



**BOARD OF CONTRACT AND SUPPLY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Item Description: Eviction Defense Services RFP- One Year Contract with One -Year Option

Procurement/MinuteTraq #: 44581

Date to be opened: May 6, 2024

Issuing Department: The Office of Recovery

QUESTIONS

- Please direct questions related to the bidding process, how to fill out forms, and how to submit a bid (Pages 1-8) to the Purchasing Department.
 - Email: purchasing@providenceri.gov
 - Please use the subject line “**Solicitation Question**”
- Please direct questions relative to the Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise Program and the corresponding forms (Pages 9-13) to the MBE/WBE Outreach Director for the City of Providence, Grace Diaz
 - Email: gdiaz@providenceri.gov
 - Please use subject line “**MBE WBE Forms**”
- Please direct questions relative to the specifications outlined (beginning on page 14) to the issuing department’s subject matter expert:
 - Name: Alexandra Gonzalez
 - Title: Director of PVD Recovery Compliance
 - Email Address: algonzalez@providenceri.gov

Pre-bid Conference

There is no pre-bid conference scheduled for this item.

Deadline for questions submissions:

April 26th 2024 at 4:30pm. Subject Line “Questions for Eviction Defense Services RFP”.



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INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Meeting Date: 5/6/2024

Bids may be submitted up to **2:15 P.M.** on the above meeting date at the **Department of the City Clerk, Room 311, City Hall, 25 Dorrance Street, Providence.** At 2:15 P.M. all bids will be publicly opened and read at the Board of Contract Meeting in Conference Room 305, on the 3rd floor of City Hall.

- Bidders must submit **2 copies** of their bid in sealed envelopes or packages labeled with the captioned **Item Description** and the **City Department to which the solicitation and bid are related and must include the company name and address on the envelope as well.** (On page 1).
- If required by the Department, please keep the original bid bond and check in only one of the envelopes.
- Communications to the Board of Contract and Supply that are not competitive sealed bids (i.e. product information/samples) should have “**NOT A BID**” written on the envelope or wrapper.
- Only use form versions and templates included in this solicitation. If you have an old version of a form do not recycle it for use in this bid.
- The bid envelope and information relative to the bid must be addressed to:

**Board of Contract and Supply
Department of the City Clerk – City Hall, Room 311
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903**

****PLEASE NOTE:** This bid may include details regarding information that you will need to provide (such as proof of licenses) to the issuing department before the formalization of an award.

*This information is **NOT** requested to be provided in your initial bid by design.*

All bids submitted to the City Clerk become public record. Failure to follow instructions could result in information considered private being posted to the city’s Open Meetings Portal and made available as a public record. The City has made a conscious effort to avoid the posting of sensitive information on the City’s Open Meetings Portal, by requesting that such sensitive information be submitted to the issuing department only at their request.



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BID PACKAGE CHECKLIST

Digital forms are available in the City of Providence Purchasing Department Office or online at

<http://www.providenceri.gov/purchasing/how-to-submit-a-bid/>

The bid package **MUST** include the following, in this order:

- Bid Form 1: Bidder's Blank as the cover page/ 1st page (*see page 6 of this document*)
- Bid Form 2: Certification of Bidder as 2nd page (*see page 7 of this document*)
- Bid Form 3: Certificate Regarding Public Records (*see page 8 of this document*)
- Bid Form 4: Affidavit of City Vendor (*see pages 9 and 10 of this document*)
- Forms from the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program: Based on Bidder Category. *See forms and instructions enclosed (pages 11-112) or on:*
<https://www.providenceri.gov/purchasing/minority-women-owned-business-mbewbe-procurement-program/>

***Please note: MBE/WBE forms must be completed for EVERY bid submitted and must be inclusive of ALL required signatures. Forms without all required signatures will be considered incomplete.**

- Bidder's Proposal/Packet: Formal response to the specifications outlined in this RFP, including pricing information and details related to the good(s) or service(s) being provided. Please be mindful of formatting responses as requested to ensure clarity.
- Financial Assurance, *if requested* (as indicated on page 5 of this document under "Bid Terms")

All of the above listed documents are REQUIRED. (With the exception of financial assurances, which are only required if specified on page 5.)

*****Failure to meet specified deadlines, follow specific submission instructions, or enclose all required documents with all applicable signatures will result in disqualification, or in an inability to appropriately evaluate bids.**



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NOTICE TO VENDORS

1. The Board of Contract and Supply will make the award to the lowest qualified and responsible bidder.
2. In determining the lowest responsible bidder, cash discounts based on preferable payment terms will not be considered.
3. Where prices are the same, the Board of Contract and Supply reserves the right to award to one bidder, or to split the award.
4. No proposal will be accepted if the bid is made in collusion with any other bidder.
5. Bids may be submitted on an “equal in quality” basis. The City reserves the right to decide equality. Bidders must indicate brand or the make being offered and submit detailed specifications if other than brand requested.
6. A bidder who is an out-of-state corporation shall qualify or register to transact business in this State, in accordance with the Rhode Island Business Corporation Act, RIGL Sec. 7-1.2-1401, et seq.
7. The Board of Contract and Supply reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
8. Competing bids may be viewed in person at the Department of the City Clerk, City Hall, Providence, immediately upon the conclusion of the formal Board of Contract and Supply meeting during which the bids were unsealed/opened. Bids may also be accessed electronically on the internet via the City’s [Open Meetings Portal](#).
9. As the City of Providence is exempt from the payment of Federal Excise Taxes and Rhode Island Sales Tax, prices quoted are not to include these taxes.
10. In case of error in the extension of prices quoted, the unit price will govern.
11. The contractor will **NOT** be permitted to: a) assign or underlet the contract, or b) assign either legally or equitably any monies or any claim thereto without the previous written consent of the City Purchasing Director.
12. Delivery dates must be shown in the bid. If no delivery date is specified, it will be assumed that an immediate delivery from stock will be made.
13. A certificate of insurance will normally be required of a successful vendor.
14. For many contracts involving construction, alteration and/or repair work, State law provisions concerning payment of prevailing wage rates apply ([RIGL Sec. 37-13-1 et seq.](#))
15. No goods should be delivered, or work started without a Purchase Order.
16. **Submit 2 copies of the bid to the City Clerk, unless the specification section of this document indicates otherwise.**
17. Bidder must certify that it does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation and/or religion in its business and hiring practices and that all of its employees are lawfully employed under all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations. (See Bid Form 2.)



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BID TERMS

1. Financial assurances may be required in order to be a successful bidder for Commodity or Construction and Service contracts. If either of the first two checkboxes below is checked, the specified assurance must accompany a bid, or the bid will not be considered by the Board of Contract and Supply. The third checkbox indicates the lowest responsible bidder will be contacted and required to post a bond to be awarded the contract.
 - a) A certified check for \$_____ must be deposited with the City Clerk as a guarantee that the Contract will be signed and delivered by the bidder.
 - b) A bid bond in the amount of _____ per centum (%) of the proposed total price, must be deposited with the City Clerk as a guarantee that the contract will be signed and delivered by the bidder; and the amount of such bid bond shall be retained for the use of the City as liquidated damages in case of default. Any person signing a bid bond as an attorney-in-fact shall include with the bid bond an original, or a photocopy or facsimile of an original, power of attorney.
 - c) A performance and payment bond with a satisfactory surety company will be posted by the bidder in a sum equal to one hundred per centum (100%) of the awarded contract.
 - d) No financial assurance is necessary for this item.
2. Awards will be made within **nighty (90) days of bid opening**. All bid prices will be considered firm, unless qualified otherwise. Requests for price increases will not be honored.
3. Failure to deliver within the time quoted or failure to meet specifications may result in default in accordance with the general specifications. It is agreed that deliveries and/or completion are subject to strikes, lockouts, accidents, and Acts of God.

The following entry applies only for COMMODITY BID TERMS:

4. Payment for partial delivery will not be allowed except when provided for in blanket or term contracts.

The following entries apply only for CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE BID TERMS:

5. Only one shipping charge will be applied in the event of partial deliveries for blanket or term contracts.
6. Prior to commencing performance under the contract, the successful bidder shall attest to compliance with the provisions of the Rhode Island Worker's Compensation Act, [RIGL 28-29-1, et seq.](#) If exempt from compliance, the successful bidder shall submit a sworn Affidavit by a corporate officer to that effect, which shall accompany the signed contract.
7. Prior to commencing performance under the contract, the successful bidder shall, submit a certificate of insurance, in a form and in an amount satisfactory to the City.



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BID FORM 1: Bidders Blank

1. Bids must meet the attached specifications. Any exceptions or modifications must be noted and fully explained.
2. Bidder's responses must be in ink or typewritten, and all blanks on the bid form should be completed.
3. The price or prices proposed should be stated both in **WRITING** and in **FIGURES**, and any proposal not so stated may be rejected. **Contracts exceeding twelve months must specify annual costs for each year.**
4. Bids **SHOULD BE TOTALED** so that the final cost is clearly stated (unless submitting a unit price bid), however **each item should be priced individually**. Do not group items. Awards may be made on the basis of *total* bid or by *individual items*.
5. All bids **MUST BE SIGNED IN INK.**

Name of Bidder (Firm or Individual): _____

Contact Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone #: _____

Contact Email Address: _____

Agrees to bid on (Write the "Item Description" here): _____

If the bidder's company is based in a state other than Rhode Island, list name and contact information for a local agent for service of process that *is located within Rhode Island* _____

Delivery Date (if applicable): _____

Name of Surety Company (if applicable): _____

Total Amount in Writing*: _____

Total Amount in Figures*: _____

****If you are submitting a unit price bid, please insert "Unit Price Bid"***

Use additional pages if necessary for additional bidding details.

Signature of Representation

Title



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BID FORM 2: Certification of Bidder
(Non-Discrimination/Hiring)

Upon behalf of _____ (Firm or Individual Bidding),

I, _____ (Name of Person Making Certification),

being its _____ (Title or "Self"), hereby certify that:

1. Bidder does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation and/or religion in its business and hiring practices.
2. All of Bidder's employees have been hired in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.

I affirm by signing below that I am duly authorized on behalf of Bidder, on
this _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Signature of Representation

Printed Name



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BID FORM 3: Certificate Regarding Public Records

Upon behalf of _____ (Firm or Individual Bidding),

I, _____ (Name of Person Making Certification),

being its _____ (Title or "Self"), hereby certify an

understanding that:

1. All bids submitted in response to Requests for Proposals (RFP's) and Requests for Qualification (RFQ's), documents contained within, and the details outlined on those documents become public record upon receipt by the City Clerk's office and opening at the corresponding Board of Contract and Supply (BOCS) meeting.
2. The Purchasing Department and the issuing department for this RFP/RFQ have made a conscious effort to request that sensitive/personal information be submitted directly to the issuing department and only at request if verification of specific details is critical the evaluation of a vendor's bid.
3. The requested supplemental information may be crucial to evaluating bids. Failure to provide such details may result in disqualification, or an inability to appropriately evaluate bids.
4. If sensitive information that has not been requested is enclosed or if a bidder opts to enclose the defined supplemental information prior to the issuing department's request in the bidding packet submitted to the City Clerk, the City of Providence has no obligation to redact those details and bears no liability associated with the information becoming public record.
5. The City of Providence observes a public and transparent bidding process. Information required in the bidding packet may not be submitted directly to the issuing department at the discretion of the bidder in order to protect other information, such as pricing terms, from becoming public. Bidders who make such an attempt will be disqualified.

I affirm by signing below that I am duly authorized on behalf of Bidder, on

this _____ day of _____ 20 _____.

Signature of Representation

Printed Name



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BID FORM 4: Affidavit of City Vendor

Per our Code of Ordinances [Sec. 21.-28.1 \(e\)](#), this form applies to a) the business, b) any political action committee whose name includes the name of the business, c) all persons holding ten (10) percent or greater equity interest or five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or greater cash value interest in the business at any time during the reporting period, d) all executive officers of the business entity, e) any spouse or dependent child of any individual identified in a) though d) above.

Executive officers who are not residents of the state of Rhode Island are exempted from this requirement.

Per [R.I.G.L. § 36-14-2](#), "Business" means a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, trust, or any other entity recognized in law through which business for profit or not for profit is conducted.

Name of the person making this affidavit: _____

Position in the "Business" _____

Name of Entity _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

The number of persons or entities in your entity that are required to report under [Sec. 21.-28.1 \(e\)](#): _____

Read the following paragraph and answer one of the options:

Within the 12 month period preceding the date of this bid submission with the City of Providence, or with respect to the contracts that are not in writing within the 12 month period preceding the date of notification that the contract has reached the \$100,000 threshold, have you made campaign contributions within a calendar year to (please list all persons or entities required under [Sec. 21.-28.1 \(e\)](#)).

a. Members of the Providence City Council? Yes No

- If Yes, please complete the following:

Recipient(s) of the Contribution:

Contribution Date(s):

Contribution Amount(s):

b. Candidates for election or reelection to the Providence City Council? Yes No

- If Yes, please complete the following:

Recipient(s) of the Contribution:

Contribution Date(s):

Contribution Amount(s):



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c. The Mayor of Providence? Yes No

- If Yes, please complete the following:
 Recipient(s) of the Contribution:
 Contribution Date(s):

Contribution Amount(s):

d. Candidates for election or reelection to the office of Mayor of Providence? Yes No

- If Yes, please complete the following:
 Recipient(s) of the Contribution:
 Contribution Date(s):

Contribution Amount(s):

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury.

Position



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MBE/WBE Participation Plan

Please complete separate forms for each MBE/WBE subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.

Bidder's Name:				
Bidder's Address:				
Point of Contact:				
Telephone:				
Email:				
Procurement #:				
Project Name:				
Which one of the following describes your business' status in terms of Minority and/or Woman Owned Business Enterprise certification with the State of Rhode Island? (Check all that apply).	<input type="checkbox"/> MBE <input type="checkbox"/> WBE <input type="checkbox"/> Neither MBE nor WBE			
<p>This form is intended to capture commitments between the prime contractor/vendor and MBE/WBE subcontractors and suppliers, including a description of the work to be performed and the percentage of the work as submitted to the prime contractor/vendor. Please note that all MBE/WBE subcontractors/suppliers must be certified by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity at the time of bid. The MBE/WBE Directory can be found here. Please visit, the City's MBE/WBE page for details of the program (e.g. instructions and requirements).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonprofit organizations are not required to complete the rest of this form. Construction projects unable to identify subcontractors prior to bid submission (e.g. Design Build) are required to provide updates to the MBE/WBE Outreach Office 				
Name of Subcontractor/Supplier:				
Type of RI Certification:	<input type="checkbox"/> MBE <input type="checkbox"/> WBE <input type="checkbox"/> Neither			
Address:				
Point of Contact:				
Telephone:				
Email:				
Detailed Description of Work to Be Performed by Subcontractor or Materials to be Supplied by Supplier Per the Scope of Work provided in the RFP				
Total Contract Value (\$):		Subcontract Value (\$):		Participation Rate (%):
Anticipated Date of Performance:				
I certify under penalty of perjury that the forgoing statements are true and correct.				
Prime Contractor/Vendor Signature	Title			Date
Subcontractor/Supplier Signature	Title			Date

***If you did not meet the 20% MBE/WBE combined participation goal, submit a Waiver Request Form.**



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MBE/WBE Waiver Request Form

**Fill out this form only if you did not meet the 20% MBE/WBE participation goal.
State-certified MBE or WBE Prime Bidders are NOT REQUIRED to fill out this form.**

Submit this form to the City of Providence MBE/WBE Outreach Director, Grace Diaz, at gdiaz@providenceri.gov, for review **prior to bid submission**. This waiver applies only to the current bid which you are submitting to the City of Providence and does not apply to other bids your company may submit in the future. **In case a waiver is needed, City Department Directors should not recommend a bidder for an award if this form is not included, absent or is not signed by the city of Providence MBE/WBE director.**

Prime Bidder: _____ Contact Email and Phone _____

Company Name, Address: _____ Trade _____

Project /Item Description (as seen on RFP):

To receive a waiver, you must list the certified MBE and/or WBE companies you contacted, the name of the primary individual with whom you interacted, and the reason the MBE/WBE company could not participate on this project.

MBE/WBE Company Name	Individual's Name	Company Name	Why did you choose not to work with this company?

I acknowledge the City of Providence's goal of a combined MBE/WBE participation is 20% of the total bid value. I am requesting a waiver of _____ % MBE/WBE (20% minus the value of **Box F** on the Subcontractor Disclosure Form). If an opportunity is identified to subcontract any task associated with the fulfillment of this contract, a good faith effort will be made to select MBE/WBE certified businesses as partners.

Signature of Prime Contractor /
or Duly Authorized Representative

Printed Name

Date Signed

Signature of City of Providence
MBE/WBE Outreach Director /
or Duly Authorized Representative

Printed Name of City of Providence
MBE/WBE Outreach Director

Date Signed



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BID PACKAGE SPECIFICATIONS

Overview

The City of Providence (“City”) is committed to addressing the housing affordability and instability issues that are unduly impacting low- and moderate-income residents of the city. 54% of renter households in Providence are housing cost burdened, while the income needed to comfortably afford an average 2-bedroom apartment in the city is \$71,160. These numbers suggest that even small unanticipated expenses for many families in Providence can mean the difference between facing eviction and not.

Research shows the many negative effects that evictions have on households. Evicted children suffer disruptions in their education and are more likely to be taken into state custody. Adults face a greater likelihood of losing their jobs and suffering from mental health issues. Eviction proceedings can negatively impact credit scores and eligibility for subsidized housing. Families with eviction records are more likely to experience homelessness and to fall deeper into poverty.

There is significant evidence that having legal support during eviction proceedings has a large positive impact on the outcomes that tenants experience. Tenants with representation are far more likely to retain possession of their home. Even in cases where tenants do eventually lose their homes, legal representation can secure tenants more time to vacate the property, can keep eviction filings off tenants’ records, and can reduce or eliminate money owed to their landlord. Despite this, nationally, only 10% of tenants go into eviction proceedings with legal representation, as opposed to 90% of landlords. Locally, there is evidence that the disparity is even worse. One study found that 100% of landlords in Providence had lawyers present at their eviction hearings, compared to 7% of tenants.

In order to improve the outcomes for our city’s low- and moderate-income residents, the city is soliciting proposals from qualified non-profit organizations (“Applicants”) to furnish professional legal services in connection with landlord tenant eviction cases in the private rental market. For this project, eviction is defined as the act or process of legally dispossessing a person of land or rental property.

Awards from this RFP will be contingent upon available funding from the City’s American Rescue Plan Act allocation.

Scope of Work

The primary goal of this project is to increase the percentage of low to moderate income Providence residents (80% and under of AMI) or who live in Qualified Census Tract (QCT) to have access to free legal representation when facing eviction from their homes. The legal representation afforded to tenants as part of this program should lead to quantifiable improvements in outcomes compared to tenants facing eviction without representation. Desired outcomes include, but are not limited to:



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- Increased percentage of tenants maintaining possession of their home
- Decreased percentage of cases that result in default judgements.
- Decreases in the average amount of money tenants owe to landlords at the end of eviction proceedings.
- Increases in the percentage of tenants who maintain eligibility for subsidized housing after eviction proceedings.

The City is seeking proposals from agencies to provide direct legal services to residents who are currently experiencing or who are at imminent risk of eviction. Interventions should be targeted at low- and moderate-income residents who are most vulnerable to eviction. The successful application will leverage existing resources, such as Rent Relief RI, and partnerships, such as with organizations serving people at imminent risk of homelessness, to ensure that every available resource is utilized to keep residents safely housed.

The services to be furnished pursuant to this RFP may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Delivery of a range of legal services to low-income tenants to prevent eviction or buffer its effects for Providence households. This could include services ranging from offering “know your rights workshops” and legal consultations to providing full legal representation to otherwise unrepresented tenants in Court.
2. Development of, or continued expansion of, an implementation plan to improve or develop a new system approach, policy, or program to support low-income tenants experiencing eviction more broadly.
3. Subcontracting with other organizations as necessary.
4. Regular reporting to the City on the progress of eviction defense and identification of opportunities to expand services through leverage.

Organizations are encouraged to partner, so that non-profits with expertise in specific services and agencies with experience in policy and program development can provide a comprehensive and coordinated intervention. Projects with multiple partners should indicate one lead agency that the City will contract with. The other partners will operate as sub-contractors to the lead agency. The selected organization will work with the City to finalize the scope of their project to maximize the effectiveness of the project in meeting the identified goals.

Funds are not available for major rehabilitation or capital costs. The proposed intervention must clearly expand the capacity of legal services for low-income tenants facing eviction. The City reserves the right to award the full contract to one Applicant, split the award among more than one Applicant, award a partial contract for specific tasks outlined in this RFP, award no contract, and/or to re-release this RFP as it deems in the best interest of the City of Providence. This award is not a guarantee or a promise of business. Additionally, the City reserves the right to contract for services around specific issues/areas.



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Required Activities

- Implement a multilingual outreach strategy to inform Providence tenants of their legal rights and responsibilities, as well as the availability of legal assistance and how to access said assistance, through activities such as, but not limited to:
 - The creation of easy to use and understand materials, such as flyers, social media campaigns, and mailers
 - In-person tabling at community centers, churches, and other community gathering spots
 - Outreach efforts should be translated/conducted in the most commonly spoken languages in Providence besides English, including but not limited to Spanish, Portuguese, and Mon-Khmer.
- Implement a flexible service delivery system that allows tenants facing eviction to receive the appropriate level of legal support.
- Build and maintain relationships with community partners, RI Housing Court, Rhode Island Housing, local law schools, etc., in order to:
 - Coordinate and align all available resources to ensure residents maintain safe housing and/or can transition to new housing in a managed fashion.
 - Provide services within courts or community settings to “meet clients where they are.”
 - Leverage municipal funding to reach and serve the maximum number of households.
 - Create a streamlined process that efficiently prioritizes those most imminently at risk of losing their housing.

Timeline

The City anticipates making an award recommendation by May 2024. This contract will be for one year with a one-year option contingent on grant funding.

Funds for this project will expire on June 30, 2025.

Qualifications

The City seeks proposals from public or private nonprofit organizations or collaboratives that have demonstrated experience and capacity to provide high-quality legal services to low- and moderate-income residents of Providence.

1. Organizational Capacity

The awarded organization will have organizational capacity to carry out the above scope of work including:

- A minimum of five (5) years of experience of providing legal services to indigent clients, including the successful representation of individuals experiencing eviction;
- Demonstrated ability to provide high quality, culturally competent services through an anti-racist, anti-stigma, and strengths-based lens to: racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQIA+ people, undocumented individuals, refugees, people with justice involvement, and people with disabilities. *[list is not exhaustive]*
- Demonstrated experience administering large-scale informational campaigns to inform Providence households of their legal rights and responsibilities.
- Demonstrated understanding and ability to navigate Rhode Island’s housing and homelessness ecosystem.



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- Capacity to refer clients to wrap around social service providers as necessary.
- Experience in policy or program improvement planning and implementation or new policy or program development;
- Capacity to track program outputs and outcomes;
- Experience in leveraging all available resources and partnerships to expand impact of direct legal services;
- Ability to serve and operate programs on a citywide basis;
- Experience in program reporting, including fiscal, programmatic, and outcomes reporting;
- Financial solvency and administrative capacity to operate a program of the indicated scope;
- Demonstrated track record of being an equal opportunity employer, without any founded charges of unfair hiring or promotions within the past ten years;

2. Staffing:

The awarded organization will provide a staffing structure with the following qualifications:

- Ability to work in and travel to community settings (e.g. in homes, public spaces).
- Expertise in eviction defense service delivery.
- Capacity to deliver services in languages other than English that are most spoken in Providence, including Spanish, Portuguese, and Mon-Khmer.

Allowable Expenses

Funds are available to support Personnel, Fringe, Transportation, Equipment, Subcontracts, Materials, Professional Development/Training, and Overhead.

No more than 10% of total budget can be for overhead/indirect costs.

Reporting

The awarded vendor(s) will be required to comply with all City policies and procedures for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, including those regarding reporting. This will include providing the City's ARPA Recovery team with monthly narrative and expense reports, including backup documentation. Specific metrics for reporting will be established during the contracting process.

Proposal Materials

1. Contact Information- Individual or organization name, address, phone, and email.

2. Proposal Narrative- (Maximum 8 Pages, single-spaced)

- A. Organizational Experience: Describe the organization's experience with, commitment, and approach to providing eviction defense services to Providence residents with income below 100% AMI. Please respond directly to the Qualifications - Organizational Capacity section.
- B. Work Plan Proposal: Describe the proposed work plan to meet the RFP's goals and activities set out in the Scope of Work and Required Activities.



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- C. Community Partnerships: Describe how the proposed work plan compliments or builds upon your organization's existing relationships with historically excluded communities in Providence, Rhode Island, and regionally.
- D. Staffing: Provide the following:
 - i. Roles and qualifications of all relevant organization staff
 - ii. Staffing plan to meet responsibilities outlined in scope of work and qualifications.

3. Timeline - On a separate sheet include the proposed timeline of work.

4. Resumes - Provide resumes of all relevant lead organization staff. Include copies of any certifications, credentials, or documentation of experience, as appropriate. Please do not submit original documents.

5. Letters of commitment- If applying with partners, provide letters of commitment from all partner organizations (other than lead) certifying their role and responsibilities in the proposed work plan.

7. Supporting documents - (maximum 7 pages) Optional: Provide documents, links, communications materials, etc. that provide any relevant background information about the organization and experience with similar projects.

Budget

Funding proposal: In Excel format, provide a spreadsheet that includes costs and descriptions outlined above in the Funding Availability - Allowable Expenses section. Additional budget lines or categories may be added or removed as appropriate.

Funding timeline: In Excel or Word format, please identify how your proposed budget will be spent within the available funding timeline (see Funding Availability section).



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Selection Criteria

The City anticipates making award recommendations to the Board of Contract and Supply by April 2024 and all respondents will be notified of the selection outcomes by this time. Selections will be made based on the following criteria

Categories	Total Points
<p>Project Proposal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed work plan supports the project's goals and strategies; and activities set out in the Scope of Work and Required Activities. 2. Project activities are clearly defined and described. 3. Time commitment of staff is appropriate to the project. 4. Proposed work plan has a strengths-based, anti-racist, and anti-stigma lens. 5. Applicant demonstrates understanding of the housing-related challenges and barriers that low-income residents of Providence face. 6. Applicant demonstrates experience and capacity to refer clients with needs beyond legal support to wrap-around care agencies/organizations 	25
<p>Timeline & Budget Proposal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Timeline of work is feasible and appropriate for proposed activities. 8. Budget is in alignment with the proposed activities. 9. Funds can be expended by the Funding Availability deadline (June 30, 2025). 	15
<p>Organization Experience</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualifications and relevant organization and staff experience. 2. Demonstrated success on past projects of similar scope and complexity. 3. Demonstrated commitment to providing high quality legal services to low- and moderate-income city residents. 4. Letters of commitment from partnering agencies that support work plan. 	30
<p>Total Possible Technical Points</p>	70
<p>Cost Proposal</p> <p>The bidder with the lowest bid will be awarded the full 30 points for cost. Other proposals will then be measured using the following formula: <i>*lowest responsive cost proposal divided by (this cost proposal) times 30 points *</i></p>	30



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	Total Eligible Points 100
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Proposals shall be reviewed by City staff. Evaluators first shall consider technical proposals.

Technical proposals must receive a minimum of 60 (85.7%) out of a maximum of 70 points to advance to the cost evaluation phase. Technical proposals scoring less than 60 points shall not be considered for further evaluation (cost proposal).

Technical proposals scoring 60 points or higher shall have the cost proposals evaluated and assigned up to a maximum of 30 points bringing the total potential evaluation score to 100 points.



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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

If the issuing department for this RFP determines that your firm's bid is best suited to accommodate their need, you will be asked to provide proof of the following prior to formalizing an award.

An inability to provide the outlined items at the request of the department may lead to the disqualification of your bid.

*This information is **NOT** requested to be provided in your initial bid that you will submit to the City Clerk's office by the "date to be opened" noted on page 1. This list only serves as a list of items that your firm should be ready to provide on request.*

All bids submitted to the City Clerk become public record. Failure to follow instructions could result in information considered private being posted to the city's Open Meetings Portal and made available as a public record.

You must be able to provide:

- Business Tax ID will be requested after an award is approved by the Board of Contract and Supply.
- Proof of Insurance.
- Certificate of Good Standing with the Rhode Island Secretary of State.
- SAM.Gov Registration and Unique Entity Identification (UEID) #



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ARPA Requirements Addendum

Federal and State Contract and Purchasing Requirements

The following terms and conditions apply to all contractors, vendors, or subrecipients of the City of Providence and all subrecipients of subrecipients of the City of Providence and all contractors or vendors hired by the subrecipient, according to the City's Award Terms and Conditions; by ARPA and its implementing regulations; and as established by the Treasury Department.

1. Equal Opportunity.

Contractor shall comply with Executive Order 11246, "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by EO 11375, "Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity," and as supplemented by regulations at 41 CFR part 60, "Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor."

2. Minority and Women Business Enterprises (if applicable to this Contract)

Contractor hereby agrees to comply with the following when applicable: The requirements of Executive Orders 11625 and 12432 (concerning Minority Business Enterprise), and 12138 (concerning Women's Business Enterprise), when applicable. Accordingly, the Contractor hereby agrees to take affirmative steps to assure that women and minority businesses are utilized when possible as sources of supplies, equipment, construction, and services. Affirmative steps shall include the following:

- a) Including qualified women's business enterprises and small and minority businesses on solicitation lists;
- b) Assuring that women's enterprises and small and minority businesses are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
- c) When economically feasible, dividing total requirements into smaller tasks or quantities so as to permit maximum participation by small and minority business, and women's business enterprises;
- d) Where the requirement permits, establishing delivery schedules which will encourage participation by women's business enterprises and small and minority business;
- e) Using the services and assistance of the Small Business Administration, and the U.S. Office of Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce; and
- f) If any subcontracts are to be let, requiring the prime Contractor to take the affirmative steps in a through e above.

For the purposes of these requirements, a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) is defined as an enterprise that is at least 51 percent owned and controlled in its daily operation by members of the following groups: Black, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, Native American, or Alaskan Natives. Women Business Enterprise (WBE) is defined as an enterprise that is at least 51 percent owned and controlled in its daily operation by women.

3. Suspension and Debarment. (Applies to all purchases.)



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- (A) This contract is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 CFR pt. 180 and 2 CFR pt. 3000. As such, the Contractor is required to verify that none of Contractor's principals (defined at 2 CFR § 180.995) or its affiliates (defined at 2 CFR § 180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 CFR § 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 CFR § 180.935).
- (B) The Contractor must comply with 2 CFR pt. 180, subpart C and 2 CFR pt. 3000, subpart C, and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into.
- (C) This certification is a material representation of fact relied upon by the City of PROVIDENCE. If it is later determined that the contractor did not comply with 2 CFR pt. 180, subpart C and 2 CFR pt. 3000, subpart C, in addition to remedies available to the City, the Federal Government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment.
- (D) The Contractor agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 CFR pt. 180, subpart C and 2 CFR pt. 3000, subpart C while this offer is valid and throughout the period of any contract that may arise from this offer. The Contractor further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower tier covered transactions.

4. Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, 31 U.S.C. § 1352, as amended. (Applies to all purchases.)

Contractor certifies that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Contractor shall also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient who in turn will forward the certification(s) to the awarding agency.

Purchases over \$100,000 - Contractors must sign the certification on the last page of this addendum

5. Access to Records. (Applies to all purchases.)

- A. The Contractor agrees to provide the City of PROVIDENCE, the U.S. Department of Treasury, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions. The Contractor agrees to permit any of the foregoing parties to reproduce by any means or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed and agrees to cooperate with all such requests.
- B. The Contractor agrees to provide the Treasury Department or authorized representatives access to construction or other work sites pertaining to the work being completed under the contract.
- C. No language in this contract is intended to prohibit audits or internal reviews by the Treasury Department or the Comptroller General of the United States.

6. Rights to Inventions Made Under a Contract or Agreement.

Contracts or agreements for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work shall provide for the rights of the Federal Government and the recipient in any resulting invention in accordance with 37 CFR part 401, "Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements," and any applicable implementing regulations.



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7. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327 through 333) (applies only to purchases over \$100,000, when laborers or mechanics are used.)

Where applicable, all contracts in excess of \$100,000 that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers shall include a provision for compliance with 40 U.S.C. 3702 and 3704 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR part 5). Under Section 3702 of the Act, each contractor shall be required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of a standard workweek of 40 hours. Work in excess of the standard workweek is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than 1 1/2 times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in the workweek. The requirements of 40 U.S.C. 3704 are applicable to construction work and provides that no laborer or mechanic shall be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation or transmission of intelligence.

8. Clean Air Act & Federal Water Pollution Control Act (applies to purchases of more than \$150,000.)

- A. The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.
- B. The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
- C. The Contractor agrees to report each violation of the Clean Air Act and the Water Pollution Control Act to the City of PROVIDENCE
- D. and understands and agrees that the City will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
- E. Contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance.

9. Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment (Huawei and ZTE)

Contractor is prohibited from obligating or expending loan or grant funds to:

- 1. Procure or obtain;
 - 2. Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or
 - 3. Enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. As described in Public Law 115-232, section 889, covered telecommunications equipment is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
- I. For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by



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Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

- II. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.
- III. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

10. Buy USA - Domestic Preference for certain procurements using federal funds.

Contractor should, to the greatest extent practicable under a federal award, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). The requirements of this section must be included in all subawards including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this award. For purposes of this section:

1. "Produced in the United States" means, for iron and steel products, that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States.
2. "Manufactured products" means items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of non-ferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer-based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber.

11. Procurement of Recovered Materials: (applies only if the work involves the use of materials)

A. In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA-designated items unless the product cannot be acquired:

- I. Competitively within a timeframe providing for compliance with the contract performance schedule;
- II. Meeting contract performance requirements; or
- III. At a reasonable price.

B. Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA - designated items, is available at EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site, <https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>.

C. The Contractor also agrees to comply with all other applicable requirements of Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

12. Publications.

Any publications produced with funds from this award must display the following language: "This project [is being] [was] supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number [enter project FAIN] awarded to [name of Recipient] by the U.S. Department of the Treasury."



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13. Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13043, 62 FR 19217 (Apr. 18, 1997), Contractor is encouraged to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for your employees when operating company-owned, rented or personally owned vehicles.

14. Reducing Text Messaging While Driving.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13513, 74 FR 51225 (Oct. 6, 2009), Contractor is encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, and establish workplace safety policies to decrease accidents caused by distracted drivers.

15. Iran Divestment Act.

Pursuant to the North Carolina General Assembly (S.L. 2015-118; SB455), The Iran Divestment Act is to implement the authority granted to states by federal law to impose state-level sanctions against companies that engage in certain investment activities in the energy sector of Iran.

Additional Federal Regulations Applicable to ARPA (is hereby incorporated by reference):

1. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, other than such provisions as Treasury may determine are inapplicable to this Award and subject to such exceptions as may be otherwise provided by Treasury. Subpart F – Audit Requirements of the Uniform Guidance, implementing the Single Audit Act, shall apply to this award.
2. Universal Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM), 2 C.F.R. Part 25, pursuant to which the award term set forth in Appendix A to 2 C.F.R. Part 25 is hereby incorporated by reference
3. Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information, 2 C.F.R. Part 170, pursuant to which the award term set forth in Appendix A to 2 C.F.R. Part 170 is hereby incorporated by reference.
4. OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement), 2 C.F.R. Part 180, including the requirement to include a term or condition in all lower tier covered transactions (contracts and subcontracts described in 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart B) that the award is subject to 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and Treasury's implementing regulation at 31 C.F.R. Part 19.
5. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters, pursuant to which the award term set forth in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix XII to Part 200 is hereby incorporated by reference.
6. Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace, 31 C.F.R. Part 20.
7. New Restrictions on Lobbying, 31 C.F.R. Part 21.
8. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§ 4601-4655) and implementing regulations.



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9. Generally applicable federal environmental laws and regulations.

Statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination applicable to ARPA awards include, without limitation, the following:

1. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance;
2. The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq.), 4 which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability;
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance;
4. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; and

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under programs, activities, and services provided or made available by state and local governments or instrumentalities or agencies thereto.



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CITY OF PROVIDENCE STANDARD TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The terms “you” and “your” contained herein refer to the person or entity that is a party to the agreement with the City of Providence (“the City”) and to such person’s or entity’s employees, officers, and agents.
2. The Request For Proposals (“RFP”) and these Standard Terms and Conditions together constitute the entire agreement of the parties (“the Agreement”) with regard to any and all matters. By your submission of a bid proposal or response to the City’s RFP, you accept these Standard Terms & Conditions and agree that they supersede any conflicting provisions provided by bid or in any terms and conditions contained or linked within a bid and/or response. Changes in the terms and conditions of the Agreement, or the scope of work thereunder, may only be made by a writing signed by the parties.
3. You are an independent contractor and in no way does this Agreement render you an employee or agent of the City or entitle you to fringe benefits, workers’ compensation, pension obligations, retirement or any other employment benefits. The City shall not deduct federal or state income taxes, social security or Medicare withholdings, or any other taxes required to be deducted by an employer, and this is your responsibility to yourself and your employees and agents.
4. You shall not assign your rights and obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the City. Any assignment without prior written consent of the City shall be voidable at the election of the City. The City retains the right to refuse any and all assignments in the City’s sole and absolute discretion.
5. Invoices submitted to the City shall be payable sixty (60) days from the time of receipt by the City. Invoices shall include support documentation necessary to evidence completion of the work being invoiced. The City may request any other reasonable documentation in support of an invoice. The time for payment shall not commence, and invoices shall not be processed for payment, until you provide reasonably sufficient support documentation. In no circumstances shall the City be obligated to pay or shall you be entitled to receive interest on any overdue invoice or payment. In no circumstances shall the City be obligated to pay any costs associated with your collection of an outstanding invoice.
6. For contracts involving construction, alteration, and/or repair work, the provisions of applicable state labor law concerning payment of prevailing wage rates (R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 37-13-1 et seq., as amended) and the City’s First Source Ordinance (Providence Code of Ordinances §§ 21-91 et seq., as amended) apply.
7. With regard to any issues, claims, or controversies that may arise under this Agreement, the City shall not be required to submit to dispute resolution or mandatory/binding arbitration. Nothing prevents the parties from mutually agreeing to settle any disputes using mediation or non-binding arbitration.
8. To the fullest extent permitted by law, you shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City, its employees, officers, agents, and assigns from and against any and all claims, damages, losses, allegations, demands, actions, causes of action, suits, obligations, fines, penalties, judgments, liabilities, costs and expenses, including but not limited to attorneys’ fees, of any nature whatsoever arising out of, in connection with, or resulting from the performance of the work provided in the Agreement.
9. You shall maintain throughout the term of this Agreement the insurance coverage that is required by the RFP or, if none is required in the RFP, insurance coverage that is considered in your industry to be commercially reasonable, and you agree to name the City as an additional insured on your general liability policy and on any umbrella policy you carry.
10. The City shall not subject itself to any contractual limitations on liability. The City shall have the time permitted within the applicable statute of limitations, and no less, to bring or assert any and all causes of action, suits, claims or demands the City may have arising out of, in connection with, or resulting from the performance of the work provided in the Agreement, and in no event does the City agree to limit your liability to the price of the Agreement or any other monetary limit.
11. The City may terminate this Agreement upon five (5) days’ written notice to you if you fail to observe any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, or if the City believes your ability to perform the



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- terms and conditions of this Agreement has been materially impaired in any way, including but in no way limited to loss of insurance coverage, lapsing of a surety bond, if required, declaration of bankruptcy, or appointment of a receiver. In the event of termination by the City, you shall be entitled to just and equitable compensation for any satisfactory work completed and expenses incurred up to the date of termination.
12. Written notice hereunder shall be deemed to have been duly served if delivered in person to the individual or member of the firm or entity or to an officer of the entity for whom it was intended, or if delivered at or sent by registered or certified mail to the last business address known by the party providing notice.
 13. In no event shall the Agreement automatically renew or be extended without a writing signed by the parties.
 14. You agree that products produced or resulting from the performance of the Agreement are the sole property of the City and may not be used by you without the express written permission of the City.
 15. For any Agreement involving the sharing or exchange of data involving potentially confidential and/or personal information, you shall comply with any and all state and/or federal laws or regulations applicable to confidential and/or personal information you receive from the City, including but not limited to the Rhode Island Identity Theft Protection Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 11-49.3-1, during the term of the Agreement. You shall implement and maintain appropriate physical, technical, and administrative security measures for the protection of, and to prevent access to, use, or disclosure of, confidential and/or personal information. In the event of a breach of such information, you shall notify the City of such breach immediately, but in no event later than twenty-four (24) hours after discovery of such breach.
 16. The Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Rhode Island. You expressly submit yourself to and agree that any and all actions arising out of, in connection with, or resulting from the performance of the Agreement or relationship between the parties shall occur solely in the venue and jurisdiction of the State of Rhode Island or the federal court located in Rhode Island.
 17. The failure of the City to require performance of any provision shall not affect the City's right to require performance at any time thereafter, nor shall a waiver of any breach or default of this Agreement constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach or default or a waiver of the provision itself.
 18. If any term or provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, in any extent, be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby, and each term and provision shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.