

**Request for Proposal (RFP) Number 2015-AAC-01  
Alabama Medicaid Agency  
Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost (AAC)/  
State Maximum Allowable Cost (SMAC) RFP  
Announcement of Selected Vendor**

On February 9, 2015 the Alabama Medicaid Agency issued intent to award notice to Myers & Stauffer LC for the Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost/State Maximum Allowable Cost Program Request for proposal (RFP Number 2015-AAC-01).

The final award of this contract is subject to review by the Legislative Oversight Committee and signature by Governor Bentley.



# ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

<b>RFP Number: 2015-AAC-01</b>	<b>RFP Title: Medicaid Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost/State Maximum Allowable Cost Program</b>
<b>RFP Due Date and Time: February 2, 2015 by 5pm Central Time</b>	<b>Number of Pages: 41</b>
<b>PROCUREMENT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project Director: Lynn Abrell</b>	<b>Issue Date: January 5, 2015</b>
<b>Phone: (334) 242-2326</b> <b>E-mail Address:</b> <b>lynn.abrell@medicaid.alabama.gov</b> <b>Website: <a href="http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov">http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov</a></b>	<b>Issuing Division: Clinical Services and Support</b>
<b>INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS</b>	
<b>Return Proposal to:</b> <b>Lynn Abrell</b> <b>Associate Director, Drug Rebate</b> <b>Alabama Medicaid Agency</b> <b>Lurleen B. Wallace Building</b> <b>501 Dexter Avenue</b> <b>PO Box 5624</b> <b>Montgomery, AL 36103-5624</b>	<b>Mark Face of Envelope/Package:</b> <b>RFP Number: 2015-AAC-01</b> <b>RFP Due Date: February 2, 2015 by 5pm CT</b> <b>Firm and Fixed Price from Appendix B:</b> <b>Year One</b> <b>Year Two</b> <b>Total for Year One and Two</b>  <b>Optional Year Three</b> <b>Optional Year Four</b> <b>Optional Year Five</b>
<b>VENDOR INFORMATION</b> <i>(Vendor must complete the following and return with RFP response)</i>	
<b>Vendor Name/Address:</b>	<b>Authorized Vendor Signatory: (Please print name and sign in ink)</b>
<b>Vendor Phone Number:</b>	<b>Vendor FAX Number:</b>
<b>Vendor Federal I.D. Number:</b>	<b>Vendor E-mail Address:</b>

## Section A. RFP Checklist

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

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

## Section B. Schedule of Events

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

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
RFP Issued	1/5/15
Answers to Questions Posted As Available	1/12/15-1/14/15
Final Posting of Questions and Answers	1/14/15
Proposals Due by 5 pm CT	2/2/15
Evaluation Period	2/2/15-2/5/15
Contract Award Notification	2/7/15
**Contract Review Committee	3/5/15
Official Contract Award/Begin Work	4/1/15**

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

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## I. Background

The Alabama Medicaid Agency is requesting proposals from vendors with expertise in operating and updating a State Maximum Allowable Cost (SMAC) pharmacy reimbursement program based on Average Acquisition Cost (AAC) drug pricing. The Vendor will be required to collect invoices from Alabama Medicaid enrolled pharmacies and wholesalers while maintaining the confidentiality of the invoices submitted for use in determining an appropriate reimbursement rate based on prices from actual invoices. The goal of the program is to determine the appropriate ingredient cost of product(s) to use as a basis for pharmacy reimbursement, while maintaining compliance with CMS reimbursement guidelines in the aggregate.

Currently, Alabama Medicaid uses First Data Bank (FDB) for the management of their drug file, to include pricing. Hewlett Packard (HP) is the current fiscal agent responsible for the MMIS system and claims processing.

Current data shows the Alabama Medicaid Agency currently has approximately 1542 enrolled pharmacy providers. For FY 2014, the Agency processed a total of approximately 7.3 million pharmacy claims. More pharmacy specific information can be found on the Alabama Medicaid website [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

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

All information contained in this RFP and any amendments reflect the best and most accurate information available to Medicaid at the time of RFP preparation. No inaccuracies in such data shall constitute a basis for change of the payments to the potential Contractor or a basis for legal recovery of damages, actual, consequential or punitive, except to the extent that such inaccuracies are the result of intentional misrepresentation by Medicaid.

## II. Scope of Work

Vendor's proposal must present a plan to operate and update a SMAC program, based on AAC, to accurately reimburse enrolled pharmacies based on actual enrolled pharmacy invoices for both brand and generic drugs as well as Medicaid specified over-the-counter drugs. The goal of the SMAC program is to determine the appropriate ingredient cost of product(s) to use as a basis for pharmacy reimbursement, while maintaining compliance with CMS reimbursement guidelines in the aggregate.

- A. **Survey:** The Vendor's proposed plan must include a detailed description for an approach that streamlines the process of requesting, obtaining, analyzing, and reporting acquisition cost data, reduces administrative burdens on providers, and

generally improves the timeliness of the pricing and reimbursement process. The Vendor must include recommendations in its detailed proposal for a survey submission process and schedule to best address the fluctuating prices for both brand and generic drugs, at minimum allowing for weekly rate updates. Alabama Medicaid anticipates the reporting associated with this project to result in no additional charges to the pharmacy provider and must ensure data integrity. Vendor must be able to accept surveys/invoices via fax, mail, and electronic means from the pharmacy and/or wholesaler. The Vendor must detail a process for the electronic collection of this data directly from the wholesaler with the allowance for manual submission only if requested by the provider. Alabama Medicaid anticipates the Vendor to be responsible for, at minimum, all requesting and gathering of information/invoices from pharmacies and wholesalers, and maintenance of confidentiality of the invoices submitted.

- B. SMAC/AAC determination and dissemination process:** The Vendor's proposed plan must include a detailed description for an approach for the determination of SMAC via a statistical analysis and averaging process of acquisition costs; interface/coordination of AAC rates with Agency fiscal agent; development and routine maintenance of web-based SMAC list with current prices, frequently asked questions, a mechanism for providers to communicate issues and concerns, relevant reports, and appropriate links to other web sites; reviewing SMAC policy and procedures and making recommendations regarding modifications and/or additions necessary to improve the AAC-based SMAC program (which may include rule development and support, drafting of provider communications, state plan amendments, and other correspondence as directed by the Agency); timely coordination (response time to provider within one business day) with providers with inquiries related to the SMAC; adequate staffing of a toll-free help desk for providers during business hours in Central Time; maintenance of tracking provider issues; development of a retrospective routine reporting mechanism to the State; routine and ad hoc (as requested by Medicaid) evaluation, comparison, and recommendations of SMAC and drug pricing.
- C. Review, maintenance, and reporting:** The Vendor's proposed plan must detail a rigorous and timely protocol for the review, update, and maintenance of SMAC rates based on AACs. This review must be performed routinely (as approved by Medicaid) and include examination of and comparison to published pricing information, current acquisition cost data, prescription drug patent expirations, and other state-specific market indicators. The detailed plan must outline plans to monitor important trends in reimbursement, service utilization, and fiscal outcomes, and recommend program changes, options, and tools as necessary to address any issues that adversely influence the objectives of the Alabama SMAC program; internal quality monitoring functions necessary to assure program integrity and efficiency; and development of a retrospective routine reporting mechanism (to include routine reporting of drugs off-patent, FUL analyses, and annual cost avoidance). Regular updates must include at a minimum: cost changes related to high expenditure drugs, investigations initiated by new cost information, and new circumstances that warrant re-examination of drugs that were previously excluded from SMAC.

- D. Special processes:** The Vendor's proposed plan must include a detailed description of its solution to address special processes, including but not limited to: reporting drugs with reassigned group numbers (i.e., reassigned classification groups from FDB), drug shortages, provider support, response to and tracking provider inquiry, SMAC for drugs with limited reporting, exceptions to SMAC, provider appeals process, verification process that products are available at the AAC amount with the state as well as nationally, and routine notification/publication of updated SMAC list/prices to providers. Inquiries from providers must have a response time of no less than one business day or 48 hours, whichever is less. The Vendor must provide a detailed description of an exception process that will encourage pharmacies to be prudent purchasers, and ensure pharmacies are appropriately reimbursed in the aggregate.
- E. Meetings/Coordination:** The Vendor will be required to conduct detailed coordination activities with the State, as well as FDB, HP, provider associations, or any additional vendors necessary to operate and update the program. This coordination may be in electronic format, via phone/conference calls, hard copy (memos, letters, etc.), or may require face-to-face meetings.

### **III. Pricing**

Vendor's response must specify a firm and fixed fee for completion of the work specified in this RFP for the initial contract term as well as each optional year. The firm and fixed price for each year of the proposed contract must be entered on Appendix B Pricing Form and must be separately stated in the RFP Cover Sheet on the first page of this document.

### **IV. General Medicaid Information**

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

Medicaid's central office is located at 501 Dexter Avenue in Montgomery, Alabama. Central office personnel are responsible for data processing, program management, financial management, program integrity, general support services, professional services, and recipient eligibility services. For certain recipient categories, eligibility determination is made by Agency personnel located in ten (10) district offices throughout the state and by one hundred eighty (180) out-stationed workers in designated hospitals, health departments and clinics. Medicaid eligibility is also determined through established policies by the Alabama Department of Human Resources and the Social Security Administration. In FY 2014, an average of more than 1,012,000 Alabama citizens were eligible for Medicaid benefits through a variety of programs.

In October 2016, Medicaid will implement Medicaid managed care utilizing Regional Care Organizations (RCOs). Once implemented, the RCO's will bear the risk of contracting with the State to provide the health care for Medicaid recipients. Initially, recipients receiving nursing home, hospice and HCBS waiver services, foster children, Plan 1<sup>st</sup> recipients, and recipients with dual eligibility (Medicare and Medicaid) will be excluded from the RCOs. As a result, the RCO will be responsible for certain aspects of the coordination of benefits for its members. Once the RCOs are fully implemented, this may have some impact to the volume of third party services performed by the vendor. Additional program information (including RCO information) can be found at [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

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

- Physician Services
- Inpatient and Outpatient Hospital Services
- Rural Health Clinic Services
- Laboratory and X-ray Services
- Nursing Home Services
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment
- Dental for children ages zero (0) to twenty (20)
- Home Health Care Services and Durable Medical Equipment
- Family Planning Services
- Nurse-Midwife Services
- Federally Qualified Health Center Services
- Hospice Services
- Prescription Drugs
- Optometric Services
- Transportation Services
- Hearing Aids
- Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded and Mental Disease Services
- Prosthetic Devices
- Outpatient Surgical Services
- Renal Dialysis Services
- Home and Community Based Waiver Services
- Prenatal Clinic Services
- Mental Health Services

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

## V. General

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

the necessity of providing in-depth information in the proposal with all supporting documentation necessary.

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

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

## **VI. Corporate Background and References**

### **Entities submitting proposals must:**

- a. Provide evidence that the Vendor possesses the qualifications required in this RFP.
- b. Provide a description of the Vendor's organization, including
  1. Date established.
  2. Ownership (public company, partnership, subsidiary, etc.). Include an organizational chart depicting the Vendor's organization in relation to any parent, subsidiary or related organization.
  3. Number of employees and resources.
  4. Names and resumes of Senior Managers and Partners in regards to this contract.
  5. A list of all similar projects the Vendor has completed within the last three years.
  6. A detailed breakdown of proposed staffing for this project, including names and education background of all employees that will be assigned to this project.
  7. A list of all Medicaid agencies or other entities for which the Vendor currently performs similar work.
  8. Evidence that the Vendor is financially stable and that it has the necessary infrastructure to complete this contract as described in the Vendor's Proposal. The Vendor must provide audited financial statements for the last three years, or similar evidence of financial stability for the last three years.
  9. Vendor's acknowledgment that the State will not reimburse the Contractor until: (a) the Project Director has approved the invoice; and (b) the Agency has received and approved all deliverables covered by the invoice.
  10. Details of any pertinent judgment, criminal conviction, investigation or litigation pending against the Vendor or any of its officers, directors, employees, agents or subcontractors of which the Vendor has knowledge, or a statement that there are none. The Agency reserves the right to reject a proposal solely on the basis of this information.
- c. Have all necessary business licenses, registrations and professional certifications at the time of the contracting to be able to do business in Alabama. Alabama law provides that a foreign corporation (an out-of-state company/firm) may not transact business in the state of Alabama until it obtains a Certificate of Authority from the Secretary of State. To obtain

forms for a Certificate of Authority, contact the Secretary of State at (334) 242-5324, or [www.sos.state.al.us](http://www.sos.state.al.us). The Certificate of Authority or a letter/form showing application has been made for a Certificate of Authority must be submitted with the bid.

- d. Have proven experience in operating and maintaining AAC based SMAC programs and have been in business a minimum of three years.
- e. Furnish three (3) references for projects of similar size and scope, including contact name, title, telephone number, and address. Performance references should also include contract type, size, and duration of services rendered. **Alabama Medicaid Agency personnel cannot be used as a reference.**

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

## VII. Submission Requirements

### A. Authority

This RFP is issued under the authority of Section 41-16-72 of the Alabama Code and 45 CFR 74.40 through 74.48. The RFP process is a procurement option allowing the award to be based on stated evaluation criteria. The RFP states the relative importance of all evaluation criteria. No other evaluation criteria, other than as outlined in the RFP, will be used.

In accordance with 45 CFR 74.43, the State encourages free and open competition among Vendors. Whenever possible, the State will design specifications, proposal requests, and conditions to accomplish this objective, consistent with the necessity to satisfy the State's need to procure technically sound, cost-effective services and supplies.

### B. Single Point of Contact

From the date this RFP is issued until a Vendor is selected and the selection is announced by the Project Director, all communication must be directed to the Project Director in charge of this solicitation. **Vendors or their representatives must not communicate with any State staff or officials regarding this procurement with the exception of the Project Director.** Any unauthorized contact may disqualify the Vendor from further consideration. Contact information for the single point of contact is as follows:

<i>Project Director:</i>	<b>Lynn Abrell</b>
	<b>Associate Director, Drug Rebate</b>
<i>Address:</i>	<b>Alabama Medicaid Agency</b>
	<b>Lurleen B. Wallace Bldg.</b>
	<b>501 Dexter Avenue</b>
	<b>PO Box 5624</b>
	<b>Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624</b>
<i>Telephone Number:</i>	<b>(334) 242-2326</b>
<i>Fax Number:</i>	<b>(334) 353-5310</b>
<i>E-Mail Address:</i>	<b>lynn.abrell@medicaid.alabama.gov</b>

### **C. RFP Documentation**

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

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

Vendors with questions requiring clarification or interpretation of any section within this RFP must submit questions and receive formal, written replies from the State. Each question must be submitted to the Project Director via email. Questions and answers will be posted on the website as available.

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

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

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

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

### **G. Order of Precedence**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Cancel or terminate this RFP;
- Reject any or all of the proposals submitted in response to this RFP;
- Change its decision with respect to the selection and to select another proposal;
- Waive any minor irregularity in an otherwise valid proposal which would not jeopardize the overall program and to award a contract on the basis of such a waiver (minor irregularities are those which will not have a significant adverse effect on overall project cost or performance);
- Negotiate with any Vendor whose proposal is within the competitive range with respect to technical plan and cost;
- Adopt to its use all, or any part, of a Vendor's proposal and to use any idea or all ideas presented in a proposal;
- Amend the RFP (amendments to the RFP will be made by written addendum issued by the State and will be posted on the RFP website);
- Not award any contract.

## **L. Price**

Vendor's response must specify a firm and fixed fee for completion of the work specified in this RFP for the initial contract term as well as each optional year. The firm and fixed price for each year of the proposed contract must be entered on Appendix B Pricing Form and must be separately stated in the RFP Cover Sheet on the first page of this document.

## **M. Submission of Proposals**

Proposals must be sealed and labeled on the outside of the package to clearly indicate that they are in response to RFP for Medicaid Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost/State Maximum Allowable Cost Program. Proposals must be sent to the attention of the Project Director and received at the Agency as specified in the Schedule of Events. It is the responsibility of the Vendor to ensure receipt of the Proposal by the deadline specified in the Schedule of Events.

## **N. Copies Required**

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

## **O. Disclosure of Proposal Contents**

Proposals and supporting documents are kept confidential until the evaluation process is complete and a PROPOSER has been selected. The PROPOSER should be aware that any information in a Proposal may be subject to disclosure and/or reproduction under Alabama law.

Designation as proprietary or confidential may not protect any materials included within the Proposal from disclosure if required by law. The PROPOSER should mark or otherwise designate any material that it feels is proprietary or otherwise confidential by labeling the page as "CONFIDENTIAL" on the bottom of the page. The PROPOSER must also state any legal authority as to why that material should not be subject to public disclosure under Alabama open records law and is marked as Proprietary Information. By way of illustration but not limitation, "Proprietary Information" includes trade secrets, inventions, mask works, ideas, processes, formulas, source and object codes, data, programs, other works of authorship, know-how, improvements, discoveries, developments, designs and techniques. Information contained in the Cost Proposal Section may not be marked confidential. It is the sole responsibility of the PROPOSER to indicate information that is to remain confidential. The AGENCY assumes no liability for the disclosure of information not identified by the PROPOSER as confidential. If the PROPOSER identifies its entire Proposal as confidential, the AGENCY may deem the Proposal as non-responsive and may reject it.

#### **P. Performance Bond**

In order to assure full performance of all obligations imposed on a PROPOSER contracting with the State of Alabama, the PROPOSER will be required to provide a performance guarantee in the amount of \$40,000.00. The performance guarantee must be submitted by PROPOSER at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the contract start date. The form of security guarantee must be one of the following: (1) Cashier's check (personal or company checks are not acceptable) (2) Other type of bank certified check (3) Money order (4) An irrevocable letter of credit (5) Suretybond issued by a company authorized to do business within the State of Alabama. This bond must be in force from that date through the term of the operations contract and ninety (90) calendar days beyond and must be conditioned on faithful performance of all contractual obligations. Failure of the PROPOSER to perform satisfactorily will cause the performance bond to become due and payable to the State of Alabama. The Chief Financial Officer of Medicaid or his designee shall be custodian of the performance bond. Said bond will be extended in the event the AGENCY exercises its option to extend the operational contract.

#### **Q. Late Proposals**

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

## **VIII. Evaluation and Selection Process**

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

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

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

**B. Determination of Responsibility**

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

**C. Opportunity for Additional Information**

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

**D. Evaluation Committee**

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

**E. Scoring**

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

<b>Evaluation Factor</b>	<b>Highest Possible Score</b>
Vendor Profile and Experience	30
Scope of Work	40
Price	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

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

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

When the final approval is received, the State will notify the selected Vendor. If the State rejects all proposals, it will notify all Vendors. The State will post the award on the Agency website at [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov). The award will be posted under the applicable RFP number.

## **IX. General Terms and Conditions**

### **A. General**

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

The contract shall include the following:

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

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

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

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

The initial contract term shall be for two consecutive years effective April 1, 2015, through March 31, 2017. Alabama Medicaid shall have three, one-year options for extending this contract if approved by the Legislative Contract Review Oversight Committee. At the end of the contract period Alabama Medicaid may at its discretion, exercise the extension option and allow the period of performance to be extended at the rate indicated on the RFP Cover Sheet. The Vendor will provide pricing for each year of the contract, including any extensions.

Contractor acknowledges and understands that this contract is not effective until it has received all requisite state government approvals and Contractor shall not begin performing work under

this contract until notified to do so by Medicaid. Contractor is entitled to no compensation for work performed prior to the effective date of this contract.

#### **D. Contract Amendments**

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

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

#### **E. Confidentiality**

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

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

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

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

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

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

other business dealings without prior written consent of Medicaid. All requests for program data shall be referred to Medicaid for response by the Commissioner only.

### **G. Federal Nondisclosure Requirements**

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

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

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

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

### **I. Termination for Bankruptcy**

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

### **J. Termination for Default**

Medicaid may, by written notice, terminate performance under the contract, in whole or in part, for failure of Contractor to perform any of the contract provisions. In the event Contractor defaults in the performance of any of Contractor's material duties and obligations, written notice shall be given to Contractor specifying default. Contractor shall have 10 calendar days, or such additional time as agreed to in writing by Medicaid, after the mailing of such notice to cure any default. In the event Contractor does not cure a default within 10 calendar days, or such

additional time allowed by Medicaid, Medicaid may, at its option, notify Contractor in writing that performance under the contract is terminated and proceed to seek appropriate relief from Contractor.

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

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

#### **L. Termination for Convenience**

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

#### **M. Force Majeure**

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

#### **N. Nondiscriminatory Compliance**

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

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

In accordance with the provisions of 45 CFR Part 74 and paragraph 9 of OMB Circular A-102, affirmative steps shall be taken to assure that small and minority businesses are utilized when possible as sources of supplies, equipment, construction, and services.

## **P. Worker's Compensation**

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

## **Q. Employment of State Staff**

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

## **R. Immigration Compliance**

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

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

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

## **S. Share of Contract**

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

## **T. Waivers**

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

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

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

## **V. Novation**

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

## **W. Employment Basis**

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

## **X. Disputes and Litigation**

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

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

For any and all disputes arising under the terms of this contract, the parties hereto agree, in compliance with the recommendations of the Governor and Attorney General, when considering settlement of such disputes, to utilize appropriate forms of non-binding alternative dispute resolution including, but not limited to, mediation by and through private mediators.

Any litigation brought by Medicaid or Contractor regarding any provision of the contract shall be brought in either the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Alabama, or the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division, according to the jurisdictions of these courts. This provision shall not be deemed an attempt to confer any

jurisdiction on these courts which they do not by law have, but is a stipulation and agreement as to forum and venue only.

#### **Y. Records Retention and Storage**

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

#### **Z. Inspection of Records**

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

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

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

#### **BB. Payment**

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

#### **CC. Notice to Parties**

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

#### **DD. Disclosure Statement**

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

### **EE. Debarment**

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

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

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

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

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

### **HH. Choice of Law**

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

### **II. Alabama interChange Interface Standards**

Contractor hereby certifies that any exchange of MMIS data with the Agency's fiscal agent will be accomplished by following the Alabama interChange Interface Standards Document, which is contained in the RFP library.

# Appendix A: Proposal Compliance Checklist

## NOTICE TO VENDOR:

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

---

Vendor Name

---

Project Director

Review Date

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IF CORRECT	BASIC PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Vendor's original proposal received on time at correct location.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Vendor submitted the specified copies of proposal and in electronic format.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. The Proposal includes a completed and signed RFP Cover Sheet.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. The Proposal is a complete and independent document, with no references to external documents or resources.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Vendor submitted signed acknowledgement of any and all addenda to RFP.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. The Proposal includes written confirmation that the Vendor understands and shall comply with all of the provisions of the RFP.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. The Proposal includes required client references (with all identifying information in specified format and order).
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. The Proposal includes a corporate background.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. The Proposal includes a detailed description of the plan to maintain, update, monitor, and address special situations related to a SMAC program as outlined in the request for proposal regarding each element listed in the scope of work.
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. The response includes (if applicable) a Certificate of Authority or letter/form showing application has been made with the Secretary of State for a Certificate of Authority.

## Appendix B: Pricing Form

<b>First Year</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Second Year</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Total for Year One and Two</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Optional Third Year</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Optional Fourth Year</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Optional Fifth Year</b>	<b>\$</b>

**These amounts should also be stated on the cover page.**

## Appendix C: Contract and Attachments

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

Sample Contract

*Attachment A:* Business Associate Addendum

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

*Attachment C:* Immigration Status

*Attachment D:* Disclosure Statement

*Attachment E:* Letter Regarding Reporting to Ethics Commission

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

*Attachment G:* Beason-Hammon Certificate of Compliance

CONTRACT

BETWEEN  
THE ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY  
AND

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

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

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

Contractor and the Alabama Medicaid Agency agree that the initial term of the contract is \_\_\_\_to \_\_\_\_.

This contract specifically incorporates by reference the RFP, any attachments and amendments thereto, and Contractor’s response.

CONTRACTOR

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor’s name here

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date signed

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

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

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

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor, State of Alabama

ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATE ADDENDUM

This Business Associate Addendum (this "Agreement") is made effective the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by and between the Alabama Medicaid Agency ("Covered Entity"), an agency of the State of Alabama, and \_\_\_\_\_ ("Business Associate") (collectively the "Parties").

## 1. BACKGROUND

- a. Covered Entity and Business Associate are parties to a contract entitled \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Contract"), whereby Business Associate agrees to perform certain services for or on behalf of Covered Entity.
- b. The relationship between Covered Entity and Business Associate is such that the Parties believe Business Associate is or may be a "business associate" within the meaning of the HIPAA Privacy Rule (as defined below).
- c. The Parties enter into this Business Associate Addendum to the Contract with the intention of complying with the HIPAA Privacy Rule provision that a covered entity may disclose protected health information to a business associate, and may allow a business associate to create or receive protected health information on its behalf, if the covered entity obtains satisfactory assurances that the business associate will appropriately safeguard the information.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise clearly indicated by the context, the following terms shall have the following meaning in this Agreement:

- a. "Breach" shall have the meaning set forth in 45 C.F.R. § 164.402.
- b. "Electronic Health Record" shall mean an electronic record of health-related information on an individual that is created, gathered, managed, and consulted by authorized health care clinicians and staff.
- c. "Electronic Protected Health Information" means Protected Health Information that is transmitted by Electronic Media (as defined in the Security and Privacy Rule) or maintained in Electronic Media.
- d. "HIPAA" means the Administrative Simplification Provisions, Sections 261 through 264, of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191.
- e. "Individual" shall have the same meaning as the term "individual" in 45 CFR 160.103 and shall include a person who qualifies as a personal representative in accordance with 45 CFR 164.502(g).
- f. "Personal Health Record" shall mean an electronic record of identifiable health information on an individual that can be drawn from multiple sources and that is managed, shared and controlled by or primarily for the individual.

- g. “Privacy Rule” shall mean the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information at 45 CFR part 160 and part 164, subparts A and E.
- h. “Protected Health Information” (PHI) shall have the same meaning as the term “protected health information” in 45 CFR 160.103, limited to the information created or received by Business Associate from or on behalf of Covered Entity.
- i. “Required By Law” shall have the same meaning as the term “required by law” in 45 CFR 164.103.
- j. “Secretary” shall mean the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services or his designee.
- k. “Security Incident” shall mean the attempted or successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with system operations in an information system.
- l. “Security Rule” shall mean the Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 162, and Parts 164, Subparts A and C. The application of Security provisions Sections 164.308; 164.310, 164.312, and 164.316 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations shall apply to a business associate of a covered entity in the same manner that such sections apply to the covered entity.
- m. Unless otherwise defined in this Agreement, capitalized terms used herein shall have the same meaning as those terms have in the Privacy Rule.
- n. “Unsecured Protected Health Information” is protected health information that is not rendered unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals through the use of technology or methodology specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in the guidance issued under section 13402(h)(2) of Public Law 111–5 on the HHS Web site.

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

- a. Use and Disclosure of PHI. Business Associate agrees to not use or disclose PHI other than as permitted or required by this Agreement or as Required By Law.
- b. Appropriate Safeguards. Business Associate agrees to use appropriate safeguards and comply with Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 164 with respect to electronic protected health information, to prevent use or disclosure of the PHI other than as provided for by this Agreement. The Business Associate agrees to take steps to safeguard, implement and maintain PHI in accordance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.
- c. Mitigation. Business Associate agrees to mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to Business Associate of a use or disclosure of PHI by Business Associate in violation of the requirements of this Agreement.
- d. Report Unauthorized Use or Disclosure. Business Associate agrees to promptly report to Covered Entity any use or disclosure of PHI not provided for by this Agreement of which it becomes aware.
- e. Applicability to Business Associate’s Agents. In accordance with 45CFR 164.502(e)(1)(ii) and 164.308(b)(2), Business Associate shall ensure that any subcontractors or agents that create, receive, maintain, or transmit protected health information on behalf of the business associate agree to the same restrictions, conditions,

and requirements that apply to the business associate with respect to such information. The Business Associate agrees to have HIPAA-compliant Business Associate Agreements or equivalent contractual agreements with agents to whom the Business Associate discloses Covered Entity PHI.

- f. Access. Upon receipt of a written request from Covered Entity, Business Associate agrees to provide Covered Entity, in order to allow Covered Entity to meet its requirements under 45 CFR 164.524, access to PHI maintained by Business Associate in a Designated Record Set within thirty (30) business days.
- g. Amendments to PHI. Business Associate agrees to make any amendment(s) to PHI maintained by Business Associate in a Designated Record Set that Covered Entity directs or agrees to, pursuant to 45 CFR 164.526 at the request of Covered Entity, within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving a written request for amendment from Covered Entity.
- h. Availability of Documents. Business Associate agrees to make internal practices, books, and records, including policies and procedures and PHI, relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from, or created or received by the Business Associate on behalf of, Covered Entity, available to Covered Entity or to the Secretary for purposes of the Secretary determining Covered Entity's compliance with the Privacy and Security Rules, within five business days after receipt of written notice.
- i. Documentation of PHI Disclosures. Business Associate agrees to keep records of disclosures of PHI and information related to such disclosures as would be required for Covered Entity to respond to a request by an individual for an accounting of disclosures of PHI in accordance with 45 CFR 164.528.
- j. Accounting of Disclosures. The Business Associate agrees to provide to Covered Entity, within 30 days of receipt of a written request from Covered Entity, information collected in accordance with the documentation of PHI disclosure of this Agreement, to permit Covered Entity to respond to a request by an Individual or an authorized representative for an accounting of disclosures of PHI in accordance with 45 CFR 164.528.
- k. The Business Associate shall maintain a comprehensive security program appropriate to the size and complexity of the Business Associate's operations and the nature and scope of its activities as defined in the Security Rule.
- l. The Business Associate shall notify the Covered Entity within 5 business days following the discovery of a breach of Protected Health Information (PHI).
- m. The Business Associate shall provide the Covered Entity the following information when a breach of unsecured protected health information is discovered:
  - 1. The number of recipient records involved in the breach.
  - 2. A description of what happened, including the date of the breach and the date of the discovery of the breach if known.
  - 3. A description of the types of unsecure protected health information that were involved in the breach (such as whether full name, social security number, date of birth, home address, account number, diagnosis, disability code, or other type information were involved).
  - 4. Any steps the individuals should take to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the breach.

5. A description of what the Business Associate is doing to investigate the breach, to mitigate harm to individuals and to protect against any further breaches.
  6. Contact procedures for individuals to ask questions or learn additional information, which shall include the Business Associate's toll-free number, email address, Web site, or postal address.
  7. A proposed media release developed by the Business Associate.
- n. The Business Associate shall obtain Covered Entity approval prior to reporting any breach required by 45 CFR Part 164, Subpart D.
  - o. The Business Associate shall, after receiving Covered Entity approval, provide the necessary notices to the recipient, prominent media outlet, or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to report Business Associate breaches as required by 45 CFR Part 164, Subpart D.
  - p. Covered Entity will coordinate with the Business Associate in the determination of additional specific actions that will be required of the Business Associate for mitigation of the breach.
  - q. If the Business Associate is a vendor of personal health records, notification of the breach will need to be made with the Federal Trade Commission.
  - r. The Business Associate shall be responsible for any and all costs associated with the notification and mitigation of a breach that has occurred because of the negligence of the Business Associate.
  - s. The Business Associate shall pay all fines or penalties imposed by HHS under 45 CFR Part 160 HIPAA Administrative Simplification: Enforcement rule for breaches made by any employee, officer, or agent of the Business Associate.
  - t. The Business Associate shall be subject to prosecution by the Department of Justice for criminal violations of HIPAA if the Business Associate obtains, accesses or discloses individually identifiable health information without authorization, and shall be responsible for any and all costs associated with prosecution.

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

- a. Except as otherwise limited in this Agreement, if the Contract permits, Business Associate may use or disclose PHI to perform functions, activities, or services for, or on behalf of, Covered Entity as specified in the Contract, provided that such use or disclosure would not violate the Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164 if done by Covered Entity;
- b. Except as otherwise limited in this Agreement, if the Contract permits, Business Associate may use PHI for the proper management and administration of the Business Associate or to carry out the legal responsibilities of the Business Associate.
- c. Except as otherwise limited in this Agreement, if the Contract permits, Business Associate may disclose PHI for the proper management and administration of the Business Associate, provided that:
  1. disclosures are Required By Law; or

2. Business Associate obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that it will remain confidential and used or further disclosed only as Required By Law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notifies the Business Associate of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached.
- d. Except as otherwise limited in this Agreement, if the Contract permits, Business Associate may use PHI to provide data aggregation services to Covered Entity as permitted by 42 CFR 164.504(e)(2)(i)(B).
- e. Business Associate may not use or disclose PHI if the use or disclosure would violate any term of the Contract.

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

- a. The Business Associate shall report to the Covered Entity any use or disclosure of PHI not provided for by this agreement immediately from the time the Business Associate becomes aware of the use or disclosure.
- b. The Business Associate shall report to the Covered Entity any Security Incident and/or breach immediately from the time the Business Associate becomes aware of the use or disclosure.

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

- a. Covered Entity shall notify the Business Associate of any limitation(s) in its notice of privacy practices in accordance with 45 CFR 164.520, to the extent that such limitation may affect Alabama Medicaid's use or disclosure of PHI.
- b. Covered Entity shall notify the Business Associate of any changes in, or revocation of, permission by an Individual to use or disclose PHI, to the extent that such changes may affect the Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.
- c. Covered Entity shall notify the Business Associate of any restriction to the use or disclosure of PHI that Covered Entity has agreed to in accordance with 45 CFR 164.522, to the extent that such restriction may affect the Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.
- d. Covered Entity shall not request Business Associate to use or disclose PHI in any manner that would not be permissible under the Privacy Rule if done by Covered Entity.
- e. Covered Entity shall provide Business Associate with only that PHI which is minimally necessary for Business Associate to provide the services.

## **7. TERM AND TERMINATION**

- a. **Term.** The Term of this Agreement shall be effective as of the effective date stated above and shall terminate when the Contract terminates.
- b. **Termination for Cause.** Upon Covered Entity's knowledge of a material breach by Business Associate, Covered Entity may, at its option:
  1. Provide an opportunity for Business Associate to cure the breach or end the violation, and terminate this Agreement if Business Associate does not cure the breach or end the violation within the time specified by Covered Entity;

2. Immediately terminate this Agreement; or
3. If neither termination nor cure is feasible, report the violation to the Secretary as provided in the Privacy Rule.

**c. Effect of Termination.**

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

**d. Survival**

The obligations of business associate under this Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

**8. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- a. This Agreement amends and is part of the Contract.

- b. Except as provided in this Agreement, all terms and conditions of the Contract shall remain in force and shall apply to this Agreement as if set forth fully herein.
- c. In the event of a conflict in terms between this Agreement and the Contract, the interpretation that is in accordance with the Privacy Rule shall prevail. Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be resolved to permit Covered Entity to comply with the Privacy Rule.
- d. A breach of this Agreement by Business Associate shall be considered sufficient basis for Covered Entity to terminate the Contract for cause.
- e. The Parties agree to take such action as is necessary to amend this Agreement from time to time for Covered Entity to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Rule and HIPAA.

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

**ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: Clay Gaddis  
Title: Privacy Officer  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATE**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CONTRACT REVIEW REPORT

(Separate review report required for each contract)

Name of State Agency: Alabama Medicaid Agency

Name of Contractor:

Contractor's Physical Street Address (No. P.O. Box) City State

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

\* If not, has it qualified with the Alabama Secretary of State to do business in Alabama? YES NO

Is Act 2001-955 Disclosure Form Included with this Contract? YES X NO

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

Was a lobbyist/consultant used to secure this contract OR affiliated with this contractor? YES NO

If Yes, Give Name:

Contract Number:

Contract/Amendment Total: \$ (estimate if necessary)

% of State Funds: % of Federal Funds: % Other Funds:

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

Date Contract Effective: Date Contract Ends:

Type of Contract: NEW: RENEWAL: AMENDMENT:

If renewal, was it originally Bid? Yes No

If AMENDMENT, Complete A through C:

(A) Original contract total \$

(B) Amended total prior to this amendment \$

(C) Amended total after this amendment \$

Was Contract secured through Bid Process? Yes No Was lowest Bid accepted? Yes No

Was Contract secured through RFP Process? Yes No Date RFP was awarded

Posted to Statewide RFP Database at http://rfp.alabama.gov/Login.aspx YES NO

If no, please give a brief explanation:

Summary of Contract Services to be Provided:

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

I certify that the above information is correct.

Signature of Agency Head

Signature of Contractor

Printed Name

Printed Name

Agency Contact: Stephanie Lindsay Phone: (334) 242-5833

Revised: 2/20/2013

**IMMIGRATION STATUS**

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

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Signature of Contractor

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Witness



# State of Alabama Disclosure Statement

(Required by Act 2001-955)

ENTITY COMPLETING FORM

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP NUMBER TELEPHONE

STATE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT THAT WILL RECEIVE GOODS, SERVICES, OR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANT AWARD

Alabama Medicaid Agency

ADDRESS

501 Dexter Avenue, Post Office Box 5624

CITY, STATE, ZIP TELEPHONE NUMBER

Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624 (334) 242-5833

This form is provided with:

- Contract
- Proposal
- Request for Proposal
- Invitation to Bid
- Grant Proposal

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

- Yes
- No

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

STATE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT RECEIVED	TYPE OF GOODS/SERVICES	AMOUNT

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

- Yes
- No

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

STATE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT	DATE GRANT AWARDED	AMOUNT OF GRANT

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

NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL/EMPLOYEE DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	ADDRESS	STATE

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

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER	ADDRESS	NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL/ PUBLIC EMPLOYEE	STATE DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY WHERE EMPLOYED

If you identified individuals in items one and/or two above, describe in detail below the direct financial benefit to be gained by the public officials, public employees, and/or their family members as the result of the contract, proposal, request for proposal, invitation to bid, or grant proposal. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

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

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

NAME OF PAID CONSULTANT/LOBBYIST	ADDRESS

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

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

Notary's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date Notary Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
 Act 2001-955 requires the disclosure statement to be completed and filed with all proposals, bids, contracts, or grant proposals to the State of Alabama in excess of \$5,000.



ROBERT BENTLEY  
Governor

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

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



STEPHANIE MCGEE AZAR  
Acting Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. By signing and submitting this contract, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out therein.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this contract was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Alabama Medicaid Agency (the Agency) may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the Agency if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or had become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, and voluntarily excluded, have the meaning set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this contract is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this contract that, should the contract be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this contract that it will include this certification clause without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs.
8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Agency may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

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

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

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

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

**RE Contract/Grant/Incentive (describe by number or subject): \_\_\_\_\_ by and between \_\_\_\_\_ (Contractor/Grantee) and Alabama Medicaid Agency (State Agency or Department or other Public Entity)**

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

1. The undersigned holds the position of \_\_\_\_\_ with the Contractor/Grantee named above, and is authorized to provide representations set out in this Certificate as the official and binding act of that entity, and has knowledge of the provisions of THE BEASON-HAMMON ALABAMA TAXPAYER AND CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT (ACT 2011-535 of the Alabama Legislature, as amended by Act 2012-491) which is described herein as "the Act".
2. Using the following definitions from Section 3 of the Act, select and initial either (a) or (b), below, to describe the Contractor/Grantee's business structure.  
BUSINESS ENTITY. Any person or group of persons employing one or more persons performing or engaging in any activity, enterprise, profession, or occupation for gain, benefit, advantage, or livelihood, whether for profit or not for profit. "Business entity" shall include, but not be limited to the following:
  - a. Self-employed individuals, business entities filing articles of incorporation, partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, foreign corporations, foreign limited partnerships, foreign limited liability companies authorized to transact business in this state, business trusts, and any business entity that registers with the Secretary of State.
  - b. Any business entity that possesses a business license, permit, certificate, approval, registration, charter, or similar form of authorization issued by the state, any business entity that is exempt by law from obtaining such a business license, and any business entity that is operating unlawfully without a business license.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Its \_\_\_\_\_

The above Certification was signed in my presence by the person whose name appears above, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_.

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

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

**Request for Proposal (RFP) Number 2015-AAC-01**

**Alabama Medicaid Agency**

**Pharmacy Average Acquisition Cost (AAC)/State Maximum Allowable Cost (SMAC) RFP**

**Questions and Responses**

**Q1: Does Alabama Medicaid require that Alabama AAC rates be calculated and updated using invoices obtained through surveys of Alabama Medicaid-participating pharmacies located only within the state of Alabama?**

A: Alabama Medicaid requires that all Alabama Medicaid-participating pharmacies be surveyed regardless of their physical location.

**Q2: Currently the state collects acquisition cost surveys of approximately 350 Alabama Medicaid pharmacies per semiannual survey. Is it the states intention to continue to survey at this frequency and volume?**

A: Yes. Alabama Medicaid requires a manual semiannual (March and September) survey of all participating pharmacy providers, with no single pharmacy being selected more than once within a consecutive two year period.

**Q3: Please confirm it's the state's intent to have FUL analyses (e.g. FUL aggregate tests) performed quarterly.**

A: Yes. The goal of the program is to determine the appropriate ingredient cost of product(s) to use as a basis for pharmacy reimbursement, while maintaining compliance with CMS reimbursement guidelines in the aggregate.

**Q4: Please confirm that the weekly rate updates referenced in Section A pertain to acute SMAC pricing situations including provider disputes, drug shortages, new generic releases and published drug price fluctuations for both brand and generic products.**

A: Yes. In addition to provider disputes, drug shortages, new generic releases and published drug price fluctuations for both brand and generic products, a provider may initiate a rate review at any time which may result in additional updates.

**Q5: Does the state expect AAC rates to be calculated for products that are considered non-drug? (e.g. bulk powders, diabetic supplies)**

A: Routine calculation of an AAC for non-drug items is not required. However, if a provider attempts to dispense a non-drug product (such as syringes) that does not have a WAC nor an AAC rate assigned, the provider's invoice may be used in rate calculation, and the Vendor would be responsible for the gathering of information and rate recommendation.