicians (§ 41-4-125.01)** – provider selected from Medical Licensure Commission list.
- Attorneys (§ 41-4-125)**
- Litigation (Hourly)
    - DAG appointment letter attached.
    - Governor's rate approval letter attached. (See [EO 726](#), ¶ 3.b.)
  - Litigation (Contingency Fee)
    - DAG appointment letter attached.
    - Written determination attached as required by § 41-4-125(d)(1).
    - Fee within limits prescribed by § 41-4-125(d)(2)-(3) or AG/Governor written authorization for exceeding limits is attached as required by § 41-4-125(d)(5).
    - AG's standard contract addendum attached per § 41-4-125(d)(7).
  - Non-litigation
    - Justification letter attached for not using in-house counsel or AG.

- Governor’s approval attached. (See [EO 726](#), ¶ 3.b.)
- Attorney’s scope of services is described with particularity. (See [EO 726](#), ¶ 3.c.)
- Litigation experts (§ 41-4-125(b))** – retained for litigation or avoidance of litigation.
- Exempt Contract.** Explanation of the exemption and citation to statutory authority:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**PART II.** IT (information technology) questions. Check one.

- Contract is for IT supplies or services and written approval of OIT attached per § 41-4-285.
- Contract is not for IT supplies or services.
- If exemption from OIT approval is claimed, please explain basis and provide citation to statutory authority:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**PART III.** Personal services (employer-employee relationship) questions. Check one.

- Approved by State Personnel Department or its Board in accordance with the [Alabama Fiscal Policy and Procedures Manual](#).
- Contract is not for personal services.

**PART IV.** Fiscal Policy and Procedures Manual requirements and additional questions. Complete for all contracts.

- Contract does not contain a waiver of sovereign immunity.
- Contract does not require the state to indemnify.
- Contract does not require a COVID-19 vaccination. (See [EO 724](#), ¶ 4.)
- Contract contains all required clauses:
  - Early termination clause on page: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Alternative Dispute Resolution clause on page: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Merit System Exclusion clause on page: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Beason-Hammon (immigration) clause on page: \_\_\_\_\_
  - No-boycott (free trade) clause on page: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Economic boycott clause (per § 8-1-251) on page: \_\_\_\_\_
  - If exempt from economic boycott clause, explain and cite statutory authority:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- This contract is for administrative services.
- Ethics/nepotism clause (per [EO 726](#), ¶ 4) on page: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Disclosure statement required by § 41-16-82 is attached (or contract is for \$5,000 or less).
  - Immigration documentation attached (e.g., E-Verify/Certificate of Compliance). (See [FPPM](#).)

**I certify that all the information provided on this form is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency/Department Head Signature

**Alabama Medicaid Agency**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Agency/Department

Name & Phone # of Agency Contact: Stephanie Lindsay 334-353-3781

## Appendix C: Pricing

### Pricing Schedule A

The Vendor must utilize this Pricing Form to provide their Total 5 Year Firm and Fixed Price by year.

	Months	Task	Annual Firm and Fixed Rate
Year 1	12	Implementation/Operations	\$
Year 2	12	Operations	\$
Year 3	12	Operations	\$
Year 4	12	Operations	\$
Year 5	12	Operations	\$
<b>TOTAL 5 Year Firm and Fixed Price</b>			

### Pricing Schedule B: Optional Services

Contract Item	Annual Firm and Fixed Rate
Hemophilia Factor AAC Calculation	\$
Nutritional AAC Calculation	\$
Physician Administered Drug AAC Calculation	\$
340B Audit Service	\$

**RFP # 062 24000000082****Medicaid Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost Program****Proposer Questions and Agency Answers****10/07/2024**

<b>Question ID:</b>	1
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	09/13/2024
<b>Question:</b>	How many Alabama pharmacies are surveyed bi-annually?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Currently, the process is a bi-annual (twice yearly) survey to randomly selected pharmacies once every two years. Mathematically, this equates to an average of ¼ of the currently enrolled pharmacies, which equates to approximately 300 pharmacies twice yearly. However, if the need should arise, or if the Vendor recommends otherwise and approved by the State and/or CMS, the Vendor must adapt to increased or decreased surveys throughout the contract period.
<b>Question ID:</b>	2
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	09/13/2024
<b>Question:</b>	Does the survey include out-of-state specialty and/or mail-order pharmacies shipping prescriptions into Alabama?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Alabama Medicaid enrolls pharmacies outside the state of Alabama; pharmacies within a 30-mile radius of the state border may enroll as a provider, as well as out of state pharmacies for certain specialty drugs. Therefore, the Vendor may need to include enrolled pharmacies that have a physical location outside the state of Alabama.
<b>Question ID:</b>	3
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	09/13/2024
<b>Question:</b>	How many of the bi-annually surveyed pharmacies are chain pharmacies? How many are independent pharmacies?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The surveyed pharmacies are approximately 50% chain pharmacies and 50% independent pharmacies.

<b>Question ID:</b>	4
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	09/13/2024
<b>Question:</b>	How many cost review requests are received annually?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	<p>According to reporting parameters, it is projected for FY 2024, approximately 1854 help desk requests were received.</p> <p>The selected Vendor must address, and complete pricing appeals and any/all calls/inquiries related to AAC.</p>
<b>Question ID:</b>	5
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	09/13/2024
<b>Question:</b>	How much is the fee being paid to the current vendor to complete this work annually?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid will not provide this information through the procurement process.
<b>Question ID:</b>	6
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	09/20/2024
<b>Question:</b>	In addition to the review, maintenance, and reporting requirements listed in the RFP, are there additional ad-hoc reports required by the State? If so, what are examples and to what frequency?
<b>Section Number:</b>	General
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	General



<b>Agency Answer:</b>	<p>With each bi-annual survey, the selected Vendor must submit reports to identify trends as described in the RFP, plus monthly reports to include contract maintenance criteria. <u>In addition</u> to the requirements listed in the RFP under review, maintenance, and reporting section, there are ad-hoc reports requested by the State which require the selected Vendor to be well-versed in pharmacy pricing models. For example, the state may request (ad-hoc or routine):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparison of the state-based AAC to NADAC, FUL, WAC, and/or other pricing types</li> <li>• Comparison of the state-based AAC to other state/third party pricing types</li> <li>• Research of other states' reimbursement methodology, State Plans, and policy</li> <li>• Recommendations by the selected Vendor for policy changes</li> <li>• Cost savings related to recommendations by the selected Vendor for policy changes</li> <li>• Comparison/cost savings related to national trends</li> <li>• Specific drug and/or drug grouping comparison/cost savings analysis</li> <li>• Specialty drug market reporting/comparison</li> <li>• Dispensing fee analysis/research</li> </ul>
<b>Question ID:</b>	7
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	09/20/2024
<b>Question:</b>	Does Alabama Medicaid expect AAC rates to be calculated for products that are considered non-drug products (e.g. bulk powders, diabetic supplies, vaccines)?
<b>Section Number:</b>	Section II
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	7
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The Agency does not currently calculate AAC rates on certain non-drug products; however, if the need should arise, the Vendor must calculate AAC rates on these products.
<b>Question ID:</b>	8
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	09/20/2024
<b>Question:</b>	Will the AAC vendor leverage the Alabama license subscription to FDB or will the AAC vendor be required to provide its own license and access to FDB? Is the vendor allowed to change to Medi-Span?
<b>Section Number:</b>	Section I
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	7

<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The selected Vendor is required to obtain their own licensing through FDB. The Vendor must have the ability to receive pricing updates and all other components from FDB, be well-versed in FDB groupings and file transfers, and be knowledgeable to receive, interpret, and make recommendations to the Agency based on various updates and file transfers from FDB. The Agency does not anticipate moving to MediSpan at this time.
<b>Question ID:</b>	9
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	09/20/2024
<b>Question:</b>	Is the expectation for the new AAC vendor to use the existing infrastructure (e.g. website, links, policies, etc.) to administer the AAC program or do we have to create one from scratch?
<b>Section Number:</b>	Section II
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	8
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The current AAC website maintained by the current Vendor will not transfer if a new Vendor is selected; a new product/links/website will be required. Existing policies developed and maintained by the State will remain with the State and the selected Vendor must abide by state policy. Should a new Vendor be selected, the selected Vendor must create any other document/policy/etc. that is considered proprietary by the current Vendor.



## State of Alabama Solicitation

<b>Solicitation</b> RFP 062 24000000082	<b>Document Phase</b> Final	<b>Document Description</b> Medicaid Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost Program
<b>Procurement Folder</b> 2023206	<b>Creation Date</b> 10/08/24	<b>Print Date</b> 10/08/24

# Request for Proposals

Amendment: 1

### CONTACTS

Contact	Name	E-mail	Phone
<b>Requestor:</b>	Info RFP	RFP@medicaid.alabama.gov	334-353-3785
<b>Issuer:</b>	Info RFP	RFP@medicaid.alabama.gov	334-353-3785
<b>Buyer:</b>	Terri Cole	terri.cole@purchasing.alabama.gov	334-242-4650

**Bids will be accepted from:** 10/08/24  
**to:** 10/21/24

**All Inquiries for Information Regarding Bid Submission Requirements or Procurement Procedures Should be Directed To The Buyer Contact Listed Above.**

### COMMODITY INFORMATION

<b>Group:</b> 1	<b>Line:</b> 1	<b>Line Type:</b> Service
<b>Commodity Code:</b> 94600		<b>Quantity:</b>
<b>Commodity Description:</b> FINANCIAL SERVICES		<b>Unit:</b>
<b>Extended Description:</b>		

FINANCIAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL SERVICES

### SHIPPING AND BILLING

Shipping	Billing
Medicaid Headquarters Shipping 501 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, AL 36104	,
<b>Delivery Date:</b>	<b>Delivery Type:</b>

### COMMODITY INFORMATION

<b>Group:</b> 1	<b>Line:</b> 2	<b>Line Type:</b> Service
<b>Commodity Code:</b> 94610		<b>Quantity:</b>
<b>Commodity Description:</b> Accounting and Billing Services, Including Payroll		<b>Unit:</b>

**Extended Description:**

Accounting and Billing Services, Including Payroll Services,

Accounting and Billing Services, Including Payroll Services, 3rd Party Reimbursement for Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurance, etc.

**SHIPPING AND BILLING**

**Shipping**

Medicaid Headquarters Shipping  
501 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Delivery Date:**

**Billing**

,

**Delivery Type:**

**COMMODITY INFORMATION**

**Group:** 1 **Line:** 3 **Line Type:** Service

**Commodity Code:** 94620 **Quantity:**

**Commodity Description:** Audit Services **Unit:**

**Extended Description:**

Audit Services

Audit Services

**SHIPPING AND BILLING**

**Shipping**

Medicaid Headquarters Shipping  
501 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Delivery Date:**

**Billing**

,

**Delivery Type:**

**COMMODITY INFORMATION**

**Group:** 1 **Line:** 4 **Line Type:** Service

**Commodity Code:** PRF13 **Quantity:**

**Commodity Description:** FINANCIAL SERVICES **Unit:**

**Extended Description:**

FINANCIAL SERVICES

**SHIPPING AND BILLING**

**Shipping**

Medicaid Headquarters Shipping  
501 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Delivery Date:**

**Billing**

,

**Delivery Type:**



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2400000082	Final	Medicaid Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost Program	Total Pages: 12

## **Request for Proposal Standard Terms and Conditions**

### **1. Authority**

Division 4 of the Department of Finance Administrative Code (Chapters 355-4-1 through 355-4-6), effective October 1, 2022, is incorporated by reference and made a part of this document. To view the relevant provisions of the Administrative Code, visit our website <https://purchasing.alabama.gov/>

### **2. Prohibited Contacts; Inquiries regarding this RFP**

From the Release Date of this Request for Proposal (hereafter referred to as RFP) until a contract is awarded, parties that intend to submit, or have submitted, a Proposal are prohibited from communicating with any members of the Soliciting Party's Team for this transaction who may be identified herein or after the Release Date, or other employees or representatives of the Soliciting Party regarding this RFP or the underlying transaction except the designated contact(s).

### **3. Nonresponsive Proposals**

Any Proposal that does not satisfy requirements of the RFP may be deemed non-responsive and may be disregarded without evaluation. Supplemental information, including information necessary to clarify a proposal, may be required from any Proposer.

### **4. Changes to RFP; Changes to Schedule**

The Soliciting Party reserves the right to change or interpret the RFP prior to the Proposal Due Date. Changes will be communicated to those parties receiving the RFP who have not informed the Soliciting Party's designated contact that a Proposal will not be submitted. Changes to the deadline or other scheduled events may be made by the Soliciting Party as it deems to be in its best interest.

### **5. Expenses of Proposal**

A Proposer will not be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in preparation of a proposal.

### **6. Rejection of Proposals**

The State reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and cancel this Request if, in its sole discretion, it deems such action to be in its best interest.

### **7. The Final Terms of the Engagement**

Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the State to award a contract. The final terms of engagement for the service provider will be set out in a contract which will be effective upon its

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acceptance by the State as evidenced by the signature thereon of its authorized representative. Provisions of this RFP and the accepted Proposal may be incorporated into the terms of the engagement should the State so dictate. Notice is hereby given that there are certain terms standard to commercial contracts in private sector use which the State is prevented by law or policy from accepting, including indemnification and holding harmless a party to a contract or third parties, consent to choice of law and venue other than the State of Alabama, methods of dispute resolution other than negotiation and mediation, waivers of subrogation and other rights against third parties, agreement to pay attorney's fees and expenses of litigation, and some provisions limiting damages payable by a vendor, including those limiting damages to the cost of goods or services.

## **8. Choice of Law; Venue**

This Contract will be governed by laws of the State of Alabama and the sole venue for litigation and alternative dispute resolution activities will be the City of Montgomery in the State of Alabama. No other court shall have jurisdiction.

## **9. Not to Constitute a Debt of the State**

The terms and commitments contained in the solicitation, or any contract resulting from this solicitation, shall not constitute a debt of the State of Alabama, the incurring of which is prohibited by Section 213 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama, 1901, as amended.

## **10. Proration**

Any provision of a contract resulting from this bid to the contrary notwithstanding, in the event of failure of the State to make payment hereunder as a result of partial unavailability, at the time such payment is due, of such sufficient revenues of the State to make such payment (proration of appropriated funds for the State having been declared by the governor pursuant to Section 41-4-90 of the Code of Alabama 1975), the supplier shall have the option, in addition to the other remedies of the contract, of renegotiating the contract (extending or changing payment terms or amounts) or terminating the contract.

## **11. Non-appropriation of funds**

Section 41-4-144(c) of the Code of Alabama 1975 states: "(c) When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be cancelled, and the supplier shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any non-recurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the supplies or services delivered under the contract. The cost of cancellation may be paid from any appropriations available for that purpose."

## **12. Open Trade/No Boycott**

For the term of this contract, supplier represents that it is not currently engaged in, and agrees not to engage in, the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with which this State can enjoy open trade.

## **13. Dispute Resolution**

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In the event of any dispute between the parties arising from this solicitation and any agreement relating to purchases or leases resulting therefrom, senior officials of both parties shall meet and engage in a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute. Should that effort fail and the dispute involves the payment of money, supplier's sole remedy is the filing of a claim with the Board of Adjustment of the State of Alabama. For any and all other disputes arising under the terms of this contract which are not resolved by negotiation, the parties agree to utilize appropriate forms of non-binding alternative dispute resolution including, but not limited to, mediation. Such dispute resolution shall occur in Montgomery, Alabama, utilizing where appropriate, mediators selected from the roster of mediators maintained by the Center for Dispute Resolution of the Alabama State Bar Association.

#### **14. Cancellation**

A contract for supplies may be canceled by the Chief Procurement Officer, for justifiable cause, by giving the supplier thirty (30) days written notice. A supplier may request cancellation and the Chief Procurement Officer may grant the request, in his or her sole discretion, if performance is prevented by an act of God, act of War, order of legal authority, or other unavoidable circumstances not attributable to the fault or negligence of the supplier. Contracts for services may be cancelled for justifiable cause by the Chief Procurement Officer by giving the vendor at least 72 hours' written notice. The burden of proof for such relief rests with the supplier. All correspondence pertaining to cancellation of a contract must be addressed to the Chief Procurement Officer with a copy to the using agency.

#### **15. Sales Tax Exemption**

Pursuant to Section 40-23-4 (a)(11) of the Code of Alabama 1975, the State of Alabama is exempt from paying sales tax. An exemption letter will be furnished upon request.

#### **16. No Indemnification**

Supplier acknowledges and agrees that, under the terms of this solicitation and agreements relating to purchases or leases resulting therefrom, the State is prohibited from indemnifying the supplier. The State does not agree to and will not indemnify the supplier for any reason. The State of Alabama does not release or waive, expressly or implied, the State of Alabama's right to assert sovereign immunity or any other affirmative defense right it may have under law. The State of Alabama shall control the defense and settlement of any legal proceeding on behalf of the State, including the selection of attorneys.

#### **17. Foreign Corporation – Alabama Secretary of State Registration**

Section 10A-1-7.01 to -7.14 of the Code of Alabama 1975 require a foreign entity (an out-of-state company/firm) to register with the Alabama Secretary of State's Office before transacting business in the State.

#### **18. Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act**

A contract resulting from this RFP will include provisions for compliance with certain requirements of the Beason-Hammon Alabama taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, Sections 31-13-1 through 35, Code of Alabama 1975 as follows:

E- VERIFY ENROLLMENT DOCUMENTATION AND PARTICIPATION. As required by Section 31-13-9(b), Code of Alabama 1975 Contractor that is a "business entity" or "employer" as defined in



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Section 31-13-3, will enroll in the E-Verify Program administered by the United States Department of Homeland Security, will provide a copy of its Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security that program and will use that program for the duration of this contract.

As required by Section 31-13-9(k) of the Code of Alabama 1975, the supplier agrees to the following: “By signing this contract, the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of any agreement that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom.”

To enroll in the E-Verify program visit <https://www.e-verify.gov/>

## **19. Conflict of Law**

If any provision of this solicitation and any subsequent award shall contravene any statute or Constitutional provision or amendment, either now in effect or which may, during the course of this agreement, be enacted, then that conflicting provision shall be deemed null and void.

## **20. Disclosure Statement**

A Proposal must include one original Disclosure Statement as required by Code Section 41-16-82, et seq., of the Code of Alabama 1975. The Disclosure Statement, and information, may be downloaded from the State of Alabama Attorney General’s web site at <https://www.alabamaag.gov/Forms>

## **21. Certification Pursuant to Act No. 2006-557**

Section 41-4-142 of the Code of Alabama 1975 (Act No. 2006-557) provides that every bid submitted and contract executed shall contain a certification that the supplier, supplier, and all of its affiliates that make sales for delivery into Alabama or leases for use in Alabama are registered, collecting, and remitting Alabama State and local sales, use, and/or lease tax on all taxable sales and leases into Alabama. By submitting this bid or proposal, the supplier is hereby certifying that they are in full compliance with Section 41-4-142, they are not barred from bidding or entering into a contract as a result and acknowledges that the awarding authority may declare the contract void if the certification is false.

## **22. Supplier Qualifications**

After bid opening, the State reserves the right to request written proof of qualifications including, but not limited to, manufacturer’s reseller authorization, professional licenses, certificates of insurance, etc.

## **23. Pricing**

The State of Alabama reserves the right to conduct analysis based on cost realism and/or price reasonableness for any or all bids as determined necessary in the sole discretion of the Chief Procurement Officer. Such analysis may include requests pursuant to Section 41-4-141 of the Code of Alabama 1975.

## **24. Product Delivery, Receiving and Acceptance:**

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In accordance with the Uniform Commerce Code (Title 7 of the Code of Alabama 1975), after delivery, the State of Alabama shall have the right to inspect all products before accepting. The State will inspect products in a reasonable timeframe. Signature on a delivery document does not constitute acceptance by the State. The State will accept products only after satisfactory inspection.

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Inquiries concerning invoice payments are to be directed to the receiving agency.

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Penalty for agencies paying invoices late may not exceed the rate charged by State of Alabama Comptroller's Office per Section 41-16-3 of the Code of Alabama 1975 and as established by the Secretary of the Treasury under the authority of 26 U.S.C. §6621.

## **27. Electronic Payments**

Vendors must accept multiple forms of electronic payment at no additional cost to the State. Payment forms include but are not limited to state issued credit cards, P-cards, EFT or other forms of electronic payment.

## **28. Supplier Registration**

Suppliers may receive bid notices by registering for commodities at the Alabama Buys supplier portal, <https://alabamabuys.gov>

## **29. Internet Website Links**

Internet and/or website links will not be accepted in bid responses as a means to supply any requirements stated in this solicitation.

## **30. Solicitation Responses and Results**

The complete bid file will be made available for review as provided by (or as outlined) in Section 41-4-115 of the Code of Alabama 1975 and Rule 355-4-1-.04 of the Department of Finance Administrative Code.

## **31. Exception to Terms and Conditions**

Suppliers may place any qualifications, exceptions, conditions, reservations, limitations, or substitutions in their bid or proposal concerning the contract terms and conditions. However, the State is not obligated to accept any changes to the published terms and conditions of the solicitation.

## **32. Intent to Award**

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Procurement information is a public record to the extent provided by state law and shall be available to the public. Section 41-4-115 of the Code of Alabama 1975 defines what is exempt from disclosure. Additional rules are included in Rules 355-4-1-.03(4) and 355-4-1-.04 of the Alabama Department of Finance Administrative Code.

### **34. Click Wrap**

The State of Alabama acknowledges that additional terms between the supplier and the State or third-party terms may apply but does not agree to be bound by them unless provided for review and separately agreed to in writing by an authorized official of the State of Alabama. If the purchase or use of the supplies or services provided utilizes a computer interface, no State of Alabama end user shall be deemed to have agreed to any clause by virtue of it appearing in an "I agree" click box or other comparable mechanism ("click-wrap" or "browse-wrap"); rather the terms and conditions, such as End User License Agreements, may only be accepted by inclusion in an agreement and signature by an authorized official of the State of Alabama. If the terms and conditions or any other third-party terms and conditions are invoked through click wrap, execution by any unauthorized individual shall not bind the end user or the State of Alabama to such clause. Any clause which requires the State of Alabama to indemnify another party or clause which assigns jurisdiction to any state other than Alabama which is contained in such click-wrap is deemed to be stricken from the terms and conditions unless expressly agreed in writing and under the signature of an authorized individual.

### **35. Assignment**

Any contract which results from this solicitation shall not be assignable by supplier without written consent of the State of Alabama. Any assignment or other transfer in violation of this provision will be null and void.

### **36. Debarment and Suspension**

Supplier certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any governmental department or agency. If supplier cannot certify this statement, supplier must attach a written explanation for review by the Chief Procurement Officer.

### **37. Merit System Exclusion**

It is understood and agreed that supplier is an independent supplier and as such all services rendered by supplier and its agents and employees thereof shall be as an independent supplier and not as an employee, Merit or otherwise, of the State of Alabama, and supplier or its agents and employees thereof shall not be entitled to or receive Merit System benefits.

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### **38. Severability**

In the event any provision of this solicitation or resulting contract shall not be enforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

### **39. Volume of Business**

Except as otherwise stated in this solicitation, the State of Alabama cannot and does not guarantee any volume of business.

### **40. Waiver**

The failure of the State of Alabama to require performance of any provisions of this solicitation or resulting contract shall not affect the State's right to require performance at any time thereafter, nor shall a waiver of any breach or default constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach or default nor constitute a waiver of the provision itself.

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Personal and professional services contracts with the State may be subject to review by the Contract Review Permanent Legislative Oversight Committee in accordance with Section 29-2-40, et seq. of the Code of Alabama 1975. The vendor is required to be knowledgeable of the provisions of that statute and the rules of the committee. These rules can be found at <https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/contract-review>. If a contract resulting from this RFP is to be submitted for review the service provider must provide the forms and documentation required for that process.

### **42. Compliance with Ala. Act No. 2023-409.**

In compliance with Ala. Act No. 2023-409, by signing this contract, Supplier provides written verification that Supplier, without violating controlling law or regulation, does not and will not, during the term of the contract engage in economic boycotts as the term "economic boycott" is defined in Section 1 of the Act. Under Section 2 of the Act, the written verification may be waived if the contracting governmental entity determines based on cost and quality factors that such a waiver is clearly in the best interest of the public.

By submitting a response, I hereby affirm the following:

I acknowledge receipt of the solicitation and all amendments (new rounds). I have read the solicitation and agree to furnish each item or service offered at the price quoted. I will comply with all terms and conditions contained within this solicitation. I have not been in any agreement of collusion among bidders in restraint of freedom of competition by agreement to bid at a fixed price or to refrain from bidding. I further certify that I am not barred from bidding or entering into a contract and acknowledge that the State may declare the contract void if this certification is false.

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All questions concerning this RFP must be directed to: [AACRFP@medicaid.alabama.gov](mailto:AACRFP@medicaid.alabama.gov)



## State of Alabama Solicitation

<b>Solicitation</b> RFP 062 24000000082	<b>Document Phase</b> Final	<b>Document Description</b> Medicaid Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost Program
<b>Procurement Folder</b> 2023206	<b>Creation Date</b> 08/20/24	<b>Print Date</b> 08/28/24

## Request for Proposals

### CONTACTS

Contact Name	E-mail	Phone
<b>Requestor:</b> Info RFP	RFP@medicaid.alabama.gov	334-353-3785
<b>Issuer:</b> Info RFP	RFP@medicaid.alabama.gov	334-353-3785
<b>Buyer:</b> Terri Cole	terri.cole@purchasing.alabama.gov	334-242-4650

**Bids will be accepted from:** 08/28/24  
**to:** 10/21/24

**All Inquiries for Information Regarding Bid Submission Requirements or Procurement Procedures Should be Directed To The Buyer Contact Listed Above.**

### COMMODITY INFORMATION

<b>Group:</b> 1	<b>Line:</b> 1	<b>Line Type:</b> Service
<b>Commodity Code:</b> 94600		<b>Quantity:</b>
<b>Commodity Description:</b> FINANCIAL SERVICES		<b>Unit:</b>
<b>Extended Description:</b>		

FINANCIAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL SERVICES

### SHIPPING AND BILLING

<b>Shipping</b>	<b>Billing</b>
Medicaid Headquarters Shipping 501 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, AL 36104	,
<b>Delivery Date:</b>	<b>Delivery Type:</b>

### COMMODITY INFORMATION

<b>Group:</b> 1	<b>Line:</b> 2	<b>Line Type:</b> Service
<b>Commodity Code:</b> 94610		<b>Quantity:</b>
<b>Commodity Description:</b> Accounting and Billing Services, Including Payroll		<b>Unit:</b>
<b>Extended Description:</b>		

Accounting and Billing Services, Including Payroll Services,

Accounting and Billing Services, Including Payroll Services, 3rd Party Reimbursement for Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurance, etc.

**SHIPPING AND BILLING**

**Shipping**

Medicaid Headquarters Shipping  
501 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Delivery Date:**

**Billing**

,

**Delivery Type:**

**COMMODITY INFORMATION**

**Group:** 1

**Line:** 3

**Line Type:** Service

**Commodity Code:** 94620

**Quantity:**

**Commodity Description:** Audit Services

**Unit:**

**Extended Description:**

Audit Services

Audit Services

**SHIPPING AND BILLING**

**Shipping**

Medicaid Headquarters Shipping  
501 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Delivery Date:**

**Billing**

,

**Delivery Type:**

**COMMODITY INFORMATION**

**Group:** 1

**Line:** 4

**Line Type:** Service

**Commodity Code:** PRF13

**Quantity:**

**Commodity Description:** FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Unit:**

**Extended Description:**

FINANCIAL SERVICES

**SHIPPING AND BILLING**

**Shipping**

Medicaid Headquarters Shipping  
501 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Delivery Date:**

**Billing**

,

**Delivery Type:**



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## **Request for Proposal Standard Terms and Conditions**

### **1. Authority**

Division 4 of the Department of Finance Administrative Code (Chapters 355-4-1 through 355-4-6), effective October 1, 2022, is incorporated by reference and made a part of this document. To view the relevant provisions of the Administrative Code, visit our website <https://purchasing.alabama.gov/>

### **2. Prohibited Contacts; Inquiries regarding this RFP**

From the Release Date of this Request for Proposal (hereafter referred to as RFP) until a contract is awarded, parties that intend to submit, or have submitted, a Proposal are prohibited from communicating with any members of the Soliciting Party's Team for this transaction who may be identified herein or after the Release Date, or other employees or representatives of the Soliciting Party regarding this RFP or the underlying transaction except the designated contact(s).

### **3. Nonresponsive Proposals**

Any Proposal that does not satisfy requirements of the RFP may be deemed non-responsive and may be disregarded without evaluation. Supplemental information, including information necessary to clarify a proposal, may be required from any Proposer.

### **4. Changes to RFP; Changes to Schedule**

The Soliciting Party reserves the right to change or interpret the RFP prior to the Proposal Due Date. Changes will be communicated to those parties receiving the RFP who have not informed the Soliciting Party's designated contact that a Proposal will not be submitted. Changes to the deadline or other scheduled events may be made by the Soliciting Party as it deems to be in its best interest.

### **5. Expenses of Proposal**

A Proposer will not be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in preparation of a proposal.

### **6. Rejection of Proposals**

The State reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and cancel this Request if, in its sole discretion, it deems such action to be in its best interest.

### **7. The Final Terms of the Engagement**

Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the State to award a contract. The final terms of engagement for the service provider will be set out in a contract which will be effective upon its

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acceptance by the State as evidenced by the signature thereon of its authorized representative. Provisions of this RFP and the accepted Proposal may be incorporated into the terms of the engagement should the State so dictate. Notice is hereby given that there are certain terms standard to commercial contracts in private sector use which the State is prevented by law or policy from accepting, including indemnification and holding harmless a party to a contract or third parties, consent to choice of law and venue other than the State of Alabama, methods of dispute resolution other than negotiation and mediation, waivers of subrogation and other rights against third parties, agreement to pay attorney's fees and expenses of litigation, and some provisions limiting damages payable by a vendor, including those limiting damages to the cost of goods or services.

## **8. Choice of Law; Venue**

This Contract will be governed by laws of the State of Alabama and the sole venue for litigation and alternative dispute resolution activities will be the City of Montgomery in the State of Alabama. No other court shall have jurisdiction.

## **9. Not to Constitute a Debt of the State**

The terms and commitments contained in the solicitation, or any contract resulting from this solicitation, shall not constitute a debt of the State of Alabama, the incurring of which is prohibited by Section 213 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama, 1901, as amended.

## **10. Proration**

Any provision of a contract resulting from this bid to the contrary notwithstanding, in the event of failure of the State to make payment hereunder as a result of partial unavailability, at the time such payment is due, of such sufficient revenues of the State to make such payment (proration of appropriated funds for the State having been declared by the governor pursuant to Section 41-4-90 of the Code of Alabama 1975), the supplier shall have the option, in addition to the other remedies of the contract, of renegotiating the contract (extending or changing payment terms or amounts) or terminating the contract.

## **11. Non-appropriation of funds**

Section 41-4-144(c) of the Code of Alabama 1975 states: "(c) When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be cancelled, and the supplier shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any non-recurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the supplies or services delivered under the contract. The cost of cancellation may be paid from any appropriations available for that purpose."

## **12. Open Trade/No Boycott**

For the term of this contract, supplier represents that it is not currently engaged in, and agrees not to engage in, the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with which this State can enjoy open trade.

## **13. Dispute Resolution**

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In the event of any dispute between the parties arising from this solicitation and any agreement relating to purchases or leases resulting therefrom, senior officials of both parties shall meet and engage in a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute. Should that effort fail and the dispute involves the payment of money, supplier's sole remedy is the filing of a claim with the Board of Adjustment of the State of Alabama. For any and all other disputes arising under the terms of this contract which are not resolved by negotiation, the parties agree to utilize appropriate forms of non-binding alternative dispute resolution including, but not limited to, mediation. Such dispute resolution shall occur in Montgomery, Alabama, utilizing where appropriate, mediators selected from the roster of mediators maintained by the Center for Dispute Resolution of the Alabama State Bar Association.

#### **14. Cancellation**

A contract for supplies may be canceled by the Chief Procurement Officer, for justifiable cause, by giving the supplier thirty (30) days written notice. A supplier may request cancellation and the Chief Procurement Officer may grant the request, in his or her sole discretion, if performance is prevented by an act of God, act of War, order of legal authority, or other unavoidable circumstances not attributable to the fault or negligence of the supplier. Contracts for services may be cancelled for justifiable cause by the Chief Procurement Officer by giving the vendor at least 72 hours' written notice. The burden of proof for such relief rests with the supplier. All correspondence pertaining to cancellation of a contract must be addressed to the Chief Procurement Officer with a copy to the using agency.

#### **15. Sales Tax Exemption**

Pursuant to Section 40-23-4 (a)(11) of the Code of Alabama 1975, the State of Alabama is exempt from paying sales tax. An exemption letter will be furnished upon request.

#### **16. No Indemnification**

Supplier acknowledges and agrees that, under the terms of this solicitation and agreements relating to purchases or leases resulting therefrom, the State is prohibited from indemnifying the supplier. The State does not agree to and will not indemnify the supplier for any reason. The State of Alabama does not release or waive, expressly or implied, the State of Alabama's right to assert sovereign immunity or any other affirmative defense right it may have under law. The State of Alabama shall control the defense and settlement of any legal proceeding on behalf of the State, including the selection of attorneys.

#### **17. Foreign Corporation – Alabama Secretary of State Registration**

Section 10A-1-7.01 to -7.14 of the Code of Alabama 1975 require a foreign entity (an out-of-state company/firm) to register with the Alabama Secretary of State's Office before transacting business in the State.

#### **18. Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act**

A contract resulting from this RFP will include provisions for compliance with certain requirements of the Beason-Hammon Alabama taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, Sections 31-13-1 through 35, Code of Alabama 1975 as follows:

E- VERIFY ENROLLMENT DOCUMENTATION AND PARTICIPATION. As required by Section 31-13-9(b), Code of Alabama 1975 Contractor that is a "business entity" or "employer" as defined in

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Section 31-13-3, will enroll in the E-Verify Program administered by the United States Department of Homeland Security, will provide a copy of its Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security that program and will use that program for the duration of this contract.

As required by Section 31-13-9(k) of the Code of Alabama 1975, the supplier agrees to the following: “By signing this contract, the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of any agreement that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom.”

To enroll in the E-Verify program visit <https://www.e-verify.gov/>

## **19. Conflict of Law**

If any provision of this solicitation and any subsequent award shall contravene any statute or Constitutional provision or amendment, either now in effect or which may, during the course of this agreement, be enacted, then that conflicting provision shall be deemed null and void.

## **20. Disclosure Statement**

A Proposal must include one original Disclosure Statement as required by Code Section 41-16-82, et seq., of the Code of Alabama 1975. The Disclosure Statement, and information, may be downloaded from the State of Alabama Attorney General’s web site at <https://www.alabamaag.gov/Forms>

## **21. Certification Pursuant to Act No. 2006-557**

Section 41-4-142 of the Code of Alabama 1975 (Act No. 2006-557) provides that every bid submitted and contract executed shall contain a certification that the supplier, supplier, and all of its affiliates that make sales for delivery into Alabama or leases for use in Alabama are registered, collecting, and remitting Alabama State and local sales, use, and/or lease tax on all taxable sales and leases into Alabama. By submitting this bid or proposal, the supplier is hereby certifying that they are in full compliance with Section 41-4-142, they are not barred from bidding or entering into a contract as a result and acknowledges that the awarding authority may declare the contract void if the certification is false.

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Revised 08/31/2023



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All questions concerning this RFP must be directed to: [AACRFP@medicaid.alabama.gov](mailto:AACRFP@medicaid.alabama.gov)



Alabama Medicaid Agency



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# **AMMIS Interface Standards Document**

**06/07/2023**

**Alabama Medicaid Agency  
501 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104**

**Gainwell Technologies  
301 Technacenter Drive  
Montgomery, Alabama 36117**

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# 1. Document Control

The latest version of this document is stored electronically. Any printed copy has to be considered an uncontrolled copy.

## 1.1 Document Information Page

Required Information	Definition
Document Title	AMMIS Interface Standards Document
Version:	2.1
Location:	<a href="https://pwb.alxix.slg.edcs.com/alxix/QA/Developer%20Processes/">https://pwb.alxix.slg.edcs.com/alxix/QA/Developer%20Processes/</a>
Owner:	Gainwell Technologies

## 1.2 Amendment History

The following Amendment History log contains a record of changes made to this document:

Date	Document Version	Author	Reason for the Change	Changes (Section, Page(s) and Text Revised)
05/13/2010	1.1	Jennifer Sluis	Changed EDS and Electronic Data Systems to HP Enterprise Services  Added descriptions of extract files and removed file layouts.	Global
06/18/2012	1.2	Lamar Smith / John Evans	Updated per 2010 ITB Requirement 3.01.043.	Global
10/3/2012	1.3	Jennifer Sluis	Added new files for Recipient subsystem	Section 5
5/8/2014	1.4	John Evans	Added file hyperlinks	Section 5
5/12/2017	1.5	Melanie Haygood	Global updates to add procesisng for Safe Harbor. Updated HP to DXC.	Section 2 and Section 3
4/6/2018	1.6	John Evans	2018 QA Audit.	Section 2.1: Replaced the website links for the Alabama Medicaid Companion Guides (HIPAA and NCPDP). Section 3.1: Added clairification for the "Site To Site VPN Technical Specifications" document. It's also referred to as the "VPN Subscriber Agreement for Alabama" and can be found in Section 3.2. Section 3.2: Replaced the website link for the Alabama Medicaid HIPAA Companion Guide.

Date	Document Version	Author	Reason for the Change	Changes (Section, Page(s) and Text Revised)
				<p>Section 3.2: Replaced the VPN Subscriber Agreement with an updated version.</p> <p>Section 3.2: Replaced the AMMIS VAN Interface Specifications document with an updated version.</p> <p>Section 3.2: Added a DXC Header to the NCPDP Interactive Activity Volumes .pdf.</p> <p>Section 3.3 Converted VAN documents from DXC to Gainwell</p> <p>Section 4.1: Embedded SFTP Request document replaced with a website link.</p> <p>Section 4.4: Added to document the steps taken to terminate file transmits.</p>
10/06/2020	2.0	Melanie Haygood	Updated per 2020 RFB	<p>Section 2: Updated RFB reference</p> <p>Updated Medicaid website link references</p>
06/07/2023	2.1	Laura Powell	Updated browser recommendations	Section 2.1: Updated browser from MS Explorer to Edge.

### 1.3 Related documentation

Document	Description	url
Alabama Glossary and Acronyms	Provides a listing of commonly used terms and acronyms, including those used within this document, related to Alabama projects.	<a href="https://pwb.alix.slg.eds.com/alix/Click%20on%20Alabama%20Glossary%20and%20Acronyms%20under%20Quick%20Access%20to%20Featured%20Links.">https://pwb.alix.slg.eds.com/alix/Click on Alabama Glossary and Acronyms under Quick Access to Featured Links.</a>
HIPAA Companion Guide for 5010	Provided information such as registration, testing, support and specific transaction requirements to electronic data interchange (EDI) trading partners that exchange X12 information with the Alabama Medicaid Agency.	<a href="https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.9_Vendor_Guides.aspx">https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.9_Vendor_Guides.aspx</a>

## 2. Introduction

Per RFB Requirement GEN.045: The Vendor shall identify a single point of contact for all external interfaces. This point of contact shall provide prior to the start of operations written procedures on the initial set-up of interfaces, modifications to interfaces and termination of interfaces. The written procedures must contain any forms required by the vendor and identify all information that must be supplied with a timeline defined for each step. The Alabama MMIS Interface List is located in the Procurement Library. Some interfaces may be defined in the requirements for the subsystems.

An outside entity (Contractor), or a provider vendor, referred to as a Value Added Network (VAN), may require access to the Alabama Medicaid Computer Network. When approved by the Alabama Medicaid Agency, this connection would allow access to some or all of the following services:

- Alabama Medicaid Management System (AMMIS)
- Decision Support System (DSS)
- Feith Document Database (FDD)
- Interactive Eligibility through ACA Safe Harbor
- Interactive Pharmacy Transaction Processing

The methods described herein are the preferred methods and file layouts of Gainwell and approved by the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

### 2.1 Services

AMMIS and FDD information is viewed and/or updated through a thin client interface displayed in a browser window. AMMIS is compatible with Microsoft's Edge browser.

FDD is compatible with Microsoft's Edge browser.

DSS has both a thin client and a fat client interface. The Contractor should discuss with the DSS team to determine which interface is best suited for the Contractor's business requirements.

Interactive Eligibility is done through the real time exchange of HIPPA compliant, X12 formatted 270/271 files. Alabama Medicaid Companion Guides are available on the Alabama Medicaid website at:

[https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0\\_Providers/7.9\\_Vendor\\_Guides.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.9_Vendor_Guides.aspx)

Interactive Pharmacy Transaction Processing is done through the real time exchange of NCPDP version D.0 files. Alabama Medicaid Companion Guides are available on the Alabama Medicaid website at:

[https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0\\_Providers/7.9\\_Vendor\\_Guides.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.9_Vendor_Guides.aspx)

Connectivity to any of these services is at the approval of the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Access for NCPDP processing is available through a site to site Virtual Private Network (VPN) tunnel. Access for Eligibility processing is available through URL access over the public internet. See Section 3 for detailed information.

For further assistance: Electronic Media Clams (EMC) Help Desk contact names, numbers and call center availability is located on the Alabama Medicaid website at:

[https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/10.0\\_Contact/10.3\\_Provider\\_Contacts.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/10.0_Contact/10.3_Provider_Contacts.aspx)

## 2.2 File Exchange Method

The method for file exchange is Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP). SFTP is an encrypted method of file exchange. See Section 4 for detailed information concerning SFTP with Alabama Medicaid.

## 2.3 File Layout

Common files available for exchange via SFTP are in the subsystem areas of Recipient, Provider, and Claims. Section 5 of this document provides details concerning the file layouts for these areas.

## 3. Network Access

Access to the Alabama Medicaid Computer Network is provided through a site to site VPN tunnel. The data center housing the Alabama Medicaid Computer Network contains redundant public Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and redundant VPN hardware to provide high reliability. Traffic is exchanged through the site to site VPN tunnel using the Triple Data Encryption Algorithm (3DES) process of encryption. The Agency Contractor or VAN is required to provide a suitably sized ISP and VPN hardware to support the contractor's network.

### 3.1 Agency Contractors

At the request of the Alabama Medicaid Agency, Gainwell will establish the VPN tunnel with an Agency Contractor. The Contractor will need to complete the Site To Site VPN Technical Specifications document furnished by Gainwell (also known as a "VPN Subscriber Agreement for Alabama". See Section 3.2 for access to the document) to provide the necessary technical information for the establishment of the tunnel. Using the information from this document, Gainwell will provide to the contractor an encryption key and IP addresses for the necessary environments. For security purposes the encryption key is provided via a telephone call directly with the Contractor and Gainwell.

Gainwell will bill the Alabama Medicaid Agency for setup fees and quarterly charges for the Contractor's VPN tunnel. It is at the State of Alabama's prerogative how these costs are to be recovered from the Contractor. The Alabama Medicaid Agency should contact the Gainwell Electronic Data Interface (EDI) coordinator to begin this process.

### 3.2 Eligibility Interactive Transactions

Eligibility interactive transactions are now performed with the ACA Safe Harbor connection, as defined by CAQH Core, using specific URLs, as defined in Connectivity section of the Alabama Medicaid Companion Guides found on the Alabama Medicaid website at:

<https://www.medicaid.alabamaservices.org/documentation/HIPAA%20Companion%20Guide.pdf>

### 3.3 Value Added Network (VAN)

A Value Added Network is a company providing services to Alabama Medicaid providers through interactive eligibility through ACA Safe Harbor, interactive pharmacy transactions, or both of these interactive services. Two types of connections are available based on the transaction submission type. Pharmacy (NCPDP format) interactive transactions are performed on a real-time basis across a site to site VPN tunnel. Gainwell assigns one unique port number to each VAN for pharmacy connectivity.

Upon request, Gainwell will provide the VAN with the following documents.

1. **Vendor Trading Partner Agreement** - found at [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0\\_Providers/7.9\\_Vendor\\_Guides.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.9_Vendor_Guides.aspx)
2. **VPN Subscriber Agreement for Alabama (for Pharmacy processing only)** – found at [https://pwb.alxix.slg.eds.com/alxix/Subsystem/utlils/FolderAndSubList\\_reverse\\_sort.asp?Folder=../EDI/Trading\\_Partner\\_ID\\_Request](https://pwb.alxix.slg.eds.com/alxix/Subsystem/utlils/FolderAndSubList_reverse_sort.asp?Folder=../EDI/Trading_Partner_ID_Request)



3. **Gainwell Connection Setup for VAN** – found at [https://pwb.alxix.slg.eds.com/alxix/Subsystem/utils/FolderAndSubList\\_reverse\\_sort.asp?Folder=../EDI/Trading Partner ID Request](https://pwb.alxix.slg.eds.com/alxix/Subsystem/utils/FolderAndSubList_reverse_sort.asp?Folder=../EDI/Trading Partner ID Request)
  
4. **NCPDP Interactive Activity Volumes for Alabama Medicaid (for Pharmacy processing only)** – found at [https://pwb.alxix.slg.eds.com/alxix/Subsystem/utils/FolderAndSubList\\_reverse\\_sort.asp?Folder=../EDI/Trading Partner ID Request](https://pwb.alxix.slg.eds.com/alxix/Subsystem/utils/FolderAndSubList_reverse_sort.asp?Folder=../EDI/Trading Partner ID Request)

Using the information from this document, Gainwell will provide to the VAN an encryption key, trading partner ID, and IP addresses for the necessary environments. For security purposes the encryption key is provided via a telephone call directly with the Contractor and Gainwell. For Pharmacy processing the setup fee and quarterly charges for the VPN tunnel are detailed in the Gainwell VPN Billing Agreement. Gainwell bills the VAN directly.

### 3.4 Initial Setup of VAN

The Alabama Medicaid Agency or the VAN should contact the Gainwell EDI team to begin this process. The requestor would need to submit the four forms listed in section 3.2.

### 3.5 Procedures and Timing

Step	Procedure	Timing
1	Requesting VAN submits all documents to EMC. EMC will distribute the forms to appropriate Gainwell parties.	At the discretion of the submitter.
2	Vendor Trading Partner Agreement is sent to Agency Fiscal Agent for approval routing.	At the discretion of the Agency
3	For Pharmacy processing - Upon receipt of the Agency approved Vendor Trading Partner Agreement, a request by EMC is made of the EDI subsystem team to assign appropriate ports for the VAN.  For Eligibility processing – Upon receipt of the Agency approved Vendor Trading Partner Agreement, the VAN will be notified of trading partner and URL links so they can perform testing in the UAT environment using the Safe Harbor URL.	2 business days
4	For Pharmacy processing - The VAN Interface Specification document is updated with the necessary IP addresses and ports, then submitted in a ODC Request Ticket to add the necessary routes and permissions for access.	1 business day
5	For Pharmacy processing - Gainwell ODC Network staff completes request, contacts requestor directly with encryption keys and requests confirmation from requestor of a success connection.	5 business days

Step	Procedure	Timing
6	For Pharmacy Processing - VAN verifies port connection and sends transactions in the TEST environment to verify submission and response.  For Eligibility Processing – VAN sends test transactions using the Safe Harbor TEST URL.	At the discretion of the submitter, but highly recommended.
6	For Pharmacy Processing – VAN completes testing and may begin submitting transitions using the production environment.  For Eligibility Processing – VAN completes testing and may begin submitting transactions using the Safe Harbor production URL.	At the discretion of the submitter.
7	For Pharmacy processing - ODC Request ticket is closed	1 business day

### 3.6 Modifications of VPN

Modifications to an existing VPN connection may be made by the VAN submitting only the Site To Site VPN Technical Specifications (ODC4\_B2BVPN\_specs) to the EDI coordinator with a written request to change their VPN connection to match the attached specifications. Steps 3 through 7 will apply from Section 3.4.

### 3.7 Termination of VPN

Termination of an existing VPN connection may occur due to the written request of the VAN, the Agency, or Gainwell in accordance with the terms of the VPN Subscriber Agreement for Alabama. Steps 4 and 5 of the chart in Section 3.4 would apply. In cases of an emergency termination, the request may be escalated.

## 4. File Exchange

Agency Contractors wishing to exchange files with Alabama Medicaid may do so using a SSH File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) method only. No other FTP process is allowed. SFTP is an encrypted, point to point transfer methodology.

It is preferred to push outbound files from Alabama Medicaid to the Contractors SFTP server and to receive inbound files as a push from the Contractor to the Alabama Medicaid SFTP server. An inbound folder will be dedicated to receiving the files from the Contractor.

At the request of the Agency, Gainwell will establish and exchange SFTP encryption keys and folder information with the Contractor. The Agency should contact the Gainwell EDI Coordinator to begin this process.

### 4.1 Initial Set-up of SFTP

The Alabama Medicaid Agency or the Agency Contractor should provide the SFTP Request form to the business analyst or developer assigned to the change order associated with the SFTP requirement:

<https://pwb.alix.slg.eds.com/alix/Subsystem/System%20Wide/SFTP/SFTP%20Security%20Request%20Form.doc>

### 4.2 Procedures and Timing

Step	Procedure	Timing
1	Requesting contractor submits request to Gainwell staff assigned to relevant change order.	At the discretion of the submitter.
2	Gainwell staff member submits a Service Desk ticket with SFTP request attached.	2 business days
3	SFTP access and folders are established. Username and password is provided back to Gainwell staff member who made request.	3 business days
4	Gainwell staff member communicates username and password to requesting contractor and request confirmation of successful connection	1 business day
5	Requesting contractor confirm success connection	At the discretion of the submitter.

### 4.3 Modifications to SFTP connection

Modifications to an existing SFTP connection may be made by the Agency or the contractor submitting a SFTP request form to the Gainwell staff member associated with the relevant change order. See section 4.2 for the procedures and timing of a modification request.

## 4.4 Termination of SFTP

Termination of an existing SFTP connection may occur at the written request of the Agency contractor or the Agency.

Step	Procedure
1	We receive a CSR from the Agency that the entity is no longer needed (or no longer the right vender).
2	Change Order(s) (COs) are written to stop sending file(s) to the entity.
3	The CO(s) is assigned and as part of construction control files and/or programs are suspended and removed to stop sending files to the entity.
4	The developer (SE) working the CO sends notice (usually email, could be a ticket) to the System Administrator (SA) and Solution Architect that this entity should be removed. The notice will include the ID(s) to be removed.
5	The SA removes the ID(s) and access from that entity.

In cases of an emergency termination, the request maybe escalated. Gainwell may also terminate a SFTP connection with any outside source deemed to pose a risk to the Alabama Medicaid environments. Notification would be provided to the Agency immediately upon such action being taken.

## 5. File Extracts

At the request and authorization of the Medicaid Agency, Gainwell will provide data extracts to Contractors. The following is a partial list and description of readily available extracts.

- **Daily Recipient Extract File**: This file is produced on Agency business days (generally Monday through Friday of each week, excluding State holidays.) This file contains updates that were made since the last daily extract for data including long term care, EPSDT and Managed Care enrollments.
- **Bi-Monthly or Monthly Recipient Cross Reference File**: This file is produced after each financial cycle as well as after the monthly bit cycle. It contains a cross reference of Medicaid Recipient IDs, allowing the receiving entity to take any recipient ID and identify the current, active ID.
- **Monthly Recipient Reconciliation Extract File**: This file is produced monthly, following the State's monthly eligibility updates. This file contains all data that has its source in the State's AMAES system. This includes eligibility, patient liability, retroactive eligibility as well as demographic information.
- **Monthly Eligibility Extract File**: This file is produced monthly and contains aid category and county and date periods for all active (unlinked) recipients from 10/1/2008 forward.
- **Monthly Managed Care, Long Term Care, and Waiver Data Extract File**: This file is produced monthly and contains data for all active (unlinked) recipients from 10/1/2008 forward for Managed Care, Long Term Care, Waiver, Lockin Physician and Lockin Pharmacy data.
- **Monthly Application Data Extract**: This file contains application status and dates for all active (unlinked) recipients.
- **Monthly Provider Extract File**: This file is produced following each financial cycle and contains provider enrollment information, including NPI and Medicaid Provider IDs.
- **Biweekly Claims Extract**: These files are available after each financial cycle. Each file contains the claims of a given form type (professional, institutional, dental, pharmacy). There is a single layout for all of the claims extract formats, with a number of optional fields for each. These files are provided in an XML format.

The file layouts for these extracts are available upon request.