REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Request for Proposal #:

RFP DUE DATE AND TIME:

RETURN SEALED PROPOSALS TO:
Physical address (for hand delivery or overnight courier):

Janet Thompson, Sr. Buyer
University of North Texas System
Business Service Center-Procurement Services
1112 Dallas Drive, Suite 4000
Denton, Texas 76205

INSTRUCTIONS FOR A FACSIMILE RESPONSE:
Fax, email, or any other electronic media responses will not be accepted for this RFP, unless outlined herein.

If there are any questions regarding this RFP, please submit solicitation questions to Solicitation Inquiry located at https://www.untsystem.edu/bid-inquiry. All questions must be received no later than August 14, 2017, 5:00 p.m. Local Time. All questions and answers will be posted to the website by 5:00 p.m. Local Time, August 17, 2017.

A copy of this proposal form is posted at and may be downloaded from: bsc.untsystem.edu

Check below if preference claimed under TAC, Title 34, as amended

☐ Supplies, materials, or equipment produced in Texas/offered by Texas bidders
☐ Agricultural products produced or grown in Texas
☐ Agricultural products and services offered by TX bidders
☐ USA produced supplies, materials, or equipment
☐ Products of persons with mental or physical disabilities
☐ Recycled, remanufactured, or environmentally sensitive products, including recycled steel products
☐ Energy efficient products
☐ Rubberized asphalt paving material
☐ Recycled motor oil and lubricants
☐ Products produced at facilities located on formally contaminated property
☐ Products and services from economically depressed or blighted areas
☐ Vendors that meet or exceed air quality standards

By signing this proposal, respondent certifies that if a Texas address is shown as the address of the respondent, respondent qualifies as a Texas Resident Bidder as defined in Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 34, as amended.

In accordance with the Texas Government Code, Sections 2161.181-182 and the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 34, as amended, state agencies shall make a good faith effort to utilize Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) in contracts for construction, services, including professional and consulting services and commodities contracts. The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts HUB Rules, TAC, Title 34, as amended, encourages the use of HUBs by implementing these policies through race-ethnic-and gender-neutral means.

Are you a certified HUB? (circle one) YES NO
If yes, please indicate the organization issuing your certification, and include a copy of your certificate. Please also indicate ethnicity and gender.

☐ Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts ☐ NCTRCA
☐ MBDC ☐ Other __________________________ Gender __________________________

Ethnicity __________________________ Gender __________________________

Submitted proposals must be signed and ALL attached files must be printed and returned with proposal package. Proposal package must include clearly marked original and one (1) CD/DVD or flash/thumb drive and in the proper format. The HUB Subcontracting Plan must be submitted in its own separate, sealed and marked envelope. Incomplete and/or unsigned proposals will be disqualified. Sealed proposals should be received NO LATER THAN the specified due date and time. UNTS reserves the right to accept late proposals. However, proposals received after opening deadline will not be accepted. Clearly mark the RFP number, opening date, and responding firm name and return address on the outside envelope. All proposals and HUB subcontracting plan must be submitted in a sealed master envelope.

RESPONDENT MUST FILL IN AND SIGN BELOW:

(FAILURE TO SIGN WILL DISQUALIFY PROPOSAL)
COMPANY NAME: ____________________________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________________________________
CITY, STATE, ZIP: __________________________________________
PAYEE ID#: _________________________________________________
AUTHORIZE AGENT: _________________________________________
(Print or Type Name)
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: ____________________________________
DATE: ______________________________________________________
PHONE NUMBER: _____________________________________________
FAX NUMBER: _______________________________________________
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____________________________________________

RFP752-17-204012-JLT Implementation of Filing Commercial Insurance for Student Health & Wellness Center
August 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., Local Time

RFP752-17-204012-JLT Implementation of Filing Commercial Insurance for Student Health & Wellness Center
August 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., Local Time
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NOTICE--In addition to the items listed below, the terms and conditions of this RFP are included as ATTACHMENT A.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Any proposed changes to the terms and conditions outlined in this RFP must be submitted along with your response to this RFP. Failure to provide such may prevent UNTS from agreeing to any changes to our standard terms and conditions and could affect the award of this RFP.

The laws of the State of Texas must prevail on all responses.

1.0 Scope of Work (Commodity codes 953-27, 953-48, 948-47)
In accordance with Education Code 51.9335, the University of North Texas System, subsequently referred to as UNTS, is accepting proposals and intends to enter into an agreement with a vendor that specializes in Claims Processing: Health and Hospitalization Insurance, Including Dental and Visual Insurance; and Health Care Center Services in accordance with the terms and conditions and requirements set forth in this Request for Proposal. The resulting pricing, terms and conditions shall be extended to the University of North Texas System (UNTS), the University of North Texas (UNT), the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), University of North Texas at Dallas (UNTD) and any other institutions of higher education interested in utilizing the agreement, as allowed by the Texas Education Code.

1.1 Minimum Mandatory Qualifications

1. Contractor will have provided this type of service and will have successfully implemented a commercial insurance program to another State of Texas University that is comparable in size and enrollment to UNTS.
2. Contractor will have established relationships with the largest commercial insurance carriers in the State of Texas.

2.0 Overview

The UNT System is comprised of the UNTS Administration, the University of North Texas (UNT), the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth (UNTHSC), and the University of North Texas at Dallas (UNTD).

UNTS is one of five established public systems of higher education serving the State of Texas. The purpose of UNTS is to provide centralized administration and governance to its component institutions.

The University of North Texas is the flagship institution of the UNTS. As one of the nation’s largest public universities and the most comprehensive in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, UNT is dedicated to providing an excellent educational experience to more than 37,000 students. UNT is a student-focused public research university with 12 colleges and schools offering 100 Bachelor’s, 83 Master’s and 37 Doctoral degree programs, many nationally and
internationally recognized. The campus is located in Denton, Texas and covers more than 800 acres.

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth is one of the nation’s premier graduate academic medical centers, dedicated to education, research, patient care and service. The 33-acre campus is located in Fort Worth’s Cultural District, and is comprised of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the School of Public Health, the School of Health Professions, and the UNTS College of Pharmacy.

The University of North Texas at Dallas was established as an independent university in the UNTS in 2011. Located in Dallas with a state-of-the-art campus close to downtown, an engaged faculty committed to teaching and mentoring, and degree programs to propel students as leaders in their field, UNTD is leading the way in 21st century education.

For the purposes of this RFP, unless otherwise stated, the term “UNTS” shall include UNTS, UNT, UNTHSC, and UNTD as well as any institutions that may be created or become a part of the UNTS during the term of any contract created by or issued under this Request for Proposal (RFP). Other universities may piggy back off of this agreement.

3.0 Goal
Develop insurance billing processes and fee schedules, negotiate health plan contracts and policies that are compliant with all relevant federal and state laws, standard health care plan contracts, and university policies and procedures.

Begin filing commercial insurance Fiscal Year 2018 as in-network providers with the major insurance carriers in the State of Texas, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield, United Healthcare, Aetna, and Cigna.

4.0 Request for Proposal Response Requirements
Respondents will include in their proposal submission response, the following, in pdf format:
A. A complete project plan inclusive of timelines, detailed description of services, procedures, and products which will be provided to comply with or exceed the requirements in Section 5.0.
B. A complete, detailed description of alternative services, procedures, and products available that differ from the requested services set herein, if applicable. This is to include a cost comparison of services.
C. Provide verifiable references for previous successful similar projects (refer to Section 15.0)
D. Qualifications of consultants or subcontractors that may be used on this engagement.
E. Describe the firm and its experience. Specifically describe how your firm meets or exceeds qualifications in Section 1.1.
F. Include a detailed financial proposal and a breakout of the fee (refer to Section 6.0).
G. Verification that they are not on hold with the State of Texas or have any pending legal issues.
H. A copy of a proposed contract.
Proposal should be organized and structured in a way so that responses to evaluation criteria listed in Section 9.1 are easily identifiable. Failure to address a criteria in Section 9.1 may result in your proposal for that particular criteria being evaluated negatively or non-responsive.

5.0 Service Requirements (Deliverables)
A. Awarded contractor will review all procedures in current operations to formulate implementation and establishment of a traditional medical billing office, including but not limited to:
   1. Eligibility verification
   2. Claims transmission through clearinghouse activities
   3. Statement billing
   4. Receiving electronic funds transfers
   5. Following up on collections
   6. Develop fee schedules including self-pay fees, discounted fees, and competitive market fees
   7. Design the charge capture procedures and documents
   8. Provide training to all staff
   9. Develop job descriptions for revenue cycles
   10. Develop internal billing policies
   11. Develop matrix to monitor reimbursement rates

B. Awarded contractor will provide contract review and negotiation services, including:
   1. Identification of top insurance carriers to begin discussions
   2. Identify key areas to promote payer negotiations
   3. Identify all Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes that make up the practice’s revenue
   4. Submit proposals to begin negotiations

6.0 Pricing
Respondents are to enter price proposal, including all fees, travel and other expenses, for the professional services described in Section 5.0. The fixed fee should be broken down by hours and rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Per Hour Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>$_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(per_______ hours)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Expense</td>
<td>$_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>$_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fixed Fee Amount</td>
<td>$_______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.0 Term
Commencement date shall be that of contract execution. Negotiated and/or agreed-upon rates, fees, charges, and terms/conditions will remain in force from the date of the award and henceforth for 12 months.

The initial term of this agreement shall be for one (1) year. Commencement date shall be that of contract execution.

A. Option to Renew
The University of North Texas System reserves the option to extend said contract, in one-year increments and under the same terms and conditions, for an additional four (4) years. The option to extend is by mutual consent between UNTS and vendor. If exercised, a written notification will be sent to the successful respondent. Upon mutual agreement between UNTS and vendor, a new purchase order will be issued for each subsequent optional year.

B. Escalation
If market conditions exist to warrant price increase, respondent must submit documentation (invoices, outside market data, etc.) along with a written request specifying the proposed price.

Escalation requests will only be considered at the end of the current fiscal year, and must be submitted no later than 60 days prior to the end of the current term.

Any such requests are to be sent to the Business Support Services of the University of North Texas System, 1112 Dallas Dr., Suite, 4000, Denton, TX 76205. Approval for any price increase must be obtained in writing from the Procurement Dept. of UNTS.

8.0 Service Agreement
The selected vendor will be asked to enter into a service agreement. A sample agreement is included as Appendix I. This sample does not necessarily represent the specific wording in the final agreement.

9.0 Evaluation
As provided by State statute, awards will be based on the best proposal most advantageous to UNTS. UNTS reserves the right to reject all proposals that it determines, in its sole judgement, are not in the best interest of the institution.

In evaluating proposals to determine the best value for the State, UNTS may consider information related to past contract performance of a respondent including, but not limited to, Texas Comptroller of Public Account’s Vendor Performance Tracking System.

9.1 Evaluation Criteria
The successful offer will be submitted in response to this Proposal by the submittal deadline, and is the most advantageous to UNTS in UNTS’s sole discretion. The
evaluation of offers and the selection of the successful offer will be based on the information provided to UNTS by the respondent in response to the Requirements of this Proposal. The successful respondent will be required to enter into a contract acceptable to UNTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Plan and Timelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal meets requirements outlined in Sections 4.0 and 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References from Similar Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Structure and Qualifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Considerations including Fee Structure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.2 **Vendor presentations**

UNT S may, at its sole discretion, elect to invite selected respondents to participate in presentations and/or respond to inquiries from the evaluation committee related to their proposals. Any such invitations will be extended in writing. Should the UNT System invite a vendor to provide a demonstration, the cost for doing so is considered a cost of doing business by the vendor with the UNT System incurring no financial obligation as a result.

9.3 **Best and Final Offer (BAFO)**

Before final selection, UNTS may permit respondents to revise their offers in order to obtain the respondents’ Best and Final Offers (BAFOs). A request for a BAFO is at the sole discretion of UNTS and will be extended in writing. UNTS reserves the right to award a contract without BAFO.

9.4 **Evaluation committee**

Offers will be evaluated by an evaluation committee that will include employees of UNTS and other persons invited by UNTS to participate. The evaluation of offers and the selection of the successful offer will be based on the information provided to UNTS by the respondent in response to this Proposal. The successful respondent will be required to enter into a contract acceptable to UNTS.

9.5 **Non-disclosure**

The evaluation committee and other restricted individuals will have sole access to all bidder confidential and/or proprietary information. UNTS will not disclose any information derived from the offers submitted by competing respondents. All documents are shredded at a locked, secure location upon completion of bid process and award notification.

10.0 **Selection Process**

Selection of the successful offer submitted in response to this RFP by the submittal deadline will be made using the competitive process described below.

The selection of the successful offer may be made by UNTS on the basis of the offers initially submitted, without discussion, clarification or modification. Alternately, selection of
the successful offer may be made by UNTS on the basis of negotiation with any of the respondents.

At UNTS’s sole option and discretion, it may discuss and negotiate all elements of the offers submitted. UNTS will not disclose any information derived from the offers submitted by competing respondents in conducting such discussions.

UNTS is not bound to accept the lowest-priced offer if that offer is not in its best interest, as determined by UNTS.

UNTS reserves the right to: (a) enter into agreements or other contractual arrangements for all or any portion of the Scope of Work set forth in this Proposal with one or more respondents; (b) reject any and all offers and re-solicit offers; or (c) reject any and all offers and temporarily or permanently abandon this procurement, if deemed to be in the best interest of UNTS.

11.0 Acceptance of Process
Submission of an offer by a respondent indicates: (1) the respondent’s acceptance of the selection process, the evaluation criteria for selection, and all other requirements and specifications set forth in this Proposal; and (2) the respondent’s recognition that some subjective judgments must be made by UNTS during this proposal process.

12.0 Schedule of Events
The solicitation process for this RFP will proceed according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issue RFP</td>
<td>August 9, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline to submit questions</td>
<td>August 14, 2017 5:00 p.m., Local Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers to questions posted</td>
<td>August 17, 2017 5:00 p.m., Local Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for proposal submission</td>
<td>August 23, 2017 2:00 p.m., Local Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12.1 Revisions to Schedule
UNTS reserves the right to change the dates in the schedule of events above upon written notification to prospective respondents through a posting on the UNTS website and the Texas State Bid Daily website, as an Addendum.

12.2 Questions
Questions concerning this proposal should be submitted using the electronic form, Solicitation Inquiry located at the BSC website, https://www.untsystem.edu/bid-inquiry.
All questions must be received no later than August 14, 2017 at 5:00 p.m., Local Time. Answers to all questions will be posted to the UNT BSC and the Texas ESBD websites by 5:00 pm Local Time, August 17, 2017.

UNTS may, in its sole discretion, respond in writing to questions concerning this Proposal. Only the UNTS responses made by formal written Addendum to this Proposal shall be binding and shall be posted on the UNTS website located at bsc.untsystem.edu. Oral or other written interpretations or clarifications shall be without legal effect.

13.0 Submittal Deadline and Instructions
To respond to this Proposal via mail, respondents must submit the information requested in the Specifications section of this Proposal and any other relevant information in a clear and concise written format, via hand-delivery or overnight courier (i.e. FedEx, UPS, etc), to:

Janet Thompson, Sr. Buyer
UNT Business Service Center
1112 Dallas Dr., Ste. 4000
Denton, Texas  76205

Offers must be submitted in writing and placed in a sealed envelope and clearly marked with “RFP Response” on the outside no later than August 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., Local Time. Proposals received after this date and time will not be considered, but will be returned to sender. Respondent must also include a digital file in pdf format* (either as CD/ROM or flash/thumb drive.) All required materials, the sealed envelope containing the RFP response, along with the required digital files, are to be placed in a master sealed envelope or appropriate container. The responding company’s name and return address, as well as this RFP#, must be clearly visible on the outside of the master envelope.

*Except where Excel files are specified.

No facsimiles, email, or any other electronic media submissions will be accepted, unless outlined herein.

Failure to include all requested documents and in the correct format could result in the submittal being considered a non-response.

NOTE: DO NOT
- bind or otherwise secure hard copies of submitted documents
- replace requested documents with your own literature, spreadsheets, or materials (brochures, sales literature, etc. is acceptable as long as they are separate from and do not replace any requested documents outlined in the RFP. Any such additional literature is subject to possible redaction or non-inclusion for evaluation review.)
All offers must be received at the above address no later than the due date and time listed on Page 1 of this RFP. UNTS reserves the right to accept late proposals; however, proposals received after bid opening time will not be accepted.

Proposals will be received until the date and time established for receipt, then opened. Only the names of the respondents who submitted proposals will be made public. Prices and terms will not be available until after contract award.

14.0 Communication Restriction

All communications regarding this RFP is restricted to the designated Procurement buyer listed on Page 1 and in Section 13. Any discussions, questions, clarifications, and/or any other type of communication, regardless of format, between any other UNTS personnel or agent and potential respondents may result in said respondent’s offer being disqualified from consideration. This shall remain in effect from time of bid posting until notification of award status.

15.0 References (Required)

Provide at least three (3) verifiable references with successful customer implementations within higher-education (refer to Section 4.C.). By listing references respondent agrees that UNTS may investigate these references and consider them as a basis to determine award of this RFP.

Company Name:_________________________________________________________
Person to Contact:_____________________________________________________
Street Address:_________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip:_________________________________________________________
Area Code and Telephone:_______________________________________________

Company Name:_________________________________________________________
Person to Contact:_____________________________________________________
Street Address:_________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip:_________________________________________________________
Area Code and Telephone:_______________________________________________

Company Name:_________________________________________________________
Person to Contact:_____________________________________________________
Street Address:_________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip:_________________________________________________________
Area Code and Telephone:_______________________________________________
ATTACHMENT A: Terms and Conditions

ITEMS BELOW APPLY TO AND BECOME A PART OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SOLICITATION:

1.1 Response Requirements:
   a. Respondents must comply with all the rules, regulations and statutes relating to purchasing in the State of Texas, to the rules and regulations of the University of North Texas System and the requirements of this form. The University of North Texas System (UNTS) consists of the University of North Texas, University of North Texas at Dallas, and the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.
   b. Respondents must price per unit shown. Unit prices shall govern in the event of extension errors.
   c. Responses should be submitted on this form. Responses will be time stamped on or before the hour and date specified for the response opening.
   d.Unsigned responses will not be considered under any circumstances. Person signing response must have the authority to bind the firm in a contract.
   e. Quote F.O.B destination, freight prepaid and allowed. Otherwise, specify exact delivery cost and terms.
   f. Response prices are to be firm for UNTS acceptance for 180 days from response opening date. “Discount from list” responses should be specified. Cash discount will not be considered in determining the low response. All cash discounts offered will be taken if earned.
   g. Respondents must give unit prices for each item to be purchased. Respondents may respond less than the total number of items. An “All or None” response by Respondent may be rejected at the option of UNT System.
   h. Respondents should give Payee ID Number, full firm name, and address of respondent on the face of this form. Enter in the space provided. The Payee ID Number is the taxpayer number assigned and used by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. If this number is not known, complete the following:

   Enter Federal Employer’s Identification Number __________________________

   i. Responses cannot be altered or amended after opening time. Alterations made before opening time should be initialed by respondent or his authorized agent. No response can be withdrawn after opening time without approval by UNTS based on an acceptable written reason.
   j. Purchases made for UNTS use are exempt from the State Sales tax and Federal Excise tax. Do not include tax in response. Excise Tax Exemption Certificates are available upon request.
   k. UNTS reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of any response, waive minor technicalities and award the response to best serve the interests of UNTS.
   l. Consistent and continued tie Responses could cause rejection of offers by UNTS and/or investigation for antitrust violations.
   m. Facsimile for response: UNTS will not accept responses via facsimile.
   n. Quotations and responses: Any quotation number referenced is for pricing purposes only. In addition, UNTS solicitation terms and mutually acceptable written revisions, if any, shall apply. Any terms and conditions not accepted through UNTS Business Service Center Procurement Services in writing are not binding on either party.
   o. Catalogs, brand names or manufacturer’s references are descriptive only, and indicate type and quality desired. Responses on brands of like nature and quality will be considered if response specifies such. If responding on other than referenced, response should show manufacturer, brand or trade name, and other description of product offered. If other than brand(s) specified is offered, illustrations and a complete description of product offered are requested to be made part of the response. Failure to take exception to specifications or reference data will require respondent to furnish specified brand names, numbers, etc.
   p. Unless otherwise specified, items offered shall be new and unused.
   q. In addition, all electrical items must meet all applicable state and federal standards and regulations, and bear the appropriate listing such as ANSI, FCC, NEMA, NTRL, and OSHA standards.
   r. Samples, when requested, must be furnished free of expense to UNTS. If not destroyed in examination, they will be returned to the respondent, on request, at respondent’s expense. Each sample should be marked with respondent’s name and address, and requisition number. Do not enclose in or attach offer to sample.
   s. UNTS will not be bound by any oral statement, or representation contrary to the written specifications of this Response.
   t. Manufacturer’s standard warranty shall apply unless otherwise stated in the Response.

1.2 Tie Responses: In case of tie bids, any award will be made in accordance with TAC, Title 34, as amended.

1.3 Delivery:
   a. Show number of days required to place material at UNTS designated location under normal conditions. Failure to state delivery time obligates respondent to deliver in 14 calendar days. Unrealistic delivery promises may cause offer to be disregarded.
   b. If delay is foreseen, respondent shall give written notice to UNTS. Vendor must keep UNTS advised at all times of status of order. Default in promised delivery (without accepted reasons) or failure to meet specifications authorizes UNTS to purchase supplies elsewhere and charge full increase, if any, in cost and handling to defaulting vendor.
   c. No substitutions permitted without written approval of UNTS Business Service Center Procurement Services.
   d. Delivery shall be made during normal UNTS working hours only, unless prior approval has been obtained from UNTS Business Service Center Procurement Services.
1.4 **Inspection and Tests:** All goods will be subject to inspection and test by UNTS. Authorized UNTS personnel shall have access to supplier's place of business for the purpose of inspecting merchandise. Tests shall be performed on samples submitted with the response or on samples taken from regular shipment. All costs shall be borne by the respondent in the event products tested fail to meet or exceed all conditions and requirements in this Solicitation. Goods delivered and rejected in whole or in part may, at UNTS option, be returned to the respondent or held for disposition at respondent's expense. Latent defects may result in revocation of acceptance.

1.5 **Award of Contract:** A response to this Solicitation is an offer to contract based upon the terms, conditions and specifications contained herein. Responses do not become contracts until they are accepted through a UNTS purchase order. The contract shall be governed, construed, and interpreted under the laws of the State of Texas as the same may be amended from time to time. The Education Code 51.9335 shall be considered in making an award when specified. Venue for any suit filed against the UNTS shall be subject to the mandatory venue statute set forth in § 105.151 of the Texas Education Code.

a. An award is made to the vendor submitting the lowest and/or best value response conforming to this specification. To determine the lowest and/or best value response, in addition to price, **BEST VALUE** may be considered by some of the criteria listed below:

i. The quality, availability, and adaptability of the supplies, materials, equipment, or contractual services to the particular use required;

ii. The purchase price;

iii. The reputation of the vendor and of the vendor's goods or services;

iv. The quality of the vendor's goods or services;

v. The extent to which the goods or services meet UNTS needs;

vi. The vendor's past relationship with UNTS and its component institutions;

vii. The impact on the ability of UNTS to comply with laws and rules relating to historically underutilized business;

viii. The total long-term cost to UNTS of acquiring the vendor's goods or services;

ix. And any other relevant factor that a private business entity would consider in selecting a vendor.

b. DEBTS TO THE STATE: Any party indebted to the State of Texas or any party who is more than 30 days delinquent for Child Support is not entitled to payment on this purchase order or any accompanying contract.

c. If a "best offer" vendor shows not to be in "good standing" this agency may reject the response and award to the next best response.

d. The UNTS reserves the right to award the entire contract to a single Vendor or to award different components to different Vendors, whichever UNTS, at its sole discretion, determines to be in its overall best interest, as solely determined by the responsible parties of UNTS.

e. Delivery may be a factor in this award.

1.6 **Payment Terms:** UNTS shall be billed in accordance with Chapter 2251 of the Texas Government Code and payment shall be made no later than thirty days following the latter of (i) delivery of the goods or completion of the services and (ii) delivery of an invoice to Customer; and (c) interest, if any, on past due payments shall accrue and be paid in accordance with Chapter 2251 of the Texas Government Code. Payee must be in good standing, not indebted to the State of Texas, and current on all taxes owed to the State of Texas for payment to occur. Invoices and any required supporting documents must be presented to: UNTS Business Service Center-Payment Services; 1112 Dallas Dr. Ste.4000, Denton, TX 76205 or electronically submitted to invoices@untsystem.edu.

a. Payment on any contract will be withheld if Respondent is determined to be more than 30 days delinquent for Child Support.

b. Successful respondent shall be responsible for referencing the purchase order number(s) resulting from this response on any invoice(s) packing list(s), correspondence etc. Invoicing must coincide to prices quoted either on a unit, hourly, etc. basis.

c. **DISQUALIFICATION:** Response is subject to disqualification if respondent provides revisions and/or exclusions to the terms and conditions listed in this solicitation that the UNTS is limited by law from accepting (i.e. offers with the laws of a State other than Texas), requirements for prepayment not defined in or allowed for in this Solicitation, limitations on remedies, any revision to stated terms and conditions of the Solicitation, etc.

1.7 **Patents and Copyrights:** The vendor agrees to protect UNTS from claims involving infringement of patents or copyrights.

1.8 **Vendor Assignments:** Vendor hereby assigns to UNTS any and all claims for overcharges associated with this contract arising under the antitrust laws of the United States 15 U.S.C.A. Section 1, et seq. (1973), and the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code Ann Sec. 15.01, et seq. (1967). Inquiries pertaining to Solicitations must give solicitation number, codes, and opening date.

1.9 **Respondent Affirmation:** Signing this response with a false statement is a material breach of contract and shall void the submitted response or any resulting contracts, and the respondent shall be removed from all bidder lists. By signature provided below, the respondent hereby affirms and certifies that:

a. The respondent has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with the submitted response.

b. The respondent is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise tax owed the State of Texas.

c. Neither the respondent nor the firm, corporation, partnership, or institution represented by the respondent, or anyone acting for such firm, corporation or institution has violated the antitrust laws of this State or the Federal Antitrust Laws.
nor communicated directly or indirectly the offer made to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business.

d. Under Section 2155.004 Government Code, the vendor certifies that the individual or business entity named in this bid or contract is not ineligible to receive the specified contract and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment withheld if the certification is inaccurate.

e. Under Section 231.006(d), Family Code (relating to child support), the respondent certifies that the individual or business entity named in this offer is not ineligible to receive the specified payment and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment may be withheld if this certification is inaccurate.

f. Respondent agrees that any payments due under this contract may be applied towards any debt, including but not limited to delinquent taxes and child support that is owed to the State of Texas.

g. Respondent agrees to comply with Government Code 2155.4441, pertaining to service contract use of products produced in the State of Texas.

h. Respondent understands that acceptance of funds under this contract acts as acceptance of the authority of the State Auditor’s Office, or any successor agency, to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Respondent further agrees to cooperate fully with the State Auditor’s Office or its successor in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including providing all records requested. Respondent will ensure that this clause concerning the authority to conduct audits received indirectly by subcontractors through bidder and the requirement to cooperate is included in any subcontract it awards.

i. Respondent certifies that they are in compliance with Section 669.003 of the Government Code, relating to contracting with the executive head of a State agency. If Section 669.003 applies, respondent will complete the following information in order for the response to be evaluated:

Name of former Executive: ____________________________

Name of State Agency: ____________________________

Date of separation from State agency: ____________________________

Position with respondent: ____________________________

Date of employment with respondent: ____________________________

1.10 Pursuant to Section 231.006 of the Family Code, response must include names and Social Security Numbers of each person with at least 25% ownership of the business entity submitting the response. Vendors that have pre-registered this information on the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Centralized Master Bidders List (CMBL) have satisfied this requirement. If not pre-registered, list the name and social security numbers for each person. Otherwise, this information must be provided prior to contract award.

1.11 Note to Vendors: Any terms and conditions attached to any response will not be considered unless specifically referred to on the Solicitation and may result in disqualification of the response.

a. Dispute Resolution: Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code establishes a dispute resolution process for contracts involving goods, services, and certain types of projects. If Chapter 2260 applies to this Purchase Order, then the statutory dispute resolution process must be used by the vendor to attempt to resolve all of its disputes arising under this Purchase Order.

i. Any contractual claim of respondent that the parties cannot resolve in the ordinary course of business shall be submitted to the negotiation process provided in Chapter 2260, subchapter B, of the Texas Government Code. To initiate the process, respondent shall submit written notice, as required by subchapter B, to Michael Abernethy, UNTS Senior Director of Procurement Services. Said notice shall specifically state that the provisions of Chapter 2260, of subchapter B, are being invoked. Compliance by respondent with subchapter B is a condition precedent to the filing of a contested case proceeding under Chapter 2260, subchapter C, of the Texas Government Code.

ii. The contested case process provided in Chapter 2260, subchapter C, of the Texas Government Code is respondent’s sole and exclusive process for seeking a remedy for any and all alleged contractual claims if the parties are unable to resolve their disputes under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

iii. Compliance with the contested case process provided in subchapter C is a condition precedent to seeking consent to sue from the Legislature under Ch. 107 of the Civil Practices and Remedies Code. Neither the execution of this contract by the UNTS and its component institutions nor any conduct of any representative of the UNTS and its component institutions hereafter shall be considered a waiver of sovereign immunity to suit. The submission, processing, and resolution of respondent’s claim is governed by the published Rules adopted by the Texas Office of the Attorney General pursuant to Chapter 2260, as currently effective, hereinafter enacted or subsequently amended. Neither the occurrence of an event nor the pendency of a claim constitutes grounds for the suspension of performance by respondent, in whole or in part. The designated individual responsible on behalf of the UNTS for examining any claim or counterclaim and conducting any negotiations related thereto, as required under 2260.052 of H.B. 826 of the 76th Texas Legislature shall be Michael Abernethy, UNTS Senior Director of Procurement Services.

iv. Venue and service of process for suits involving UNTS is governed by Section 105.151 of the Texas Education Code.

b. Excess Obligations Prohibited: The Texas Constitution (Article XVI, Section 10) prohibits obligators beyond the current appropriations, which UNTS applies annually. Any Purchase Order may be canceled at any time without
penalty if legislative and/or UNTS funds are not appropriated for goods or services obligated on any Purchase Order beyond the current fiscal year (September 1 through August 31 of any given year.)

c. Cancellation: Items or orders may be canceled without the consent of the vendor due to failure to fulfill their contractual obligations. If cancellation is requested by UNT System for some other reason through no fault of the vendor, the vendor will be contacted. UNTS reserves the right to cancel this contract upon 30 days written notice to the contractor. The contractor must request and secure in writing the approval of Procurement Services to be released from this contract or any portion thereof should conditions unforeseeable occur.

d. Miscellaneous: The laws of the State of Texas shall prevail including the Public Information Act. Any order is not confidential. All transactions associated with this Order may be subject to audit. Vendor by accepting this Order agrees to allow access to all records regarding this transaction upon written request by the UNTS Internal Auditors and/or UNTS Business Service Center Procurement Services.

e. RESPONSE RESULTS: It is not the policy of UNTS to furnish results over the telephone. Bid tabulations may be requested at http://bsc.untsystem.edu/content/bid-inquiry. UNTS shall release information to the extent required by the Texas Public Information Act and other applicable law. If requested, Vendor shall make public information available to UNTS in an electronic format.

f. Centralized Master Bidders List ("CBML"): The UNTS utilizes the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Centralized Master Bidders List (CMBL) for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB). The CMBL is located at: http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/. Non-HUB respondents are identified from various sources including the CBML.

1.12 Indemnification: Vendor further agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the UNTS, its Board of Regents, officers and employees, from and against any and all claims, actions, suits, demands, proceedings costs, liability, injuries, damages or allegations of such brought by an act or omission of vendor or vendor’s employees and/or subcontractors or due to vendor’s product or services. This indemnification shall include but not be limited to acts or omissions related to environmental hazards.

1.13 The parties understand and agree that any purchase order/contract may be subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the administrative regulations and/or guidance which have issued or may in the future be issued pursuant to HIPAA, including, but not limited to, the Department of Health and Human Services regulations on privacy and security, and Texas state laws pertaining to medical privacy (collectively, “Privacy Laws”). Vendor agrees to comply with all Privacy Laws that are applicable to this purchase order/contract and to negotiate in good faith to execute any amendment to this purchase order/contract that s required for the terms of this purchase order/contract to comply with applicable Privacy Laws. In the event the parties are unable to agree on the terms of an amendment pursuant to this paragraph within thirty (30) days of the date the amendment request is delivered by one party to the other, this order may be terminated by either party upon written notice to the other party.

1.14 Important Notice: Any purchase order may be funded wholly or partially with federal funds subject to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The vendor shall comply with all applicable provisions of ARRA, which may include, but are not limited to the provision of Division A, Titles XV and XVI (e.g., audit provisions, whistleblower protection, and preferences for American products).

1.15 Federal Funds: All procurements of supplies equipment, and services utilizing Federal Funds (e.g. Federal Grant or Contract) shall be made in accordance with all applicable federal rules and regulations: Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Educational Institutions (even if part of a State or local government) follow: OMB A-21 for cost principles, A-110 for administrative requirements, and A-133 for audit requirements. All procurement requirements contained in the above referenced circulars are incorporated herein by reference. By signing this solicitation document vendor certifies that vendor is in compliance with OMB A110 and that vendor is not on the Debarred Bidders List.

1.16 Suspension, Debarment, and Terrorismo: Vendor further certifies that the vendor and its principals are eligible to participate in this transaction and have not been subjected to suspension, debarment, or similar ineligibility determined by any federal, state or local governmental entity and that vendor is in compliance with the State of Texas statutes and rules relating to procurement and that vendor is not listed on the federal government’s terrorism watch list as described in executive order 13224. Entities ineligible for federal procurement are listed at http://www.epis.gov.

-END-
RFP Checklist

Use this checklist to make sure all required documents are included and signed.

Check for completion:

☐ Page 1 of RFP document filled out and signed

☐ Attachment A, Terms & Conditions, item 1.1h.: Federal Tax ID # provided

Check for required documents and materials:

☐ Original proposal documents placed in sealed envelope, clearly marked “RFP Proposal”
  ○ Description of services, procedures, products (Section 4.A.)
  ○ Alternative services, procedures, products (if applicable) (Section 4.B.)
  ○ Qualifications of consultants on engagement (Section 4.D.)
  ○ Description of firm and its experience (Section 4.E.)
  ○ Pricing (Section 6.0.)
  ○ References (Section 15.0)
  ○ Any exceptions or amendments to standard terms and conditions or service contract

☐ One digital media (CD/ROM or flash-drive) containing all required documents listed above, in pdf format (except where noted)

Place both sealed envelopes and flash-drive in one master sealed envelope or container. The sealed master envelope is to be clearly marked with the following:

  Responding company’s name
  Responding company’s address
  RFP # and name
  Due date

Submit sealed master envelope to the address listed and no later than the deadline stated on Page 1 of the RFP document.