



VIRGIN ISLANDS HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP 004-2019-DR-STT/STX

LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION SERVICES

Issue date:

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Submittal deadline:

March 21, 2019

Contact person:

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 *Unlocking the Door to Affordable Housing*

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Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority

RFP 004-2019-DR- STT/STX
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Language Interpretation Services

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (“VIHFA”) is soliciting proposals from qualified and licensed firms or individuals to provide Language Interpretation Services for VIHFA’s CDBG-DR program.

1.1 CONTEXT

Hurricanes Irma and Maria had a devastating impact on the United States Virgin Islands (U.S. Virgin Islands or “the Territory”). The two back-to-back Category 5 storms in September 2017 caused significant damage and destruction to the islands’ housing stock. The entire population—over 100,000 residents—was impacted by the devastation brought on by the storms, with winds of over 185 miles per hour and up to 20 inches of rain in some areas. Irma crossed the islands as a windstorm tearing the roofs off buildings in her path; Maria came behind and caused water damage to all of the unprotected structures in the St. Thomas and St. John district, while inflicting severe damage on St. Croix.

Based on the FEMA IA data as of August 10, 2018, the Territory estimates that approximately 23,301 households sustained some form of damage to their primary residences from either Hurricane Irma or Maria, or both, representing 54% of the housing stock on the islands. Of the impacted households, based on The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) methodology, 5,340 suffered Major or Severe damage; approximately 2,510 are the owners’ primary residences and 2,830 are renter-occupied homes. The remaining 12,394 owner-occupied residences and 5,567 rental units sustained minor damage.

The United States Virgin Islands is the recipient of \$1.86 billion of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding from HUD to assist in disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts resulting from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Territory’s approved CDBG-DR Action Plan and Amendment 1 (<https://www.vihfa.gov/disaster-recovery/action-plan>) detail how the U.S. Virgin Islands plans to spend its first and second tranches of \$1,021,901,000 in grant funds, and Respondents to this RFP should thoroughly review it.

As the administering entity of the CDBG-DR funds, VIHFA has developed a portfolio of programs that will need Language Interpretation Services across its programs.

1.2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

VIHFA seeks a qualified contractor to provide proficient language interpretation services in support of its CDBG-DR funded programs.

2.0 PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

The language interpretation services require interpretation between English, Spanish, French-Creole and American Sign Language (ASL) for a variety of public and communication needs including, but not limited to, public meetings/events and communication with applicants. The interpretation services are required during interactions with Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals and those that are hearing impaired and seeking assistance from VIHFA's CDBG-DR programs. The contractor should also be equipped to provide on-call interpretation services at public meetings and other public events if requested to do so by VIHFA.

2.1 SCOPE OF WORK

- Contractor shall interpret conversations in one language into another language as requested, with the meaning and intent of the original source speech.
- Contractor shall interpret conversations from English to ASL and vice versa as requested with the original meaning and intent.
- Contractor shall provide on-call interpretation services at public events, over the phone and in other settings as needed. VIHFA anticipates that interpretation services will be provided on-call via phone to support applicant interactions at Housing Assistance Centers and/or on-site at applicant homes and in person interpretation services will be provided when requested at public events.
- Contractor shall provide interpretation services on an as needed basis.
- ASL Interpreters shall accurately translate ASL orally involving two or more individuals.
- Contractor must be familiar with different variations and dialects of languages. Every major language has regional and class variations which must be correctly included in the interpretation services provided.
- Contractor must have knowledge of the ethical issues involved when providing interpreter services.
- Certain interpretation services may be performed at any location mutually agreed to by the Contractor and VIHFA. Some interpretation services, such as for public events or in person applicant support, will require on site need.
- Additional languages may be added via task order and will be determined by VIHFA's clientele demographics;

2.2 KEY DELIVERABLES

- The Contractor shall provide quality interpretation between English, Spanish, or French-Creole that is accurate, clear and culturally and politically sensitive to the social environment of the target audience.
- The Contractor shall provide ASL Interpreters who are able to accurately interpret from English to ASL, ASL to English, and oral interpreting as needed.

2.3 COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICES

Selected Respondents must be prepared to commence these services within five (5) days of the issuance of a contract, at the direction of VIHFA CDBG-DR Director.

2.4 NUMBER OF AWARDS

The Respondent recognizes that, at the sole discretion of VIHFA and based upon the breadth and experience of respondents to this RFP, VIHFA may decide to award contracts to more than one Respondent. VIHFA currently anticipates awarding multiple contracts pursuant to this RFP to individuals and/or firms to ensure availability of appropriate interpretation services to serve various communities and language groups across St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St John on short notice. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed in derogation of VIHFA's right, in its sole discretion, to cancel this RFP.

3.0 REQUIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS OF RESPONDENT

The following subsections are required minimum qualifications.

- Respondents that are corporations, partnerships, or any other legal entity, domestic or foreign, shall be properly registered to do business in the Territory at the time of the submission of their Proposal to this RFP. Such Respondents shall attach its license to do business or copy of its application for a license.
- Neither Respondent nor any person or entity associated or partnering with Respondent has been the subject of any adverse findings that may prevent VIHFA from selecting Respondent. Such adverse findings may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a) Negative findings from the Inspector General, a Federal Inspector General, or from the U.S. Government Accountability Office, or from an Inspector General in another State
 - b) Pending or unresolved legal action from the U.S. Attorney General or from an attorney general in another State or Territory
 - c) Pending litigation with the USVI, any other State or Territory
 - d) Arson conviction or pending case

- e) Harassment conviction or pending case
 - f) Local, State, Federal or private mortgage arrears, default, or foreclosure proceedings
 - g) In rem foreclosure
 - h) Sale of tax lien or substantial tax arrears
 - i) Fair Housing violations or current litigation
 - j) Defaults under any Federal, Territory, State or locally-sponsored program
 - k) A record of substantial building code violations or litigation against properties owned and/or managed by Respondent or by any entity or individual that comprises Respondent
 - l) Past or pending voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy proceeding
 - m) Conviction for fraud, bribery, or grand larceny
 - n) Listing on the Federal or State excluded parties lists
- Respondent has adequate financial resources to perform the contract, or the ability to obtain them. Financial records for the past two (2) years must be included in the Proposal.
 - Respondent has personnel with knowledge of the culture, politics, and customs of the country in which the interpreted language is spoken.
 - Respondent has personnel with a minimum of two years of experience within the last five years providing interpretation services.
 - Respondent has personnel to provide services within forty-eight (48) hours of VIHFA's request.
 - Respondent can comply with the required or proposed delivery or performance schedule, taking into consideration all existing commercial and governmental business commitments.
 - Respondent has a satisfactory performance record.
 - Respondent has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics.
 - Respondent has the necessary organization, experience, operational controls, and technical skills, or the ability to obtain them.
 - Respondent has thoroughly reviewed the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements, 2017 (Pub. L. 115-56) on September 8, 2017 and the Budget Bill (Pub. L. 115-123), all pertinent Federal Register notices, and the USVI Action Plan and all amendments thereto.
 - Respondent has established prior experience in successfully performing the scope of services requested.
 - Respondent and its employees hold and maintain any and all territorial, federal, state, and local licenses or certifications as required to perform the services requested.
 - Respondent is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

3.1 REQUIREMENT OF LEGAL ENTITIES

Respondents that are corporations, partnerships, or any other legal entity, domestic or foreign, shall be properly registered to do business in the area in which they are incorporated at the time of the submission of their responses to this RFP. Such respondents shall attach a certificate of good standing from the Secretary of State in the area in which they are incorporated to their proposals. Upon contract execution, the successful Respondent will show evidence of its applications to obtain any required licenses or certificates required to do business in the USVI.

4.0 TERM OF ENGAGEMENT

VIHFA will contract for Language Interpretation Services for a period of two (2) years, subject to VIHFA's option to extend the term of the contract for similar term subject to satisfactory performance. It is anticipated the resulting contract will be a time and materials contract with a cap, including direct out-of-pocket cost for local transportation and expenses. VIHFA reserves the right to modify and/or terminate the contract if the successful organization or individual fails to perform in a manner consistent with the terms of the contract.

5.0 PRICE AND PAYMENT

Respondents must provide an hourly rate or per minute rate per the requirements of the Bid Sheet to complete the Scope of Work. Payments to the successful firm or individual will be made on a monthly basis upon invoice based on services performed. The contractor must submit documented timesheets or other support requested by VIHFA to receive payment for all fees requested.

6.0 USE OF SUBCONTRACTORS

VIHFA shall have a single prime Contractor as the result of any contract negotiation, and that prime Contractor shall be responsible for all deliverables specified in the RFP and proposal. This general requirement notwithstanding, Respondents may enter into subcontractor arrangements, however, shall acknowledge in their proposals total responsibility for the entire contract.

If the proposer intends to subcontract for portions of the work, the Proposer shall identify in its proposal any subcontractor relationships and include specific designations of the tasks to be performed by the subcontractor. The prime Contractor shall be the single point of contact for all subcontract work. Every subcontract shall incorporate and follow the terms of the contract between the prime Contractor and VIHFA.

Unless provided for in the contract with VIHFA, the prime Contractor shall not contract with any other party for any of the services herein contracted without the express prior written approval of VIHFA.

The prime Contractor shall be responsible for fulfillment of all terms of contract, timing, and payments to subcontractors regardless of funding provided by VIHFA.

The prime Contractor should obtain an executed statement from each subcontractor affirming the following and have available upon request by VIHFA: “I have read and understand the RFP and final version of the proposal submitted by (Proposer).”

7.0 REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS SCHEDULE

The following deadlines have been set by VIHFA:

RFP SCHEDULE	DATES and TIMES
RFP Release Date	February 21, 2019
Deadline for Questions	March 6, 2019
Question Responses Published	March 13, 2019
Proposal Submission Deadline	March 21, 2019
Announcement of Contract Award	April 1, 2019

8.0 ISSUING AND PROCURING OFFICE

This RFP is being issued for VIHFA. All general correspondence and inquiries about the RFP should be submitted in writing and sent to the Procurement Officer listed below:

Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority
3438 Kronprindsens Gade
GERS Complex- Suite 1
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Email: nroberts@vihfa.gov
Attention: Nicole Roberts

Inquiries may be made by e-mail. Mark subject line for emails “RFP 004-2019-DR-STT/STX”.

From the issue date of this RFP until a determination is made regarding the selection of a Contractor, all contacts concerning this RFP must be made through the Procurement Officer. Any violation of this condition is cause for VIHFA to reject the respondent’s package. VIHFA will **not** be responsible for any oral information given by any employees.

Failure to ask questions, request changes or submit objections shall constitute the acceptance of all terms, conditions and requirements in this RFP. The issuance of a written addendum by the Procurement Officer is the **only** official method by which interpretation, clarification or additional information can be given. The potential respondent shall acknowledge the receipt of each addendum in their Cover Letter. VIHFA will send copies to all Respondents in the form of an Addendum to the

RFP seven (7) days after the question deadline, and responses to the questions will be posted on VIHFA website. Respondents shall rely only on written statements issued through or by VIHFA Procurement Officer.

If VIHFA amends this RFP, the Procurement Officer will email the addenda to all potential respondents, and will post such notice on its website. VIHFA will **not** be held responsible if any potential Respondent does not provide current contact information to receive all addenda. It is the responsibility of the potential respondents to update all contact information and contact the Procurement Officer to ensure that they receive all addenda prior to the submittal of the proposal package. The proposal package will be considered non-responsive if all modifications are not incorporated.

9.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A respondent submitting a proposal hereby certifies that no officer, agent or employee of VIHFA has a pecuniary interest in this bid or has participated in contract negotiations on behalf of VIHFA; that the proposal is made in good faith without fraud, collusion, or connection of any kind with any other Bidder for the same request for proposals; the Bidder is competing solely in its own behalf without connection with, or obligation to, any undisclosed person or firm.

A respondent must also disclose any existing contractual work for the Territorial Government, whether directly or through a parent company, subsidiary company or associated company or independent contractor(s) hired by respondent; identify any potential conflict of interest, and must certify that respondent nor any parent company, subsidiary company or associated company or contractual/independent contractor(s) hired by respondent has assisted with preparing this RFP.

10.0 M/WBE - Respondents that are not M/WBEs are strongly encouraged to consider partnering, or other joint venture arrangements, with certified M/WBE firms to achieve the prescribed goals and to give M/WBE firms the opportunity to participate.

Respondents must document [good faith efforts](#) to provide meaningful participation by M/WBE firms.

11.0 GENERAL FEDERAL GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Because the contract is being funded with federal funds, the contract shall be governed by certain federal terms and conditions for federal grants, such as the Office of Management and Budget's ("OMB") applicable circulars. Respondent shall provide a description of experience with such grant requirements and affirmatively represent and certify that the respondent shall adhere to any requirements of applicable federal requirements. Any funds disallowed by any federal government entity shall be disallowed from fee or compensation to contractor.

12.0 HUD GENERAL PROVISIONS

Because the contract is being funded with HUD funds, the contract shall be governed by certain general HUD terms and conditions, attached hereto as Attachment 1. Respondent shall provide a description of experience with such requirements and affirmatively represent and certify that the respondent shall adhere to the terms and conditions set forth in the attachment.

13.0 STANDARD CLAUSES FOR CONTRACTS WITH VIHFA

Because the ultimate contract will be between the respondent and VIHFA, the contract shall be governed by certain standard VIHFA terms and conditions. Respondent shall certify that it will adhere to the terms and conditions set forth, and any subsequent changes deemed appropriate by VIHFA.

14.0 DELIVERY OF BID PACKAGES

All responses to this RFP are to be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m.** AST on March 21, 2019. Submissions must be packaged as set forth below. Respondents should clearly describe their ability to meet or exceed the requested qualifications described in Section 3.0. VIHFA reserves the right to request any additional information to assure itself of a Proposer's financial condition and experience.

Bid Packages must be submitted via mail or hand delivered to:

Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority
3438 Kronprindsens Gade
GERS Complex- Suite 1
St. Thomas, VI 00802
Attention: Nicole Roberts
RFP 004-2019-DR-STT/STX

Bids may **not** be submitted via email or fax.

The bid package should include five (5) properly labeled, sealed envelopes. One labeled original and containing an original hardcopy of all the materials and the other four containing copies of the original. Within each of these bid package envelopes, the contents should be divided into three (3) sub-envelopes, according to the specifications below and sealed.

The envelopes must be clearly marked. Failure to clearly mark each bid package with this information may cause VIHFA to inadvertently open the bid package before official closing date and time. VIHFA will mark all received bid packages with the date and time of receipt. Bids received after the official deadline will be considered **LATE** and will **not** be opened nor considered.

15.0 BID PACKAGE FORMAT & PROPOSAL CONTENT

Main Envelope (Labeled “Originals” or “Copy 1, 2, 3, or 4”)

Sub-Envelopes to include:

Sub-Envelope 1

A. Cover Letter –

- i. The cover letter should be on the company’s official business letterhead, if proposal is submitted by an organization, with contact information and must be signed by an officer of the organization that is authorized to bind the company contractually to all of the commitments made in their submittal.
- ii. The letter should acknowledge the receipt of all addenda.
- iii. It shall state, if awarded the contract, that the firm or individual will be solely responsible for all aspects of the engagement including any portion that may be performed by its subcontractors, if any.
- iv. It should make a positive commitment to perform the work required as specified to industry standards of workmanship and in a professional manner.
- v. It should also state that the bid package will remain in effect for a period of 90 days from the submission deadline and thereafter, until the firm withdraws it, or a contract is approved and executed, or the procurement is canceled, whichever occurs first.
- vi. Confirmation that the respondent has not engaged in any unethical practices within the past five (5) years.
- vii. The Proposer must also disclose, and identify, any existing contractual work for the Territorial Government, whether directly or through a parent company, subsidiary company or associated company or independent contractor(s) hired by respondent; identify any potential conflict of interest, and must certify that respondent nor any parent company, subsidiary company or associated company or contractual/independent contractor(s) hired by respondent has assisted with preparing this RFP.

B. Executive Summary –

- i. A summary of the Respondent's qualifications;
- ii. A brief statement of the Respondent's understanding of the scope of work to be performed;
- iii. Confirmations addressing any pending litigation statements detailed in H below;
- iv. Ability to meet or exceed the minimum qualifications in the RFP;
- v. A brief statement reflecting the Respondent’s understanding of the scope of work to be performed;
- vi. Confirmation that the Respondent has any appropriate state business license(s) required for this proposal, or, if allowed by law, will obtain such business license;

- vii. Confirmation that the Respondent has not had a record of substandard work within the past five (5) years;
 - i. Confirmation that the Respondent has not engaged in any unethical practices within the past five (5) years;
 - ii. Confirmation that, if awarded a contract, the Respondent acknowledges its complete responsibility for the entire contract, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the contract;
 - iii. Confirmation that Respondent has adequate financial resources for performance, or has the ability to obtain such resources as required during performance;
 - iv. Has a written agreement with any person or subcontractor listed in the proposed project staff or team;
 - v. Provide a brief statement describing the adequacy of the Respondent's financial capacity to handle the requirements of this RFP;
 - vi. Provide a descriptive list of any and all criminal convictions in the past ten (10) years or active investigations or prosecutions in which the Respondent or any of its officers, directors, or management personnel were or are defendants or targets of investigation;
 - vii. Provide a descriptive list of any and all civil lawsuits in the past five (5) years in which the Respondent or any of its officers, directors, or management personnel were or are plaintiffs or defendants with claims in excess of \$100,000; and
 - viii. Any other information that the Respondent feels appropriate.

C. Non-Collusive Affidavit – Complete **Enclosure Document A**. The form must be notarized.

D. Debarment Certification Form – Complete **Enclosure Document B**.

E. Contract Document Checklist Form – Complete **Enclosure Document C** and submit your current Business License. The Business License must be relevant to the Scope of Work for this solicitation.

F. Contractor's Qualifications Statement Form – Complete **Enclosure Document D**. For the Reference Section of the form, provide three (3) references for the most recent, relevant work comparable to the scope requested in this RFP and who would be willing to discuss your company's competency and performance must be provided. If you currently have more than three (3) references, a client listing with contact information should be provided as well. At a minimum, one of the three (3) references must be for the prime Contractor.

G. Credentials – Provide the résumés and professional qualifications of the Respondent's key personnel and staff to be assigned to the contract, including degrees, licenses, certifications, and years of relevant experience.

H. Pending Litigation Notifications - *Proposers must provide statements in the Executive Summary regarding the following even if there are/were no such proceedings. Full details must be provided in this section of the response.*

- The Proposer shall provide a statement of whether, in the last ten (10) years, the Proposer has filed (or had filed against it) any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding, whether voluntary or involuntary, or undergone the appointment of a receiver, trustee, or assignee for the benefit of creditors, and if so, the explanation providing relevant details.
- The Proposer shall provide a statement of whether there are any pending Securities Exchange Commission investigations involving the Proposer, and if such are pending or in progress, an explanation providing relevant details and an attached opinion of counsel as to whether the pending investigation(s) will impair the Proposer's performance in a contract under this RFP.
- The Proposer shall provide a statement documenting all open or pending litigation initiated by Proposer or where Proposer is a defendant in a customer matter.

Sub-Envelope 2

A. Proposal –

Provide a synopsis of your approach to managing and executing the outlined scope of work. Proposal content shall include:

- i. Summary
 - a. Provide a summary including a description of the respondent's mission, and an explanation of the types of services the respondent provides that relate to this RFP.
 - b. Briefly describe any significant changes to the management and/or structure of the respondent that are related to the work contained in this RFP, including any mergers that occurred in the last five (5) years.
 - c. The name, address, telephone, fax, and email of the respondent should be included. The Respondent shall provide its office locations, number of full time employees, date of incorporation, and number of years providing language interpretation services.
- ii. Experience and Qualifications
 - a. Provide a summary of the types of services the Respondent offers that relate to this RFP.
 - b. Provide specific details on any previous experience with language interpretation services related to HUD or other Federal disaster funding programs.
 - c. Proposals must demonstrate that the respondent has each of the necessary minimum qualifications listed in this RFP and is able to carry out each of the specific tasks and Deliverables identified in this RFP.
 - d. Respondents should provide detailed information about the experience and qualifications of its staff who are considered key to the success of the project.

- e. Respondents should also include any relevant certifications of all staff and metrics used.
- f. Respondents should demonstrate that all proposed staff have the requisite necessary experience and knowledge to successfully implement and perform the tasks and services under this RFP.
- g. Provide at least three (3) current or past experiences for the Respondent and for any partners or subcontractors. At a minimum, the past experiences must include the experiences related to the references provided on Enclosure Document D, including one of the three (3) experiences must be for the prime Contractor. Each experience should include the client name, main point of contact, title, and a description of the services provided.
- h. If the respondent will be subcontracting or partnering for any portion of the work, please also summarize the qualifications and experience of the subcontractor/partner's relevant staff and attach any contracts or agreements pertaining to the proposal. Also provide information on how the prime contractor will supervise and oversee any work performed by subcontractors.

Any subcontractor included in the Proposal must have agreed in writing to being included in the Respondent's proposed project staff or team. Any such written agreement must be produced to VIHFA upon request. Any financial terms and personally identifying information (i.e. social security number) may be redacted from the production to VIHFA.

iii. Approach & Methodology

- a. Respondents that present a clear and straightforward work plan for all aspects of execution of services, which is based on a well-defined timeline for delivery of key goals and objectives, and places emphasis on high standards for the delivery of services in expectation of meeting or exceeding these goals, will score higher than those who do not.
- b. The Proposal shall explain how the Respondent will achieve the goals, objectives, tasks, and deliverables outlined in this RFP, including a detailed narrative describing the process which the Respondent would apply to delivery of Language Interpretation Services. The Proposal shall address why the proposed approach is appropriate and suited for the specific RFP scope. Proposals must provide examples of how the proposed approach has achieved success in specific, relevant projects for public or private sector organizations similar in size and complexity to the Territory's government. This section must contain enough information to ascertain the success of the projects accomplished by the Respondent and shall include the metrics and factors used to demonstrate that those projects and the Respondent's approach were indeed successful.

Sub-Envelope 3

A. Bid Sheet – Complete Enclosure Document E.

15.1 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The successful Respondent shall have ten (10) business days from the day the notice of selection is received to submit the following documents:

A. Corporate Documents – The successful Respondent will be required to provide a copy of their Corporate Documents.

- **Provide a copy of Corporate Documents**

Corporation

- Copy of Articles of Incorporation & By Laws

Limited Liability Company (LLC)

- Copy of Articles of Organization
- Copy of Operating Agreement

Sole Proprietor

- Copy of Trade Name Certificate

B. Letter of Good Standing if Corporation or Certificate of Existence if LLC - The successful respondent will be required to provide a copy of their Letter of Good Standing or Certificate of Existence. A copy of the receipt that demonstrates evidence of filing the company's Annual Report on June 30th of the current Year from Secretary of State will be acceptable as well.

C. Liability Insurance – The successful respondent will be required to obtain and have in place Liability Insurance in an amount no less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00). The Insurance policy shall name the VIHFA as an “Additional Insured”. The successful respondent must provide a copy of the Liability Insurance.

D. Worker's Compensation - The successful respondent will be required to provide proof of Worker's Compensation.

E. Social Security Number (SSN) or Employer Identification Number (EIN) - The successful respondent will be required to provide an official copy of their SSN or EIN.

F. DUNS Number – The successful respondent will be required to provide documentation showing its DUNS.

Failure to provide the required documents within the stated time period may result in the proposals deemed non-responsive and may be immediately disqualified with no further consideration given for potential awarding of the contract.

16.0 SELECTION PROCESS

VIHFA will evaluate all Proposals that are received in a proper and timely manner to determine whether they meet the submission requirements. Awards are made to the most responsive bidder(s) that provides the proposal that is most advantageous to VIHFA, considering such factors as the Bidder's ability to perform the work of the kind involved in the bid under consideration, the Bidders' past experience, time of delivery, etc. and not solely the lowest price.

VIHFA, at its sole discretion, will determine which Proposal(s) best satisfies its requirements. All Proposals deemed to be responsive to the requirements of this RFP will be evaluated and scored for technical qualities and price. Proposals that are materially deficient in meeting the submission requirements of this RFP or have omitted material documents may be eliminated from consideration at the sole discretion of VIHFA. The evaluation process will include separate technical and price evaluations and will be conducted as set forth herein.

Through an evaluation panel, VIHFA will establish a shortlist, either through a natural break in scores or a technically viable cut off technical score. The panel will then evaluate the Price Proposals of only those proposals that have made the cut off/it deems technically qualified. VIHFA may award multiple contracts pursuant to this RFP to individuals and/or firms to ensure availability of appropriate interpretation services to serve various communities and language groups across St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St John. Depending on the number of respondents, VIHFA reserves the right to deviate from this approach.

VIHFA reserves the right to award contracts based on initial proposals received, without discussions; therefore, the Respondent's initial proposal should contain its best technical and price terms.

The Evaluation Committee Panel is responsible for evaluating all responsive Respondents' submittals. The Evaluation Committee Panel will consider the following criteria:

Technical

- **Documentation:** The Contractor is duly organized, validly existing, qualified and licensed to conduct business.
 - **10 Points**
- **Qualification:** Shall be evaluated based on the Respondent's credentials.
 - **15 Points**

- **Language Interpretation Services Experience:** The Contractor's proven success in Language Interpretation Services for similar size and scope projects.
 - **25 Points**
- **Proposal:** Shall be evaluated based on the Respondent's approach to the outlined scope of work and overall management of projected deliverables, schedule delivery and overall impression.
 - **25 Points**

Pricing

- **Price:**
 - **25 Points**

The proposer with the lowest total pricing shall receive a score of 25 points for the pricing category. The remaining proposers will receive a price score based upon the following formula:

$$CS = (LPC/PC*25)$$

Where:

CS = Computed cost score (points) for proposer being evaluated

LCP = Lowest cost proposed of responses deemed technically feasible

PC = Proposer's total cost

16.1 RIGHT TO REJECT BID PACKAGES

VIHFA reserves the right to reject, without prejudice, any and all bids submitted in response to this solicitation. Further, Bids submitted in response to this solicitation become the property of VIHFA and VIHFA may use any idea or concept in a submitted bid, regardless of whether that bid is selected for award.

16.2 CHANGES, ADDENDA, AND WITHDRAWALS

VIHFA reserves the right to change the schedule of events or revise any part of the RFP by issuing an addendum to the RFP at any time. Addenda, if any, will be posted at <https://www.vihfa.gov/disaster-recovery/contracts>.

16.3 WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSAL

A Respondent may withdraw a proposal that has been submitted at any time up to the date and time the proposal is due. To withdraw a proposal, a written request signed by the authorized representative of the Respondent must be submitted to the RFP Coordinator identified in the RFP.

16.4 COST OF OFFEROR PREPARATION

VIHFA shall not be liable for any costs incurred by respondents prior to issuance of or entering into a contract. Costs associated with developing the proposal, preparing for oral presentations, and any other expenses incurred by the Respondent in responding to this RFP shall be entirely the responsibility of the Respondent and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by the VIHFA.

16.5 CONTRACT AWARD AND EXECUTION

VIHFA reserves the right to enter into a contract(s) based on the initial offers received without further discussion of the proposals submitted. VIHFA reserves the right to contract for all or a partial list of services offered in the proposals. VIHFA reserves the right to negotiate reduced payment terms with the awarded Proposer(s).

Enclosures

- **Enclosure Document A** **Non-Collusive Affidavit**
- **Enclosure Document B** **Debarment Certification Form**
- **Enclosure Document C** **Contract Document Checklist Form**
- **Enclosure Document D** **Contractor's Qualification Statement Form**
- **Enclosure Document E** **Bid Sheet**

Attachments

- **Attachment 1** **HUD General Provisions**

ENCLOSURE DOCUMENT A

Provide a detailed work plan with corresponding timeline that identifies date-specific milestones for hiring, training, and other key components of the program.

NON-COLLUSIVE AFFIDAVIT

_____, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he/she is _____ (a partner or officer of the firm of, etc.) the party making the foregoing proposal or proposal cost, that such proposal/bid or proposal cost/bid cost is genuine and not collusive or sham; that said proponent has not colluded conspired, connived or agreed directly or indirectly, with any proponent or person, to put in a sham proposal cost or to refrain from bidding and has not in any matter directly or indirectly sought by agreement or collusion or communication or conference, with any person, to fix the proposal cost of the affinity or of any other proponent, or to fix any overhead, profit or cost element of said cost proposal, or of that of any other proponent, or to secure any advantage against the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority or any person interested in the proposed contract; and that all statements in said proposal or cost proposal are true.

(Name of Respondent, if the Respondent is a Corporation)

(Name of Respondent, if the Respondent is a Limited Liability Company)

(Name of the Respondent, if the Respondent is a Sole Proprietor)

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the Island of _____,
this _____ day of _____, 2018, by _____
of legal age, _____
(Trade or Corporation)

and personally known to me.

(SEAL)

Public Notary

ENCLOSURE DOCUMENT B
DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION FORM

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Ineligibility

- (1) The respondent certifies, by submission of this RFP Response, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in any federal or local programs in the Territory or any Federal department or agency.
- (2) Where the respondent is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such respondent shall attach an explanation to this RFP Response.

Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Signature

Date

ENCLOSURE DOCUMENT C

CONTRACT DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Name of Contractor: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone Number: _____

1. ___ Contractor Corporate Documents

___ **Corporation** ___ Copy of Articles of Incorporation & By Laws
 ___ Letter of Good Standing from Office of the Lt. Governor

___ **LLC** ___ Copy of Articles of Organization
 ___ Copy of & Operating Agreement
 ___ Certificate of Existence from Office of the Lt. Governor

___ **Sole Proprietor** ___ Copy of Trade Name Certificate

2. ___ Current business license Expiration date: _____ / _____ /20 ___
 Type of business license: _____

3. ___ Employer Identification Number (EIN/ SSN): _____

4. ___ DUNS Number: _____

5. ___ Insurance Binder Expiration date: _____ / _____ /20 ___
 Type of Insurance: ___ General Liability ___ Automobile ___ Errors and
 Omissions

----- *For VIHFA use only* -----

6. ___ Proposed Scope of Work TB# _____ IFB# _____ RFP# _____ RFQ# _____

7. ___ Bids ___ Signed Bid Evaluation Spreadsheet

8. ___ Request for Approval from CDBG-DR Director and approval by Chief Operating Officer & Executive Director.

CDBG-DR Staff Final Review Date: ___ / ___ /20 _____

Date Submitted by CDBG-DR ___ / ___ /20 _____

Outstanding Issues: _____

CDBG-DR Director: _____ Date approved: _____

Legal Counsel: _____ Date approved: _____

Date Submitted to Executive Director for Contract Approval: ___ / ___ /20 _____

Suggested # of Days in Contract _____

Mobilization/Payment Terms _____

ENCLOSURE DOCUMENT D
CONTRACTOR'S QUALIFICATION STATEMENT

Name of License Holder: _____
Name of Company/DBA (if any): _____
Legal Status: (check one) Corp. _____ LLC _____ Partnership _____ Sole Proprietorship _____
Business Location (office): _____
Mailing Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Email: _____
Website address (if any): _____

Number of Years licensed to conduct business _____
Number of Language Interpretation Services completed in the last 5 Years _____, Average value of these Contracts \$ _____
Do you have current Liability Insurance Coverage? Yes No If yes, value \$ _____

Have you ever failed to complete a project, been fired and/or sued by one of your clients? _____
(If yes, explain on another sheet, the circumstances and outcome)

Are there or have there been any Claims, Arbitration, Judgments or Liens against you? _____
(If yes, explain on another sheet, the circumstances and outcome)

List three references of previous clients and their contact numbers that can be contacted for their input concerning your ability as a Contractor:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1) Name _____ | Contact Number _____ |
| 2) Name _____ | Contact Number _____ |
| 3) Name _____ | Contact Number _____ |

List your current Projects under Contract (Project Title or Clients Name) and Value (Contract Value):

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| 1) _____ | Value: _____ |
| 2) _____ | Value: _____ |
| 3) _____ | Value: _____ |
- (If you have more contracts, please list on separate sheet)*

List the **Subcontractors** you will utilize: _____

Certification of truth of the above Statements, by: _____ Title: _____

ENCLOSURE DOCUMENT E
BID SHEET
LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION SERVICES
for the
VIRGIN ISLANDS HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY

The undersigned contractor proposes to furnish all labor, tools, materials, equipment, miscellaneous supplies and incur any other costs as may be required to perform the scopes of work, subject to all the conditions as set forth in the project scope of work. Direct out-of-pocket cost for local transportation and expenses associated with in person interpretation assignments more than 50 miles away from the interpreter’s regular workplace location, or when the scheduled meeting start or end time requires an overnight stay, not to exceed \$250 per trip, will be reimbursable based on actual and supporting documentation.

Instructions: Respondent should complete the Rate per Hour or Rate per Minute for each position provided, as well as calculate the total cost based on the estimated hours provided by VIHFA.

Interpretation Service In Person

Position	Rate per Hour	Estimated Hours*	Total Cost
Spanish Interpreter		320	
French-Creole Interpreter		320	
TOTAL			

Interpretation Service By Phone

Position	Rate per Minute	Estimated Minutes*	Total Cost
Spanish Interpreter		1,000	
French-Creole Interpreter		1,000	
TOTAL			

American Sign Language Interpretation

Position	Rate per Hour	Estimated Hours*	Total Cost
Sign Language Interpreter		320	
TOTAL			

*Estimated hours and minutes provided for comparison purposes only. Actual hours will be based on the need determined by VIHFA. Fractions of an hour worked shall be billed in 15-minute increments. Rate is exclusive of any travel expenses.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE NAME & THEN SIGN BELOW

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

COMPANY: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Attachment 1

HUD GENERAL PROVISIONS

The following terms and conditions apply to any contract for which any portion of the funding is derived from a grant made by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”). In addition, Contractor or Subcontractor shall comply with the Federal Labor Standards Provisions set forth in Form HUD-4010, available at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/forms/files/4010.pdf>.

1. PROVISIONS REQUIRED BY LAW DEEMED INSERTED

Each and every provision of law and clause required by law to be inserted in this contract shall be deemed to be inserted herein and the contract shall be read and enforced as though it were included herein, and if through mistake or otherwise any such provision is not inserted, or is not correctly inserted, then upon the application of either party the contract shall forthwith be physically amended to make such insertion or correction.

2. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Subcontractor shall comply with all laws and regulations applicable to the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds appropriated by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2017 (Pub. L. 115-56) and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (“BBA”), (Pub. L. 115-123), including but not limited to the applicable Office of Management and Budget Circulars, which may impact the administration of funds and/or set forth certain cost principles, including the allowability of certain expenses.

3. BREACH OF CONTRACT TERMS

VIHFA reserves its right to all administrative, contractual, or legal remedies, including but not limited to suspension or termination of this contract, in instances where the Contractor or any of its subcontractors violate or breach any contract term. If the Contractor or any of its subcontractors violate or breach any contract term, they shall be subject to such sanctions and penalties as may be appropriate. The duties and obligations imposed by the contract documents and the rights and remedies available thereunder shall be in addition to and not a limitation of any duties, obligations, rights and remedies otherwise imposed or available by law.

4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Subcontractor shall complete and submit all reports, in such form and according to such schedule, as may be required by VIHFA. The Subcontractor shall cooperate with all VIHFA efforts to comply with HUD requirements and regulations pertaining to reporting, including but not limited to 24 C.F.R. §§ 85.40-41 (or 84.50-52, if applicable) and 570.507.

5. ACCESS TO RECORDS

The State, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have, at any time and from time to time during normal business hours, access to any work product, books, documents, papers, and records of the Subcontractor which are related to this contract, for the purpose of inspection, audits, examinations, and making excerpts, copies and transcriptions.

6. MAINTENANCE/RETENTION OF RECORDS

All records connected with this contract will be maintained in a central location and will be maintained for a period of at least four (4) years following the date of final payment and close-out of all pending matters related to this contract.

7. SMALL AND MINORITY FIRMS, WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND LABOR SURPLUS AREA FIRMS

The Subcontractor will take necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used in subcontracting when possible. Steps include:

- (i) Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
- (ii) Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
- (iii) Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority business, and women's business enterprises;
- (iv) Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority business, and women's business enterprises; and
- (v) Using the services and assistance of the Small Business Administration, and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.

8. 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 implementing regulations issued by HUD.

9. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Subcontractor shall comply with mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Public Law 94-163).

10. TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

11. SECTION 109 OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974

The Subcontractor shall comply with the provisions of Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. No person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this title. Section 109 further provides that discrimination on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 or with respect to an otherwise qualified handicapped individual as provided in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, is prohibited

12. SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

The Subcontractor shall comply with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 94), as amended, and any applicable regulations.

The Subcontractor agrees that no qualified individual with handicaps shall, solely on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance from HUD.

13. AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1975

The Subcontractor shall comply with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. § 6101 *et seq.*), as amended, and any applicable regulations. No person in the United States shall, on the

basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

14. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND INELIGIBILITY

The Subcontractor represents and warrants that it and its subcontractors are not debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs subject to 2 C.F.R. part 2424.

15. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Subcontractor shall notify VIHFA as soon as possible if this contract or any aspect related to the anticipated work under this contract raises an actual or potential conflict of interest (as defined at 2 C.F.R. Part 215 and 24 C.F.R. § 85.36 (or 84.42, if applicable)). The Subcontractor shall explain the actual or potential conflict in writing in sufficient detail so that the State is able to assess such actual or potential conflict. The Subcontractor shall provide VIHFA any additional information necessary for VIHFA to fully assess and address such actual or potential conflict of interest. The Subcontractor shall accept any reasonable conflict mitigation strategy employed by VIHFA, including but not limited to the use of an independent subcontractor(s) to perform the portion of work that gives rise to the actual or potential conflict.

16. SUBCONTRACTING

When subcontracting, the Subcontractor shall solicit for and contract with such subcontractors in a manner providing for fair competition. Some of the situations considered to be restrictive of competition include but are not limited to:

- (i) Placing unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business,
- (ii) Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding,
- (iii) Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies,
- (iv) Noncompetitive awards to consultants that are on retainer contracts,
- (v) Organizational conflicts of interest,
- (vi) Specifying only a *brand name* product instead of allowing *an equal* product to be offered and describing the performance of other relevant requirements of the procurement, and
- (vii) Any arbitrary action in the procurement process.

The Subcontractor represents to VIHFA that all work shall be performed by personnel experienced in the appropriate and applicable profession and areas of expertise, taking into account the nature of the work to be performed under this contract.

The Subcontractor will include these HUD General Provisions in every subcontract issued by it so that such provisions will be binding upon each of its subcontractors as well as the requirement to flow down such terms to all lower-tiered subcontractors.

17. ASSIGNABILITY

The Subcontractor shall not assign any interest in this contract, and shall not transfer any interest in the same (whether by assignment or novation) without prior written approval of VIHFA.

18. INDEMNIFICATION

The Subcontractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless VIHFA and its agents and employees from and against any and all claims, actions, suits, charges, and judgments arising from or related to the negligence or willful misconduct of the Subcontractor in the performance of the services called for in this contract.

19. COPELAND "ANTI-KICKBACK" ACT (Applicable to all construction or repair contracts)

Salaries of personnel performing work under this contract shall be paid unconditionally and not less often than once a month without payroll deduction or rebate on any account except only such payroll deductions as are mandatory by law or permitted by the applicable regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Copeland "Anti-Kickback Act" of June 13, 1934 (48 Stat. 948; 62 Stat. 740; 63 Stat. 108; Title 18 U.S.C. § 874; and Title 40 U.S.C. § 276c). The Subcontractor shall comply with all applicable "Anti-Kickback" regulations and shall insert appropriate provisions in all subcontracts covering work under this contract to ensure compliance by subcontractors with such regulations, and shall be responsible for the submission of affidavits required of subcontractors thereunder except as the Secretary of Labor may specifically provide for variations of or exemptions from the requirements thereof.

20. CONTRACT WORK HOURS AND SAFETY STANDARDS ACT

(Applicable to construction contracts exceeding \$2,000 and contracts exceeding \$2,500 that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers)

The Subcontractor shall comply with Sections 103 and 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 327-330) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 C.F.R. part 5).

All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors shall receive overtime compensation in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, and the contractors and subcontractors shall comply with all regulations

issued pursuant to that act and with other applicable Federal laws and regulations pertaining to labor standards.

21. DAVIS-BACON ACT

(Applicable to construction contracts exceeding \$2,000 when required by Federal program legislation)

The Subcontractor shall comply with the Davis Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 276a to 276a-7) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 C.F.R. part 5).

All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors, including employees of other governments, on construction work assisted under this contract, and subject to the provisions of the federal acts and regulations listed in this paragraph, shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act.

22. TERMINATION FOR CAUSE (Applicable to contracts exceeding \$10,000)

If, through any cause, the Subcontractor shall fail to fulfill in a timely and proper manner his obligations under this contract, or if the Subcontractor shall violate any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this contract, VIHFA shall thereupon have the right to terminate this contract by giving written notice to the Subcontractor of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least five (5) days before the effective date of such termination. In such event, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models, photographs, and reports prepared by the Subcontractor under this contract shall, at the option of VIHFA, become VIHFA's property and the Subcontractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any work satisfactorily completed hereunder. Notwithstanding the above, the Subcontractor shall not be relieved of liability to VIHFA for damages sustained by VIHFA by virtue of any breach of the contract by the Subcontractor, and VIHFA may withhold any payments to the Subcontractor for the purpose of set-off until such time as the exact amount of damages due VIHFA from the Subcontractor is determined.

23. TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE (Applicable to contracts exceeding \$10,000)

VIHFA may terminate this contract at any time by giving at least ten (10) days' notice in writing to the Subcontractor. If the contract is terminated by VIHFA as provided herein, the Subcontractor will be paid for the time provided and expenses incurred up to the termination date.

24. SECTION 503 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (Applicable to contracts exceeding \$10,000)

The Subcontractor shall comply with section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 793), as amended, and any applicable regulations.

Equal Opportunity for Workers With Disabilities

1. The Subcontractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The Subcontractor agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment and otherwise treat qualified individuals with disabilities without discrimination based on their physical or mental disability in all employment practices, including the following:
 - i. Recruitment, advertising, and job application procedures;
 - ii. Hiring, upgrading, promotion, award of tenure, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, right of return from layoff and rehiring;
 - iii. Rates of pay or any other form of compensation and changes in compensation;
 - iv. Job assignments, job classifications, organizational structures, position descriptions, lines of progression, and seniority lists;
 - v. Leaves of absence, sick leave, or any other leave;
 - vi. Fringe benefits available by virtue of employment, whether or not administered by the Subcontractor;
 - vii. Selection and financial support for training, including apprenticeship, professional meetings, conferences, and other related activities, and selection for leaves of absence to pursue training;
 - viii. Activities sponsored by the contractor including social or recreational programs; and
 - ix. Any other term, condition, or privilege of employment.
2. The Subcontractor agrees to comply with the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to the act.
3. In the event of the Subcontractor's noncompliance with the requirements of this clause, actions for noncompliance may be taken in accordance with the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to the act.
4. The Subcontractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants

for employment, notices in a form to be prescribed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Federal Contract Compliance Programs, provided by or through the contracting officer. Such notices shall state the rights of applicants and employees as well as the Subcontractor's obligation under the law to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified employees and applicants with disabilities. The Subcontractor must ensure that applicants and employees with disabilities are informed of the contents of the notice (e.g., the Subcontractor may have the notice read to a visually disabled individual, or may lower the posted notice so that it might be read by a person in a wheelchair).

5. The Subcontractor will notify each labor organization or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract understanding, that the Subcontractor is bound by the terms of section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and is committed to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment individuals with physical or mental disabilities.
6. The Subcontractor will include the provisions of this clause in every subcontract or purchase order in excess of \$10,000, unless exempted by the rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary issued pursuant to section 503 of the act, as amended, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Subcontractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Federal Contract Compliance Programs may direct to enforce such provisions, including action for noncompliance.

25. EXECUTIVE ORDER 11246

(Applicable to construction contracts and subcontracts exceeding \$10,000)

The Subcontractor shall comply with Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by Executive Order 11375 of October 13, 1967, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations (41 CFR chapter 60).

During the performance of this contract, the Subcontractor agrees as follows:

- A. The Subcontractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Subcontractor shall take affirmative action to ensure that applicants for employment are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship.
- B. The Subcontractor shall post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by Contracting Officer setting forth the provisions of this

non-discrimination clause. The Subcontractor shall state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

- C. The Subcontractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Subcontractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- D. The Subcontractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union or workers representative of the contractor's commitments under Section 202 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
- E. The Subcontractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.
- F. The Subcontractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by the rules, regulations and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to books, records and accounts by the contracting agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations and orders.
- G. In the event of the Subcontractor's non-compliance with the non-discrimination clause of this contract or with any of such rules, regulations or orders, this contract may be cancelled, terminated or suspended in whole or in part and the Subcontractor may be declared ineligible for further government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246 and such other sanctions as may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.
- H. Subcontractor shall incorporate the provisions of A through G above in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations or orders of the Secretary of Labor so that such provisions shall be binding on such subcontractor. The Subcontractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the contracting agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for non-compliance, provided, however, that in the event the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the contracting agency, the Subcontractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

26. CERTIFICATION OF NONSEGREGATED FACILITIES (Applicable to construction contracts exceeding \$10,000)

The Subcontractor certifies that it does not maintain or provide for its establishments, and that it does not permit employees to perform their services at any location, under its control, where segregated facilities are maintained. It certifies further that it will not maintain or provide for employees any segregated facilities at any of its establishments, and it will not permit employees to perform their services at any location under its control where segregated facilities are maintained. The Subcontractor agrees that a breach of this certification is a violation of the equal opportunity clause of this contract.

As used in this certification, the term “segregated facilities” means any waiting rooms, work areas, rest rooms and wash rooms, restaurants and other eating areas, time clocks, locker rooms, and other storage or dressing areas, parking lots, drinking fountains, recreation or entertainment areas, transportation and housing facilities provided for employees which are segregated by explicit directive or are, in fact, segregated on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin because of habit, local custom, or any other reason.

The Subcontractor further agrees that (except where it has obtained for specific time periods) it will obtain identical certification from proposed subcontractors prior to the award of subcontracts exceeding \$10,000 which are not exempt from the provisions of the equal opportunity clause; that it will retain such certifications in its files; and that it will forward the preceding notice to such proposed subcontractors (except where proposed subcontractors have submitted identical certifications for specific time periods).

27. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH CLEAN AIR AND WATER ACTS (Applicable to contracts exceeding \$100,000)

The Subcontractor and all its subcontractors shall comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 1857 *et seq.*, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*, and the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect thereto, at 40 C.F.R. Part 15 and 32, as amended, Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1368) and Executive Order 11738.

In addition to the foregoing requirements, all nonexempt contractors and subcontractors shall furnish to the owner, the following:

- A. A stipulation by the Contractor or subcontractors, that any facility to be utilized in the performance of any nonexempt contract or subcontract, is not listed on the Excluded Party Listing System pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 32 or on the List of Violating Facilities issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 15, as amended.
- B. Agreement by the Subcontractor to comply with all the requirements of Section 114 of the Clean Air Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 1857 c-8) and Section 308 of the Federal Water

Pollution Control Act, as amended, (33 U.S.C. § 1318) relating to inspection, monitoring, entry, reports and information, as well as all other requirements specified in said Section 114 and Section 308, and all regulations and guidelines issued thereunder.

- C. A stipulation that as a condition for the award of the contract, prompt notice will be given of any notification received from the Director, Office of Federal Activities, EPA, indicating that a facility utilized, or to be utilized for the contract, is under consideration to be listed on the Excluded Party Listing System or the EPA List of Violating Facilities.
- D. Agreement by the Subcontractor that he will include, or cause to be included, the criteria and requirements in paragraph (A) through (D) of this section in every nonexempt subcontract and requiring that the Subcontractor will take such action as the government may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions.

28. LOBBYING (Applicable to contracts exceeding \$100,000)

The Subcontractor certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the Subcontractor, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the Contractor shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The Subcontractor shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who

fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

29. BONDING REQUIREMENTS

(Applicable to construction and facility improvement contracts exceeding \$100,000)

The Subcontractor shall comply with VIHFA bonding requirements, unless they have not been approved by HUD, in which case the Contractor shall comply with the following minimum bonding requirements:

- (1) *A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price.* The “bid guarantee” shall consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of his bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.
- (2) *A performance bond on the part of the Contractor for 100 percent of the contract price.* A “performance bond” is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the Contractor’s obligations under such contract.
- (3) *A payment bond on the part of the Contractor for 100 percent of the contract price.* A “payment bond” is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

30. SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1968 (As required by applicable thresholds)

- A. The work to be performed under this contract is subject to the requirements of section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. § 1701u (section 3). The purpose of section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance or HUD-assisted projects covered by section 3, shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly persons who are recipients of HUD assistance for housing.
- B. The parties to this contract agree to comply with HUD’s regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 135, which implement section 3. As evidenced by their execution of this contract, the parties to this contract certify that they are under no contractual or other impediment that would prevent them from complying with the part 135 regulations.
- C. The Subcontractor agrees to send to each labor organization or representative of workers with which the Subcontractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other understanding, if any, a notice advising the labor organization or workers’ representative of the Contractor’s commitments under this section 3 clause, and will post copies of the notice in conspicuous

places at the work site where both employees and applicants for training and employment positions can see the notice. The notice shall describe the section 3 preference, shall set forth minimum number and job titles subject to hire, availability of apprenticeship and training positions, the qualifications for each; and the name and location of the person(s) taking applications for each of the positions; and the anticipated date the work shall begin.

- D. The Subcontractor agrees to include this section 3 clause in every subcontract subject to compliance with regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 135, and agrees to take appropriate action, as provided in an applicable provision of the subcontract or in this section 3 clause, upon a finding that the subcontractor is in violation of the regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 135. The Subcontractor will not subcontract with any subcontractor where the Subcontractor has notice or knowledge that the subcontractor has been found in violation of the regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 135.
- E. The Subcontractor will certify that any vacant employment positions, including training positions, that are filled: (1) after the subcontractor is selected but before the contract is executed, and (2) with persons other than those to whom the regulations of 24 C.F.R. part 135 require employment opportunities to be directed, were not filled to circumvent the Subcontractor's obligations under 24 C.F.R. part 135.
- F. Noncompliance with HUD's regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 135 may result in sanctions, termination of this contract for default, and debarment or suspension from future HUD assisted contracts.
- G. With respect to work performed in connection with section 3 covered Indian housing assistance, section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 450e) also applies to the work to be performed under this contract. Section 7(b) requires that to the greatest extent feasible: (i) preference and opportunities for training and employment shall be given to Indians, and (ii) preference in the award of contracts and subcontracts shall be given to Indian organizations and Indian-owned Economic Enterprises. Parties to this contract that are subject to the provisions of section 3 and section 7(b) agree to comply with section 3 to the maximum extent feasible, but not in derogation of compliance with section 7(b).

31. FAIR HOUSING ACT

Subcontractor shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended. The act prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, the financing of housing or the provision of brokerage services against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status. The Equal Opportunity in Housing Act prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in the sale, rental, leasing or other disposition of residential property, or in the use or occupancy of housing assisted with Federal funds. Please visit http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=DOC_11868.pdf for more information.