REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FOR A CONTRACTOR

#### The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

#### School of Public Health

#### RFP No.: 744-R1601 – SPH GARDEN PROJECT

Pre-Bid Walk-Through: Friday, October 2nd, 2015 at 9AM CST

Bid Submittal Deadline: Monday, October 26th, 2015 at 2PM CST

HUB Submittal Deadline: Tuesday, October 27th, 2015 at 2PM CST

****

Prepared By:

Kimberly Carr, Buyer II

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

1851 Crosspoint, OCB 1.160

Houston, Texas 77054

Kimberly.N.Carr@uth.tmc.edu

September 24, 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1:  INTRODUCTION 1

SECTION 2:  NOTICE TO PROPOSER 2

**SECTION 3: SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL** 5

**SECTION 4: GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS** 7

**SECTION 5: SPECIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS** 8

**SECTION 6: PRICING AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE** 9

**Attachments:**

**APPENDIX ONE: PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**

**APPENDIX TWO: OWNER’S STANDARD CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT**

**APPENDIX THREE: HUB SUBCONTRACTING PLAN**

**APPENDIX FOUR: BID SPECIFICATIONS**

**APPENDIX FIVE: construction drawings**

**APPENDIX SIX: 2013 Uniform General Conditions for Construction Contracts**

**APPENDIX SEVEN: SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

##### SECTION 1

**INTRODUCTION**

* 1. **Description of University**

Founded in 1972, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H) is one of the fifteen component Universities of The University of Texas System. UTHSC-H is the most comprehensive academic health center in Texas, and is comprised of the following buildings & schools:

* Medical School (MSB) - 6431 Fannin Street
* Medical School Expansion (MSE) – 6431 Fannin Street
* Cyclotron Building (CYC) – 6431 Fannin Street
* School of Dentistry (SOD) – 7500 Cambridge Street
* School of Public Health (SPH) - 1200 Pressler Street
* School of Nursing (SON) – 6901 Bertner Avenue
* School of Biomedical Informatics (SBMI) - 7000 Fannin Street
* Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS)– 6655 Travis Street
* Biomedical & Behavioral Sciences Building (BBS) – 1941 East Road
* Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM) – 1825 Pressler Street
* Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC) - 2800 South MacGregor Drive
* Operations Center Building (OCB) -1851 Cross Point Avenue
* University Center Tower (UCT) - 7000 Fannin Street
* Professional Building (UTPB) - 6410 Fannin Street

UTHSC-H combines biomedical sciences, behavioral sciences, and the humanities to provide interdisciplinary activities essential to the definition of modern academic health science education. UTHSC-H is committed to providing health professional education and training for students, and is dedicated to providing excellence in research and patient care, which is offered through its clinics, Memorial Hermann Hospital System (its primary teaching hospital), and other affiliated institutions. UTHSC-H is a major part of the concentration of medical schools, hospitals and research facilities generally referred to as the Texas Medical Center.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston System has nearly 4,500 employees and approximately 3,600 students. As a component of the University of Texas System, UTHSC-H is subject to the “Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System for the government of The University of Texas System.”

**1.2 Background and Special Circumstances**

The School of Public Health Garden is to be a place to learn the production and utilization of fruits, vegetables and herbs in support of the educational and outreach programs of the school.  The garden has three parts, the vegetable, fruit and herb growing area, the outdoor workroom and the entryway garden.  The vegetable, fruit and herb production area is approximately 3600 sq. ft. and will have 23 planters of 13 different types.  The garden will have a large pergola, is to be surfaced with decomposed granite and pavers, have a drainage/irrigation system and a perimeter fence.  Plants to be provided by the contractor include the fruits. The outdoor workroom is approximately 250 sq. ft., will have a storage facility, produce preparation and handling area, shade covered pergola for volunteers and staff, tool washing basin and display of ergonomic tools and it will be surfaced with pavers. The entryway garden is approximately 900 sq. ft., will have two small entryway pergolas and a walkway of decomposed granite.

**1.3 General Information**

The Owner may select the Bid that offers the “best value” for the institution based on the published selection criteria and on its ranking evaluation. The Owner may first attempt to negotiate a contract with the selected offeror. The Owner may discuss with the selected offeror options for a scope or time modification and any price change associated with the modification. If the Owner is unable to reach a contract with the selected offeror, the Owner may formally end negotiations with that offeror and proceed to the next “best value” offeror in the order of the selection ranking until a contract is reached or all bids are rejected.

**1.4 Type of Contract**

Any contract resulting from this solicitation will be in the form of the Owner’s Standard Contractor Agreement, a copy of which is included in the Bidding Documents.

The work will be awarded under as a Lump-Sum contract to the Respondent offering the “best value” to the Owner.

**1.5 Objective of this Request for Proposal**

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (“**University**”) is soliciting proposals in response to this Request for Proposal for Selection of a Vendor to Provide Services related to School of Public Health Garden Project, RFP No.744-R1524 (this “**RFP**”), from qualified vendors to provide construction services (the “**Services**”). The Services are more specifically described in **Section 5.3** (Scope of Work) of this RFP.

**1.6 Group Purchase Authority**

Texas law authorizes institutions of higher education (defined by Section 61.003, Education Code) to use the group purchasing procurement method (ref. Sections 51.9335, 73.115, and 74.008, Education Code). Additional Texas institutions of higher education may therefore elect to enter into a contract with the successful Proposer under this RFP. In particular, Proposer should note that University is part of The University of Texas System ("UT System"), which is comprised of nine academic and six health universities described at <http://www.utsystem.edu/institutions>. UT System institutions routinely evaluate whether a contract resulting from a procurement conducted by one of the institutions might be suitable for use by another, and if so, this could give rise to additional purchase volumes. As a result, in submitting its proposal in response to this RFP, Proposer should consider proposing pricing and other commercial terms that take into account such higher volumes and other expanded opportunities that could result from the eventual inclusion of other institutions in the purchase contemplated by this RFP.

**SECTION 2**

**NOTICE TO PROPOSER**

**2.1 Submittal Deadline**

University will accept proposals submitted in response to this RFP until **2PM Central Prevailing Time on Monday, October 26, 2015** (the “**Submittal Deadline**”).

**2.2 University Contact Person**

Proposers will direct all questions or concerns regarding this RFP to the following University contact (“**University Contact**”):

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Procurement Services

1851 Crosspoint, OCB1.160

Houston, Texas 77054

Kimberly Carr, Buyer II

Email: Kimberly.N.Carr@uth.tmc.edu

University specifically instructs all interested parties to restrict all contact and questions regarding this RFP to written communications forwarded to University Contact. **University Contact must receive all questions or concerns no later than Friday, October 16, 2015 at 12PM CST.** University will have a reasonable amount of time to respond to questions or concerns. It is University’s intent to respond to all appropriate questions and concerns; however, University reserves the right to decline to respond to any question or concern.

2.2.1 The Owner designates the following person, as its Project Manager Representative.

Wes Stewart, Director of Project Management

2.2.2 The Owner designates the following, as the Architect representative regarding the technical Drawings and Specifications.

Joe Novak, Landscape Architect

**2.3 Criteria for Selection**

The successful Proposer, if any, selected by University in accordance with the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP will be the Proposer that submits a proposal in response to this RFP on or before the Submittal Deadline that is the most advantageous to University. The successful Proposer is referred to as the “**Contractor**.”

Proposer is encouraged to propose terms and conditions offering the maximum benefit to University in terms of (1) services to University, (2) total overall cost to University, and (3) project management expertise. Proposers should describe all educational, state and local government discounts, as well as any other applicable discounts that may be available to University in a contract for the Services.

An evaluation team from University will evaluate proposals. The evaluation of proposals and the selection of Contractor will be based on the information provided by Proposer in its proposal. University may give consideration to additional information if University deems such information relevant.

The criteria to be considered by University in evaluating proposals and selecting Contractor, will be those factors listed below:

* + 1. Threshold Criteria Not Scored
       1. Ability of University to comply with laws regarding Historically Underutilized Businesses; and

2.3.1.2 Ability of University to comply with laws regarding purchases from persons with disabilities.

* + 1. Scored Criteria
       1. **40 % - Pricing**;
       2. **50% - Qualifications**;
       3. **10% - Schedule**

**2.4 Key Events Schedule**

Issuance of RFP September 24th, 2015

Pre-Proposal Conference Friday, October 2 at 9:00am (Meet in

(ref. **Section 2.6** of this RFP) Lobby of SPH-1200 Pressler Street)

Deadline for Questions/Concerns Friday, October 16th at 12pm

(ref. **Section 2.2** of this RFP)

Submittal Deadline Monday, October 26th at 2:00pm

(ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP)

HSP Submittal Deadline Tuesday, October 27th at 2:00pm

(ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP)

**2.5 Historically Underutilized Businesses**

2.5.1 All agencies of the State of Texas are required to make a good faith effort to assist historically underutilized businesses (each a “**HUB**”) in receiving contract awards. The goal of the HUB program is to promote full and equal business opportunity for all businesses in contracting with state agencies. Pursuant to the HUB program, if under the terms of any agreement or contractual arrangement resulting from this RFP, Contractor subcontracts any of the Services, then Contractor must make a good faith effort to utilize HUBs certified by the Procurement and Support Services Division of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Proposals that fail to comply with the requirements contained in this Section 2.5 will constitute a material failure to comply with advertised specifications and will be rejected by University as non-responsive. Additionally, compliance with good faith effort guidelines is a condition precedent to awarding any agreement or contractual arrangement resulting from this RFP. Proposer acknowledges that, if selected by University, its obligation to make a good faith effort to utilize HUBs when subcontracting any of the Services will continue throughout the term of all agreements and contractual arrangements resulting from this RFP. Furthermore, any subcontracting of the Services by the Proposer is subject to review by University to ensure compliance with the HUB program.

2.5.2 University has reviewed this RFP in accordance with Title 34, *Texas Administrative Code*, Section 20.13 (a), and has determined that subcontracting opportunities are probable under this RFP.

2.5.3 A HUB Subcontracting Plan (“**HSP**”) is required as part of Proposer’s proposal. The HSP will be developed and administered in accordance with University’s Policy on Utilization of Historically Underutilized Businesses attached as **APPENDIX THREE** and incorporated for all purposes.

*Each Proposer must complete and return the HSP in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP, including* ***APPENDIX THREE****. Proposers that fail to do so will be considered non-responsive to this RFP in accordance with Section 2161.252, Government Code.*

*Questions regarding the HSP may be directed to:*

*Contact: Shaun McGowan*

*Manager, HUB & Small Business Program*

*Phone: (713) 500-4862*

*Email:* [*Shaun.A.McGowan@uth.tmc.edu*](mailto:Shaun.A.McGowan@uth.tmc.edu)

Contractor will not be permitted to change its HSP unless: (1) Contractor completes a newly modified version of the HSP in accordance with the terms of **APPENDIX THREE** that sets forth all changes requested by Contractor, (2) Contractor provides University with such a modified version of the HSP, (3) University approves the modified HSP in writing, and (4) all agreements or contractual arrangements resulting from this RFP are amended in writing by University and Contractor to conform to the modified HSP.

2.5.4 Proposer must submit two (2) originals of the HSP to University at the same time it submits its proposal to University (ref. **Section 3.2** of this RFP.) The two (2) originals of the HSP must be submitted under separate cover and in a separate envelope (the “HSP Envelope”). Proposer must ensure that the top outside surface of its HSP Envelope clearly shows and makes visible:

2.5.4.1 the RFP No. (ref. **Section 1.3** of this RFP) and the Submittal Deadline (ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP), both located in the lower left hand corner of the top surface of the envelope,

2.5.4.2 the name and the return address of the Proposer, and

2.5.4.3 the phrase “HUB Subcontracting Plan”.

Any proposal submitted in response to this RFP that is not accompanied by a separate HSP Envelope meeting the above requirements will be rejected by University and returned to the Proposer unopened as that proposal will be considered non-responsive due to material failure to comply with advertised specifications. Furthermore, University will open a Proposer’s HSP Envelope prior to opening the proposal submitted by the Proposer, in order to ensure that the Proposer has submitted the number of completed and signed originals of the Proposer’s HUB Subcontracting Plan (“HSP”) that are required by this RFP. A Proposer’s failure to submit the number of completed and signed originals of the HSP that are required by this RFP will result in University’s rejection of the proposal submitted by that Proposer as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with advertised specifications; such a proposal will be returned to the Proposer unopened (ref. **Section 1.5** of **Appendix One** to this RFP). **Note**: The requirement that Proposer provide two originals of the HSP under this **Section 2.5.4** is separate from and does not affect Proposer’s obligation to provide University with the number of copies of its proposal as specified in **Section 3.1** of this RFP.

**Please note the HSP can be reviewed by the Manager of the HUB and Small Business Program up to 24 hours before the HSP is due.  THIS IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to ensure compliance with HSP guidelines.  Failure to meet guidelines outlined in the HSP will result in disqualification of your proposal.**

**It is recommended that ALL HSPs be reviewed by the HUB manager 7 DAYS prior to the HSP due date, thus allowing for correction and compliance.**

    2.5.5    For questions regarding the HUB Subcontracting Plan – contact:

Shaun McGowan Manager, HUB & Small Business Program 1851 Crosspoint, OCB 1.160

                        Houston, Texas 77054

                        Phone: (713) 500-4862

                        Fax (713) 500-4710

                        E-mail: [Shaun.A.McGowan@uth.tmc.edu](file:///G:\Purchasing\Standard%20Forms_Contracts_Bids\Bidding\IFO's\Shaun.A.McGowan@uth.tmc.edu)

2.5.6 **HUB Subcontracting Plans will be evaluated on October 27th, 2015. An email will be sent to all Respondents indicating those plans that passed and failed. At that time, the bids with a passing HUB Subcontracting Plan will be opened.**

**2.6 Pre-Proposal Conference**

University will hold a pre-proposal conference at:

School of Public Health (SPH)- Meet in Lobby

1200 Pressler Street

Houston, TX 77030

The pre‑proposal conference will allow all Proposers an opportunity to ask University’s representatives relevant questions and clarify provisions of this RFP.

A guided tour of the areas related to this project will be included as a part of the conference agenda. This may be the only opportunity for potential respondents to view the Project site(s) before the submittal of Bids. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not required.

**2.7 Sales and Use Taxes**

Section 151.311, Tax Code, as amended effective October 1, 1993, permits the purchase free of state sales and use taxes of tangible personal property to be incorporated into realty in the performance of a contract for an improvement to realty for certain exempt entities that include The University of Texas System. The section further permits the purchase tax-free of tangible personal property (other than machinery or equipment and its accessories and repair and replacement parts) for use in the performance of such a contract if the property is "necessary and essential for the performance of the contract" and "completely consumed at the job site." In addition, the section permits the purchase tax-free of a tangible service for use in the performance of such a contract if the service is performed at the job site and if "the contract expressly requires the specific service to be provided or purchased by the person performing the contract" or "the service is integral to the performance of the contract."

2.8 Certification of Franchise Tax Status

Respondents are advised that the successful respondent will be required to submit certification of franchise tax status as required by State Law (H.B. 175, Acts 70th Leg. R.S., 1987, Ch. 283, p. 3242). The Respondent further agrees that each subcontractor and supplier under contract will also provide a certification of franchise tax status.

2.9 Required Notices of Workers’ Compensation Insurance Coverage

The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission has adopted a new rule, 28 TAC, sec. 110.110, relating to REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING OR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES. The rule applies to all building or construction contracts advertised for bid on or after September 1, 1994. The rule implements sec. 406.096, Texas Labor Code, which requires workers' compensation insurance coverage for all persons providing services on a building or construction project for a governmental entity. The requirements of the rule are set forth in Article 6 of the Uniform General Conditions.

2.10 Prevailing Minimum Wage Rate Determination

Respondents are advised that the Texas Prevailing Wage Law will be administered in accordance with the most recent Davis-Bacon minimum wage requirements for Harris County, Texas. Rates can be obtained at <http://www.gpo.gov/davisbacon>.

2.11 Delinquency in Paying Child Support

Under Section 231.006, Family Code, the vendor or applicant certifies that the individual or business entity named in this contract, bid, or application is not ineligible to receive the specified grant, loan, or payment and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment may be withheld if this certification is inaccurate.

**SECTION 3**

**SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL**

**3.1 Number of Copies**

Proposer must submit a total of seven (7) complete and identical copies of its *entire* proposal and a complete and identical copy of its *entire* proposal on CD-ROM. An *original* signature by an authorized officer of Proposer must appear on the Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**) of at least one (1) copy of the submitted proposal. The copy of the Proposer’s proposal bearing an original signature should contain the mark “original” on the front cover of the proposal.

**3.2 Submission**

Proposals must be received by University on or before the Submittal Deadline (ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP) and should be delivered to:

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Procurement Services

1851 Crosspoint, OCB 1.160

Houston, TX 77054

Attn: Kimberly Carr, Buyer II

**3.3 Proposal Validity Period**

Each proposal must state that it will remain valid for University’s acceptance for a minimum of One Hundred Twenty (120) days after the Submittal Deadline, to allow time for evaluation, selection, and any unforeseen delays.

**3.4 Owner’s Reservation of Rights**

The Owner may evaluate the Bids based on the anticipated completion of all or any portion of the Project. The Owner reserves the right to divide the Project into multiple parts, to reject any and all Bids and re-solicit for new Bids, or to reject any and all Bids and temporarily or permanently abandon the Project. **Owner reserves the right to award any, all, or none of the Project**. Owner makes no representations, written or oral, that it will enter into any form of agreement with any respondent to this RFP for any project and no such representation is intended or should be construed by the issuance of this RFP.

**3.5 Terms and Conditions**

3.5.1 Proposer must comply with the requirements and specifications contained in this RFP, including the Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**), the Notice to Proposer (ref. **Section 2** of this RFP), Proposal Requirements (ref. **APPENDIX ONE**) and the Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP). If there is a conflict among the provisions in this RFP, the provision requiring Proposer to supply the better quality or greater quantity of services will prevail, or if such conflict does not involve quality or quantity, then interpretation will be in the following order of precedence:

3.5.1.1. Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP);

3.5.1.2. Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**);

3.5.1.3. Proposal Requirements (ref. **APPENDIX ONE**);

3.5.1.4. Notice to Proposers (ref. **Section 2** of this RFP).

**3.6 Submittal Checklist**

Proposer is instructed to complete, sign, and return the following documents as a part of its proposal. If Proposer fails to return each of the following items with its proposal, then University may reject the proposal:

3.6.1 Signed and Completed Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**)

3.6.2 Signed and Completed Pricing and Delivery Schedule (ref. **Section 6** of this RFP)

3.6.3 Responses to Proposer's General Questionnaire (ref. **Section 3** of **APPENDIX ONE**)

3.6.4 Signed and Completed Addenda Checklist (ref. Section 4 of **APPENDIX ONE**)

3.6.5 Responses to questions and requests for information in the Specifications and Additional Questions Section (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP)

3.6.6 Signed and completed originals of the HUB Subcontracting Plan or other applicable documents (ref. **Section 2.5** of this RFP and **APPENDIX THREE**).

3.6.7 Signed and completed W-9 Form.

3.6.8 Copy of Proposer’s insurance certificate in accordance with limits stated in the attached Sample Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**).

**SECTION 4**

**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The terms and conditions contained in the attached Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**) or, in the sole discretion of University, terms and conditions substantially similar to those contained in the Agreement, will constitute and govern any agreement that results from this RFP. If Proposer takes exception to any terms or conditions set forth in the Agreement, Proposer will submit a list of the exceptions as part of its proposal in accordance with **Section 5.5.1** of this RFP. Proposer’s exceptions will be reviewed by University and may result in disqualification of Proposer’s proposal as non-responsive to this RFP. If Proposer’s exceptions do not result in disqualification of Proposer’s proposal, then University may consider Proposer’s exceptions when University evaluates the Proposer’s proposal.

**SECTION 5**

**SPECIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

**5.1 General**

The minimum requirements and the specifications for the Services, as well as certain requests for information to be provided by Proposer as part of its proposal, are set forth below. As indicated in **Section 2.3** of this RFP, the successful Proposer is referred to as the “**Contractor**.”

**5.2** Each Proposal must include information that clearly indicates that Proposer meets each of the following minimum qualification requirements:

* + 1. **You must include with your bid a letter of intent from a surety company indicating your firm’s ability to obtain payment and performance bonds for the entire construction cost of the project.** If you do not include this letter, your bid will be considered incomplete and will be rejected. The surety shall acknowledge that the firm may be bonded for each stage/phase of the project, with a potential maximum of the entire construction cost. Bonding requirements are set forth in Article 5 of the Uniform General and Supplementary Conditions, see Appendix Nine.
    2. In order to bid this project, your company or one of your subcontractors must have had prior experience with projects of similar size and scope to the specifications outlined for this project.

**5.3 Project Description and Scope of Work**

5.3.1 **Introduction to Novak and the design concept:**

UTHealth has contracted with a local horticulturalist, Joe Novak. Mr. Novak was on the faculty of the Horticulture Dept. at Texas A&M for many years and has retired and moved to Houston. His specialties at Texas A&M included garden science, vegetable crops, horticultural therapy and socio-horticulture. During his retirement in Houston, he mentors community gardens and some special agriculture programs while also designing holistic gardens (some of which been constructed with the help of volunteers). He has designed and constructed holistic gardens for two of the YMCAs in Houston (Shannon’s Garden at the Trotter Family Y and the Grainger Garden at the McWilliams Y) and is designing special gardens for use on the campus of Rice University and for the future Houston Center for Community Horticulture. Mr. Novak is also an adjunct professor at Rice University and teaches a course in community agriculture.

A holistic garden is a garden in which anyone can participate, regardless of physical ability or disability. Some of the features in this holistic garden at UTSPH have been designed for people who have special needs, so that the garden will be accessible throughout. Most of the area of this garden is for the production of food crops, namely vegetables, fruits and herbs. The various types of planters in the garden are to illustrate growing food crops in many different types of spaces.

The design of this garden is very functional, and while there could be many ways to design this garden to be more aesthetic, it is important that people of all levels of income be able to relate to having garden features constructed in their own living space. For example, use of manufactured stone could be used to create a more aesthetic look, but it was important to make the garden functional for people with disabilities as well as those who are able bodied. That being the case, Mr. Novak chose to use wood for most of the planters. Beds made of stone would be much wider and this would reduce the ability of people who have limited range of motion to work plants in this type of bed. This is especially true of people who are wheel chair users.

Mr. Novak’s role in the development of the UTSPH holistic garden is to assist the contractor in creating the special types of planters and to ensure all of the ADA guidelines are met, since it is important that this garden work for people with as many special needs as possible. Mr. Novak will be available to assist contractors if your staff does not know the basic ADA guidelines for outdoor spaces. He will be visiting the site once or twice a week or more often, if needed, to assist explaining construction techniques for the various types of planters, or other questions the awarded contractor may have on design, ADA, etc.

5.3.2 **Contractor will provide the following services to University:**

Please see attached Bid Specifications document for this information.

**\*\*NOTE: Awarded Contractor is responsible for field verification of the measurements outlined in the drawings\*\***

**5.4 Drawings and Specifications**

5.4.1 DEFINITION: Bidding Documents include the Bidding Requirements and the proposed Contract Documents. The Bidding Requirements consist of the Advertisement, the RFP, the Bid Form, and other sample bidding and contract forms. The proposed Contract Documents consist of the Form of Agreement between the Owner and Contractor, Performance and Payment Bonds, Uniform General and Supplementary Conditions for Building Construction Contracts, Special Conditions, Prevailing Wage Rate Determination, HUB Utilization Policy (Exhibit ‘H’), other forms and documents identified in the Agreement, Drawings, Specifications, and all Addenda issued prior to receipt of Bids, and Change Orders issued after execution of the Contract.

5.4.2 Distribution: Drawings for this project for Prime Bidding Contractors may be obtained by visiting the Procurement Services website listed under RFP 744-R1601-SPH GARDEN PROJECT.

<http://www.uthouston.edu/buy/bid-list.htm>

**5.5 Additional Questions Specific to this RFP**

Proposer must submit the following information as part of Proposer’s proposal:

5.5.1 If Proposer takes exception to any terms or conditions set forth in the Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**), Proposer must submit a list of the exceptions.

5.5.2 Proposer will describe three examples of food gardens, holistic gardens and projects similar or larger in scope your company recently completed and the name of an owner’s representative that can be used as a reference.  Include a telephone number and email address.

5.5.3 Proposer will provide a statement of the Proposer’s service approach and will describe any unique benefits to University from doing business with Proposer. Proposer will briefly describe its approach for each of the required services identified above.

5.5.4 Proposer will submit a work plan with key dates and milestones. The work plan should include:

1. Identification of tasks to be performed;
2. Time frames to perform the identified tasks;
3. Project management methodology;
4. Implementation strategy; and
5. The expected time frame in which the services would be implemented.

5.5.5Proposer will describe the types of reports or other written documents. Proposer will provide (if any) and the frequency of reporting, if more frequent than required in the RFP. Proposer will include samples of reports and documents if appropriate.

5.5.6 Proposer will provide summary resumes for its proposed key personnel who will be providing services under the Agreement with University, including their specific experiences with similar service projects, and number of years of employment with Proposer.

5.5.7 Proposer will describe any difficulties it anticipates in performing its duties under the Agreement with University and how Proposer plans to manage these difficulties. Proposer will describe the assistance it will require from University.

5.5.8 Proposer will describe its service support philosophy, how it is implemented, and how Proposer measures its success in maintaining this philosophy.

5.5.9 Proposer will describe its quality assurance program, its quality requirements, and how they are measured.

5.5.10 Proposer will provide a list of any additional services or benefits not otherwise identified in this RFP that Proposer would propose to provide to University. Additional services or benefits must be directly related to the goods and services solicited under this RFP.

5.5.11 Proposer will provide details describing any unique or special services or benefits offered or advantages to be gained by University from doing business with Proposer. Additional services or benefits must be directly related to the goods and services solicited under this RFP.

5.5.12 The tasks listed below are essential to this project.  Which of these tasks have you done?

1. Constructed with cedar or cypress wood?
2. Graded a site of 3600 sq. ft. or more?
3. Constructed pergolas and small buildings?
4. Constructed fence with livestock panel?
5. Installed irrigation and drainage to code in Houston/Harris County?
6. Installed surfaces of decomposed granite and pavers?
7. Installed retaining walls?

**SECTION 6**

**PRICING AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE**

**Proposal of:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Proposer Company Name)

**To:** The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

**RFP No.:**  744-R1601 – SPH Garden Project

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Having carefully examined all the specifications and requirements of this RFP and any attachments thereto, the undersigned proposes to furnish the construction services required pursuant to the above-referenced Request for Proposal upon the terms quoted below.

**6.1 Total Base Price**

Price: $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Dollars

Note: Amounts shall be shown in both written and figure form. In the event of a discrepancy between the written amount and the figure amount, the written amount shall govern.

6.1.1 Breakdown of Base Price:

Site preparation, including layer of topsoil, for the food garden area, that is,the site within the fence, approx. 60 ft. x 60 ft.

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Item 1: Main entryway pergola with associated walkway w/steps into garden and modification to guard rail

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Item 2: Accessible entryway pergola with associated walkway into garden and modification to guard rail

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Item 27:  Butterfly garden area exclusive of 2 and 3 above.

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Item 3: Fence $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Items 4,5,6: Canopy Pergola, Produce Handling Area and Tool Washing Basin

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Item 7: Garden Storage $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pavers $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Items 13, 14, 15 and 16: Vegetable Beds

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Items 11, 12 and 17: Fruit Beds and Espalier Planter

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Items 19. 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24: Specialty Planters

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Items 8: Tool Display Cases  $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Item 10: Wall Planter $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Map Item 9: Garden Pergola and Meeting Area

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Water Lines $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Underground Drainage $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Soil mixes / bed mixes to fill all planters and beds for all crops, fruits and vegetables

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Materials Cost $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Labor Cost $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total General Conditions $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Overhead $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Profit $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Amounts shall be shown in both written and figure form. In the event of a discrepancy between the written amount and the figure amount, the written amount shall govern.

**6.3 Delivery Schedule**

**Indicate total time for completion of entire project.**

Calendar Days to Complete \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Time is of the essence in the performance of Contractor’s duties. Failure of the Contractor to notify UTHSC-H sufficiently in advance of inability to complete within the delivery schedule, shall grant UTHSC-H the option of imposing liquidated damages in the amount of fifteen hundred dollars ($1,500.00) per calendar day. Notwithstanding the foregoing, UTHSC-H shall have no obligation to accept late performance or waive timely performance by Contractor.

**6.4 University’s Payment Terms**

University’s standard payment terms for services are “Net 30 days.” Proposer agrees that University will be entitled to withhold \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ percent (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%) of the total payment due under the Agreement until after University’s acceptance of the final work product. Indicate below the prompt payment discount that Proposer will provide to University:

Prompt Payment Discount: \_\_\_\_\_%\_\_\_\_\_days/net 30 days.

Respectfully submitted,

**Proposer:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

(Authorized Signature for Proposer)

**Name:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX ONE

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1:  GENERAL INFORMATION 12

SECTION 2:  EXECUTION OF OFFER 18

**SECTION 3: PROPOSER'S GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE** 22

**SECTION 4: ADDENDA CHECKLIST** 27

**SECTION 1**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**1.1 Purpose**

University is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Proposers having suitable qualifications and experience providing services in accordance with the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in this RFP. This RFP provides sufficient information for interested parties to prepare and submit proposals for consideration by University.

By submitting a proposal, Proposer certifies that it understands this RFP and has full knowledge of the scope, nature, quality, and quantity of the services to be performed, the detailed requirements of the services to be provided, and the conditions under which such services are to be performed. Proposer also certifies that it understands that all costs relating to preparing a response to this RFP will be the sole responsibility of the Proposer.

PROPOSER IS CAUTIONED TO READ THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS RFP CAREFULLY AND TO SUBMIT A COMPLETE RESPONSE TO ALL REQUIREMENTS AND QUESTIONS AS DIRECTED.

**1.2 Inquiries and Interpretations**

University may in its sole discretion respond in writing to written inquiries concerning this RFP and mail its response as an Addendum to all parties recorded by University as having received a copy of this RFP. Only University’s responses that are made by formal written Addenda will be binding on University. Any verbal responses, written interpretations or clarifications other than Addenda to this RFP will be without legal effect. All Addenda issued by University prior to the Submittal Deadline will be and are hereby incorporated as a part of this RFP for all purposes.

Proposers are required to acknowledge receipt of each Addendum as specified in this Section. The Proposer must acknowledge all Addenda by completing, signing and returning the Addenda Checklist (ref. **Section 4** of **APPENDIX ONE**). The Addenda Checklist must be received by University prior to the Submittal Deadline and should accompany the Proposer’s proposal.

Any interested party that receives this RFP by means other than directly from University is responsible for notifying University that it has received an RFP package, and should provide its name, address, telephone number and FAX number to University, so that if University issues Addenda to this RFP or provides written answers to questions, that information can be provided to such party.

**1.3 Public Information**

Proposer is hereby notified that University strictly adheres to all statutes, court decisions and the opinions of the Texas Attorney General with respect to disclosure of public information.

University may seek to protect from disclosure all information submitted in response to this RFP until such time as a final agreement is executed.

Upon execution of a final agreement, University will consider all information, documentation, and other materials requested to be submitted in response to this RFP, to be of a non-confidential and non-proprietary nature and, therefore, subject to public disclosure under the *Texas Public Information Act* (*Government Code*, Chapter 552.001, et seq.). Proposer will be advised of a request for public information that implicates their materials and will have the opportunity to raise any objections to disclosure to the Texas Attorney General. Certain information may be protected from release under Sections 552.101, 552.110, 552.113, and 552.131, *Government Code*.

**1.4 Type of Agreement**

Contractor, if any, will be required to enter into a contract with University in a form substantially similar to the Agreement between University and Contractor (the “**Agreement**”) attached to this RFP as **APPENDIX TWO** and incorporated for all purposes.

**1.5 Proposal Evaluation Process**

University will select Contractor by using the competitive sealed proposal process described in this Section. University will open the HSP Envelope submitted by a Proposer prior to opening the Proposer’s proposal in order to ensure that the Proposer has submitted the number of completed and signed originals of the Proposer’s HUB Subcontracting Plan (also called the HSP) that are required by this RFP (ref. **Section 2.5.4** of the RFP.) All proposals submitted by the Submittal Deadline accompanied by the number of completed and signed originals of the HSP that are required by this RFP will be opened publicly to identify the name of each Proposer submitting a proposal. Any proposals that are not submitted by the Submittal Date or that are not accompanied by the number of completed and signed originals of the HSP that are required by this RFP will be rejected by University as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with advertised specifications. After the opening of the proposals and upon completion of the initial review and evaluation of the proposals, University may invite one or more selected Proposers to participate in oral presentations. University will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid public disclosure of the contents of a proposal prior to selection of Contractor.

University may make the selection of Contractor on the basis of the proposals initially submitted, without discussion, clarification or modification. In the alternative, University may make the selection of Contractor on the basis of negotiation with any of the Proposers. In conducting such negotiations, University will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid disclosing the contents of competing proposals.

At University's sole option and discretion, University may discuss and negotiate all elements of the proposals submitted by selected Proposers within a specified competitive range. For purposes of negotiation, University may establish, after an initial review of the proposals, a competitive range of acceptable or potentially acceptable proposals composed of the highest rated proposal(s). In that event, University will defer further action on proposals not included within the competitive range pending the selection of Contractor; provided, however, University reserves the right to include additional proposals in the competitive range if deemed to be in the best interests of University.

After submission of a proposal but before final selection of Contractor is made, University may permit a Proposer to revise its proposal in order to obtain the Proposer's best and final offer. In that event, representations made by Proposer in its revised proposal, including price and fee quotes, will be binding on Proposer. University will provide each Proposer within the competitive range with an equal opportunity for discussion and revision of its proposal. University is not obligated to select the Proposer offering the most attractive economic terms if that Proposer is not the most advantageous to University overall, as determined by University.

University reserves the right to (a) enter into an agreement for all or any portion of the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP with one or more Proposers, (b) reject any and all proposals and re-solicit proposals, or (c) reject any and all proposals and temporarily or permanently abandon this selection process, if deemed to be in the best interests of University. Proposer is hereby notified that University will maintain in its files concerning this RFP a written record of the basis upon which a selection, if any, is made by University.

**1.6 Proposer's Acceptance of Evaluation Methodology**

By submitting a proposal, Proposer acknowledges (1) Proposer's acceptance of [a] the Proposal Evaluation Process (ref. **Section 1.5** of **APPENDIX ONE**), [b] the Criteria for Selection (ref. **2.3** of this RFP), [c] the Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP), [d] the terms and conditions of the Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**), and [e] all other requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP; and (2) Proposer's recognition that some subjective judgments must be made by University during this RFP process.

**1.7 Solicitation for Proposal and Proposal Preparation Costs**

Proposer understands and agrees that (1) this RFP is a solicitation for proposals and University has made no representation written or oral that one or more agreements with University will be awarded under this RFP; (2) University issues this RFP predicated on University’s anticipated requirements for the Services, and University has made no representation, written or oral, that any particular scope of services will actually be required by University; and (3) Proposer will bear, as its sole risk and responsibility, any cost that arises from Proposer’s preparation of a proposal in response to this RFP.

**1.8 Proposal Requirements and General Instructions**

1.8.1 Proposer should carefully read the information contained herein and submit a complete proposal in response to all requirements and questions as directed.

1.8.2 Proposals and any other information submitted by Proposer in response to this RFP will become the property of University.

1.8.3 University will not provide compensation to Proposer for any expenses incurred by the Proposer for proposal preparation or for demonstrations or oral presentations that may be made by Proposer. Proposer submits its proposal at its own risk and expense.

1.8.4 Proposals that (i) are qualified with conditional clauses; (ii) alter, modify, or revise this RFP in any way; or (iii) contain irregularities of any kind, are subject to disqualification by University, at University’s sole discretion.

1.8.5 Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of Proposer's ability to meet the requirements and specifications of this RFP. Emphasis should be on completeness, clarity of content, and responsiveness to the requirements and specifications of this RFP.

1.8.6 University makes no warranty or guarantee that an award will be made as a result of this RFP. University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities, procedural requirements, or minor technical inconsistencies, and delete any requirement or specification from this RFP or the Agreement when deemed to be in University's best interest. University reserves the right to seek clarification from any Proposer concerning any item contained in its proposal prior to final selection. Such clarification may be provided by telephone conference or personal meeting with or writing to University, at University’s sole discretion. Representations made by Proposer within its proposal will be binding on Proposer.

1.8.7 Any proposal that fails to comply with the requirements contained in this RFP may be rejected by University, in University’s sole discretion.

**1.9 Preparation and Submittal Instructions**

1.9.1 Specifications and Additional Questions

Proposals must include responses to the questions in Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** ofthis RFP). Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N/A (Not Applicable) or N/R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer should explain the reason when responding N/A or N/R.

1.9.2 Execution of Offer

Proposer must complete, sign and return the attached Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**) as part of its proposal. The Execution of Offer must be signed by a representative of Proposer duly authorized to bind the Proposer to its proposal. Any proposal received without a completed and signed Execution of Offer may be rejected by University, in its sole discretion.

1.9.3 Pricing and Delivery Schedule

Proposer must complete and return the Pricing and Delivery Schedule (ref. **Section 6** ofthis RFP), as part of its proposal. In the Pricing and Delivery Schedule, the Proposer should describe in detail (a) the total fees for the entire scope of the Services; and (b) the method by which the fees are calculated. The fees must be inclusive of all associated costs for delivery, labor, insurance, taxes, overhead, and profit.

University will not recognize or accept any charges or fees to perform the Services that are not specifically stated in the Pricing and Delivery Schedule.

In the Pricing and Delivery Schedule, Proposer should describe each significant phase in the process of providing the Services to University, and the time period within which Proposer proposes to be able to complete each such phase.

1.9.4 Proposer’s General Questionnaire

Proposals must include responses to the questions in Proposer’s General Questionnaire (ref. **Section 3** of **APPENDIX ONE).** Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N/A (Not Applicable) or N/R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer should explain the reason when responding N/A or N/R.

1.9.5 Addenda Checklist

Proposer should acknowledge all Addenda to this RFP (if any) by completing, signing and returning the Addenda Checklist (ref. **Section 4** of **APPENDIX ONE**) as part of its proposal. Any proposal received without a completed and signed Addenda Checklist may be rejected by University, in its sole discretion.

1.9.6 Submission

Proposer should submit all proposal materials enclosed in a sealed envelope, box, or container. The RFP No. (ref. **Section 1.3** of this RFP) and the Submittal Deadline (ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP) should be clearly shown in the lower left‑hand corner on the top surface of the container. In addition, the name and the return address of the Proposer should be clearly visible.

Proposer must also submit the number of originals of the HUB Subcontracting Plan (also called the HSP) as required by this RFP (ref. **Section 2.5** of the RFP.)

Upon Proposer’s request and at Proposer’s expense, University will return to a Proposer its proposal received after the Submittal Deadline if the proposal is properly identified. University will not under any circumstances consider a proposal that is received after the Submittal Deadline or which is not accompanied by the number of completed and signed originals of the HSP that are required by this RFP.

University will not accept proposals submitted by telephone, proposals submitted by Facsimile (“**FAX**”) transmission, or proposals submitted by electronic transmission (i.e., e-mail) in response to this RFP.

Except as otherwise provided in this RFP, no proposal may be changed, amended, or modified after it has been submitted to University. However, a proposal may be withdrawn and resubmitted at any time prior to the Submittal Deadline. No proposal may be withdrawn after the Submittal Deadline without University’s consent, which will be based on Proposer's submittal of a written explanation and documentation evidencing a reason acceptable to University, in University’s sole discretion.

By signing the Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**) and submitting a proposal, Proposer certifies that any terms, conditions, or documents attached to or referenced in its proposal are applicable to this procurement only to the extent that they (a) do not conflict with the laws of the State of Texas or this RFP and (b) do not place any requirements on University that are not set forth in this RFP or in the Appendices to this RFP. Proposer further certifies that the submission of a proposal is Proposer's good faith intent to enter into the Agreement with University as specified herein and that such intent is not contingent upon University's acceptance or execution of any terms, conditions, or other documents attached to or referenced in Proposer’s proposal.

1.9.7 Page Size, Binders, and Dividers

Proposals must be typed on letter-size (8-1/2” x 11”) paper, and must be submitted in a binder or must be spiral bound. Preprinted material should be referenced in the proposal and included as labeled attachments. Sections within a proposal should be divided by tabs for ease of reference.

1.9.8 Table of Contents

Proposals must include a Table of Contents with page number references. The Table of Contents must contain sufficient detail and be organized according to the same format as presented in this RFP, to allow easy reference to the sections of the proposal as well as to any separate attachments (which should be identified in the main Table of Contents). If a Proposer includes supplemental information or non-required attachments with its proposal, this material should be clearly identified in the Table of Contents and organized as a separate section of the proposal.

1.9.9 Pagination

All pages of the proposal should be numbered sequentially in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.). Attachments should be numbered or referenced separately.

**SECTION 2**

**Execution of Offer**

**THIS EXECUTION OF OFFER MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND RETURNED WITH PROPOSER'S PROPOSAL. FAILURE TO COMPLETE, SIGN AND RETURN THIS EXECUTION OF OFFER WITH THE PROPOSER’S PROPOSAL MAY RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF THE PROPOSAL.**

**2.1** By signature hereon, Proposer represents and warrants the following:

2.1.1 Proposer acknowledges and agrees that (1) this RFP is a solicitation for a proposal and is not a contract or an offer to contract; (2) the submission of a proposal by Proposer in response to this RFP will not create a contract between University and Proposer; (3) University has made no representation or warranty, written or oral, that one or more contracts with University will be awarded under this RFP; and (4) Proposer will bear, as its sole risk and responsibility, any cost arising from Proposer’s preparation of a response to this RFP.

2.1.2 Proposer is a reputable company that is lawfully and regularly engaged in providing the Services.

2.1.3 Proposer has the necessary experience, knowledge, abilities, skills, and resources to perform the Services.

2.1.4 Proposer is aware of, is fully informed about, and is in full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances.

2.1.5 Proposer understands (i) the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP and (ii) the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement under which Proposer will be required to operate.

2.1.6 If selected by University, Proposer will not delegate any of its duties or responsibilities under this RFP or the Agreement to any sub-contractor, except as expressly provided in the Agreement.

2.1.7 If selected by University, Proposer will maintain any insurance coverage as required by the Agreement during the term thereof.

2.1.8 All statements, information and representations prepared and submitted in response to this RFP are current, complete, true and accurate. Proposer acknowledges that University will rely on such statements, information and representations in selecting Contractor. If selected by University, Proposer will notify University immediately of any material change in any matters with regard to which Proposer has made a statement or representation or provided information.

2.1.9 Proposer will defend with counsel approved by University, indemnify, and hold harmless University, The University of Texas System, the State of Texas, and all of their regents, officers, agents and employees, from and against all actions, suits, demands, costs, damages, liabilities and other claims of any nature, kind or description, including reasonable attorneys’ fees incurred in investigating, defending or settling any of the foregoing, arising out of, connected with, or resulting from any negligent acts or omissions or willful misconduct of Proposer or any agent, employee, subcontractor, or supplier of Proposer in the execution or performance of any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP.

2.1.10 Pursuant to Sections 2107.008 and 2252.903, *Government Code*, any payments owing to Proposer under any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP may be applied directly to any debt or delinquency that Proposer owes the State of Texas or any agency of the State of Texas regardless of when it arises, until such debt or delinquency is paid in full.

**2.2** By signature hereon, Proposer offers and agrees to furnish the Services to University and comply with all terms, conditions, requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP.

**2.3** By signature hereon, Proposer affirms that it has not given or offered to give, nor does Proposer intend 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 its submitted proposal. Failure to sign this Execution of Offer, or signing with a false statement, may void the submitted proposal or any resulting contracts, and the Proposer may be removed from all proposal lists at University.

**2.4** By signature hereon, Proposer certifies that it is not currently delinquent in the payment of any taxes due under Chapter 171, *Tax Code*, or that Proposer is exempt from the payment of those taxes, or that Proposer is an out-of-state taxable entity that is not subject to those taxes, whichever is applicable. A false certification will be deemed a material breach of any resulting contract or agreement and, at University's option, may result in termination of any resulting contract or agreement.

**2.5** By signature hereon, Proposer hereby certifies that neither Proposer nor any firm, corporation, partnership or institution represented by Proposer, or anyone acting for such firm, corporation or institution, has violated the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, codified in Section 15.01, et seq., *Business and Commerce Code*, or the Federal antitrust laws, nor communicated directly or indirectly the proposal made to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business.

**2.6** By signature hereon, Proposer certifies that the individual signing this document and the documents made a part of this RFP, is authorized to sign such documents on behalf of Proposer and to bind Proposer under any agreements and other contractual arrangements that may result from the submission of Proposer’s proposal.

**2.7** By signature hereon, Proposer certifies as follows:

"Under Section 231.006, *Family Code,* relating to child support, Proposer certifies that the individual or business entity named in the Proposer’s proposal is not ineligible to receive the specified contract award and acknowledges that any agreements or other contractual arrangements resulting from this RFP may be terminated if this certification is inaccurate."

**2.8** By signature hereon, Proposer certifies that (i) no relationship, whether by blood, marriage, business association, capital funding agreement or by any other such kinship or connection exists between the owner of any Proposer that is a sole proprietorship, the officers or directors of any Proposer that is a corporation, the partners of any Proposer that is a partnership, the joint venturers of any Proposer that is a joint venture or the members or managers of any Proposer that is a limited liability company, on one hand, and an employee of any component of The University of Texas System, on the other hand, other than the relationships which have been previously disclosed to University in writing; (ii) Proposer has not been an employee of any component institution of The University of Texas System within the immediate twelve (12) months prior to the Submittal Deadline; and (iii) no person who, in the past four (4) years served as an executive of a state agency was involved with or has any interest in Proposer’s proposal or any contract resulting from this RFP (ref. Section 669.003, *Government Code*). All disclosures by Proposer in connection with this certification will be subject to administrative review and approval before University enters into a contract or agreement with Proposer.

**2.9** By signature hereon, Proposer certifies its compliance with all federal laws and regulations pertaining to Equal Employment Opportunities and Affirmative Action.

**2.10** By signature hereon, Proposer represents and warrants that all products and services offered to University in response to this RFP meet or exceed the safety standards established and promulgated under the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Law (Public Law 91-596) and the *Texas Hazard Communication Act*, Chapter 502, *Health and Safety Code*, and all related regulations in effect or proposed as of the date of this RFP.

**2.11** Proposer will and has disclosed, as part of its proposal, any exceptions to the certifications stated in this Execution of Offer. All such disclosures will be subject to administrative review and approval prior to the time University makes an award or enters into any contract or agreement with Proposer.

**2.12** If Proposer will sell or lease computer equipment to the University under any agreements or other contractual arrangements that may result from the submission of Proposer’s proposal then, pursuant to Section 361.965(c), *Health & Safety Code*, Proposer certifies that it is in compliance with the Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act set forth in Chapter 361, Subchapter Y, *Health & Safety Code* and the rules adopted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under that Act as set forth in Title 30, Chapter 328, Subchapter I, *Texas Administrative Code*. Section 361.952(2), *Health & Safety Code,* states that, for purposes of the Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act*,* the term“computer equipment” means a desktop or notebook computer and includes a computer monitor or other display device that does not contain a tuner.

**2.13 Proposer should complete the following information:**

If Proposer is a Corporation, then State of Incorporation:

If Proposer is a Corporation then Proposer’s Corporate Charter Number:  \_\_\_\_\_\_

RFP No.: 744-R1424

**NOTICE: With few exceptions, individuals are entitled on request to be informed about the information that governmental bodies of the State of Texas collect about such individuals. Under Sections 552.021 and 552.023, *Government Code*, individuals are entitled to receive and review such information. Under Section 559.004, *Government Code*, individuals are entitled to have governmental bodies of the State of Texas correct information about such individuals that is incorrect.**

**Submitted and Certified By:**

(Proposer Institution’s Name)

(Signature of Duly Authorized Representative)

(Printed Name/Title)

(Date Signed)

(Proposer’s Street Address)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(Telephone Number)

(FAX Number)

(Email Address)

**SECTION 3**

**PROPOSER’S GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

**NOTICE: With few exceptions, individuals are entitled on request to be informed about the information that governmental bodies of the State of Texas collect about such individuals. Under Sections 552.021 and 552.023, *Government Code*, individuals are entitled to receive and review such information. Under Section 559.004, *Government Code*, individuals are entitled to have governmental bodies of the State of Texas correct information about such individuals that is incorrect.**

Proposals must include responses to the questions contained in this Proposer’s General Questionnaire. Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N/A (Not Applicable) or N/R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer will explain the reason when responding N/A or N/R.

**3.1 Proposer Profile**

3.1.1 Legal name of Proposer company:

Address of principal place of business:

Address of office that would be providing service under the Agreement:

Number of years in Business:

State of incorporation:

Number of Employees:

Annual Revenues Volume:

Name of Parent Corporation, if any   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:  If Proposer is a subsidiary, University prefers to enter into a contract or agreement with the Parent Corporation or to receive assurances of performance from the Parent Corporation.**

3.1.2 State whether Proposer will provide a copy of its financial statements for the past two (2) years, if requested by University.

3.1.3 Proposer will provide a financial rating of the Proposer entity and any related documentation (such as a Dunn and Bradstreet analysis) that indicates the financial stability of Proposer.

3.1.4 Is Proposer currently for sale or involved in any transaction to expand or to become acquired by another business entity? If yes, Proposer will explain the expected impact, both in organizational and directional terms.

3.1.5 Proposer will provide any details of all past or pending litigation or claims filed against Proposer that would affect its performance under the Agreement with University (if any).

3.1.6 Is Proposer currently in default on any loan agreement or financing agreement with any bank, financial institution, or other entity? If yes, Proposer will specify the pertinent date(s), details, circumstances, and describe the current prospects for resolution.

3.1.7 Proposer will provide a customer reference list of no less than three (3) organizations with which Proposer currently has contracts and/or to which Proposer has previously provided services (within the past five (5) years) of a type and scope similar to those required by University’s RFP. Proposer will include in its customer reference list the customer’s company name, contact person, telephone number, project description, length of business relationship, and background of services provided by Proposer.

3.1.8 Does any relationship exist (whether by family kinship, business association, capital funding agreement, or any other such relationship) between Proposer and any employee of University? If yes, Proposer will explain.

**SECTION 4**

**ADDENDA CHECKLIST**

**Proposal of:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Proposer Company Name)

**To:** The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

**Ref.:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Services related to the

**RFP No.:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The undersigned Proposer hereby acknowledges receipt of the following Addenda to the captioned RFP (initial if applicable).

No. 1 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 2 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 3 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 4 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

**Proposer:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

(Authorized Signature for Proposer)

**Name:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_