



# Request for Quotes

## 01-30-26-28DPA Evaluation of Scientist Research Grant Applications and Progress Reports – Peer Review

	Date	Time
Due Date For Questions	February 16, 2026	2:00 PM
Submission Date	February 23, 2026	2:00 PM

Dates are subject to change. All times contained in the RFQ refer to Eastern Time.

All changes will be reflected in Bid Amendments to the Request for Quotes posted on Using Agency website.

Prospective Bidders are advised that written questions and Quotes are only accepted by email at [CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov](mailto:CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov).

<b>SET-ASIDES</b>	
<b>Small Business Set-Aside</b> <b>For Goods and Services:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> III <b>For Construction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IV <input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> VI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Subcontracting Only <input type="checkbox"/> Preference
<b>Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Set-Aside</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Subcontracting Only <input type="checkbox"/> Preference

**RFQ Issued By:**

State of New Jersey  
Department of Health  
Administration & Operations

Date: January 30, 2026

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ATTACHMENT 1 – State of New Jersey Combined Standard Terms and Conditions (6/3/2025)

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF THE REQUEST FOR QUOTES (RFQ)**

This Request for Quotes (RFQ) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH or Using Agency) on behalf of Office of Research Initiatives (ORI).

Prospective Bidders are advised that Quotes are only accepted by email at [CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov](mailto:CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov), and all file submissions must be in Microsoft compatible formats.

The Contract will be awarded in the State of New Jersey's (State's) eProcurement system, [NJSTART \(www.njstart.gov\)](http://www.njstart.gov). The awarded Contractor is advised to read through all Quick Reference Guides (QRGs) located on the [NJSTART Vendor Support Page](#) for information. It is recommended, though not required, that Bidders be registered in [NJSTART](#) prior to submitting a Quote. [NJSTART](#) is required to complete Contract award.

### **1.1 PURPOSE, INTENT AND BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this RFQ is to solicit Quotes for Evaluation of Scientist Research Grant Applications and Progress Reports. It is the expectation of the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Research Initiatives (ORI) that the Vendor shall choose from its' network of expert scientific reviewers working in the field of autism and cancer research to assess, evaluate, score and recommend function of research grant proposals to ORI. The governing tenet for the autism research grant awards stipulates that the Council shall make awards of grants and contracts to public and nonprofit private entities (N.J.S.A. 30:6D-56). Similarly, the enabling legislation for cancer research grants requires the "design of a fair and equitable system for the solicitation, evaluation and approval of proposals for cancer research projects" (N.J.S.A. 52:9U-1).

It is the intent of the State to award a Contract to that responsible Bidder whose Quote, conforming to this RFQ is most advantageous to the State of New Jersey (State), price and other factors considered. The State may award any or all price lines. The State, however, reserves the right to separately procure individual requirements that are the subject of the Contract during the Contract term, when deemed to be in the State's best interest.

The State of New Jersey Combined Terms and Conditions (SCTCs) included with this RFQ will apply to all Contracts made with the State. These terms are in addition to the terms and conditions set forth in this RFQ and should be read in conjunction with them unless the RFQ specifically indicates otherwise.

#### **1.1.1 PRE-QUOTE DOCUMENT REVIEW**

The following are publicly available documents that a Bidder needs to review in order to prepare and submit accurate and comprehensive Quotes:

The Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism (Council):

<https://www.nj.gov/health/autism/>

Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC):

<https://iacc.hhs.gov/>

National Institutes of Health (NIH):

<https://www.nih.gov/>

New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR):

<https://www.nj.gov/health/ces/njccr/>

### **1.2 COMMUNICATING WITH THE USING AGENCY PRIOR TO NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD CONTRACT**

The RFQ, Waivered Contracts Supplement to the State of New Jersey Combined Terms and Conditions provide parameters for the appropriate scenarios for Bidders to contact the Using Agency regarding this procurement, and by which method it may be appropriate. Examples include, but are not limited to, RFQ Section 2.1 *Question and Answer Period* and RFQ Section 3.1 *Quote Submission*. Except where expressly permitted, a Bidder shall not contact the Using Agency, procurement staff, or program staff directly, in person, by telephone or by e-mail, concerning this RFQ, prior to Notice of Intent to Award Contract.

### **1.3 CONTRACT AMOUNT**

The estimated amount of the Contract, if stated, shall not be construed as either the maximum or minimum amount which the State shall be obliged to order.

#### **1.4 ORDER OF PRECEDENCE OF CONTRACTUAL TERMS**

The Contract awarded, and the entire agreement between the parties, as a result of this RFQ shall consist of: (1) the final RFQ as issued; (2) the responses to questions received as described in Section 2.1; and (3) the State of New Jersey Combined Terms and Conditions; (4) the Quote; (5) any Bidder responses to clarifications, if applicable; (6) a Bidder's Best and Final Offer; (7) other negotiated document(s); and/or (8) third party document(s). In the event of a conflict in the terms and conditions among the documents comprising this Contract, the order of precedence, for purposes of interpretation thereof, listed from highest ranking to lowest ranking as noted above.

Any other terms or conditions, not included with the Bidder's Quote and accepted by the State, shall not be incorporated into the Contract awarded. Any references to external documentation, including those documents referenced by a URL, including without limitation, technical reference manuals, technical support policies, copyright notices, additional license terms, etc., are subject to the terms and conditions of the RFQ, and the State of New Jersey Combined Terms and Conditions. In the event of any conflict between the terms of a document incorporated by reference, the terms and conditions of the RFQ, Waivered Contracts Supplement to the State of New Jersey Combined Terms and Conditions shall prevail.

## **2 PRE-QUOTE SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

The Bidder assumes sole responsibility for the complete effort required in submitting a Quote and for reviewing the Quote submission requirements and the Scope of Work requirements.

### **2.1 QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD**

The Using Agency will electronically accept questions and inquiries from all potential Bidders.

Questions should be directly tied to the RFQ and asked in consecutive order, from beginning to end, following the organization of the RFQ.

A Bidder shall submit questions only to the Using Agency designee by email to [CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov](mailto:CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov). The Using Agency will not accept any question in person or by telephone concerning this RFQ. The cut-off date for electronic questions and inquiries relating to this RFQ is indicated on the RFQ cover sheet. In the event that questions are posed by Bidders, answers to such questions will be issued by Addendum. Any Addendum to this RFQ will become part of this RFQ and part of any Contract awarded as a result of this RFQ. Addenda to this RFQ, if any, will be posted to the Using Agency's website.

### **2.2 EXCEPTIONS TO THE COMBINED TERMS AND CONDITIONS (SSTC)**

Questions regarding the State of New Jersey Combined Terms and Conditions and exceptions to mandatory requirements MUST be posed during the Question and Answer period and shall contain the Bidder's suggested changes and the reason(s) for the suggested change(s).

### **2.3 BID AMENDMENTS**

In the event that it becomes necessary to clarify or revise this RFQ, such clarification or revision will be by Bid Amendment. Any Bid Amendment will become part of this RFQ and part of any Contract awarded. Bid Amendments will be posted with the RFQ posted on Using Agency website. There are no designated dates for release of Bid Amendments. It is the sole responsibility of the Bidder to be knowledgeable of all Bid Amendments related to this RFQ.

### **3 QUOTE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **3.1 QUOTE SUBMISSION**

In order to be considered for award, the Quote must be received by the Using Agency, by the required date and time indicated on the RFQ cover sheet. If the Quote opening deadline has been revised, the new Quote opening deadline shall be shown on the posted Bid Amendment. Quotes not received prior to the Quote opening deadline shall be rejected.

Bidders are advised that Quotes are only accepted by email at [CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov](mailto:CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov). Email sizes exceeding 25mb will be rejected. If an email size in excess of 25mb is required, Bidders are advised to submit Quotes in multiple emails. Bidders are also advised to put the name of the RFQ in the subject line of the email.

Bidders are advised that all Quote submission requirements must be submitted as an email attachment, or if applicable, in the body of the email itself. All file submissions must be in Microsoft compatible formats. The State is unable to accept Quote submission requirements via links, third party websites downloads, external download applications, etc.

#### **3.2 BIDDER RESPONSIBILITY**

The Bidder assumes sole responsibility for the complete effort required in submitting a Quote in response to this RFQ. No special consideration will be given after Quotes are opened because of a Bidder's failure to be knowledgeable as to all of the requirements of this RFQ. The State assumes no responsibility and bears no liability for costs incurred by a Bidder in the preparation and submittal of a Quote in response to this RFQ or any pre-contract award costs incurred.

#### **3.3 QUOTE ERRORS**

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:12-2.11 "Proposal errors," a Bidder may withdraw its Quote as described below.

#### **3.4 QUOTE WITHDRAWAL PRIOR TO QUOTE OPENING**

A Bidder may withdraw its Quote submission prior to the Quote opening by making a written request to the Using Agency to withdraw its Quote from consideration for award. The Quote withdrawal request must include the RFQ Number, RFQ Title, and the Quote submission date and should be sent to [CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov](mailto:CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov). The Bidder may submit a revised Quote as long as the Quote is received prior to the announced date and time for Quote submission. Bidders may refer to the QRG "Submit a Quote" for additional instructions.

#### **3.5 QUOTE WITHDRAWAL AFTER QUOTE OPENING, BUT PRIOR TO CONTRACT AWARD**

If, after the Quote opening, but before Contract award, a Bidder discovers an error in its Quote, the Bidder may make a written request to the Using Agency to withdraw its Quote from consideration for award. If the Bidder's request to withdraw is made in good faith, and the State will not be significantly prejudiced by granting the withdrawal of the Quote beyond the loss of the benefit of the bargain to the State of the withdrawing Bidder's offer, the request shall be granted. Evidence of the Bidder's good faith in making this request can be demonstrated by one (1) or more of the following factors: A mistake is so significant that to enforce the Contract resulting from the Quote would be unconscionable; that the mistake relates to a material feature or term of the Contract; and that the mistake occurred notwithstanding the Bidder's exercise of reasonable care. After Quote opening, while pursuant to the provisions of this section a Bidder may request to withdraw its Quote and the Using Agency may in its discretion allow said Bidder to withdraw it, the Using Agency also may take notice of repeated or unusual requests to withdraw by a Bidder and take those prior requests to withdraw into consideration when evaluating the Bidder's future Quotes.

The Quote withdrawal request must include the RFQ Number, RFQ Title, and the Quote submission date and should be sent to [CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov](mailto:CentralProcurement@doh.nj.gov).

If, during a Quote evaluation process, an obvious pricing error made by a potential Contract awardee is found, the Using Agency shall issue written notice to the Bidder. The Bidder will have up to five (5) business days after receipt of the notice to confirm its pricing. If the Bidder fails to respond, its Quote shall be considered withdrawn, and no further consideration shall be given to it.

#### **3.6 QUOTE CONTENT**

The Quote should be submitted with the attachments organized in following manner:

- Forms
- Technical Quote
- State Price Sheet

A Bidder should not password protect any submitted documents. Use of URLs in a Quote should be kept to a minimum and shall not be used to satisfy any material term of an RFQ. If a preprinted or other document included as part of the Quote contains a URL, a printed copy of the information should be provided and will be considered as part of the Quote.

### **3.7 FORMS, REGISTRATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH QUOTE**

The successful Bidder is required to complete and submit the following forms, registrations, and certifications prior to contract award. Contract award is contingent on the successful Bidder submitting and signing all forms. Bidders are strongly recommended to submit the forms, registrations, and certifications with their Quote.

As an alternative to uploading certain forms with the submitted Quote, a Bidder may complete several certifications electronically in [NJSTART](#) on the “Terms and Categories” Tab within the Vendor Profile. Those forms that may be completed on the [NJSTART](#) “Terms and Categories” Tab are noted below. Additionally, a Bidder may attach completed forms to the Vendor Profile. Refer to QRGs “Vendor Forms” and “Attaching Files” for additional instructions.

- A. [VENDOR QUICK REFERENCE GUIDES](#)
- B. A checklist with links to the Bidder forms, including the State Combined Terms and Conditions, may be accessed at [CHECKLIST FOR WAIVERS AND DELEGATED PURCHASING AUTHORITY \(DPA\) TRANSACTIONS](#)

#### **3.7.1 [OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE PAGE](#)**

The Bidder should complete and submit the Offer and Acceptance Page with the Quote. The Offer and Acceptance Page must be signed by an authorized representative of the Bidder. If a Bidder does not submit the form with the Quote, the Bidder must comply within seven (7) Business Days of the State’s request or the State may deem the Quote non-responsive.

#### **3.7.2 [STATE OF NEW JERSEY COMBINED TERMS AND CONDITIONS](#)**

The Bidder should complete and submit the signed State of New Jersey Combined Terms and Conditions. If a Bidder does not submit the form with the Quote, the Bidder must comply within seven (7) business days of the State’s request or the State may deem the Quote non-responsive.

The terms and conditions established in the State of New Jersey Combined Terms and Conditions apply to all contracts or purchase agreements made the with State.

The State of New Jersey Combined Terms and Conditions shall apply to all contracts or purchase agreements made with the State under N.J.S.A. 52:34-9 or -10.

#### **3.7.3 [OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM](#)**

**The Bidder shall complete and submit the Ownership Disclosure Form with its Quote.** If the Bidder elects to rely on a previously submitted Ownership Disclosure Form meeting the criteria of Section 3.10.2(b) below, the Bidder is advised that a copy must be provided to the Using Agency with its Quote.

A Bidder’s failure to submit the information required by N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2 will result in the rejection of the Quote as non-responsive and preclude the award of a Contract to said Bidder.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2, in the event the Bidder is a corporation, partnership or limited liability company, the Bidder shall disclose all 10% or greater owners by (a) completing and submitting the Ownership Disclosure Form; (b) if the Bidder has submitted a signed and accurate Ownership Disclosure Form dated and received no more than six (6) months prior to the Quote submission deadline for this procurement, the Using Agency may rely upon that form; however, if there has been a change in ownership within the last six (6) months, a new Ownership Disclosure Form must be completed, signed and submitted; or, (c) a Bidder with any direct or indirect parent entity which is publicly traded may submit the name and address of each publicly traded entity and the name and address of each person that holds a 10 percent or greater beneficial interest in the publicly traded entity as of the last annual filing with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission or the foreign equivalent, and, if there is any person that holds a 10 percent or greater beneficial interest, also shall submit links to the websites containing the last annual filings with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission or the foreign equivalent and the relevant page numbers of the filings that contain the information on each person that holds a 10 percent or greater beneficial interest.

**NOTE:** In lieu of completing and submitting the paper-based form, the Bidder has the option to complete this form online in [NJSTART](#) on the “Terms and Categories” Tab.



### **3.7.4 DISCLOSURE OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN FORM**

The Bidder should complete and submit a signed Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran form, with its Quote, to certify that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-58, neither the Bidder, nor one (1) of its parents, subsidiaries, and/or affiliates (as defined in N.J.S.A. 52:32-56(e)(3)), is listed on the Department of the Treasury's List of Persons or Entities Engaging in Prohibited Investment Activities in Iran and that neither the Bidder, nor one (1) of its parents, subsidiaries, and/or affiliates, is involved in any of the investment activities set forth in N.J.S.A. 52:32-56(f). If the Bidder is unable to so certify, the Bidder shall provide a detailed and precise description of such activities as directed on the form. If a Bidder does not submit the form with the Quote, the Bidder must comply within seven (7) business days of the State's request or the State may deem the Quote non-responsive. The Bidder is advised that submission is mandatory prior to Contract award and failure to submit with Quote may introduce delays in awarding the Contract.

**NOTE:** In lieu of completing and submitting the paper-based form, the Bidder has the option to complete this certification online in [NJSTART](#) on the "Terms and Categories" Tab.

### **3.7.5 DISCLOSURE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS INVOLVING BIDDER FORM**

The Bidder should complete and submit a signed Disclosure of Investigations and Other Actions Involving Bidder Form, with its Quote, to provide a detailed description of any investigation, litigation, including administrative complaints or other administrative proceedings, involving any public sector clients during the past five (5) years, including the nature and status of the investigation, and, for any litigation, the caption of the action, a brief description of the action, the date of inception, current status, and, if applicable, disposition. If a Bidder does not submit the form with the Quote, the Bidder must comply within seven (7) business days of the State's request or the State may deem the Quote non-responsive. The Bidder is advised that submission is mandatory prior to Contract award and failure to submit with Quote may introduce delays in awarding the Contract.

**NOTE:** In lieu of completing and submitting the paper-based form, the Bidder has the option to complete this certification online in [NJSTART](#) on the "Terms and Categories" Tab.

### **3.7.6 MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES FORM**

The Bidder should complete and submit a signed MacBride Principles Form, with its Quote. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-12.2, a Bidder is required to certify that it either has no ongoing business activities in Northern Ireland and does not maintain a physical presence therein or that it will take lawful steps in good faith to conduct any business operations it has in Northern Ireland in accordance with the MacBride principles of nondiscrimination in employment as set forth in N.J.S.A. 52:18A-89.5 and in conformance with the United Kingdom's Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act of 1989, and permit independent monitoring of their compliance with those principles. If a Bidder does not submit the form with the Quote, the Bidder must comply within seven (7) business days of the State's request or the State may deem the Quote non-responsive. The Bidder is advised that submission is mandatory prior to Contract award and failure to submit with Quote may introduce delays in awarding the Contract.

**NOTE:** In lieu of completing and submitting the paper-based form, the Bidder has the option to complete this certification online in [NJSTART](#) on the "Terms and Categories" Tab.

### **3.7.7 SERVICE PERFORMANCE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES**

The Bidder should complete and submit a signed Source Disclosure Form, with its Quote. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-13.2, all Contracts primarily for services shall be performed within the United States. If a Bidder does not submit the form with the Quote, the Bidder must comply within seven (7) business days of the State's request, or the State may deem the Quote non-responsive. The Bidder is advised that submission is mandatory prior to Contract award and failure to submit with Quote may introduce delays in awarding the Contract.

### **3.7.8 CONFIDENTIALITY/COMMITMENT TO DEFEND**

Pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act (OPRA), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq., or the common law right to know, Quotes can be released to the public in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:12-1.2(b) and (c).

The Bidder should submit a completed and signed Confidentiality/Commitment to Defend Form with the Quote. In the event that the Bidder does not submit the Confidentiality form with the Quote, the State reserves the right to request that the Bidder submit the form after Quote submission.

After the opening of sealed Quotes, all information submitted by a Bidder in response to a RFQ is considered public information notwithstanding any disclaimers to the contrary submitted by a Bidder. Proprietary, financial, security and confidential information may be exempt from public disclosure by OPRA and/or the common law when the Bidder has a good faith, legal/factual basis for such assertion.

When the RFQ contains a negotiation component, the Quote will not be subject to public disclosure until a notice of intent to award a Contract is announced.

As part of its Quote, a Bidder may request that portions of the Quote be exempt from public disclosure under OPRA and/or the common law. The Bidder must provide a detailed statement clearly identifying those sections of the Quote that it claims are exempt from production, and the legal and factual basis that supports said exemption(s) as a matter of law. The State will not honor any attempts by a Bidder to designate its price sheet, price list/catalog, and/or the entire Quote as proprietary and/or confidential, and/or to claim copyright protection for its entire Quote. If the State does not agree with a Bidder's designation of proprietary and/or confidential information, the State will use commercially reasonable efforts to advise the Bidder. Copyright law does not prohibit access to a record which is otherwise available under OPRA.

The State reserves the right to make the determination as to what to disclose in response to an OPRA request. Any information that the State determines to be exempt from disclosure under OPRA will be redacted.

In the event of any challenge to the Bidder's assertion of confidentiality that is contrary to the State's determination of confidentiality, the Bidder shall be solely responsible for defending its designation, but in doing so, all costs and expenses associated therewith shall be the responsibility of the Bidder. The State assumes no such responsibility or liability.

In order not to delay consideration of the Quote or the State's response to a request for documents, the State requires that Bidder respond to any request regarding confidentiality markings within the timeframe designated in the State's correspondence regarding confidentiality. If no response is received by the designated date and time, the State will be permitted to release a copy of the Quote with the State making the determination regarding what may be proprietary or confidential.

### **3.7.9 SUBCONTRACTOR UTILIZATION PLAN**

Bidders intending to use Subcontractor(s) shall list all subcontractors on the Subcontractor Utilization Plan form.

For a Quote that does NOT include the use of any Subcontractors, the Bidder is automatically certifying that, if selected for an award, the Bidder will be performing all work required by the Contract.

If it becomes necessary for the Contractor to substitute a Subcontractor, add a Subcontractor, or substitute its own staff for a Subcontractor, the Contractor will identify the proposed new Subcontractor or staff member(s) and the work to be performed. The Contractor shall forward a written request to substitute or add a Subcontractor or to substitute its own staff for a Subcontractor to the State Contract Manager for consideration. The Contractor must provide a completed Subcontractor Utilization Plan, a detailed justification documenting the necessity for the substitution or addition, and resumes of its proposed replacement staff or of the proposed Subcontractor's management, supervisory, and other key personnel that demonstrate knowledge, ability and experience relevant to that part of the work which the Subcontractor is to undertake. The qualifications and experience of the replacement(s) must equal or exceed those of similar personnel proposed by the Contractor in its Quote. The State Contract Manager will forward the request to the Director for approval.

NOTE: No substituted or additional Subcontractors are authorized to begin work until the Contractor has received written approval from the State.

### **3.7.10 PAY TO PLAY PROHIBITIONS**

Not applicable to this procurement.

### **3.7.11 VENDOR/BIDDER CERTIFICATION AND POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM (CHAPTER 271)**

The Bidder should complete and submit a signed Vendor/Bidder Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form, with its Quote. The Bidder is advised that submission is mandatory prior to Contract award and failure to submit with Quote may introduce delays in awarding the Contract.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 et seq. (P.L. 2005, c. 271), the intended Contractor shall disclose a list of political contributions that are reportable by the recipient pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1973, c.83 (C.19:44A-1 et al.) and that were made by the business entity during the preceding 12-month period, along with the date and amount of each contribution and the name of the recipient of each contribution.

A business entity contracting with a State agency shall disclose contributions to any State, county, or municipal committee of a political party, legislative leadership committee, candidate committee of a candidate for, or holder of, a State elective office, or any continuing political committee. A business entity contracting with a county, municipality, independent authority, other than an

independent authority that is a State agency, board of education, or fire district shall disclose contributions to: any State, county, or municipal committee of a political party; any legislative leadership committee; or any candidate committee of a candidate for, or holder of, an elective office of that public entity, of that county in which that public entity is located, of another public entity within that county, or of a legislative district in which that public entity is located or, when the public entity is a county, of any legislative district which includes all or part of the county, or any continuing political committee.

**NOTE: Bidders are cautioned that the Chapter 51 and Chapter 271 Forms are not the same, and submission of one (1) does not satisfy a requirement for the other.**

### **3.7.12 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

The intended Contractor and its named subcontractors must submit a copy of a New Jersey Certificate of Employee Information Report, or a copy of Federal Letter of Approval verifying it is operating under a federally approved or sanctioned Affirmative Action program. If the Contractor and/or its named subcontractors are not in possession of either a New Jersey Certificate of Employee Information Report or a Federal Letter of Approval, it/they must complete and submit the Affirmative Action Employee Information Report (AA-302). Information, instruction and the application are available at [https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/contract\\_compliance/index.shtml](https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/contract_compliance/index.shtml).

### **3.7.13 STATE OF NEW JERSEY SECURITY DUE DILIGENCE THIRD-PARTY INFORMATION SECURITY QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Bidder should complete and submit the State of New Jersey Security Due Diligence Third-Party Information Security Questionnaire (Questionnaire) with its Quote. If a Bidder does not submit the completed Questionnaire with the Quote, the Bidder must comply within seven (7) business days of the State's request or the State may deem the Quote non-responsive.

This Questionnaire is designed to provide the State with an overview of the Bidder's security and privacy controls to ensure that the Bidder will (1) meet the State of New Jersey's objectives as outlined and documented in the Statewide Information Security Manual; and (2) comply with the State's security requirements as outlined in *Section 6 – Data Security Requirements – Contractor Responsibility*. The State reserves the right to remove a Bidder from consideration of Contract award if the State determines that the Bidder's Questionnaire failed to sufficiently convey that the Bidder's security and privacy controls meet the State's requirements.

The State has executed a Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreement which is attached to the Questionnaire. The Bidder should countersign the Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreement and include it with its submitted Questionnaire. If a Bidder does not submit the signed Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreement with the Questionnaire, the Bidder must comply within seven (7) business days of the State's request or the State may deem the Quote non-responsive. No amendments to Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreement are permitted.

To the extent permissible under OPRA, the New Jersey common law right to know, and any other lawful document request or subpoena, the completed Questionnaire and supplemental documentation provided by the Bidder will be kept confidential and not shared with the public or other Bidders.

### **3.7.14 BUSINESS REGISTRATION**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:32-44(b), a Bidder and its named Subcontractors must have a valid Business Registration Certificate ("BRC") issued by the Department of the Treasury, Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services prior to the award of a Contract. A Bidder should verify its Business Registration Certification Active status on the "Maintain Terms and Categories" Tab within its profile in [NJSTART](#). In the event of an issue with a Bidder's Business Registration Certification Active status, [NJSTART](#) provides a link to take corrective action.

### **3.7.15 CERTIFICATION OF NON-INVOLEMENT IN PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES IN RUSSIA OR BELARUS PURSUANT TO P.L.2022, C3**

The Bidder should complete and submit a signed Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Russia or Belarus Pursuant to P.L.2022, c.3. Pursuant to P.L.2022, c.3, a person or entity seeking to enter into or renew a contract for the provision of goods or services shall certify that it is not Engaging in Prohibited Activities in Russia or Belarus as defined by P.L.2022, c.3, sec. 1(c). If the Bidder is unable to so certify, the Bidder shall provide a detailed and precise description of such activities.

If you certify that the Bidder is engaged in activities prohibited by P.L.2022, c.3, the Bidder shall have 90 days to cease engaging in any prohibited activities and on or before the 90<sup>th</sup> day after this certification, shall provide an updated certification. If the Bidder does not provide the updated certification or at that time cannot certify on behalf of the entity that it is not engaged in prohibited activities, the State shall not award the business entity any contracts, renew any contracts, and shall be required to terminate any contract(s) the business entity holds with the State that were issued on or after the effective date of P.L.2022, c.3.

### **3.8 TECHNICAL QUOTE**

The Bidder shall describe its approach and plans for accomplishing the work outlined in the Scope of Work. The Bidder must set forth its understanding of the requirements of this RFQ and its approach to successfully complete the Contract in a narrative format. The Bidder should include the level of detail it determines necessary to assist the Evaluation Committee in its review of the Bidder's Quote.

Mere reiterations of RFQ tasks and subtasks are strongly discouraged, as they do not provide insight into the Bidder's approach to complete the Contract. The Bidder's response to this section should demonstrate to the Evaluation Committee that the Bidder's detailed plans and approach proposed to complete the Scope of Work are realistic, attainable and appropriate, and that the Bidder's Quote will lead to successful Contract completion.

### **3.9 CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

The Bidder should describe its specific plans to manage, control and supervise the Contract to ensure satisfactory Contract completion according to the required schedule. The plan should include the Bidder's approach to communicate with the State Contract Manager or designee(s) including, but not limited to, status meetings, status reports, etc.

### **3.10 CONTRACT SCHEDULE**

The Bidder shall include a draft Contract schedule. If key dates are a part of this RFQ, the Bidder's schedule should incorporate such key dates and should identify the completion date for each task and sub-task required by the Scope of Work. Such schedule should also identify the associated deliverable item(s) to be submitted as evidence of completion of each task and/or subtask.

The Bidder should identify the Contract scheduling and control methodology to be used and should provide the rationale for choosing such methodology.

### **3.11 EXPERIENCE WITH CONTRACTS OF SIMILAR SIZE AND SCOPE**

The Bidder should provide a comprehensive listing of contracts of similar size and scope that it has successfully completed, as evidence of the Bidder's ability to successfully complete services similar to those required by this RFQ. Emphasis should be placed on contracts that are similar in size and scope to the work required by this RFQ. A description of all such contracts should be included and should show how such contracts relate to the ability of the firm to complete the services required by this RFQ. For each such contract listed, the Bidder should provide two (2) names and telephone numbers of individuals for contracting party. Beginning and ending dates should also be given for each contract.

The Bidder must provide details of any negative actions taken by other contracting entities against them in the course of performing these projects including, but not limited to, receipt of letters of potential default, default, cure notices, termination of services for cause, or other similar notifications/processes. Additionally, the Bidder should provide details, including any negative audits, reports, or findings by any governmental agency for which the Bidder is/was the Contractor on any contracts of similar scope. In the event a Bidder neglects to include this information in its Quote, the Bidder's omission of this necessary disclosure information may be cause for rejection of the Bidder's Quote by the State.

The Bidder should provide documented experience to demonstrate that each Subcontractor has successfully performed work on contracts of a similar size and scope to the work that the Subcontractor is designated to perform in the Bidder's Quote. The Bidder must provide a detailed description of services to be provided by each Subcontractor.

### **3.12 STATE-SUPPLIED PRICE SHEET INSTRUCTIONS**

The Bidder shall submit its pricing using the State-Supplied Price Sheet accompanying this RFQ.

Any price changes including hand written revisions or "white-outs" must be initialed. Failure to initial price changes shall preclude a Contract award from being made to the Bidder pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:12-2.2(a)(8).

- A. The Bidder shall provide its all-inclusive, firm fixed price for approximately 250 Scientific Peer Review services per year.
- B. The Bidder shall provide shall include delivery in the price.

Where the State-Supplied Price Sheet includes an estimated quantity column, Bidders are advised that estimated quantities may vary throughout the Contract term resulting from this RFQ. There is no guaranteed minimum or maximum volume for these price lines.

### **3.12.1 CASH DISCOUNTS**

The Bidder is encouraged to offer cash discounts based on expedited payment by the State. The State will make efforts to take advantage of discounts, but discounts will not be considered in determining the price rankings of Quotes. Should the Bidder choose to offer cash discounts, the following shall apply:

- A. Discount periods shall be calculated starting from the next business day after the Using Agency has accepted the goods or services, received a properly signed and executed invoice and, when required, a properly executed performance security, whichever is latest; and
- B. The date on the check issued by the State in payment of that invoice shall be deemed the date of the State's response to that invoice.

### **3.12.2 VOLUME DISCOUNTS**

Bidders may submit volume discounts on the State price sheet or include them with the submitted Quote. The State will consider a volume discount for ordering; however, such discounts will not be factored into the evaluation of the Quote.

### **3.12.3 USE OF "NO BID" VERSUS "NO CHARGE" ON THE STATE-SUPPLIED PRICE SHEET**

All price lines must be filled out in accordance with the instructions above. If the Bidder is not submitting a price for an item on a price line, the Bidder must indicate "No Bid" on the State-Supplied Price Sheet accompanying this RFQ. If the Bidder will supply an item on a price line free of charge, the Bidder must indicate "No Charge" on the State-Supplied Price Sheet accompanying this RFQ. The use of any other identifier may result in the Bidder's Quote being deemed non-responsive.

## 4 SCOPE OF WORK

### 4.1 EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

The Vendor shall be responsible to assign a panel of expert scientist reviewers which will be led by a Chairperson responsible for overseeing the review and scoring evaluation of each research grant application with a designated primary, and secondary reviewer. The Autism research grant reviews will have a focus for intervention studies, basic and clinical research into the cause, diagnosis, early detection, prevention, control and treatment of autism, including research in the fields of developmental neurobiology, genetics, psychopharmacology, neuroimaging, immunology, infectious diseases gastroenterology and endocrinology. The Cancer research grant reviews will have a focus on genetic, biochemical, viral, microbiological, environmental and other causes of cancer. The Vendor shall be responsible to ensure that the expert scientist reviewers' credentials and expertise align with the research grant proposals.

To minimize the potential for any impropriety or conflict of interest with the review process of research grant applications all scientific expert panel members shall live and work outside of New Jersey. Anyone from NJ who would be involved in the review panels would have to be disclosed to the Council/Commission and then barred from applying or being involved in any Council/Commission research related project, since they would have access to confidential information. Having access to confidential information would create an unfair advantage for that individual should they ever apply for grant funding. The scientist experts must not be involved, in any way, with the research projects to prevent conflicts of interest and to ensure confidentiality. The Vendor shall be responsible to assign a panel of qualified and experienced scientist research reviewers and a Chairperson to review and score/evaluate a research grant proposal. The Vendor shall be responsible to ensure that the expert scientist reviewers' credentials and expertise align with the research grant proposals.

#### 4.1.1 DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The ORI research grants management workflow is highlighted below to include responsible parties (ORI or Vendor). The NJ Department of Health specific tasks are included in the outline below and indicated as ORI. The Vendor specific tasks are included in the outline below and indicated as Vendor. The Vendor must ensure its scientist reviewers' compliance with the process.

Responsibility	Assigned to
1. Prepare Request for Applications (RFA).	ORI
a. Draft RFA, Notice of Funding Award (NOFA) and review timeline.	ORI
b. Create/test application in SAGE.	ORI
c. NOFA and RFA approval.	ORI
2. Publish the RFA and prepare review.	ORI
a. Publish RFA for new applications.	ORI
b. Letters of Intent are due before applications can be processed.	ORI
c. Conduct Administrative Review.	ORI
d. Share the list of Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Vendor.	ORI
3. Download applications from SAGE based on LOI's and send to Vendor.	ORI
a. Identify expert scientist reviewers based on research proposal topic to match with grant applications.	Vendor
b. Conduct relevancy review.	Vendor
c. Determine if relevancy is met or not met.	Vendor
d. Relevancy not met, notify ORI.	Vendor
e. Relevancy met, application advances to next phase.	Vendor
f. Assign an expert panel of scientist reviewers with the background, qualification and experience, and a Chairperson to oversee the process and adherence to the National Institute of Health (NIH) research review and scoring standards.	Vendor
g. Expert scientist reviewers review and score research grant applications	Vendor
h. Rank order scored research grant applications.	Vendor
i. Provide leader board list of all scored grant applications to ORI using the NIH standards for scoring grant applications.	Vendor
j. Conduct reviews of Autism scored grant applications with the SAC members.	ORI

The ORI shall assume responsibility for conducting an administrative review of the grant proposals to ensure accurate, timely and complete submission of all components of a grant application required by the RFA.

1. ORI will provide evaluation templates, RFA criteria and research guidelines to be used by the Vendor's scientist experts to assess and review grant applications, progress reports, and final reports. Or the ORI shall approve templates created by the Vendor prior to use.
2. ORI will provide copies of the research grant applications and/or progress reports to the Vendor.
3. The Vendor shall assign two (2) expert scientist reviewers – primary and secondary- from their existing pool of reviewers that have expertise related to the research grant application, and comprise a panel of expert scientist reviewers with a Chair providing oversight/guidance to the review panel. Each scientist expert shall sign a confidentiality agreement.
4. Upon completion of the Council and Commission's final decision, ORI will provide the Vendor with a list of the applicants selected for grant funded awards that will need to receive reviews and written critiques of their progress reports by the designated scientist expert.
5. All reviews conducted by the Vendor's scientist experts, shall be due to the ORI within 60 days after receiving the list of research grant funded awards.
6. The expert scientist reviews will be used by the grant awarding entity (Autism Council or Cancer Commission) to inform their decision to fund a research grant application.

The number of grant applications received can vary each year and therefore an approximate range of 250 research grant applications has been established as a baseline. The corresponding annual progress reports should also be calculated in the total cost. The Vendor shall ensure that all research grant applications are reviewed and scored. Only applications with scientific merit will move forward. The Autism Council and Cancer Commission shall make the final award determinations. The authority to authorize or not authorize grants is fully vested in the Council/Commission in accordance with N.J.S.A.52:9U-1. and N.J. statute P.L. 2007, c.168 (N.J.S.A. C.30:6D-60).

The Vendor shall be responsible for the recruitment of scientist experts to review and evaluate research proposals and progress reports to ensure that each grant proposal receives a fair review based on its merit and review criteria.

The Vendor shall be responsible for the review and written critique of the research progress reports. Research progress reports are submitted by grantees to ORI for review. ORI will provide the research progress reports to the Vendor. The Vendor shall provide a final review for each research progress report submitted by ORI. The Vendor will submit a review and written critique for each final progress report provided by ORI no later than 60 days after receiving the final progress reports from ORI.

Progress reports for the Autism grants shall be evaluated for achievements in reaching specific goals and objectives of the respective scientist research grant. Each applicant defines goals and objectives as part of the grant application. Goals are accomplished through the implementation of related objectives and for the Autism grants will be written in the SMART format (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely). Evaluation of outcomes is included in the scientist research program plan. The Vendor shall assign scientist reviewers to review and written critique of the progress reports. The ORI will provide a sample progress report template with specific information to be evaluated for grants.

Review of the Progress reports for the Cancer grants should be technical but targeted to a general scientist audience. It should be succinctly detailed (1 to 3 pages) to ensure that the research activities over the award are clearly articulated. Figures and references may be included if appropriate.

#### **4.1.2 ANNUAL PROGRESS RREPORT REVIEW PROCESS**

1. Staff verify submission of Progress Report in SAGE – ORI
2. Assign Progress Reports (to be reviewed by designated scientist reviewer) – Vendor
3. Scientist reviewer to review and approve/not approve Progress Report- Vendor
4. Compile all Progress Report findings/recommendations, and send to ORI – Vendor
5. Present list of approved or conditional progress reports to the Council/Commission - ORI

#### **4.1.3 SCIENTIST REVIEWERS PANEL AND CHAIRPERSON**

A panel of scientist reviewers will be led by a chairperson who will be responsible for overseeing the review and scoring evaluation of each research grant application with a designated primary, and secondary reviewer. At least one of the reviewers will be designated to complete the progress report review and provide a final progress report review. Each expert scientist reviewer must use the review/evaluation forms provided by ORI or forms provided by the vendor (approved by ORI) to complete a written review in accordance with the requirements of this agreement.

Expert Scientist reviewers shall have the following qualifications:

1. Expertise in the specific topics of either the autism scientist research application or cancer scientist research application that they are assigned to review; and
2. Experience reviewing grant progress reports and/or a technical report targeting a general scientist audience.

As an example, specific topics of the autism scientist research reports requires scientist reviewers with a broad range of expertise including, but not limited to:

1. Synaptic physiology
2. Genetics
3. Epidemiology
4. Immunology
5. Behavioral therapies
6. Clinical trials
7. Transportation
8. Mental Health Comorbidities

Categories in autism scientist research include:

1. Clinical
2. Translational
3. Basic Science Research

Examples of autism scientist research include studies such as:

1. Identifying factors that affect the long-term outcomes and quality of life of adolescents with ASD, with the goal of developing approaches to improve their quality of life.
2. Exploring whether high dose propranolol can treat severe and chronic behavioral issues in adolescents and young adults with ASD, issues that are debilitating to both the individuals and their families.
3. Analyzing data from hundreds of females with ASD to identify objective criteria that could facilitate early detection of ASD traits in females.
4. Examining synapses, connections between brain cells, to understand why synapses are much more abundant in the autistic brain.
5. Testing the link between infections during pregnancy and increased risk for autism.

Specific topics of the cancer scientist research reports requires scientist reviewers with a broad range of expertise including, but not limited to:

1. Genetic
2. Biochemical
3. Viral
4. Microbiological
5. Environmental
6. Behavioral
7. Socioeconomic
8. Demographic and psychosocial aspects of cancer prevention, causes, development, treatment, and palliation.
9. Women's Health
10. Cancer Health Disparities
11. Palliative Care, Pain Management (e.g., medical marijuana)
12. Psychosocial Effects of Cancer (e.g., determinants of health)

When the cancer scientist research includes studies that relate to fundamental aspects of cancer these must include:

1. Biologic systems,
2. Tissues,
3. Cells, and
4. Human subjects and/or other materials that have a direct relationship to cancer.



These broad categories may change annually depending on the areas of scientist research the sponsoring entity (Autism Council or Cancer Commission) agree to fund based on national and State priorities.

The states electronic grants management system (SAGE) will be accessed to provide the Vendor with grant applications and interim progress reports. The Vendor shall distribute the information to its' assigned external scientist reviewers.

Each scientist reviewer will receive a preset fee from the Vendor. The amount and type of fee paid is at the Vendor's discretion.

To avoid any conflict of interest, scientist reviewers must be recruited by the Vendor from outside the state of New Jersey and the external scientist reviewer must not have any ongoing or recent collaboration with the applicant or grantee.

#### **4.1.4 EVALUATION REPORTS**

Evaluation forms specific to the research project report and provided by the ORI or forms provided by the Vendor (approved by ORI), shall be completed for each scientist research grant application, progress reports, and final progress reports by the external scientist reviewers. Progress Reports that have received consistent, and favorable reviews, within the scope of work, will be exempt from a final Progress Report evaluation and written critique by the Vendor.

#### **4.2 REPLACEMENT OF UNSATISFACTORY PRODUCT**

In the event the product delivered does not meet the approved product specifications or is damaged prior to or at the time of delivery, as determined by the Using Agency, the Contractor shall immediately remove and replace the unsatisfactory product, at no cost to the Using Agency. The timeframe for the replacement shall not exceed the prevailing delivery days ARO. Failure to comply may result in the product being removed from the Contract and a similar product obtained from another Contractor with any additional costs assumed by the original Contractor.

#### **4.3 SUBSTITUTION OF DISCONTINUED OR REFORMULATED PRODUCTS**

The Contractor may offer a substitution for any product discontinued or reformulated by the manufacturer in its Contract. The State may consider substituting the discontinued or reformulated model with a new model provided that the unit offered meets or exceeds the Contract specifications. All substitutions must be approved by the State.

The Contractor must notify the State immediately in writing to the State Contract Manager stating that an item has been discontinued or reformulated by the manufacturer along with supporting documentation from that manufacturer that the item has been discontinued or reformulated. The Contractor must provide in its letter the discontinued or reformulated model number, model number of the new product being offered, detailed literature for the new product being offered, the price of the discontinued or reformulated item and the price of the product being offered as a replacement. The State will not approve the substitution of a discontinued or reformulated item without all of the above information.

The replacement product should be offered to the State at that same price as the discontinued or reformulated product.

#### **4.4 SUBSTITUTION OF PRODUCTS ON A TEMPORARY BASIS**

A Contractor may offer a substitute product for the contracted product on a temporary basis provided that the specifications are met and the Contractor provides proper justification for the temporary substitution. The justification provided to the Using Agency by the Contractor must include a letter from the contracted brand manufacturer, stating that the product is not able to be offered, estimated duration of product unavailability and the reasoning for the unavailability of product. The request for temporary product substitution, with all supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Using Agency for review and approval. The substitute product must be offered to the State at the same or more favorable pricing. The Contractor cannot offer the substituted product until it is approved by the Using Agency through a change order in [NJSTART](#). Once the originally contracted product is available again, the Contractor must immediately notify the Using Agency in writing. A temporary replacement of product is not meant as a permanent product replacement.

## 5 **GENERAL CONTRACT TERMS**

The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for the complete effort specified in this Contract. Payment will be made only to the Contractor. The Contractor is responsible for the professional quality, technical accuracy and timely completion and submission of all deliverables, services or commodities required to be provided under this Contract. The Contractor shall, without additional compensation, correct or revise any errors, omissions, or other deficiencies in its deliverables and other services. The approval of deliverables furnished under this Contract shall not in any way relieve the Contractor of responsibility for the technical adequacy of its work. The review, approval, acceptance or payment for any of the deliverables, goods or services, shall not be construed as a waiver of any rights that the State may have arising out of the Contractor's performance of this Contract.

### 5.1 **CONTRACT TERM AND EXTENSION OPTION**

The base term of this Contract shall be for a period of three (3) years.

This Contract may be extended up to two (2) years with no single extension exceeding one (1) year, by the mutual written consent of the Contractor and the State at the same terms, conditions, and pricing at the rates in effect in the last year of this Contract or rates more favorable to the State.

### 5.2 **CONTRACT TRANSITION**

Not applicable to this procurement.

### 5.3 **OWNERSHIP OF MATERIAL**

- A. **State Data** – The State owns State Data. Contractor shall not obtain any right, title, or interest in any State data, or information derived from or based on State Data. State Data provided to Contractor shall be delivered or returned to the State of New Jersey upon thirty (30) days' notice by the State or thirty (30) days after the expiration or termination of the Contract. Except as specifically required by the requirements of the RFQ, State Data shall not be disclosed, sold, assigned, leased or otherwise disposed of to any person or entity other than the State unless specifically directed to do so in writing by the State Contract Manager.
- B. **Work Product; Services** – The State owns all Deliverables developed for the State in the course of providing Services under the Contract, including but not limited to, all data, technical information, materials gathered, originated, developed, prepared, used or obtained in the performance of the Contract, including but not limited to all reports, surveys, plans, charts, literature, brochures, mailings, recordings (video and/or audio), pictures, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, print-outs, notes and memoranda, written procedures and documents, regardless of the state of completion, which are prepared for or are a result of the Services required under the Contract.
- C. **Vendor Intellectual Property; Commercial off the Shelf Software (COTS) and Customized Software** – Contractor retains ownership of all Vendor Intellectual Property, and any modifications thereto and derivatives thereof, that the Contractor supplies to the State pursuant to the Contract, and grants the State a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use Vendor Intellectual Property delivered to the State for the purposes contemplated by the Contract for the duration of the Contract including all extensions. In the event Contractor provides its standard license agreement terms with its Quote, such terms and conditions must comply with *RFQ Section 1.2 – Order of Precedence of Contractual Terms*.
- D. **Third Party Intellectual Property** – Unless otherwise specified in the RFQ that the State, on its own, will acquire and obtain a license to Third Party Intellectual Property, Contractor shall secure on the State's behalf, in the name of the State and subject to the State's approval, a license to Third Party Intellectual Property sufficient to fulfill the business objectives, requirements and specifications identified in the Contract at no additional cost to the State beyond that in the Quote price. In the event Contractor is obligated to flow-down commercially standard third party terms and conditions customarily provided to the public associated with Third Party Intellectual Property and such terms and conditions conflict with RFQ requirements, including the SSTC, the State will accept such terms and conditions with the exception of the following: indemnification, limitation of liability, choice of law, governing law, jurisdiction, and confidentiality. The RFQ including the SSTC shall prevail with respect to such conflicting terms and conditions. In addition, the State will not accept any provision requiring the State to indemnify a third party or to submit to arbitration. Such terms are considered void and of no effect. Third party terms and conditions should be submitted with the Quote. If Contractor uses Third Party Intellectual Property, Contractor must indemnify the State for infringement claims with respect to the Third Party Intellectual Property. Contractor agrees that its use of Third Party Intellectual Property shall be consistent with the license for the Third Party Intellectual Property, whether supplied by the Contractor, secured by the State as required by the RFQ, or otherwise supplied by the State.
- E. **Work Product; Custom Software** – The State owns all Custom Software which shall be considered "work made for hire", i.e., the State, not the Contractor, subcontractor, or third party, shall have full and complete ownership of all such Custom Software. To the extent that any Custom Software may not, by operation of the law, be a "work made for hire" in accordance with the terms of the Contract, Contractor, subcontractor, or third party hereby assigns to the State, or Contractor shall cause to be assigned to the State, all right, title and interest in and to any such Custom Software and any copyright thereof, and the

State shall have the right to obtain and hold in its own name any copyrights, registrations and any other proprietary rights that may be available.

- F. **State Intellectual Property** – The State owns all State Intellectual Property provided to Contractor pursuant to the Contract. State Intellectual Property shall be delivered or returned to the State of New Jersey upon thirty (30) days' notice by the State or thirty (30) days after the expiration or termination of the Contract. The State grants Contractor a non-exclusive, royalty-free, license to use State Intellectual Property for the purposes contemplated by the Contract. Except as specifically required by the requirements of the RFQ, State Intellectual Property shall not be disclosed, sold, assigned, leased or otherwise disposed of to any person or entity other than the State unless specifically directed to do so in writing by the State Contract Manager. The State's license to Contractor is limited by the term of the Contract and the confidentiality obligations set forth in *RFQ Section 6 – Data Security Requirements – Contractor Responsibility*.
- G. **No Rights** – Except as expressly set forth in the Contract, nothing in the Contract shall be construed as granting to or conferring upon Contractor any right, title, or interest in State Intellectual Property or any intellectual property that is now owned or licensed to or subsequently owned by or licensed by the State. Except as expressly set forth in the Contract, nothing in the Contract shall be construed as granting to or conferring upon the State any right, title, or interest in any Vendor Intellectual Property that is now owned or subsequently owned by Contractor. Except as expressly set forth in the Contract, nothing in the Contract shall be construed as granting to or conferring upon the State any right, title, or interest in any Third Party Intellectual Property that is now owned or subsequently owned by a third party.

#### **5.4 SUBSTITUTION OF STAFF**

If a Contractor needs to substitute any management, supervisory or key personnel, the Contractor shall identify the substitute personnel and the work to be performed. The Contractor must provide detailed justification documenting the necessity for the substitution. Resumes must be submitted for the individual(s) proposed as substitute(s) who must have qualifications and experience equal to or better than the individual(s) originally proposed or currently assigned.

The Contractor shall forward a request to substitute staff to the State Contract Manager for consideration and approval. No substitute personnel are authorized to begin work until the Contractor has received written approval to proceed from the State Contract Manager.

#### **5.5 DELIVERY TIME AND COSTS**

Unless otherwise noted in the RFQ or on the State-Supplied Price Sheet, all delivery times are 30 calendar days after receipt of order (ARO) and prices for items in Quotes shall be submitted Freight On Board (F.O.B.) Destination (30 calendar days ARO/F.O.B.). The Contractor shall assume all costs, liability and responsibility for the delivery of merchandise in good condition to the State's Using Agency or designated purchaser. 30 calendar days ARO/F.O.B. does not cover "spotting" but does include delivery on the receiving platform of the Using Agency at any destination in the State of New Jersey unless otherwise specified. No additional charges will be allowed for any additional transportation costs resulting from partial shipments made at the Contractor's convenience when a single shipment is ordered. The weights and measures of the State's Using Agency receiving the shipment shall govern. Collect on Delivery (C.O.D.) Terms are not permitted.

#### **5.6 ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

With the award of this Contract, the successful Contractor(s) will be required to receive its payment(s) electronically. In order to receive your payments via automatic deposit from the State of New Jersey, you must complete the EFT information within your **NJSTART** Vendor Profile. Please refer to the QRG entitled "Vendor Profile Management – Company Information and User Access" for instructions.

#### **5.7 LIQUIDATED DAMAGES**

Not applicable to this procurement.

#### **5.8 RETAINAGE**

Not applicable to this procurement.

## **6 DATA SECURITY REQUIREMENTS – CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY**

### **6.1 COMPLIANCE**

The Contractor shall develop and implement processes to ensure its compliance with all statutory, regulatory, contractual, and internal policy obligations applicable to this Contract. Examples include but are not limited to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), IRS-1075. Contractor shall timely update its processes as applicable standards evolve.

The Contractor shall also conduct periodic reviews of its information systems on a defined frequency for compliance with statutory, regulatory, and contractual requirements. The Contractor shall document the results of any such reviews.

### **6.2 PERSONNEL SECURITY**

The Contractor shall implement processes to ensure all personnel having access to relevant State information have the appropriate background, skills, and training to perform their job responsibilities in a competent, professional, and secure manner. Workforce security controls shall include, at a minimum:

- A. Position descriptions that include appropriate language regarding each role's security requirements;
- B. To the extent permitted by law, employment screening checks are conducted and successfully passed for all personnel prior to beginning work or being granted access to information assets;
- C. Rules of behavior are established and procedures are implemented to ensure personnel are aware of and understand usage policies applicable to information and information systems;
- D. Access reviews are conducted upon personnel transfers and promotions to ensure access levels are appropriate;
- E. Contractor disables system access for terminated personnel and collects all organization owned assets prior to the individual's departure; and
- F. Procedures are implemented that ensure all personnel are aware of their duty to protect information assets and their responsibility to immediately report any suspected information security incidents.

### **6.3 SECURITY AWARENESS AND TRAINING**

The Contractor shall provide periodic and on-going information security awareness and training to ensure personnel are aware of information security risks and threats, understand their responsibilities, and are aware of the statutory, regulatory, contractual, and policy requirements that are intended to protect information systems and State Confidential Information from a loss of confidentiality, integrity, availability and privacy. Security awareness and training shall include, at a minimum:

- A. Personnel are provided with security awareness training upon hire and at least annually, thereafter;
- B. Security awareness training records are maintained as part of the personnel record;
- C. Role-based security training is provided to personnel with respect to their duties or responsibilities (e.g. network and systems administrators require specific security training in accordance with their job functions); and
- D. Individuals are provided with timely information regarding emerging threats, best practices, and new policies, laws, and regulations related to information security.

### **6.4 PRIVACY**

If there is State Data associated with the Contract, this section is applicable.

- A. Data Ownership. The State owns State Data. Contractor shall not obtain any right, title, or interest in any State Data, or information derived from or based on State Data.
- B. Data usage, storage, and protection of Personal Data are subject to all applicable international, federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements, as amended from time to time, including, without limitation, those for HIPAA, Tax Information Security Guidelines for Federal, State, and Local Agencies (IRS Publication 1075), New Jersey State tax confidentiality statute, the New Jersey Privacy Notice found at NJ.gov, N.J.S.A. § 54:50-8, New Jersey Identity Theft Prevention Act, N.J.S.A. § 56:11-44 et. seq., the federal Drivers' Privacy Protection Act of 1994, Pub.L.103-322, and the confidentiality requirements of N.J.S.A. § 39:2-3.4. Contractor shall also conform to PCI DSS, where applicable.
- C. Security: Contractor agrees to take appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards reasonably designed to protect the security, privacy, confidentiality, and integrity of user information. Contractor shall ensure that State Data is secured and encrypted during transmission or at rest.
- D. Data Transmission: The Contractor shall only transmit or exchange State Data with other parties when expressly requested in writing and permitted by and in accordance with requirements of the Contract or the State of New Jersey. The Contractor shall only transmit or exchange State Data with the State of New Jersey or other parties through secure means supported by current technologies.
- E. Data Storage: All data provided by the State of New Jersey or State data obtained by the Contractor in the performance of the Contract must be stored, processed, and maintained solely in accordance with a project plan and system topology approved by the State Contract Manager. No State data shall be processed on or transferred to any device or storage medium

including portable media, smart devices and/or USB devices, unless that device or storage medium has been approved in advance in writing by the State Contract Manager. The Contractor must not store or transfer State of New Jersey data outside of the United States.

- F. Data Re-Use: All State Data shall be used expressly and solely for the purposes enumerated in the Contract Data shall not be distributed, repurposed or shared across other applications, environments, or business units of the Contractor. No State Data shall be transmitted, exchanged or otherwise passed to other contractors or interested parties except on a case-by-case basis as specifically agreed to in writing by the State Contract Manager.
- G. Data Breach: In the event of any actual, probable or reasonably suspected Breach of Security, or any unauthorized access to or acquisition, use, loss, destruction, compromise, alteration or disclosure of any Personal Data, Contractor shall: (a) immediately notify the State of such Breach of Security, but in no event later than 24 hours after learning of such security breach; (b) designate a single individual employed by Contractor who shall be available to the State 24 hours per day, seven (7) days per week as a contact regarding Contractor's obligations under *RFQ Section 6.11 - Incident Response*; (c) not provide any other notification or provide any disclosure to the public regarding such Breach of Security without the prior written consent of the State, unless required to provide such notification or to make such disclosure pursuant to any applicable law, regulation, rule, order, court order, judgment, decree, ordinance, mandate or other request or requirement now or hereafter in effect, of any applicable governmental authority or law enforcement agency in any jurisdiction worldwide (in which case Contractor shall consult with the State and reasonably cooperate with the State to prevent any notification or disclosure concerning any Personal Data or Breach of Security); (d) assist the State in investigating, remedying and taking any other action the State deems necessary regarding any Breach of Security and any dispute, inquiry, or claim that concerns the Breach of Security; (e) follow all instructions provided by the State relating to the Personal Data affected or potentially affected by the Breach of Security; (f) take such actions as necessary to prevent future Breaches of Security; and (g) unless prohibited by an applicable statute or court order, notify the State of any third party legal process relating to any Breach of Security including, at a minimum, any legal process initiated by any governmental entity (foreign or domestic).
- H. Minimum Necessary. Contractor shall ensure that State Data requested represents the minimum necessary information for the services as described in this RFQ and, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the State, that only necessary individuals or entities who are familiar with and bound by the Contract will have access to the State Data in order to perform the work.
- I. End of Contract Data Handling: Upon termination/expiration of this Contract the Contractor shall first return all State Data to the State in a usable format as defined in the Contract, or in an open standards machine-readable format if not. The Contractor shall then erase, destroy, and render unreadable all Contractor backup copies of State Data according to the standards enumerated in accordance with the State's most recent Media Protection policy, <https://www.cyber.nj.gov/grants-and-resources/state-resources/statewide-information-security-manual-sism>, and certify in writing that these actions have been completed within 30 days after the termination/expiration of the Contract or within seven (7) days of the request of an agent of the State whichever should come first.
- J. In the event of loss of any State Data where such loss is due to the intentional act, omission, or negligence of the Contractor or any of its subcontractors or agents, the Contractor shall be responsible for recreating such lost data in the manner and on the schedule set by the State Contract Manager. The Contractor shall ensure that all State Data is backed up and is recoverable by the Contractor. In accordance with prevailing federal or state law or regulations, the Contractor shall report the loss of State Data.

## 6.5 MEDIA PROTECTION

The Contractor shall establish controls to ensure data and information, in all forms and mediums, are protected throughout their lifecycles based on their sensitivity, value, and criticality, and the impact that a loss of confidentiality, integrity, availability, and privacy would have on the Contractor, business partners, or individuals. Media protections shall include, at a minimum:

- A. Media storage/access/transportation;
- B. Maintenance of sensitive data inventories;
- C. Application of cryptographic protections;
- D. Restricting the use of portable storage devices;
- E. Establishing records retention requirements in accordance with business objectives and statutory and regulatory obligations; and
- F. Media disposal/sanitization.

## 6.6 REMOTE ACCESS

The Contractor shall strictly control remote access to the Contractor's internal networks, systems, applications, and services. Appropriate authorizations and technical security controls shall be implemented prior to remote access being established. Remote access controls shall include at a minimum:

- A. Establishing centralized management of the Contractor's remote access infrastructure;
- B. Implementing technical security controls (e.g. encryption, multi-factor authentication, IP whitelisting, geo-fencing); and
- C. Training users in regard to information security risks and best practices related remote access use.

In the event the Contractor shall be approved to utilize State-provided remote access connectivity to conduct work on systems, networks, and data repositories managed and hosted within the New Jersey Garden State Network (GSN) for State approved business, the Contractor shall collaborate with the State in accordance with State defined usage restrictions, configuration/connection requirements, and implementation guidance for remote access into the GSN.

#### **6.7 MOBILE DEVICE SECURITY**

The Contractor shall establish administrative, technical, and physical security controls required to effectively manage the risks introduced by mobile devices used for organizational business purposes. Mobile device security shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- A. Establishing requirements for authorization to use mobile devices for organizational business purposes;
- B. Establishing Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) processes and restrictions;
- C. Establishing physical and logical access controls;
- D. Implementing network access restrictions for mobile devices;
- E. Implementing mobile device management solutions to provide centralized management of mobile devices and to ensure technical security controls (e.g. encryption, authentication, remote-wipe, etc.) are implemented and updated as necessary;
- F. Establishing approved application stores from which applications can be acquired;
- G. Establishing lists approved applications that can be used; and
- H. Training of mobile device users regarding security and safety.

#### **6.8 PROJECT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

The Contractor shall ensure that controls necessary to appropriately manage risks are accounted for and implemented throughout the term of the Contract Project and resource management security practices shall include, at a minimum:

- A. Defining and implementing security requirements;
- B. Allocating resources required to protect systems and information; and
- C. Ensuring security requirements are accounted for throughout the term.

#### **6.9 THIRD PARTY MANAGEMENT**

The Contractor shall implement processes and controls to ensure that risks associated with third-parties (e.g. vendors, contractors, business partners, etc.) providing information technology equipment, software, and/or services are minimized or avoided. Third party management processes and controls shall include, at a minimum:

- A. Tailored acquisition strategies, contracting tools, and procurement methods for the purchase of systems, system components, or system service from suppliers;
- B. Due diligence security reviews of suppliers and third parties with access to the Contractor's systems and sensitive information;
- C. Third party interconnection security; and
- D. Independent testing and security assessments of supplier technologies and supplier organizations.

#### **6.10 INCIDENT RESPONSE**

The Contractor shall maintain an information security incident response capability that includes adequate preparation, detection, analysis, containment, recovery, and reporting activities. Information security incident response activities shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- A. Information security incident reporting awareness;
- B. Incident response planning and handling;
- C. Establishment of an incident response team;
- D. Cybersecurity insurance;
- E. Contracts with external incident response services specialists; and
- F. Contacts with law enforcement cybersecurity units.

## **7     MODIFICATIONS TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY COMBINED TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **7.1     ADDITIONS TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY COMBINED TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Section 8 *Additions to the Standard Terms and Conditions for All Information Technology Contracts, as Applicable* and Section 9 *Additions to the Standard Terms and Conditions for All Information Technology Contracts Which Includes Software as a Service (SaaS)/Cloud Solution* of the SSTC do not apply to this procurement.

### **7.2     REVISIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY COMBINED STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

#### **7.2.1     OCCURENCE FORM COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE OR EQUIVALENT**

No deviation from the SSTC.

#### **7.2.2     AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The insurance requirement established in SSTC Section 4.2(b) is deleted.

#### **7.2.3     WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND EMPLOYERS LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The insurance requirements established in SSTC Section 4.2(c) are deleted.

#### **7.2.4     PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE**

No deviation from the SSTC.

#### **7.2.5     CYBER BREACH INSURANCE**

No deviation from the SSTC.

## **8 QUOTE EVALUATION AND AWARD**

### **8.1 RIGHT TO WAIVE**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:12-2.7(d) the State may waive minor irregularities or omissions in a Quote. The State reserves the right to waive a requirement provided that the requirement does not materially affect the procurement or the State's interests associated with the procurement.

### **8.2 RECIPROCITY FOR JURISDICTIONAL BIDDER PREFERENCE**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:32-1.4, the State of New Jersey will invoke reciprocal action against an out-of-State Bidder whose state or locality maintains a preference practice for its in-state Bidders. The State of New Jersey will use the annual surveys compiled by the Council of State Governments, National Association of State Procurement Officials, or the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing or a State's statutes and regulations to identify States having preference laws, regulations, or practices and to invoke reciprocal actions. The State of New Jersey may obtain additional information as it deems appropriate to supplement the stated survey information.

A Bidder may submit information related to preference practices enacted for a State or Local entity outside the State of New Jersey. This information may be submitted in writing as part of the Quote response, including name of the locality having the preference practice, as well as identification of the county and state, and should include a copy of the appropriate documentation, i.e., resolution, regulation, law, notice to Bidder, etc. It is the responsibility of the Bidder to provide documentation with the Quote or submit it to the Using Agency within five (5) business days after the deadline for Quote submission. Written evidence for a specific procurement that is not provided to the Using Agency within five (5) business days of the public Quote submission date may not be considered in the evaluation of that procurement, but may be retained and considered in the evaluation of subsequent procurements.

### **8.3 CLARIFICATION OF QUOTE**

After the Quote Opening Date, unless requested by the State as noted below, Bidder contact with the Using Agency regarding this RFQ and the submitted Quote is not permitted. After the Quotes are reviewed, one (1), some or all of the Bidders may be asked to clarify inconsistent statement contained within the submitted Quote.

### **8.4 TIE QUOTES**

Tie Quotes will be awarded by the Director in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:12-2.10.

### **8.5 STATE'S RIGHT TO INSPECT BIDDER'S FACILITIES**

The State reserves the right to inspect the Bidder's establishment before making an award, for the purposes of ascertaining whether the Bidder has the necessary facilities for performing the Contract.

### **8.6 STATE'S RIGHT TO CHECK REFERENCES**

The State may also consult with clients of the Bidder during the evaluation of Quotes. Such consultation is intended to assist the State in making a Contract award that is most advantageous to the State.

### **8.7 QUOTE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Quotes may be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee composed of members of the Using Agency and/or other representative(s) as deemed appropriate by the Using Agency. Representatives from other governmental agencies may also serve on the Evaluation Committee. On occasion, the Evaluation Committee may choose to make use of the expertise of outside consultant(s) in an advisory role.

### **8.8 EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The following evaluation criteria categories, not necessarily listed in order of significance, will be used to evaluate Quotes received in response to this RFQ. The evaluation criteria categories may be used to develop more detailed evaluation criteria to be used in the evaluation process.

#### **8.8.1 TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The following criteria will be used to evaluate and score Quotes received in response to this RFQ. Each criterion will be scored, and each score multiplied by a predetermined weight to develop the Technical Evaluation Score:

- A. Personnel: The qualifications and experience of the Bidder's management, supervisory, and key personnel assigned to the Contract, including the candidates recommended for each of the positions/roles required;
- B. Experience of firm: The Bidder's documented experience in successfully completing Contract of a similar size and scope in relation to the work required by this RFQ; and



- C. Ability of firm to complete the Scope of Work based on its Technical Quote: The Bidder's demonstration in the Quote that the Bidder understands the requirements of the Scope of Work and presents an approach that would permit successful performance of the technical requirements of the Contract.

#### **8.8.2 PRICE EVALUATION**

The Using Agency will utilize a weighted consumption/market basket model to evaluate pricing. The pricing model will be date-stamped and entered into the record before Quote opening.

Due to the possibility of weight and/or count variances between offerings, prices will be evaluated on a cost per ounce, cost per item, or cost per serving basis where applicable.

#### **8.9 QUOTE DISCREPANCIES**

In evaluating Quotes, discrepancies between words and figures will be resolved in favor of words. Discrepancies between Unit Prices and totals of Unit Prices will be resolved in favor of Unit Prices. Discrepancies in the multiplication of units of work and Unit Prices will be resolved in favor of the Unit Prices. Discrepancies between the indicated total of multiplied Unit Prices and units of work and the actual total will be resolved in favor of the actual total. Discrepancies between the indicated sum of any column of figures and the correct sum thereof will be resolved in favor of the correct sum of the column of figures.

#### **8.10 NEGOTIATION**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:34-12(f) and N.J.A.C. 17:12-2-7, after evaluating Quotes, the Using Agency may establish a competitive range and enter into negotiations with one (1) Bidder or multiple Bidders within this competitive range. The primary purpose of negotiations is to maximize the State's ability to obtain the best value based on the mandatory requirements, evaluation criteria, and cost. Multiple rounds of negotiations may be conducted with one (1) Bidder or multiple Bidders. Negotiations will be structured by the Using Agency to safeguard information and ensure that all Bidders are treated fairly.

Negotiations will be conducted only in those circumstances where it is deemed by the Using Agency to be in the State's best interests and to maximize the State's ability to get the best value. Therefore, the Bidder is advised to submit its best technical and price Quote in response to this Bid Solicitation/RFQ since the State may, after evaluation, make a Contract award based on the content of the initial submission.

If the Using Agency contemplates negotiation, Quote prices will not be publicly read at the Quote opening. Only the name and address of each Bidder will be publicly announced at the Quote opening.

#### **8.11 BEST AND FINAL OFFER (BAFO)**

The Using Agency may invite one (1) Bidder or multiple Bidders to submit a Best and Final Offer (BAFO). Said invitation will establish the time and place for submission of the BAFO. Any BAFO that does not result in more advantageous pricing to the State will not be considered, and the State will evaluate the Bidder's most advantageous previously submitted pricing.

The Using Agency may conduct more than one (1) round of BAFO in order to attain the best value for the State.

BAFOs will be conducted only in those circumstances where it is deemed to be in the State's best interests and to maximize the State's ability to get the best value. Therefore, the Bidder is advised to submit its best technical and price Quote in response to this RFQ since the State may, after evaluation, make a Contract award based on the content of the initial submission.

If the Using Agency contemplates BAFOs, Quote prices will not be publicly read at the Quote opening. Only the name and address of each Bidder will be publicly announced at the Quote opening.

#### **8.12 POOR PERFORMANCE**

A Bidder with a history of performance problems may be bypassed for consideration of an award issued as a result of this RFQ. The following materials may be reviewed to determine Bidder performance:

- A. Contract cancellations for cause pursuant to *State of New Jersey Standard Terms and Conditions Section 5.7(B)*;
- B. information contained in Vendor performance records;
- C. information obtained from audits or investigations conducted by a local, state or federal agency of the Bidder's work experience;
- D. current licensure, registration, and/or certification status and relevant history thereof; or
- E. Bidder's status or rating with established business/financial reporting services, as applicable.

Bidders should note that this list is not exhaustive.

**8.13 CONTRACT AWARD**

Contract award(s) will be made with reasonable promptness by written notice to that/those responsible Bidder(s), whose Quote(s), conforming to this RFQ, is(are) most advantageous to the State, price, and other factors considered.

## 9 GLOSSARY

### 9.1 CROSSWALK

Contract Terminology	Equivalent Statutory, Regulatory <b>NJSTART</b> and/or Legacy Terminology
Request for Quotes (RFQ)	Request For Proposal (RFP)/Bid Solicitation/ Solicitation
Bid Amendment	Addendum
Contract	Master Blanket Purchase Order (Blanket/Blanket P.O.)
Contract Amendment	Change Order
Administrative Change Order	Change Order
Quote	Proposal/Bid
Contractor	Vendor/Contractor
Bidder	Bidder/Contractor

**DEFINITIONS** Unless otherwise specified in this RFQ, the following definitions will be part of any Contract awarded, or order placed, as a result of this RFQ. Note that not all definitions included here apply to all RFQs

**Acceptance** – The written confirmation by the Using Agency that Contractor has completed a Deliverable according to the specified requirements.

**Administrative Change Order** – A unilateral administrative modification to the Contract in the **NJSTART** system by the Division. Administrative Change Orders are not to be considered formal Contract Amendments.

**All-Inclusive Hourly Rate** – An hourly rate comprised of all direct and indirect costs including, but not limited to: labor costs, overhead, fee or profit, clerical support, travel expenses, per diem, safety equipment, materials, supplies, managerial support and all documents, forms, and reproductions thereof. This rate also includes portal-to-portal expenses as well as per diem expenses such as food.

**Apparel** - means any clothing, headwear, linens or fabric.

**Apparel Contracts** - include all purchases, rentals or other acquisition of apparel products by the State of New Jersey, including authorizations by the State of New Jersey for vendors to sell apparel products through cash allowances or vouchers issued by the State of New Jersey, and license agreements with a public body.

**Apparel Production** - includes the cutting and manufacturing of apparel products performed by the vendor or by any subcontractors, but not including the production of supplies or sundries such as buttons, zippers, and thread.

**Approved Products** – Those products that have been identified in RFQ as meeting Using Agency needs and confirmed as meeting product specifications.

**Authorized Purchasers** – shall mean any State-Level government agency, department, office, instrumentality, division, unit or other entity in the Executive Branch (“State Purchasers”), Cooperative Purchasing Partners, and/or Intrastate Cooperative Purchasing Partners.

**Best and Final Offer or BAFO** – Pricing timely submitted by a Bidder upon invitation by the Procurement Bureau after Quote opening, with or without prior discussion or negotiation.

**Bid Solicitation or RFQ** – The documents which establish the bidding and Contract requirements and solicits Quotes to meet the needs of the Using Agencies as identified herein, and includes the RFQ, State of New Jersey Standard Terms and Conditions (SSTC), State Price Sheet, Attachments, and Bid Amendments.

**Bid Amendment** – Written clarification or revision to this RFQ issued by the Division. Bid Amendments, if any, will be issued prior to Quote opening.

**Bid Opening Date** – The date Quotes will be opened for evaluation and closed to further Quote submissions.

**Bid Security** - means a guarantee, in a form acceptable to the Division, that the bidder, if selected, will accept the contract as bid; otherwise, the bidder or, as applicable, its guarantor will be liable for the amount of the loss suffered by the State, which loss may be partially or completely recovered by the State in exercising its rights against the instrument of bid security.

**Bidder** – An entity offering a Quote in response to the RFQ.

**Breach of Security** – as defined by N.J.S.A. 56:8-161, means unauthorized access to electronic files, media, or data containing Personal Data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of Personal Data when access to the Personal Data has not been secured by encryption or by any other method or technology that renders the Personal Data unreadable or unusable. Good faith acquisition of Personal Data by an employee or agent of the Provider for a legitimate business purpose is not a Breach of Security, provided that the Personal Data is not used for a purposes unrelated to the business or subject to further unauthorized disclosure.

**Business Day** – Any weekday, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, State legal holidays, and State-mandated closings unless otherwise indicated.

**Calendar Day** – Any day, including Saturdays, Sundays, State legal holidays, and State-mandated closings unless otherwise indicated.

**Change Order** – An amendment, alteration, or modification of the terms of a Contract between the State and the Contractor(s). A Change Order is not effective until it is signed and approved in writing by the Director or Deputy Director, Division of Purchase and Property.

**Commercial off the Shelf Software or COTS** - Software provided by Provider that is commercially available and that can be used with little or no modification.

**Contract** – The Contract consists of the State of NJ Standard Terms and Conditions (SSTC), the Bid Solicitation/Request for Quotes, the responsive Quote submitted by a responsible Bidder as accepted by the State, the notice of award, any Best and Final Offer, any subsequent written document memorializing the agreement, any modifications to any of these documents approved by the State and any attachments, Bid Amendment or other supporting documents, or post-award documents including Contract Amendments agreed to by the State and the Contractor, in writing.

**Contract Amendment** – An amendment, alteration, or modification of the terms of a Contract between the State and the Contractor(s). A Contract Amendment is not effective until it is signed and approved in writing by the person with the appropriate signing authority. Contract Amendments are tracked using Change Orders in [NJSTART](#). Please note that Administrative Change Orders (see definition above) are not considered Contract Amendments.

**Contractor** – The Bidder awarded a Contract resulting from this RFQ.

**Cooperative Purchasing Program** – The Division’s intrastate program that provides procurement-related assistance to New Jersey local governmental entities and boards of education, State and county colleges and other public entities having statutory authority to utilize select State Contract s issued by the Division, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:25-16.1 et seq.

**Cooperative Purchasing Participants** - These participants include quasi-State entities, counties, municipalities, school districts, volunteer fire departments, first aid squads, independent institutions of higher learning, County colleges, and State colleges

**Customized Software** - COTS that is adapted or configured by Provider to meet specific requirements of the Authorized

Purchaser that differ from the standard requirements of the base product. For the avoidance of doubt, “Customized Software” is not permitted to be sold to the State under the scope of this Contract.

**Days After Receipt of Order (ARO)** – The number of calendar days ‘After Receipt of Order’ in which the Using Agency will receive the ordered materials and/or services.

**Dealer/Distributor** – A Company authorized by a Bidder or Contractor as having the contractual ability to accept and fulfill orders and receive payments directly on behalf of the Contractor that is awarded a Contract. Any authorized Dealer/Distributor must agree to all terms and conditions contained within the RFQ and must agree to provide all products and services in accordance with the Contract specifications, terms, conditions and pricing.

**Deliverable** – Goods, products, Services and Work Product that Contractor is required to deliver to the State under the Contract.

**Director** – Director, Division of Purchase and Property, Department of the Treasury, who by statutory authority is the Chief Contracting Officer for the State of New Jersey; or the Director’s designee.

**Disabled Veterans’ Business** - means a business which has its principal place of business in the State, is independently owned and operated and at least 51% of which is owned and controlled by persons who are disabled veterans or a business which has its principal place of business in this State and has been officially verified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a service disabled veteran-owned business for the purposes of department contracts pursuant to federal law. N.J.S.A. 52:32-31.2.

**Disabled Veterans’ Business Set-Aside Contract** - means a Contract for goods, equipment, construction or services which is designated as a Contract with respect to which bids are invited and accepted only from disabled veterans’ businesses, or a portion of a Contract when that portion has been so designated. N.J.S.A. 52:32-31.2.

**Discount** – The standard price reduction applied by the Bidder to all items.

**Division** – The Division of Purchase and Property.

**Equivalent Products** – Products offered other than those identified as an Approved Product in this RFQ that meet the specifications herein. Equivalent Products will be evaluated to ensure that they meet all technical, nutritional, and packaging specifications herein as part of the Quote evaluation process.

**Evaluation Committee** – A group of individuals or a Using Agency staff member assigned to review and evaluate Quotes

submitted in response to this RFQ and recommend a Contract award.

**Firm Fixed Price** – A price that is all-inclusive of direct cost and indirect costs, including, but not limited to, direct labor costs, overhead, fee or profit, clerical support, equipment, materials, supplies, managerial (administrative) support, all documents, reports, forms, travel, reproduction and any other costs.

**Hardware** – Includes computer equipment and any Software provided with the Hardware that is necessary for the Hardware to operate.

**Internet of Things (IoT)** - the network of physical devices, vehicles, home appliances and other items embedded with electronics, software, sensors, actuators, and network connectivity which enables these objects to connect and exchange data.

**Intrastate cooperative purchasing participants** - refers to political subdivisions, volunteer fire departments and first aid squads, and independent institutions of higher education and school districts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:25-16.1 et seq., State and county colleges pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:64-60 and 18A:64A-25.9, quasi-State agencies and independent authorities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27B-56.1, and other New Jersey public entities having statutory authority to utilize select State contracts issued by the Division

**Joint Venture** – A business undertaking by two (2) or more entities to share risk and responsibility for a specific project.

**Life cycle assessment** – The comprehensive examination of a product's environmental and economic aspects and potential impacts throughout its lifetime, including raw material extraction, transportation, manufacturing, use and disposal.

**Life cycle cost** – The amortized total cost of a product, including capital costs, installation costs, operating costs, maintenance costs, and disposal costs discounted over the lifetime of the product.

**Master Blanket Purchase Order (Blanket/Blanket P.O.)** – A Term Contract that allows repeated purchases from an awarded contract.

**Materials in Solid Waste** – Material found in the various components of the solid waste stream. General, solid waste has several components, such as municipal solid waste (MSW), construction and demolition debris (C&D), and nonhazardous industrial waste. Under RCRA Section 6002, EPA considers materials recovered from any component of the solid waste stream when designating items containing Recovered Materials.

**May** – Denotes that which is permissible or recommended, not mandatory.

**Mobile Device** - means any device used by Provider that can move or transmit data, including but not limited to laptops, hard drives, and flash drives.

**Must** – Denotes that which is a mandatory requirement.

**Net Purchases** - means the total gross purchases, less credits, taxes, regulatory fees and separately stated shipping charges not included in unit prices, made by Intrastate Cooperative Purchasing Participants, regardless of whether or not **NJSTART** is used as part of the purchase process.

**No Bid** – The Bidder is not submitting a price Quote for an item on a price line.

**No Charge** – The Bidder will supply an item on a price line free of charge.

**Non-Public Data** - means data, other than Personal Data, that is not subject to distribution to the public as public information. Non-Public Data is data that is identified by the State as non-public information or otherwise deemed to be sensitive and confidential by the State because it contains information that is exempt by statute, ordinance or administrative rule from access by the general public as public information.

**Percentage Discount or Markup** - The percentage bid applied as a Markup or a Discount to a firm, fixed price contained within a price list/catalog.

**Performance Security** - means a guarantee, executed subsequent to award, in a form acceptable to the Division, that the successful bidder will complete the contract as agreed and that the State will be protected from loss in the event the contractor fails to complete the contract as agreed.

**Personal Data** means –

“Personal Information” as defined in N.J.S.A. 56:8-161, means an individual's first name or first initial and last name linked with any one or more of the following data elements: (1) Social Security number, (2) driver's license number or State identification card number or (3) account number or credit or debit card number, in combination with any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account. Dissociated data that, if linked would constitute Personal Information is Personal Information if the means to link the dissociated were accessed in connection with access to the dissociated data. Personal Information shall not include publicly available information that is lawfully made available to the general public from federal, state or local government records, or widely distributed media; and/or

Data, either alone or in combination with other data, that includes information relating to an individual that identifies the person or entity by name, identifying number, mark or description that can be readily associated with a particular

individual and which is not a public record, including but not limited to, Personally Identifiable Information (PII); government-issued identification numbers (e.g., Social Security, driver's license, passport); Protected Health Information (PHI) as that term is defined in the regulations adopted pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. No. 104-191 (1996) and found in 45 CFR Parts 160 to 164 and defined below; and Education Records, as that term is defined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g.

**Personally Identifiable Information or PII** - as defined by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, means any information about an individual maintained by an agency, including (1) any information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as name, social security number, date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, or biometric records; and (2) any other information that is linked or linkable to an individual, such as medical, educational, financial, and employment information.

**Post-Consumer Material** – Material or finished product that has served its intended use and has been diverted or recovered from waste destined for disposal, having completed its life as a consumer item. Post-Consumer Materials are part of the broader category of Recovered Materials.

**Pre-Consumer Material** – Materials generated in manufacturing and converting processes, such as manufacturing scrap and trimmings/cuttings.

**Price List/Catalog** – A document published by a manufacturer, resellers, Dealers, or Distributors that typically contains product descriptions, a list of products with fixed prices to which a Bidder's percentage discount or markup bid is applied.

**Procurement Bureau (Bureau)** – The Division unit responsible for the preparation, advertisement, and issuance of RFQs, for the tabulation of Quotes and for recommending award(s) of Contract(s) to the Director and the Deputy Director.

**Project** – The undertakings or services that are the subject of this RFQ.

**Protected Health Information or PHI** - has the same meaning as the term is defined in the regulations adopted pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. No. 104-191 (1996) and found in 45 CFR Parts 160 to 164 means Individually Identifiable Health Information (as defined below) transmitted by electronic media, maintained in electronic media, or transmitted or maintained in any other form or medium. PHI excludes education records covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, records described at 20 U.S.C. 1232g(a)(4)(B)(iv) and employment records held by a covered entity in its role as employer. The term "Individually Identifiable Health Information" has the same meaning as the

term is defined in the regulations adopted pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. No. 104-191 (1996) and found in 45 CFR Parts 160 to 164 and means information that is a subset of Protected Health Information, including demographic information collected from an individual, and (1) is created or received by a health care provider, health plan, employer or health care clearinghouse; and (2) relates to the past, present or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care to an individual; or the past, present or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual; and (a) that identifies the individual; or (b) with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual.

**Purchases** - means the total gross purchases, less credits, taxes, regulatory fees and separately stated shipping charges not included in unit prices, made regardless of whether or not NJSTART is used as part of the purchase process.

**Quasi-State Agency** - is any agency, commission, board, authority or other such governmental entity which is established and is allocated to a State department or any bi-state governmental entity of which the State of New Jersey is a member, as defined in N.J.S.A. 52:27B-56.1, provided that any sale to any such bi-state governmental entity is for use solely within the State of New Jersey.

**Quick Reference Guides (QRGs)** – Informational documents which provide Vendors with step-by-step instructions to navigate the NJSTART eProcurement System. QRGs are available on the [NJSTART Vendor Support Page](#).

**Quote** – Bidder's timely response to the RFQ including, but not limited to, technical Quote, price Quote including Best and Final Offer, any licenses, forms, certifications, clarifications, negotiated documents, and/or other documentation required by the RFQ.

**Quote Opening Date** - The date Quotes will be opened for evaluation and closed to further Quote submissions.

**Recovered Material** – Waste material and byproduct that have been recovered or diverted from solid waste, but does not include materials and byproducts generated from, and commonly reused within, an original manufacturing process.

**Recycling** – The series of activities, including collection, separation, and processing, by which products or other materials are recovered from the solid waste stream for use in the form of raw materials in the manufacture of new products other than fuel for producing heat or power by combustion.

**Recyclability** – The ability of a product or material to be recovered from, or otherwise diverted from, the solid waste stream for the purpose of recycling.

**Request For Quotes (RFQ)** – This series of documents, which establish the bidding and contract requirements and solicits Quotes to meet the needs of the Using Agencies as identified herein, and includes the RFQ, State of NJ Standard Terms and Conditions (SSTC), price schedule, attachments, and Bid Amendments.

**Retainage** – The amount withheld from the Contractor payment that is retained and subsequently released upon satisfactory completion of performance milestones by the Contractor.

**Revision** – A response to a BAFO request or a requested clarification of the Bidder's Quote.

**RMAN** – Recovered Materials Advisory Notices provide purchasing guidance and recommendations for Recovered and Post-Consumer Material content levels for designated items.

**Security Incident** - means the potential access by non-authorized person(s) to Personal Data or Non-Public Data that the Provider believes could reasonably result in the use, disclosure, or access or theft of State's unencrypted Personal Data or Non-Public Data within the possession or control of the Provider. A Security Incident may or may not turn into a Breach of Security.

**Services** – Includes, without limitation (i) Information Technology (IT) professional services, (ii) Software and Hardware-related services, including without limitation, installation, configuration, and training, and (iii) Software and Hardware maintenance and support and/or Software and Hardware technical support services.

**Shall** – Denotes that which is a mandatory requirement.

**Should** – Denotes that which is permissible or recommended, not mandatory.

**Small Business** – Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-19, N.J.A.C. 17:13-1.2, and N.J.A.C. 17:13-2.1, "small business" means a business that meets the requirements and definitions of "small business" and has applied for and been approved by the New Jersey Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services, Small Business Registration and M/WBE Certification Services Unit as (i) independently owned and operated, (ii) incorporated or registered in and has its principal place of business in the State of New Jersey; (iii) has 100 or fewer full-time employees; and has gross revenues falling in one (1) of the six (6) following categories:

For goods and services - (A) 0 to \$500,000 (Category I); (B) \$500,001 to \$5,000,000 (Category II); and (C) \$5,000,001 to \$12,000,000, or the applicable federal revenue standards established at 13 CFR 121.201, whichever is higher (Category III).

For construction services: (A) 0 to \$3,000,000 (Category IV); (B) gross revenues that do not exceed 50 percent of the applicable annual revenue standards established at 13 CFR 121.201 (Category V); and (C) gross revenues that do not exceed the

applicable annual revenue standards established at CFR 121.201, (Category VI).

**Small Business Set-Aside Contract** – means (1) a Contract for goods, equipment, construction or services which is designated as a Contract with respect to which bids are invited and accepted only from small businesses, or (2) a portion of a Contract when that portion has been so designated." N.J.S.A. 52:32-19.

**Software** - means, without limitation, computer programs, source codes, routines, or subroutines supplied by Provider, including operating software, programming aids, application programs, application programming interfaces and software products, and includes COTS, unless the context indicates otherwise.

**Software as a Service or SaaS** - means the capability provided to a purchaser to use the Provider's applications running on a cloud infrastructure. The applications are accessible from various client devices through a thin client interface such as a Web browser (e.g., Web-based email) or a program interface. The purchaser does not manage or control the underlying cloud infrastructure, including network, servers, operating systems, storage or even individual application capabilities, with the possible exception of limited user-specific application configuration settings.

**State** – The State of New Jersey.

**State Confidential Information** - shall consist of State Data and State Intellectual Property supplied by the State, any information or data gathered by the Contractor in fulfillment of the Contract and any analysis thereof (whether in fulfillment of the Contract or not);

**State Contract Manager or SCM** – The individual, responsible for the approval of all deliverables, i.e., tasks, sub-tasks or other work elements in the Scope of Work. The SCM cannot direct or approve a Change Order.

**State Data** - means all data and metadata created or in any way originating with the State, and all data that is the output of computer processing of or other electronic manipulation of any data that was created by or in any way originated with the State, whether such data or output is stored on the State's hardware, the Provider's hardware or exists in any system owned, maintained or otherwise controlled by the State or by the Provider. State Data includes Personal Data and Non-Public Data.

**State Intellectual Property** – Any intellectual property that is owned by the State. State Intellectual Property includes any derivative works and compilations of any State Intellectual Property.

**State Price Sheet or State-Supplied Price Sheet** – the bidding document created by the State and attached to this RFQ on

which the Bidder submits its Quote pricing as is referenced and described in the RFQ.

**Subtasks** – Detailed activities that comprise the actual performance of a task.

**Subcontractor** – An entity having an arrangement with a Contractor, whereby the Contractor uses the products and/or services of that entity to fulfill some of its obligations under its State Contract, while retaining full responsibility for the performance of all Contractor's obligations under the Contract, including payment to the Subcontractor. The Subcontractor has no legal relationship with the State, only with the Contractor.

**Task** – A discrete unit of work to be performed.

**Third Party Intellectual Property** – Any intellectual property owned by parties other than the State or Contractor and contained in or necessary for the use of the Deliverables. Third Party Intellectual Property includes COTS owned by Third Parties, and derivative works and compilations of any Third Party Intellectual Property.

**Unit Cost or Unit Price** – All-inclusive, firm fixed price charged by the Bidder for a single unit identified on a price line.

**US CERT** – United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team.

**USEPA** – United States Environmental Protection Agency

## 9.2 CONTRACT SPECIFIC DEFINITIONS

**Autism Research Project** – A scientist research project that focuses on improving the physical and or behavioral health and well-being of individuals with AST (Clinical Research Pilot Projects), explores the mechanisms underlying ASD such as genetic, biochemical, morphological, or other mechanisms contributing to the development and characterization of ASD (Basic Research Pilot Projects) and, new approaches that examine the origins, mechanisms, and treatment of ASD (Postdoctoral Graduate Student Fellowships).

**Autism Spectrum Disorder** – Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a group of complex neurodevelopmental disabilities defined by significant impairments in social interaction and communication as well as the presence of unusual or restricted behaviors and interests. These disorders, for which there is presently no cure and only limited treatments, generally have lifelong effects.

**Cancer Research Project** – may be one of the following; an original basic, biomedical, behavioral or clinical science research related to the causes, prevention, survival and treatment of cancer (Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship), enhancements to cancer-related research at NJ institutions for promising and productive investigators who

**Using Agency[ies]** – A State department or agency, a quasi-State governmental entity, or an Intrastate Cooperative Purchasing participant, authorized to purchase products and/or services under a Contract procured by the Division.

**Vendor** – Either the Bidder or the Contractor.

**Vendor Intellectual Property** – Any intellectual property that is owned by Contractor and contained in or necessary for the use of the Deliverables or which the Contractor makes available for the State to use as part of the work under the Contract Vendor Intellectual Property includes COTS or Customized Software owned by Contractor, Contractor's technical documentation, and derivative works and compilations of any Vendor Intellectual Property.

**Work Product** – Every invention, modification, discovery, design, development, customization, configuration, improvement, process, Software program, work of authorship, documentation, formula, datum, technique, know how, secret, or intellectual property right whatsoever or any interest therein (whether patentable or not patentable or registerable under copyright or similar statutes or subject to analogous protection) that is specifically made, conceived, discovered, or reduced to practice by Contractor or Contractor's subcontractors or a third party engaged by Contractor or its subcontractor pursuant to the Contract Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the preceding sentence, Work Product does not include State Intellectual Property, Vendor Intellectual Property or Third Party Intellectual Property.

anticipate a short-term interruption in funding for research projects focused on cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship (Bridge Research) or, a research project that addresses current priority areas related to cancer health disparities, women's health, psychosocial effects of cancer and pain management (Pilot Research). In short, a scientist research project, that focuses on the genetic, biochemical, viral, microbiological and environmental causes of cancer, and may include, but is not limited to, behavioral, socio-economic, demographic and psychosocial research or research into methods of clinical treatment; or which focuses on pain management and palliative care for persons diagnosed with cancer.

**Grant Funding Entities (Autism Council and Cancer Commission)** – The Council and Commission are statutorily governed. The Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism (Council) was created by P.L. 2007, c. 168. The Council's vision is to enhance the lives of individuals with ASD across their lifespans. The Mission of the Council is to advance and disseminate the understanding, treatment, and management of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by means of a coordinated program of biomedical research, clinical innovation, and professional training in New Jersey. The New



Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research was created by P.L. N.J.S.A. 52:9U-1 (2011) to review and authorize approved scientist research grants and projects. The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) promotes significant and original research in New Jersey into the causes, prevention, treatment, and palliation of cancer and serves as a resource to providers and consumers of cancer services.

**Progress Report** – Progress Reports are due annually and are critiqued by external (outside of NJ) scientist reviewers. The critiques inform the sponsoring entity's decision(s) to consider funding the research grant application and the progress made throughout the longevity of the research grant award.

**Grantee** – the primary recipient (from an affiliated DOH credentialed research institution) receiving a financial award from the Department to carry out the scientist research project.

**Goals and objectives** – Goals are broad statements aligned with the mission of the respective grant funding entity (Council or Commission) and, more specifically, with the anticipated outcomes of the scientist research project. Each applicant defines goals and objectives as part of the grant application. Goals are accomplished through the implementation of related objectives. Objectives are written in the SMART format (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely). Evaluation of outcomes is included in the scientist research program plan.

**Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism (Council)** – It was created by a New Jersey State appropriation in 1999 and has been issuing research, clinical and educational enhancement grants since 2000. The mission of the Council is to advance and disseminate the understanding, treatment, and management of ASD by means of a coordinated program of biomedical research, clinical innovation, and professional training in New Jersey.

**New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR)** – It was established in 1983 with the passage of the "Cancer Research Act" by the NJ State Legislature to promote significant and original research in New Jersey into the causes, prevention, treatment and palliation of cancer and serves as a resource to providers and consumers of cancer services. The mission of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research is to ensure that the citizens of New Jersey receive the fullest benefit of our nation's fight against cancer through the promotion and funding of research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of cancer.

New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) the Department's priority is improving health by strengthening New Jersey's health system. The Department's three primary branches, Public Health Services, Health Systems, and Integrated Health, work collaboratively toward that goal. The Department's

mission is to ensure that all New Jerseyans live long, healthy lives and reach their fullest potential.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)** – uses a scoring system to evaluate grant applications, primarily based on a 9-point scale for both overall impact scores and individual criterion scores. Reviewers assess applications based on multiple criteria (e.g., Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, Environment) and provide scores for each, as well as an overall impact score. These scores, along with a summary statements, are used to determine funding decisions.

**Office of Research Initiatives (ORI)** – It was established through an Executive Directive (No.19-002) – as an inclusion within the branch of the Office of Population Health- in 2019 to oversee the: Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism (Council), New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research, New Jersey Commission on Brain Injury Research, New Jersey Commission Spinal Cord Injury Research. Since that time the New Jersey Rare Disease Council and the New Jersey Aphasia Council have been added. The ORI mission is to assist NJ councils and commissions allocated within the NJ Department of Health- Office of Research Initiatives that are charged with funding the development of comprehensive research projects in accordance with each respective statute ensuring each function, at a minimum, in compliance with basic NJ Department of Health administrative policy and guidelines.

**Progress Reports** – Are to be critiqued by external scientist reviewers. The critiques inform the sponsoring entity's decision(s) to consider funding the grant during a specific period that coincide with the state fiscal year. The Autism and Cancer grantees shall be required to submit a Progress Report (PR) in accordance with an identified time. A Cancer grantee Progress Report should be technical but targeted to a general scientist audience. It should be succinctly detailed (1 to 3 pages) to ensure that all relevant information is included.

**Researchers** – A person who carries out academic or scientist research representing a wide range of research interests and expertise. For example, autism researchers range from basic science researchers working with human cell lines or mouse models to clinical researchers working with autistic individuals to study topics ranging from treatment of autism to transportation issues as barriers to employment. Each researcher selects one of the following key questions to address. The questions are identified by the National Institute of Health (NIH) Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) as national priorities for autism scientist research:

- a. How can I recognize the signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and why is early detection so important?
- b. What is the biology underlying ASD?
- c. What causes ASD, and can disabling aspects of ASD be prevented or preempted?

- d. Which treatments and interventions will help?
- e. What kinds of services and supports are needed to maximize quality of life for people on the autism spectrum?
- f. How can we meet the needs of people with ASD as they progress into and through adulthood?
- g. How do we continue to build, expand, and enhance the infrastructure system to meet the needs of the ASD community?

Cancer researchers' range may include a focus on the genetic, biochemical, viral, microbiological, environmental, behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic, and psychosocial aspects of cancer prevention, causes, development, treatment, and palliation. Such research may include studies that relate to fundamental aspects of cancer, but these must include biologic systems, tissues, cells, human subjects and/or other materials that have a direct relationship to cancer.

Researchers select one of the following key questions to address. These questions are identified by the National

Institute of Health (NIH) as national priorities for cancer scientist research:

- 1. Why is this work important?
- 2. What are the implications of doing it?
- 3. How does it link to other knowledge?

**Review of Scientific Research Grant Applications** – Scientist reviewers will consider the significance, innovation, approach, feasibility, personnel, environment, and budget to judge the likelihood that the proposed scientist research project will have an impact on the specific field.

**Scientist Reviewers** – Scientist Reviewers are selected by their level of expertise as researchers in specific area of the assigned reports, and research project reviewing experience, assessing, and scoring/ evaluating research grant applications, and progress reports.

**SMARTie format for Grant Objectives**– specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, timely, and equitable