**Superior National Forest Toilet Vault Cleaning**
**12444626Q0061**

**Description – Superior National Forest Wastewater Tank Pumping and Disposal**
This is a combined synopsis/solicitation for commercial items prepared in accordance with the format in FAR Part 12. This announcement constitutes the only solicitation. Quotations are being requested and a separate written solicitation will not be issued.

Solicitation number 12444626Q0061 is issued as a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Superior National Forest.

This acquisition is set-aside for small business concerns. The applicable North American Industry Classification Standard Code is 562991 The small business size standard is $9 mil This acquisition is a Total Small Business Set-Aside. All responsible sources may submit a quotation which will be considered by the agency.

**Statement of Requirement**
The USDA Forest Service (FS) Superior National Forest has a requirement to secure a qualified vendor who can provide toilet vault cleaning.

**Schedule of Items**

| Item | Supplies/Services | Qty | Price Per Unit | Total Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0001 | The removal and disposal of waste and trash from toilet vault | 1 | 1 | |
| | | | Total | |

**Technical Data**

Technical data and supporting documentation associated with this solicitation are available through the following sources:

Solicitation Attachments
The following documents are included as attachments to this solicitation and can be accessed via the Attachments section of the posting.

- Attachment A – Terms and Conditions (this document)
- Attachment B – Statement of Work
- Attachment C – Schedule of Items
- Attachment D – Experience Questionnaire
- Attachment E – Wage Determination

**Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and United States Department of Agriculture Acquisition Regulation (AGAR) Clauses and Provisions**

**Superior National Forest Toilet Vault Cleaning**
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The clauses and provisions contained herein are applicable to any order awarded as a result of this solicitation. The terms and conditions set forth herein supersede all other terms and conditions. Acceptance of the order in accordance with (IAW) FAR 12.201-1(b)(2) constitutes acceptance of all terms and conditions contained herein.

As part of the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO), system updates may lag policy updates. The System for Award Management (SAM) may continue to require entities to complete representations based on provisions that are not included in this solicitation. Contracting officers will rely on representations from offers based on provisions in the solicitation. Entities are not required to, nor are they able to, update their entity registration to remove these representations in SAM.

**52.252-2 Clauses Incorporated by Reference** **Feb 1998**
This solicitation incorporates one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. Also the full text of the clause may be accessed electronically at Internet address **https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-52**

52.212-4 Terms and Conditions—Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) of 52.212-4
52.203-17 Contractor Employee Whistleblower Rights (Nov 2023)
52.203-19 Prohibition on Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements (Jan 2017)
52.222-50 Combating Trafficking in Persons (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) of 52.222-50
52.226-8 Encouraging Contractor Policies to Ban Text Messaging While Driving (May 2024)
52.232-39 Unenforceability of Unauthorized Obligations (Jun 2013)
52.232-40 Providing Accelerated Payments to Small Business Subcontractors (Mar 2023)
52.233-3 Protest After Award (Sep 2025)
52.233-4 Applicable Law for Breach of Contract Claim (Sep 2025)
52.240-91 Security Prohibitions and Exclusions (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) of 52.240-91
52.244-6 Subcontracts for Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)

☐ 52.203-6 Restrictions on Subcontractor Sales to the Government (Jun 2020) with Alternate I (Nov 2021) of 52.203-6
☐ 52.203-13 Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct (Nov 2021)
☐ 52.204-9 Personal Identity Verification of Contractor Personnel Jan 2011
☐ 52.204-13 System for Award Management—Maintenance (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.204-91 Contractor identification (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.209-6 Protecting the Government's Interest When Subcontracting with Contractors Debarred, Suspended, or Proposed for Debarment (Sep 2025)
☐ 52.209-9 Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters (Sep 2025)
☐ 52.209-10 Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations (Sep 2025)

☐ 52.219-4 Notice of Price Evaluation Preference for HUBZone Small Business Concerns (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.219-6 Notice of Total Small Business Aside (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Mar 2020).
☐ 52.219-8 Utilization of Small Business Concerns (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.219-9 Small Business Subcontracting Plan (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate III (Nov 2025) of 52.219-9.
☐ Alternate IV (Nov 2025) of 52.219-9
☐ 52.219-14 Limitations on Subcontracting (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.219-16 Liquidated Damages—Subcontracting Plan (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.219-33 Nonmanufacturer Rule (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.222-3 Convict Labor (June 2003)
☐ 52.222-19 Child Labor—Cooperation with Authorities and Remedies (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-35 Equal Opportunity for Veterans (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Jul 2014) of 52.222-35
☐ 52.222-36 Equal Opportunity for Workers with Disabilities (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Jul 2014) of 52.222-36
☐ 52.222-37 Employment Reports on Veterans (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-40 Notification of Employee Rights Under the National Labor Relations Act (Dec 2010
☒ 52.222-41 Service Contract Labor Standards (Aug 2018)
☒ 52.222-42 Statement of Equivalent Rates for Federal Hires (May 2014)

This Statement is for Information Only:
It is not a Wage Determination

| Employee Class | Monetary Wage -- Fringe Benefits |
|---|---|
| **Laborer** | **$23.56** |
| | |
| | |

☐ 52.222-43 Fair Labor Standards Act and Service Contract Labor Standards -- Price Adjustment (Multiple Year and Option Contracts) (Aug 2018)
☐ 52.222-44 Fair Labor Standards Act and Service Contract Labor Standards -- Price Adjustment (May 2014)
☐ 52.222-51 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards to Contracts for Maintenance, Calibration, or Repair of Certain Equipment-Requirements (May 2014)
☐ 52.222-53 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards to Contracts for Certain Services-Requirements (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-54 Employment Eligibility Verification (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.222-62 Paid Sick Leave Under Executive Order 13706 (Jan 2022)
☒ 52.222-90 Addressing DEI Discrimination by Federal Contractors (Apr 2026)

- ☐ 52.223-2 Reporting of Biobased Products Under Service and Construction Contracts (Nov 2025)
- ☐ 52.223-9 Estimate of Percentage of Recovered Material Content for EPA-Designated Items (May 2008)
  - ☐ Alternate I (May 2008) of 52.223-9
- ☐ 52.223-11 Ozone-Depleting Substances and High Global Warming Potential Hydrofluorocarbons (Nov 2025)
- ☐ 52.223-12 Maintenance, Service, Repair, or Disposal of Refrigeration Equipment and Air Conditioners (Nov 2025)
- ☒ 52.223-23 Sustainable Products and Services (Nov 2025)
- ☐ 52.224-3 Privacy Training (Jan 2017)
  - ☐ Alternate I (Jan 2017) of 52.224-3
- ☐ 52.225-1 Buy American-Supplies (Nov 2025)
  - ☐ Alternate I (Oct 2022) of 52.225-1
- ☐ 52.225-3 Buy American--Free Trade Agreements--Israeli Trade Act (Nov 2025)
  - ☐ Alternate II (Nov 2025) of 52.225-3.
  - ☐ Alternate III (Nov 2025) of 52.225-3.
  - ☐ Alternate IV (Oct 2022) of 52.225-3
- ☐ 52.225-5 Trade Agreements (Nov 2023)
- ☐ 52.225-19 Contractor Personnel in a Designated Operational Area or Supporting a Diplomatic or Consular Mission outside the United States (May 2020)
- ☐ 52.225-26 Contractors Performing Private Security Functions Outside the United States (Oct 2016)
- ☐ 52.226-4 Notice of Disaster or Emergency Area Set-Aside (Nov 2007)
- ☐ 52.226-5 Restrictions on Subcontracting Outside Disaster or Emergency Area (Aug 2025)
- ☐ 52.229-12 Tax on Certain Foreign Procurements
- ☐ 52.232-29 Terms for Financing of Purchases of Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2021)
- ☐ 52.232-30 Installment Payments for Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2021)
- ☒ 52.232-33 Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer— System for Award Management (Oct 2018)
- ☐ 52.232-34 Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer—Other Than System for Award Management (Jul 2013)
- ☐ 52.232-36 Payment by Third Party (Nov 2025)
- ☒ 52.237-2 Protection of Government Buildings, Equipment, and Vegetation (Apr 1984)
- ☐ 52.237-3 Continuity of Services (Jan 1991)
- ☐ 52.240-92 Security Requirements (Nov 2025)
- ☐ 52.240-93 Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems (No 2025)
- ☐ 52.247-64 Preference for Privately Owned U.S.-Flag Commercial Vessels (Nov 2025)
  - ☐ Alternate I (Apr 2023) of 52.247-64.
  - ☐ Alternate II (Nov 2021) of 52.247-64

## Other Applicable Clauses

52.216-18 Ordering (Aug 2020)
52.216-19 Delivery – Order Limitations (Oct 1995)
52.216-21 Requirements (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Apr 1984) of 52.216-21
52.216-22 Indefinite Quantity (Nov 2025)
52.217-6 Option for Increased Quantity (Mar 1989)
52.217-7 Option for Increased Quantity - Separately Priced Line Item (Mar 1989)
52.217-8 Option to Extend Services (Nov 1999)
30 calendar days prior to contract expiration
52.217-9 Option to Extend the Term of the Contract (Mar 2000)
(a) 30 Calendar days prior to contract expiration and 60 days
(c) five years.
52.232-90 Fast Payment Procedures (Nov 2025)
52.237-2 Protection of Government Buildings, Equipment, and Vegetation (Apr 1984)
52.245-1 Government Property (Sep 2021)
☐ Alternate I (Sep 2021) of 52.245-1
52.245-2 Government Property
52.245-9 Use and Charges
52.246-15 Certificate of Conformance (Apr 1984)
52.247-29 F.O.B. Origin (Feb 2006)
52.247-34 F.O.B. Destination (Jan 1991)

## AGAR Clauses

452.203-71 Anti-Discrimination and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Compliance (May 2026)

(a) By entering into this contract, the contractor certifies that:

(1) It is compliant with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws and the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution, and it will remain compliant for the duration of the contract.

(2) Neither it nor any subcontractor or teaming partner operates or funds any program, policy, or initiative that promotes DEI in a manner that violates any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, including but not limited to Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution, and the contractor and any subcontractor or teaming partner will not do so for the duration of the contract.

(b) If the contractor participates in, facilitates, or funds programs that implicate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, including but not limited to grants to or for schools, colleges, universities, 4-H programs, non-governmental organization (NGO) programs, sports programs, and education-related grants to prisons or other

detention facilities, the contractor certifies that it will remain compliant with those laws, including the requirements set forth in Executive Order 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, and Executive Order 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity.

(c) The contractor affirms that the above requirements are conditions of payment that go to the essence of the contract and are therefore material terms of the contract. Payments under the contract are predicated on compliance with the above requirements, and therefore the contractor is not eligible for funding under the contract or to retain any funding under the contract absent compliance with the above requirements.

(d) This certification reflects a change in the Government's position regarding the materiality of the foregoing requirements and therefore any prior payment of similar claims does not reflect the materiality of the foregoing requirements to this contract.

(e) Submission of a knowing false statement relating to contractor's compliance with the above requirements and/or eligibility for the contract may subject the contractor to liability under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, and/or criminal liability, including under 18 U.S.C. §§ 287 and 1001.

(f) The contractor must include the provisions of this clause in all subcontract solicitations.

(g) Failure on the part of the contractor or its subcontractors to comply with the terms of this clause may be grounds for the Contracting Officer to terminate this contract for default.(End of Clause)

452.204–70 Modification for Contract Closeout (Apr 2026)
(a) If unliquidated funds in the amount of $1000 or less remain on the contract, the Contracting Officer (Contracting Officer) may issue a unilateral modification for deobligation. The contractor will receive a copy of the modification but is not required to provide a signature. The Contracting Officer will immediately proceed with contract closeout upon completion of the period of performance, receipt and acceptance of supplies or services, and final payment.

(b) For commercial contracts not exceeding the simplified acquisition procedure threshold under FAR 12.001(c), if more than $1,000 in unliquidated funds remain at closeout, the Contracting Officer will issue a bilateral deobligation modification. Only the modification requires the contractor's signature, though a Release of Claims may be requested. If the required documents are not returned within 60 days, the Contracting Officer will issue a unilateral modification and proceed with closeout once performance is complete, acceptance is confirmed, and final payment is made.

(c) For all other non-commercial or non–cost-reimbursement contracts, if more than $1,000 in unliquidated funds remain at closeout, the Contracting Officer will issue a bilateral deobligation modification and a Release of Claims, both requiring contractor signature. If these documents are not returned within 120 days, the Contracting Officer will issue a unilateral modification u and proceed with closeout upon completion of performance, acceptance, and final payment.
(End of Clause)

**Superior National Forest Toilet Vault Cleaning**
**12444626Q0061**

**Award Type**
It is anticipated that a Firm Fixed Price will be awarded as a result of this synopsis/solicitation.

The Government intends to make one award from this solicitation. Therefore, to be considered responsive, contractors must submit pricing for all items.

**Evaluation and Basis for Award**

The provision at FAR 52.212-2, Evaluation—Commercial Products and Commercial Services is not applicable to this solicitation. In lieu of this provision, quotes will be evaluated in accordance with FAR 12.203 based on the criteria listed below. Award will be made to the offeror representing the best value to the Government.

**Technical Approach:**
The technical approach will evaluate the ability of the offeror to provide a sound and compliant approach that meets all requirements and shows a thorough understanding of them. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure their quotation clearly demonstrates their capability to meet these requirements. All offerors must provide the following minimum information and documentation with their quotations to be considered responsive and have their offers evaluated:

- Ability of the offeror to meet the schedule requirements listed in the Statement of Work (SOW).
- Any requirement listed in the SOW that cannot be successfully accomplished by the offeror, the offer will be rejected.

**Past Performance:**
The Government may utilize any references provided by the Contractor, along with information available from past contracts/orders with the USDA and any information found using sources such as Federal Government sources or the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) to determine if the Contractor has acceptable or neutral Past Performance. Past Performance will be evaluated using the following rating system:

- Acceptable: The contractor shows a demonstrated ability to meet contract requirements in prior or current contracts, including quality of work, timeliness, cost control, business relations, and adherence to contract terms.

- Neutral: Offeror does not have a past performance record.

- Unacceptable: The contractor has a documented history of failing to meet contract requirements, including poor quality, missed deadlines, cost overruns, lack of responsiveness, or unethical behavior.

| Rating | Description |
|---|---|
| Acceptable | The contractor shows a demonstrated ability to meet contract requirements in prior or current contracts, including quality of work, timeliness, cost control, business relations, and adherence to contract terms. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Neutral | Offeror does not have a past performance record. |
| Unacceptable | The contractor has a documented history of failing to meet contract requirements, including poor quality, missed deadlines, cost overruns, lack of responsiveness, or unethical behavior. |

**Price:**
The offeror shall provide pricing as requested in the Schedule of Items of this Request for Quote. Failure to propose pricing for all individual line items may result in a quotation being excluded from further consideration. The offeror's quotation will be evaluated in accordance with FAR 12.204, to determine if it is fair and reasonable.

**Evaluation Method:**
All quotations will be evaluated to identify the offeror presenting the most technically advantageous solution based on the stated evaluation criteria. Once the highest technically rated offeror is identified, their price will be evaluated to determine whether it is fair and reasonable. Past performance will also be assessed to ensure it is acceptable or neutral.

Award will be made to the offeror whose proposal is determined to be the highest technically rated, provided that:

- The proposed price is fair and reasonable, and
- Past performance is assessed as acceptable or neutral.

Award will not necessarily be made to the lowest-priced offeror. Tradeoffs will not be conducted.

**FAR 52.212-2 Evaluation - Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)**

(a) Evaluation factors. The Government will award a contract resulting from this solicitation to the responsible Offeror whose offer conforming to the solicitation will be most advantageous to the Government, price and other factors considered. The following factors will be used to evaluate offers:

1. Technical Approach
2. Past Performance
3. Price

(b) Options (if applicable). The Government will evaluate offers for award purposes by adding the total price for all options to the total price for the basic requirement. The Government may determine that an offer is unacceptable if the option prices are significantly unbalanced. The evaluation of options does not obligate the Government to exercise the option(s).

(c) Notice of award. A written notice of award or acceptance of an offer furnished to the successful Offeror within the time for acceptance specified in the offer, shall result in a binding contract without further action by either party. Before the offer's specified expiration time, the Government may accept an offer (or part of an offer), whether or not there are negotiations after its receipt, unless a written notice of withdrawal is received before award.

Technical Acceptability and Past Performance, when combined, are approximately greater than price. Award will be made on a "Lowest Price Technically Acceptable" determination and the Government reserve the right to award this project to other than the lowest priced offer. Lowest Price Technically Acceptable value is a process used in competitive contracting to select the most advantageous offer by evaluating and comparing factors in addition to cost or price.

(End of provision)

**Delivery Information**

F.o.b. destination is requested as the F.O.B. point for all deliverables.
**All offers will be considered F.O.B. Destination unless F.O.B. origin is specified AND estimated shipping costs are included.**

Superior National Forest
Kawishiwi Ranger District
8901 Grand Avenue Place
Duluth, MN 55808-1102

**Service Contract Labor Standards**

The Service Contract Labor Standards could apply to any contracts awarded through this solicitation. In accordance with (IAW) FAR 22.1002-3(a)(2), the place of performance for this contract is currently unknown. The Contracting Officer has determined possible places of performance and has included Wage Determinations for each place as an attachment to this solicitation. The Contracting Officer will obtain wage determinations for additional possible places of performance if asked to do so in writing at

Offerors must request additional wage determinations no later than two days before solicitation close. Offerors who intend to perform in a place or area of performance for which a wage determination has not been attached or requested may nevertheless submit proposals. However, a wage determination shall be incorporated in the resultant contract, and there shall be no adjustment to the contract price.

**Noncompetitive Contract Action**

N/A

**52.252-1 Solicitation Provisions Incorporated by Reference Feb 1998**
This solicitation incorporates one or more solicitation provisions by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. The offeror is cautioned that the listed provisions may include blocks that must be completed by the offeror and submitted with its quotation or offer. In lieu of submitting the full

text of those provisions, the offeror may identify the provision by paragraph identifier and provide the appropriate information with its quotation or offer. Also, the full text of a solicitation provision may be accessed electronically at this/these address(es): https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-52

52.212-1 Instructions to Offerors - Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)

1) Offerors must have an active entity registration in the System for Award Management to submit an offer. https://www.sam.gov/SAM/

2) Offers submitted in response to this solicitation shall include a technical acceptability, a price proposal, past performance and contractor current representations and certifications.

**a) Technical non-price** – The technical shall address the evaluation factors in 52.212-2.
**b) Past Performance**- A summary of past performance providing services relevant to the subject requirements.
**c) Price Proposal** – Include the following: 1) the completed Schedule of Items, Attachment C 2) acknowledgement of any amendments to this solicitation by following the instructions that accompany the amendment.

3) Submit offer by email to shannon.warren-davis@usda.gov so that it is delivered into this inbox by **August 12, 2026, 4:00pm central time**. **Emails should contain 3 separate attachments (price proposal, past performance (experience questionnaire-attachment D) and technical approach in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF format.** Be aware that large attachments may increase the time required to deliver an email. It is the offerors responsibility to confirm receipt of the offer from shannon.warren-davis@usda.gov.

4) Address questions about this solicitation to Shannon Warren-Davis at shannon.warren-davis@usda.gov and are due by **August 14, 2026, 4:00pm central time**. This will ensure enough time to respond before the solicitation period ends. Please include the solicitation name and number as the subject line of the email.

**Period for acceptance of offers**

The Offeror agrees to hold the prices in its offer firm for **90 calendar days** from the date specified for receipt of offers.

52.203-18 Prohibition on Contracting with Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements-Representation (Jan 2017)
52.209-2 Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations - Representation (Sep 2025)
52.209-11 Representation by Corporations Regarding Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction under any Federal Law (Sep 2025)
52.240-90 Security Prohibitions and Exclusions Representations and Certifications (Nov 2025)

**The following provisions are applicable if checked:**

☐ 52.203-11 Certification and Disclosure Regarding Payments to Influence Certain Federal Transactions (Sep 2024)
☐ 52.204-7 System for Award Management—Registration (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) to 52.204-7
☐ 52.204-90 Offeror Identification (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.207-6 Solicitation of Offers from Small Business Concerns and Small Business Teaming Arrangements or Joint Ventures (Multiple-Award Contracts) (Aug 2024)
☐ 52.209-12 Certification Regarding Tax Matters (Oct 2025)
☐ 52.219-2 Equal Low Bids (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-18 Certification Regarding Knowledge of Child Labor for Listed End Products (Feb 2021)
☐ 52.222-48 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards for Maintenance, Calibration, or Repair of Certain Equipment–Certification (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-52 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards for Certain Services-Certification (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-56 Certification Regarding Trafficking in Persons Compliance Plan (Oct 2020)
☒ 52.223-4 Recovered Material Certification (May 2008)
☐ 52.225-2 Buy American Certificate (Oct 2022)
☐ 52.225-4 Buy American-Free Trade Agreements-Israeli Trade Act Certificate (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.225-6 Trade Agreements-Certificate (Feb 2021)
☐ 52.226-3 Disaster or Emergency Area Representation (Nov 2007)
☐ 52.229-11 Tax on Certain Foreign Procurements—Notice and Representation (Jul 2025)

**Other Applicable FAR Provisions**

52.217-5 Evaluation of Options (Nov 2025)
52.237-1 Site Visits (Apr 1984)

**AGAR Provisions**

452.203-70 Anti-Discrimination and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Certification (Dec 2025)

(a) By submission of its offer, the offeror certifies that:

(1) It is compliant with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws and the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution.
(2) Neither it nor any proposed subcontractor or teaming partner operates or funds any program, policy, or initiative that promotes DEI in a manner that violates any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, including but not limited to Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution.

(b) If the offeror participates in, facilitates, or funds programs that implicate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, including but not

limited to grants to or for schools, colleges, universities, 4-H programs, non-governmental organization (NGO) programs, sports programs, and education-related grants to prisons or other detention facilities, by submission of its offer, the offeror certifies that it is compliant with those laws, including the requirements set forth in Executive Order 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, and Executive Order 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity.

(c) The offeror affirms that the above requirements are conditions of payment that go to the essence of the contract and are therefore material terms of the contract. Payments under the contract are predicated on compliance with the above requirements, and therefore the offeror will not be eligible for funding under the contract or to retain any funding under the contract absent compliance with the above requirements.

(d) This certification reflects a change in the Government's position regarding the materiality of the foregoing requirements and therefore any prior payment of similar claims does not reflect the materiality of the foregoing requirements to this contract.

(e) Submission of a knowing false statement relating to offeror's compliance with the above requirements and/or eligibility for the contract may subject the offeror to liability under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, and/or criminal liability, including under 18 U.S.C. §§ 287 and 1001.

(f) Failure on the part of the offeror or its subcontractors to comply with the terms of this clause may be grounds for the Contracting Officer to terminate the contract for default.
(End of Provision)

## NOTICE FOR FILING AGENCY PROTESTS
## United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Protest Procedures

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to fair, transparent, and efficient acquisitions. Interested parties with concerns about this solicitation are encouraged to seek resolution through the following USDA procedures.

### Tier 1: Contracting Officer Concern Resolution

**Submission:** Interested parties with concerns about either the solicitation or subsequent award should first submit their concern directly to the Contracting Officer, providing sufficient detail to allow the Contracting Officer to understand and assess the issue.

**Process:** The Contracting Officer will review the concern, seek clarification as needed, and engage with the interested party to attempt prompt resolution.

**Review Timeline:** The Contracting Officer will make every effort to provide a response or resolution within 10 business days of receiving the concern.

**Effect on Award or Performance:** Tier 1 engagement is not considered an official notification of filing an agency protest and does not pause solicitation deadlines, delay award decisions, or suspend contract performance.

**Next Steps:** If the matter cannot be resolved at Tier 1, the interested party may file a written agency protest under Tier 2.
USDA encourages all parties to seek resolution with the Contracting Officer before filing an agency protest.

**Tier 2: Agency Protest**
If concerns cannot be resolved at Tier 1, an interested party may file a written agency protest with either the Contracting Officer or the USDA Independent Review Authority. The decision by the USDA Independent Review Authority is an alternative to a decision by the Contracting Officer. The USDA Independent Review Authority will not consider an appeal of the Contracting Officer's decision on an agency protest.
The protest must state whether the protester elects review by the Contracting Officer, by the UDSA Independent Review Authority. If no election is stated, the Contracting Officer will decide the protest.

**Required Information:** Protests shall include the information set forth in FAR 33.104-4 (a)(3). Failure to submit the required information may result in a delay or dismissal of the protest.

**Submission:** Agency protests should be submitted electronically to SPE.inquiry@usda.gov and the Contracting Officer.

**Timeliness:** Protests must be filed within the timeframes specified in FAR 33.104.

**Effect on Award or Performance:** Contract awards or performance will be suspended during the protest period unless justified in writing for urgent and compelling reasons or determined to be in the best interest of the Government.

**Review Timeline:** USDA strives to resolve agency-level protests within 35 business days of receipt.

**Election of Forum:** By filing a protest with USDA, the protesters agree not to file a protest on the same matter with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) or any other external forum while the agency protest is pending. If such a protest is filed externally, the USDA agency protest will be dismissed.

**Questions:** Questions regarding this notice or protest procedures should be directed to the Contracting Officer identified in this solicitation.