

**Nassau County Department of Health
Nassau County Office of Community Development**

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

***Nassau County Health Disparities Study- COVID-19
Barriers***

RFP# HE1106-2037

Issue Date: November 9, 2020

Nassau County
Long Island, New York



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Request for Proposal (RFP)

A. Introduction

Nassau County, New York (the “County”) is currently seeking proposals from qualified individuals and entities authorized to do business in the State of New York, to conduct a Health Disparities Study in order to identify the gaps and service barriers people experience in communities that were most impacted by COVID-19.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to provide Nassau County with proposals and recommendations that assess the barriers communities of color face in receiving COVID-19 testing, treatment and related services. The Disparity Study should also assess attitudes towards a future COVID-19 vaccine among individuals living in communities of color. In addition to gathering data that would inform Nassau County’s long-term response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Black and Brown communities, it is also our hope that the Disparity Study addresses longstanding health inequities in Nassau County which exacerbated the impact of COVID-19 on our most vulnerable communities. Therefore, Nassau County is issuing this RFP to enlist an organization to design and implement a Disparity Study to identify what barriers, if any, did individuals living in these hard hit communities have in accessing testing and treatment for COVID-19. Further, the Disparity Study should also assess whether individuals living in these communities have experienced barriers to accessing health services and public assistance that are instrumental in ensuring overall health and wellbeing in the past.

Since 2013, Nassau County has been ranked the healthiest county in New York State (NYS), recently ranking number 1 in NYS for health outcomes, health factors, and health behaviors according to the 2020 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps from the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.¹ However, despite the County’s high health ranking, several communities have historically experienced a disproportionately higher burden of chronic disease compared to the rest of the County. As documented in past Nassau County Department of Health’s Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan reports, nine communities (Elmont, Freeport, Glen Cove, Hempstead, Inwood, Long Beach, Roosevelt, Uniondale, Westbury) were identified as underserved and vulnerable because of the disproportionately higher burden of chronic disease in these communities compared to the County. It is no coincidence that some of these communities are where a high percentage of our Black and Brown neighbors reside; and sadly, some of these same communities were the hardest hit communities by the COVID-19 pandemic in Nassau County.

As of August 16th, 2020, 43,955 Nassau County residents tested positive for COVID-19. As of that same date, communities where a high percentage of our Black and Brown neighbors reside have the highest number of COVID-19 cases (e.g., Hempstead - 2394, Freeport - 1770, and Elmont - 1430). While the data clearly indicates that the Black and Brown communities have some of the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the County, a better understanding is needed of what barriers individuals living in these communities faced in accessing testing and treatment for COVID-19, and more insight is needed to ascertain individuals’ attitudes towards a future COVID-19 vaccine in order to develop better strategies and programs to address these issues and concerns. Therefore, Nassau County is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) to enlist an organization to design and implement a Disparity Study to identify what barriers, if any, did individuals living in these hard hit communities have in accessing testing and treatment for COVID-19. Further, the Disparity Study should also assess whether individuals living in these communities have experienced barriers to accessing health services and public assistance that are instrumental in ensuring overall health and wellbeing in the past.

¹ University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2020 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Retrieved September 8, 2020. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/new-york/2020/rankings/nassau/county/factors/overall/snapshot>

Background

Without a doubt, COVID-19 has shined a glaring light on the racial and ethnic health inequities that exist across the United States. According to the CDC, people of color are 3 times more likely to become infected with COVID-19. Once infected with COVID-19, Black individuals and Latinx individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19 at 4.7 times the rate of White individuals. Black individuals die at nearly 2.5 times the rate of White individuals. Latinx individuals die at about 1.3 times the rate of White individuals. Also, these racial/ethnic disparities in COVID-19 deaths are consistent across age groups, with people of color experiencing more deaths compared to Whites among younger age groups.²

Research has shown that the racial/ethnic health disparities related to COVID-19 are attributed to social determinants of health – the conditions in which we are born, live, work, and play. Disparities in risk exposure to COVID-19 are likely attributed to Black and Brown individuals living in densely-populated areas and in housing situations (such as crowded housing or multigenerational housing) that make it more difficult to socially distance. The risk of exposure to COVID-19 may also be higher for communities of color because of their work situations, where many may be employed as an essential worker and do not have the luxury to work from home or do not have the ability to take leave. Also, those living in densely-populated areas are more likely to ride public transportation, not only increasing their risk of exposure to COVID-19, but also making it difficult to do such things as buy essential items such as food or seek vital services such as health care.

If an individual from a vulnerable community does get sick with COVID-19, then health care barriers and underlying chronic health conditions come into play. It is well documented that people of color are more likely to be uninsured or underinsured, less likely to have a primary care provider, and more likely to receive lower quality health care than white individuals. According to the CDC, Latinx individuals are almost 3 times as likely to be uninsured compared to White individuals, and for Black individuals, they are almost twice as likely to be uninsured.³ Also, Black individuals are more likely to report not being able to see a doctor in the past year because of cost compared to White individuals.⁴ A lack of racial/ethnic diversity reflected in the health care system as well as a lack of interpretation services for non-English speaking patients remain constant barriers to receiving culturally competent health care. Underlying chronic health conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and hypertension that disproportionately impact people of color,⁵ makes COVID-19 even more severe and often fatal for Black and Brown individuals.

Generations of systematic and structural racism have led to an overall distrust of the health care system among people of color and remains a public health issue to overcome. This country's history of racism not only impacts health care but also impacts all areas of existence (housing, education, employment, etc.) and is a significant obstacle to achieving optimal health for communities of color.⁶

² Jaklevic, M. (2020) Researchers strive to recruit hard-hit minorities into COVID-19 vaccine trials. *JAMA*.

³ Bartel, A. P., Kim, S., & Nam, J. (2019). Racial and ethnic disparities in access to and use of paid family and medical leave: evidence from four nationally representative datasets. *Monthly Lab. Rev.*, 142, 1.

⁴ Cunningham, T. J., Croft, J. B., Liu, Y., Lu, H., Eke, P. I., & Giles, W. H. (2017). Vital signs: racial disparities in age-specific mortality among blacks or African Americans—United States, 1999–2015. *MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report*, 66(17), 444

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ CDC, (2020) Health equity considerations and racial and ethnic minority groups. Retrieved August 20, 2020 https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/race-ethnicity.html#anchor_1595551043298
Kaiser Family Foundation, (2020) Racial disparities in COVID-19: Key findings from available data and analysis. Retrieved August 18, 2020 <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/racial-disparities-covid-19-key-findings->

Lastly, while Black people make up 13% of the U.S. population and account for 21% of COVID deaths, they only make up 3% of enrollees in COVID-19 vaccine trials.⁷ Factors such as mistrust of both the health care system and clinical research help to explain the lack of participation of Black individuals in these trials.⁸ According to one recent national study, half of the Black adults surveyed said they definitely get or probably get the COVID-19 vaccine, compared to 61% of Latinx adults and 65% of White adults.⁹ Among the reasons given for not wanting to get the COVID-19 vaccine for Black adults, safety concerns about the vaccine and distrust of the health care system topped the list.¹⁰ The Pew Research Center conducted a survey in late April/early May and found that 54% of Black adults said they definitely or probably get the COVID-19 vaccine, whereas 74% of White and Latinx individuals said the same thing.¹¹

B. Anticipated Proposal Schedule

RFP Issue Date:	November 9, 2020
Proposers' Conference, if necessary:	November 20, 2020
Proposal Due Date:	December 7, 2020
Oral Presentation, if necessary:	December 14, 2020
Award Date:	December 30, 2020

Dates indicated above are subject to change at the sole discretion of the County.

THE PROPOSER SHOULD PROVIDE A PROPOSAL IN APPENDIX B WHICH MEETS THE SCOPE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BELOW. THE COUNTY WILL REVIEW SINGLE OR MULTIPLE PROPOSALS FROM AN INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY.

C. Scope of Services

The Scope of Services (“Scope”) outlined below has been established for the purpose of achieving and implementing program goals and objectives described in this document. Although the Scope is intended to serve as a reference in the preparation of the proposal, forthcoming proposals may offer additional services which support the goals of this RFP.

[available-data-analysis/#:~:text=Preliminary%20Medicare%20COVID%2D19%20data,report%20a%20COVID%2D19%20case.](#)

Williams, D. R., & Cooper, L. A. (2020). COVID-19 and health equity—a new kind of “herd immunity”. *JAMA*.

⁷ Warren, R. C., Farrow, L., Hodge Sr, D. A., & Truog, R. D. (2020). Trustworthiness before Trust—Covid-19 Vaccine Trials and the Black Community. *New England Journal of Medicine*.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ [Kaiser Family Foundation & Undeclared. \(2020\). Race, health, and covid-19: The views and experiences of Black Americans – Key findings from the KFF/Undeclared survey on race and health. Retrieved October 14, 2020. http://files.kff.org/attachment/Report-Race-Health-and-COVID-19-The-Views-and-Experiences-of-Black-Americans.pdf](#)

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Pew Research Center. (2020) Black Americans face higher COVID-19 risks, are more hesitant to trust medical scientists, get vaccinated. Retrieved October 23, 2020. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/06/04/black-americans-face-higher-covid-19-risks-are-more-hesitant-to-trust-medical-scientists-get-vaccinated/>

As stated earlier, the COVID-19 pandemic has shined a glaring light on the racial/ethnic disparities that exist in the United States. Nassau County is no exception to this. The Nassau County Department of Health has historically documented racial/ethnic health inequities in our County. COVID-19 has exacerbated these health inequities. COVID-19 has also underscored the importance of addressing these disparities and ensuring that the overall excellent health rankings that Nassau County has been able to attain is not only experienced by those who “have,” but also experienced by those who “have not.”

The Nassau County Office of Community Development and the Nassau County Department of Health’s Office of Health Equity is partnering to release this RFP to contract with a Vendor to conduct a Disparity Study to identify the gaps and service barriers people experience in communities that were most impacted by COVID-19. While Nassau County receives COVID-19 data from NYS on the number of individuals who test positive for COVID-19, number of individuals who are hospitalized due to COVID-19, and the number of individuals who die from COVID-19 on a consistent and ongoing basis, we are in need of contextual data to better understand the social, economic and health care barriers individuals in these communities faced in getting COVID-19 tests, health care services, and various types of public assistance during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also request that the study gathers data on people’s attitudes toward COVID-19 testing, treatment, and a future COVID-19 vaccine. Lastly, the study should also cover people’s past experiences with seeking health services and public assistance in order to obtain a comprehensive understanding of longstanding barriers to these services. The information gathered from this study will help the County, along with our Community Partners, develop strategies and programs to address these barriers and help get our most vulnerable residents the assistance they need to ensure more equitable and optimal health, especially in the era of COVID-19.

The proposed study should focus on gathering data that address the various social determinants of health, as discussed earlier in the Background section of this RFP. The study should also focus on the five communities in Nassau County that had the highest number of COVID-19 cases as of August 15th 2020 (Hempstead – 2394; Freeport – 1770; Elmont – 1430; Uniondale – 1358; and Valley Stream – 1256) as well as other communities that have been designated by the Nassau County Department of Health as underserved, vulnerable communities and had a disproportionality high number of COVID-19 positive cases as of August 15th 2020 (Glen Cove – 974; Long Beach – 823; Roosevelt – 681; and Westbury – 549).

The primary tasks of the Disparity Study should include: (1) Development of the Questionnaire(s); (2) Data Collection; (3) Data Analysis; (4) Submitting three 6-Month Progress Reports and (5) Submitting a Final Report. The proposal should include a description of the data the Vendor plans to collect in the study (a mixed-methods study that collects both quantitative and qualitative data is highly encouraged; description of the actual data variables), a description of the methods that will be used for data collection, and a description of the methods that will be used for data analysis.

Deliverables for the project are: (1) Study Work Plan; (2) the Questionnaire(s); (3) Three 6-Month Progress Reports and (4) the Final Report. The Final Report should include the following sections: (1) Executive Summary; (2) Background; (3) Methods; (4) Results (with Tables); and (5) Discussion and Conclusion. The Discussion section in particular should include recommendations that identify strategies for Nassau County to work with community partners to address immediate barriers vulnerable communities are experiencing with getting testing, treatment, and a future vaccine for COVID-19 as well as barriers these communities face to achieving overall health and wellbeing. The Discussion section should also identify resources that can be used by Nassau County to address these identified disparities.

Dr. Andrea Ault-Brutus, Director of the Office of Health Equity at the Nassau County Department of Health, will be the County’s point of contact for the day-to-day operations of this study. It is the

expectation of the County that the Vendor will meet with Dr. Ault-Brutus on a timely and regular basis including, but not limited to, biweekly check-in meetings as well as responses to requests for additional updates. The Vendor will be expected to submit monthly performance reports delineating milestones that were reached, challenges identified in performing the scope of work, steps taken to overcome those challenges, and outstanding issues. It is also expected that the Vendor will make presentations and attend meetings at the County's requests. At the end of the study period, the Vendor will provide to the County all databases developed in the course of the project. Programs and data entry materials developed for this study must be compatible with existing County systems.

Conclusion

Nassau County looks forward to partnering with a Vendor to conduct a Disparity Study that addresses the barriers communities of color face in receiving COVID-19 testing and related services. In addition to informing Nassau County's long-term response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Black and Brown communities, it is also our hope that the Disparity Study address longstanding health inequities in Nassau County which exacerbated the impact of COVID-19 on our most vulnerable communities.

D. Contract Term

It is the intent to award a contract for a two year period subject to the County's right of early termination as provided in the contract. A twelve month turn-around is preferable, but the County allows for extra time in case of extenuating circumstances. The decision to renew the contract(s) will be at the sole discretion of the County.

E. Mandatory Proposal Response Requirements

All proposals must state the period for which the proposal shall remain in effect (i.e., how much time does the County have to accept or reject the proposal under the terms proposed). Such period shall not be less than 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the proposal date.

All Proposals must contain the following:

1. Cost Proposal Form attached as Appendix A.
2. Proposed approach to the Scope of Work attached as Appendix B, containing a complete written description of proposer's Proposal.
3. On or before the RFP Proposal Due Date, the proposer is required to submit the following disclosure forms (the "Disclosure Forms"), which should be submitted in the Nassau County Vendor Portal at:

https://apex5.nassaucountyny.gov/ords/f?p=312:LOGIN_DESKTOP:3445712403627:

- a. A duly completed and verified Business History Form, together with a current certified or verified financial statement and/or other commercially reliable written evidence of the proposer's credit, financial standing and capacity to perform in accordance with the terms of the Contract.
- b. All officers, and any individuals who hold a ten percent (10%) or greater ownership interest in the proposer shall complete and verify the Principal Questionnaire Form.
- c. The County of Nassau Consultant's, Contractor's and Vendor's Disclosure Form.

- d. Additionally, if the proposer utilizes the services of any individual or organization for the purposes of conducting lobbying activities and is awarded the Contract, the successful proposer will be required to provide a copy of the Lobbyist Registration and Disclosure Form, completed and verified by that individual/organization.

PLEASE NOTE:

- If a proposer has previously submitted the Disclosure Forms in the Nassau County Vendor Portal, the proposer must ensure that the forms on file in the Portal are current, accurate, and have been recertified within three (3) months prior to the RFP Proposal Due Date. The Proposer must also ensure that their response to question 7, and its subparts, on the Consultant's, Contractor's, and Vendor's Disclosure Form is provided in relation to the specific solicitation under consideration.
4. Living Wage Law Certificate of Compliance, attached as Appendix L.
 5. The Proposer's Exceptions to the RFP Requirements, if any.
 6. All submissions must be signed on the designated signature line by an officer or authorized agent of the proposing party.
 7. Additional information that you believe pertinent to the County's requirements.
 8. Statement proposer has registered with the County as a vendor.

F. Proposal Submission Instructions

Each proposal shall be prepared simply and economically avoiding the use of elaborate promotional materials beyond those sufficient to provide a complete, accurate, and reliable presentation. For ease of review, the proposals must follow the outline in the section of this Request For Proposal ("RFP") titled **Mandatory Proposal Response Requirements**. Each response should be clearly numbered and the full question listed.

The proposals must be signed by an individual who is authorized to bind the proposer to all commitments made in the proposal. The original and three (3) copies of the proposal, together with all attachments, must be submitted to the County in a sealed opaque envelope no later than 4:00 p.m. EST **on December 7, 2020**. No telegraphic or facsimile proposals will be accepted. Any late proposals will be returned unopened. **Proposals received after the above date and time will not be considered.** The County is under no obligation to return proposals.

It is each Proposer's responsibility to carefully review all the requirements of this RFP, including the scope of work, the specifications and terms and conditions. It is further the proposer's responsibility to ask questions, request clarifications, or otherwise advise the County if any language, specifications or requirements of this RFP appear to be ambiguous, contradictory, or to inadvertently restrict or limit the vendors that could meet the requirements of this RFP to a single source.

If a proposer takes exception to any requirement of this RFP, the Proposer must clearly set forth the exception in its proposal, referencing the affected RFP section, paragraph and page. The Proposer must set forth the reason(s) for the exception and indicate what (if any) alternative is being offered by the Proposer. The County shall determine (in its sole discretion) the acceptability of any proposed exception(s). Where the County rejects a proposed exception, the County may offer the vendor an opportunity to withdraw its exception and propose an alternative. However, even where the County does

not reject a proposed exception to the RFP prior to the issuance of a Notice of Intent to Award to a Proposer, the County reserves the right to negotiate with the Proposer regarding any such exceptions. Regardless of whether or not the County rejects proposed exceptions to the RFP, such exceptions will be considered by the County in evaluating the completeness and adequacy of the proposal. Proposers shall be deemed to have accepted all requirements of this RFP to which they have not specifically and clearly stated an exception in their proposal.

The County is under no obligation to respond to any question, inquiry or assertion that is not received in writing. Interested parties may contact the authorized contact person listed below by telephone or e-mail. Violation of these provisions may result in immediate disqualification. Proposers will submit all proposals and direct all responses, questions, and any other communications to the following authorized contact person:

Andrea Ault-Brutus
Title: Director of Health Equity
Nassau County Department of Health
200 County Seat Drive
Mineola, NY 11501
Telephone: (516) 227-9464
E-Mail: aaaultbrutus@nassaucountyny.gov

No contact with any other County personnel other than the authorized contact person is allowed until such times as an award (or awards) has (have) been made.

G. Contract Proposal Evaluation

Proposal elements, as described above, will be reviewed and evaluated for completeness and responsiveness according to pre-determined standards and selection criteria. Proposals will be deemed responsive only if the Vendor responds to and meets all of the requirements of this RFP. Vendors may be invited for interviews to discuss project requirements and proposal elements in more detail should the selection committee request such. **The County reserves the right to award all or any part of this project, and to waive any technical irregularities or omissions, or to cancel this RFP and solicit new proposals if , in the County's sole judgment, the best interests of the County will be served.** The selection committee will evaluate each proposal and use the following for scoring each submission:

Contract Requirements and Proposed Solution 35%

Overall responsiveness of the proposal;
Demonstration of a clear understanding of the requirements portion of the RFP;
Clear description of the scope of work needed to satisfy the defined RFP requirements,
Acceptability and efficacy of proposed analysis, management and implementation methods and procedures and supporting systems for ongoing project management and implementation support, previous engagements of similar scope and quality, description of recommendations and alternative approaches that the County might use to improve its management process including rationale for the recommendations or alternative approaches.

Vendor Profile: Organization, Capacity, Staffing, Resumes 20%

Complete substantiation of the organizational structure and capacity to provide and support the proposed services defined in Section 1, Number 2, Scope of Services, resumes of the proposed

personnel (quality / demonstrated skills of proposed personnel); clear description of potential resource utilization methods and approach.

Related Experience

35%

Prior public sector experience, project management and implementation qualifications and related experiences of the Vendor including references, organizational and technical capacity, and outcome/results of services provided to other similar clients of similar size; comprehensive description of why the Vendor can perform the tasks defined in the RFP.

Cost of Overall Project

10%

Total cost to the County.

The County will consider any other relevant factors as determined by the selection committee.

H. General Information

1. **Incurring Cost.** The County shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation and production of a proposal in response to this RFP or for any work performed prior to the issuance of a contract.
2. **Rejection of Proposals.** This RFP does not commit the County to award a contract, or to procure, or to contract for services or supplies. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this RFP, the County reserves the right to award this contract to the vendor(s) that best meet the requirements of the RFP, and not necessarily to the lowest proposer. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received as a result of this request; to negotiate with all qualified sources; or to cancel in part or in its entirety this RFP if it is in the interests of the County to so do.

The County may require the Proposer selected to participate in negotiation and to submit any price, technical, or other revisions, or their proposals as may result from negotiations.

3. **Addenda to Request for Proposals.** Amendments to this RFP may be necessary prior to the closing date and will be furnished by mail to all prospective Proposers who have requested these materials.
4. **Contract Negotiations.** The County intends to enter into contract negotiations with the firm or firms selected by the RFP Evaluation Committee, who shall be required to enter into a written contract with the County in a form approved by legal counsel for the County. The contract usually includes, without limitation, the standard clauses set forth in Appendix "E" attached hereto. This RFP and the proposal, or any part thereof, may be incorporated into and made a part of the contract. The contract may contain provisions not contained herein.

The County reserves the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of the contract with the selected proposer(s), if any. These negotiations could include all aspects of services and fees. Neither the selection of a vendor nor the negotiation of the contract with such vendor(s) shall constitute the County's acceptance of the proposal or a binding commitment on behalf of the County to enter into a contract with such vendor(s), as any binding arrangement must be set forth in the contract signed by both parties and is subject to all requisite approvals.

5. **Additional Information.** The County may award a contract based upon offers received without discussion of such offers with the Proposers. Each offer, therefore, should be submitted in the

most favorable terms that the Proposers can offer the County from a price and technical standpoint. However, the County reserves the right to request additional data or oral discussions or presentations in support of written proposals from any and all of the Proposers. In addition, the County reserves the right to make on-site visits to the Proposer's place of business to assess and/or evaluate Proposer's qualifications.

6. **Disclosure of proposal contents.** The County will withhold proposals submitted under this RFP from disclosure, unless otherwise required by law, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL"). Proposers shall indicate in their proposals any information they submit that they feel is exempted from disclosure under FOIL. In the event that the County determines that information is required by applicable law to be disclosed, the County will endeavor to notify the Proposer in advance of such disclosure to enable the Proposer to take such action as it deems appropriate. Copies of executed contracts are not exempt from FOIL.
7. **Independent Price Determination:** By submission of its offer, the Proposers certify (and in the case of a joint offer, each party thereto certifies as to its own organization) that, in connection with procurement:
 - A. The prices in this offer have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matters relating to such prices with any other proposer or competitor; and
 - B. Unless otherwise required by law, the prices which have been quoted in this offer have not been knowingly disclosed by the Proposers prior to award, directly or indirectly, to any other Proposer or competitor; and
 - C. No attempt has been made or will be made by the Proposer to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an offer for the purpose of restricting competition; and
 - D. No elected or appointed official or employee of the County shall benefit financially or materially from this contract. The County may terminate this contract if gratuities were offered or given by the Proposer or his or her agency to any such official or employee.
8. **Ownership of Information:** All materials submitted in response to this Request for Proposals will become the property of the County.
9. **Examination of Records:** In submitting a proposal, the successful Proposer agrees that the County shall have access to and the right to examine directly all pertinent documents, papers and records of the Proposer and/or any sub-proposer as related to any contract and/or subcontract resulting from this RFP until six (6) years after final payment has been made pursuant to any contract awarded as a result of the County's acceptance of proposal.
10. **Subcontracting:** The Proposer will be responsible for the entire contract performance. The Proposer must indicate in the RFP if it intends to use a sub-contractor for any part of the work. If so, the Proposer shall identify each sub-contractor by name, business address and expertise, and must include the name(s) of the principal(s) of the subcontracting entity. A full description of the tasks to be performed by the sub-contractor must be included. The Proposer will not be permitted to subcontract any part of the contract or any of the rights and obligations thereunder without the prior written approval of the County.
11. **Negotiated Changes:** In the event that negotiated changes occur after the awarding of the contract, the same pricing policies called for in the original contract will remain in effect.
12. **Disclaimer:** The County and its respective officers, directors, agents, members and employees make no representation or warranty and assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the information set forth in this RFP. Further, the County does not warrant nor make any representations as to the quality, content, accuracy or completeness of the information, text,

graphics, links or other facet of this RFP once it has been downloaded or printed from this or any server, and hereby disclaims any liability for technical errors or difficulties of any nature that may arise in connection with the Website on which this RFP is posted, or in connection with any other electronic medium utilized by respondents or potential respondents in connection with or otherwise related to the RFP.

- 13 **M/WBE, SDVOB and DBE Participation:** The County encourages the participation of certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (“SDVOB”), Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprises (“M/WBE”), and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (“DBE”) in the RFP process. A Proposer that is certified by New York State or the County as a SDVOB, M/WBE, and/or DBE should include this information in their proposal. For more information regarding the County’s SDVOB, M/WBE, or DBE programs, please visit the Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs website.

I. General Conditions for Proposers

1. The Proposers will be required to pay its employees a “living wage” in compliance with Nassau County Local Law No. 1-2006 (the “Living Wage Law”), if applicable, and also to pay the prevailing wage rate as published by the New York State Department of Labor, if applicable, and comply with all applicable New York State Labor Law.
2. Proposer is bound by and shall comply with the terms of Appendix EE to the Standard Clauses for Nassau County Contracts, attached hereto as Appendix E, which are attached hereto and hereby made a part hereof, if the proposers would be considered “county contractors”, as defined in those exhibits, if awarded this contract.
3. The contract shall provide that in the event of any material misrepresentation by the Proposer contained in its proposal, County shall have the right to immediately terminate the agreement. It shall also provide that in the event the Proposer or any of its principals are convicted of a felony during the term of the agreement, that the County shall also have the right to terminate the agreement.

J. Additional Demonstrative Materials

Parties are encouraged to provide as much additional material and detail as possible to completely describe and demonstrate the Proposal.

K. Award of Contract

The County shall select a firm by means of a Notice of Award issued by the RFP Evaluation Committee. Neither the selection of a firm nor the issuance of a Notice of Award shall constitute the County’s acceptance of the proposal or a binding commitment on behalf of the County to enter into a contract with the firm, as any binding arrangement must be set forth in definitive documentation signed by both parties and shall be subject to all requisite approvals.

L. Protest Policy

As indicated in Section F, all questions or concerns regarding this RFP must be directed to the designated contact person. If a Proposer believes that a concern has not been satisfactorily addressed, it may request a copy of the Vendor Protest Procedure from the designated contact person.

APPENDIX A
COST PROPOSAL

Vendor shall provide a complete detailed cost breakdown of all services to be provided, including but not limited to titles, hourly rates, materials, and other expenses for each of the deliverables indicated in this solicitation. Additionally, if the vendor proposes additional related services, the vendor shall include a similar cost breakdown for those services as well.

The undersigned hereby certifies his or her compliance with the following:

“NON-COLLUSIVE PROPOSAL CERTIFICATION”

By submission of this Proposal, each proposer and each person signing on behalf of any other proposer certifies, and in the case of a joint Proposal, each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief:

- A. The prices of this Proposal have been arrived at independently without collusion, consultation, communication, or agreement for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices with any other proposer or with any competitor; and
- B. Unless otherwise required by law, the prices which have been quoted in this Proposal have not been knowingly disclosed by the proposer and will not knowingly be disclosed by the proposer prior to opening, directly or indirectly, to any other proposer or to any competitor; and
- C. No attempt has been made or will be made by the proposer to induce any other person, partnership or corporation to submit or not to submit a Proposal for the purpose of restricting competition.
- D. The undersigned has carefully examined the Proposal and Contract Documents and agrees to perform this contract and to provide all services, labor, material and equipment necessary for this contract.

SUBMITTED BY: _____

(Signature)

PRINT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

APPENDIX B
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND STAFFING

Please provide a complete written description of the Proposal, including the following information:

- a. Staffing: Bios of firm principals as well as staff expected to be assigned to this project.
- b. Detail prior experience in the area of health research.
- c. Detail prior experience with public sector clients.
- d. Any other detail that would indicate qualification to conduct Health Disparities Study for Nassau County.
- e. Detailed cover letter on the firm's letterhead indicating EIN number and the name of the parties authorized to discuss and/or enter into negotiations with Nassau County with respect to this proposal.

(USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)

APPROVED AND SUBMITTED BY: _____
(Signature)

PRINT NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

APPENDIX E
STANDARD CLAUSES FOR NASSAU COUNTY CONTRACTS

1. Independent Contractor. The Contractor is an independent contractor of the County. The Contractor shall not, nor shall any officer, director, employee, servant, agent or independent contractor of the Contractor (a "Contractor Agent"), be (i) deemed a County employee, (ii) commit the County to any obligation, or (iii) hold itself, himself, or herself out as a County employee or Person with the authority to commit the County to any obligation. As used in this Agreement the word "Person" means any individual person, entity (including partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies), and government or political subdivision thereof (including agencies, bureaus, offices and departments thereof).

2. No Arrears or Default. The Contractor is not in arrears to the County upon any debt or contract and it is not in default as surety, contractor, or otherwise upon any obligation to the County, including any obligation to pay taxes to, or perform services for or on behalf of, the County.

3. Compliance with Law. (a) Generally. The Contractor shall comply with any and all applicable Federal, State and local Laws, including, but not limited to those relating to conflicts of interest, human rights, a living wage, disclosure of information and vendor registration in connection with its performance under this Agreement. In furtherance of the foregoing, the Contractor is bound by and shall comply with the terms of Appendix EE attached hereto and with the County's registration protocol. As used in this Agreement the word "Law" includes any and all statutes, local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, applicable orders, and/or decrees, as the same may be amended from time to time, enacted, or adopted.

(b) Nassau County Living Wage Law. Pursuant to LL 1-2006, as amended, and to the extent that a waiver has not been obtained in accordance with such law or any rules of the County Executive, the Contractor agrees as follows:

- (i) Contractor shall comply with the applicable requirements of the Living Wage Law, as amended;
- (ii) Failure to comply with the Living Wage Law, as amended, may constitute a material breach of this Agreement, such breach being determined solely by the County. Contractor has the right to cure such breach within thirty days of receipt of notice of breach from the County. In the event that such breach is not timely cured, the County may terminate this Agreement as well as exercise any other rights available to the County under applicable law.
- (iii) It shall be a continuing obligation of the Contractor to inform the County of any material changes in the content of its certification of compliance, attached to this Agreement as Appendix L, and shall provide to the County any information necessary to maintain the certification's accuracy.

(c) Records Access. The parties acknowledge and agree that all records, information, and data ("Information") acquired in connection with performance or administration of this Agreement remains the sole property of the County and shall be used and disclosed solely for the purpose of performance and administration of the Agreement or as required by law. The Contractor acknowledges that Contractor Information in the County's possession may be subject to disclosure under Article 6 of the New York State Public Officer's Law ("Freedom of Information Law" or "FOIL"). In the event that such a request for disclosure is made, the County shall make reasonable efforts to notify the Contractor of such request prior to disclosure of the Information so that the Contractor may take such action as it deems appropriate.

(d) Prohibition of Gifts. In accordance with County Executive Order 2-2018, the Contractor shall not offer, give, or agree to give anything of value to any County employee, agent, consultant, construction manager, or other person or firm representing the County (a "County Representative"), including members of a County Representative's immediate family, in connection with the performance by such County Representative of duties involving transactions with the Contractor on behalf of the County, whether such duties are related to this Agreement or any other County contract or matter. As used herein, "anything of value" shall include, but not be limited to, meals, holiday gifts, holiday baskets, gift cards, tickets to golf outings, tickets to sporting events, currency of any kind, or any other gifts, gratuities, favorable opportunities or preferences. For purposes of this subsection, an immediate family member shall include a spouse, child, parent, or sibling. The Contractor shall include the provisions of this subsection in each subcontract entered into under this Agreement.

(e) Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest. In accordance with County Executive Order 2-2018, the Contractor has disclosed as part of its response to the County's Business History Form, or other disclosure form(s), any and all instances where the Contractor employs any spouse, child, or parent of a County employee of the agency or department that contracted or procured the goods and/or services described under this Agreement. The Contractor shall have a continuing obligation, as circumstances arise, to update this disclosure throughout the term of this Agreement.

(f) Vendor Code of Ethics. By executing this Agreement, the Contractor hereby certifies and covenants that:

- (i) The Contractor has been provided a copy of the Nassau County Vendor Code of Ethics issued on June 5, 2019, as may be amended from time to time (the "Vendor Code of Ethics"), and will comply with all of its provisions;
- (ii) All of the Contractor's Participating Employees, as such term is defined in the Vendor Code of Ethics (the "Participating Employees"), have been provided a copy of the Vendor Code of Ethics prior to their participation in the underlying procurement;
- (iii) All Participating Employees have completed the acknowledgment required by the Vendor Code of Ethics;
- (iv) The Contractor will retain all of the signed Participating Employee acknowledgements for the period it is required to retain other records pertinent to performance under this Agreement;
- (v) The Contractor will continue to distribute the Vendor Code of Ethics, obtain signed Participating Employee acknowledgments as new Participating Employees are added or changed during the term of this Agreement, and retain such signed acknowledgments for the period the Contractor is required to retain other records pertinent to performance under this Agreement; and
- (vi) The Contractor has obtained the certifications required by the Vendor Code of Ethics from any subcontractors or other lower tier participants who have participated in procurements for work performed under this Agreement.

4. Minimum Service Standards. Regardless of whether required by Law:

(a) The Contractor shall, and shall cause Contractor Agents to, conduct its, his or her activities in connection with this Agreement so as not to endanger or harm any Person or property.

(b) The Contractor shall deliver services under this Agreement in a professional manner consistent with the best practices of the industry in which the Contractor operates. The Contractor shall take all actions

necessary or appropriate to meet the obligation described in the immediately preceding sentence, including obtaining and maintaining, and causing all Contractor Agents to obtain and maintain, all approvals, licenses, and certifications ("Approvals") necessary or appropriate in connection with this Agreement.

5. Indemnification; Defense; Cooperation.

(a) The Contractor shall be solely responsible for and shall indemnify and hold harmless the County, its officers, employees, and agents (the "Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all liabilities, losses, costs, expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and disbursements) and damages ("Losses"), arising out of or in connection with any acts or omissions of the Contractor or a Contractor Agent, regardless of whether taken pursuant to or authorized by this Agreement and regardless of whether due to negligence, fault, or default, including Losses in connection with any threatened investigation, litigation or other proceeding or preparing a defense to or prosecuting the same; provided, however, that the Contractor shall not be responsible for that portion, if any, of a Loss that is caused by the negligence of the County.

(b) The Contractor shall, upon the County's demand and at the County's direction, promptly and diligently defend, at the Contractor's own risk and expense, any and all suits, actions, or proceedings which may be brought or instituted against one or more Indemnified Parties for which the Contractor is responsible under this Section and the Contractor shall pay and satisfy any judgment, decree, loss or settlement in connection therewith.

(c) The Contractor shall, and shall cause Contractor Agents to, cooperate with the County in connection with the investigation, defense or prosecution of any action, suit or proceeding in connection with this Agreement.

(d) The provisions of this Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

6. Insurance.

(a) Types and Amounts. The Contractor shall obtain and maintain throughout the term of this Agreement, at its own expense: (i) one or more policies for commercial general liability insurance, which policy(ies) shall name "Nassau County" as an additional insured and have a minimum single combined limit of liability of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in the aggregate, (ii) if contracting in whole or part to provide professional services, one or more policies for professional liability insurance, which policy(ies) shall have a minimum single combined limit liability of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per claim, (iii) compensation insurance for the benefit of the Contractor's employees ("Workers' Compensation Insurance"), which insurance is in compliance with the New York State Workers' Compensation Law, and (iv) such additional insurance, including, without limitation, builder's all risk, if applicable, automobile liability insurance and umbrella liability insurance, as the County may from time to time specify.

(b) Acceptability; Deductibles; Subcontractors. All insurance obtained and maintained by the Contractor pursuant to this Agreement shall be (i) written by one or more commercial insurance carriers licensed or authorized to do business in New York State and acceptable to the County; and (ii) in form and substance acceptable to the County. The Contractor shall be solely responsible for the payment of all deductibles to which such policies are subject. The Contractor shall require any subcontractor hired in connection with this Agreement to carry insurance with the same limits and provisions required to be carried by the Contractor under this Agreement.

(c) Delivery; Coverage Change; No Inconsistent Action. Prior to the execution of this Agreement, copies of current certificates of insurance evidencing the insurance coverage required by this Agreement shall be delivered to the County Attorney's Office. Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of any expiration or renewal of, or actual, proposed or threatened reduction or cancellation of coverage under, any insurance required hereunder, the Contractor shall provide written notice to the County Attorney's Office of the same and deliver to the County Attorney's Office renewal or replacement certificates of insurance. The Contractor shall cause all insurance to remain in full force and effect throughout the term of this Agreement and shall not take any action, or omit to take any action that would suspend or invalidate any of the required coverages. The failure of the Contractor to maintain Workers' Compensation Insurance shall render this contract void and of no effect. The failure of the Contractor to maintain the other required coverages shall be deemed a material breach of this Agreement upon which the County reserves the right to consider this Agreement terminated as of the date of such failure.

7. Assignment; Amendment; Waiver; Subcontracting.

(a) This Agreement and the rights and obligations hereunder may not be in whole or part (i) assigned, transferred or disposed of, (ii) amended, (iii) waived, or (iv) subcontracted, without the prior written consent of the County Executive or his or her duly designated deputy (the "County Executive"), and any purported assignment, other disposal or modification without such prior written consent shall be null and void. The failure of a party to assert any of its rights under this Agreement, including the right to demand strict performance, shall not constitute a waiver of such rights.

8. Work Performance Liability.

The Contractor is and shall remain primarily liable for the successful completion of all work in accordance this Agreement irrespective of whether the Contractor is using a Contractor Agent to perform some or all of the work contemplated by this Agreement, and irrespective of whether the use of such Contractor Agent has been approved by the County.

9. Termination. (a) Generally. This Agreement may be terminated (i) for any reason by the County upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the Contractor, (ii) for "Cause" by the County immediately upon the receipt by the Contractor of written notice of termination, (iii) upon mutual written Agreement of the County and the Contractor, and (iv) in accordance with any other provisions of this Agreement expressly addressing termination.

As used in this Agreement the word "Cause" includes: (i) a breach of this Agreement; (ii) the failure to obtain and maintain in full force and effect all Approvals required for the services described in this Agreement to be legally and professionally rendered; and (iii) the termination or impending termination of federal or state funding for the services to be provided under this Agreement.

(b) By the Contractor. This Agreement may be terminated by the Contractor if performance becomes impracticable through no fault of the Contractor, where the impracticability relates to the Contractor's ability to perform its obligations and not to a judgment as to convenience or the desirability of continued performance. Termination under this subsection shall be effected by the Contractor delivering to the commissioner or other head of the Department (the "Commissioner"), at least sixty (60) days prior to the termination date (or a shorter period if sixty days' notice is impossible), a notice stating (i) that the Contractor is terminating this Agreement in accordance with this subsection, (ii) the date as of which this Agreement will terminate, and (iii) the facts giving rise to the Contractor's right to terminate under this subsection. A copy of the notice given to the Commissioner shall be given to the Deputy

County Executive who oversees the administration of the Department (the "Applicable DCE") on the same day that notice is given to the Commissioner.

(c) Contractor Assistance upon Termination. In connection with the termination or impending termination of this Agreement the Contractor shall, regardless of the reason for termination, take all actions reasonably requested by the County (including those set forth in other provisions of this Agreement) to assist the County in transitioning the Contractor's responsibilities under this Agreement. The provisions of this subsection shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

10. Accounting Procedures; Records. The Contractor shall maintain and retain, for a period of six (6) years following the later of termination of or final payment under this Agreement, complete and accurate records, documents, accounts and other evidence, whether maintained electronically or manually ("Records"), pertinent to performance under this Agreement. Records shall be maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and, if the Contractor is a non-profit entity, must comply with the accounting guidelines set forth in the applicable provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, as may be amended. Such Records shall at all times be available for audit and inspection by the County Comptroller, the County Attorney's Office, any other governmental authority with jurisdiction over the provision of services hereunder and/or the payment therefore, and any of their duly designated representatives. The provisions of this Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

11. Limitations on Actions and Special Proceedings Against the County. No action or special proceeding shall lie or be prosecuted or maintained against the County upon any claims arising out of or in connection with this Agreement unless:

(a) Notice. At least thirty (30) days prior to seeking relief the Contractor shall have presented the demand or claim(s) upon which such action or special proceeding is based in writing to the Applicable DCE for adjustment and the County shall have neglected or refused to make an adjustment or payment on the demand or claim for thirty (30) days after presentment. The Contractor shall send or deliver copies of the documents presented to the Applicable DCE under this Section to each of (i) the Department and the (ii) the County Attorney (at the address specified above for the County) on the same day that documents are sent or delivered to the Applicable DCE. The complaint or necessary moving papers of the Contractor shall allege that the above-described actions and inactions preceded the Contractor's action or special proceeding against the County.

(b) Time Limitation. Such action or special proceeding is commenced within the earlier of (i) one (1) year of the first to occur of (A) final payment under or the termination of this Agreement, and (B) the accrual of the cause of action, and (ii) the time specified in any other provision of this Agreement.

12. Consent to Jurisdiction and Venue; Governing Law. Unless otherwise specified in this Agreement or required by Law, exclusive original jurisdiction for all claims or actions with respect to this Agreement shall be in the Supreme Court in Nassau County in New York State and the parties expressly waive any objections to the same on any grounds, including venue and forum non conveniens. This Agreement is intended as a contract under, and shall be governed and construed in accordance with, the Laws of New York State, without regard to the conflict of laws provisions thereof.

13. All Legal Provisions Deemed Included; Severability; Supremacy; Construction.

(a) Every provision required by Law to be inserted into or referenced by this Agreement is intended to be a part of this Agreement. If any such provision is not inserted or referenced or is not inserted or referenced in correct form then (i) such provision shall be deemed inserted into or referenced by this

Agreement for purposes of interpretation and (ii) upon the application of either party this Agreement shall be formally amended to comply strictly with the Law, without prejudice to the rights of either party.

(b) In the event that any provision of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.

(c) In the event of a conflict between the terms and conditions of the contract, including any and all attachments thereto and amendments thereof, and the terms of this Appendix A, the terms of this Appendix A shall control.

(d) Each party has cooperated in the negotiation and preparation of this Agreement, so if any construction is made of the Agreement it shall not be construed against either party as drafter.

14. Administrative Service Charge. The Contractor agrees to pay the County an administrative service charge of _____ dollars (\$_____) for the processing of this Agreement pursuant to Ordinance Number 74-1979, as amended by Ordinance Numbers 201-2001, 128-2006, and 153-2018. The administrative service charge shall be due and payable to the County by the Contractor upon signing this Agreement.

<u>Value of contract:</u>	<u>Administrative fee:</u>
\$0 - \$10,000	\$0
Over \$10,000 - \$50,000	\$160
Over \$50,000 - \$ 100,000	\$266
Over \$100,000	\$533

15. Executory Clause. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement:

(a) Approval and Execution. The County shall have no liability under this Agreement (including any extension or other modification of this Agreement) to any Person unless (i) all County and other governmental approvals have been obtained, including, if required, approval by the County Legislature, and (ii) this Agreement has been executed by the County Executive (as defined in this Agreement).

(b) Availability of Funds. The County shall have no liability under this Agreement (including any extension or other modification of this Agreement) to any Person beyond funds appropriated or otherwise lawfully available for this Agreement, and, if any portion of the funds for this Agreement are from the State and/or federal governments, then beyond funds available to the County from the State and/or federal governments.

Appendix EE

Equal Employment Opportunities for Minorities and Women

The provisions of this Appendix EE are hereby made a part of the document to which it is attached.

The Contractor shall comply with all federal, State and local statutory and constitutional anti-discrimination provisions. In addition, Local Law No. 14-2002, entitled "Participation by Minority Group Members and Women in Nassau County Contracts," governs all County Contracts as defined herein and solicitations for bids or proposals for County Contracts. In accordance with Local Law 14-2002:

(a) The Contractor shall not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status in recruitment, employment, job assignments, promotions, upgradings, demotions, transfers, layoffs, terminations, and rates of pay or other forms of compensation. The Contractor will undertake or continue existing programs related to recruitment, employment, job assignments, promotions, upgradings, transfers, and rates of pay or other forms of compensation to ensure that minority group members and women are afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination.

(b) At the request of the County contracting agency, the Contractor shall request each employment agency, labor union, or authorized representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining or other agreement or understanding, to furnish a written statement that such employment agency, union, or representative will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or marital status and that such employment agency, labor union, or representative will affirmatively cooperate in the implementation of the Contractor's obligations herein.

(c) The Contractor shall state, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees, that, in the performance of the County Contract, all qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status.

(d) The Contractor shall make best efforts to solicit active participation by certified minority or women-owned business enterprises ("Certified M/WBEs") as defined in Section 101 of Local Law No. 14-2002, for the purpose of granting of Subcontracts.

(e) The Contractor shall, in its advertisements and solicitations for Subcontractors, indicate its interest in receiving bids from Certified M/WBEs and the requirement that Subcontractors must be equal opportunity employers.

(f) Contractors must notify and receive approval from the respective Department Head prior to issuing any Subcontracts and, at the time of requesting such authorization, must submit a signed Best Efforts Checklist.

- (g) Contractors for projects under the supervision of the County's Department of Public Works shall also submit a utilization plan listing all proposed Subcontractors so that, to the greatest extent feasible, all Subcontractors will be approved prior to commencement of work. Any additions or changes to the list of subcontractors under the utilization plan shall be approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works when made. A copy of the utilization plan any additions or changes thereto shall be submitted by the Contractor to the Office of Minority Affairs simultaneously with the submission to the Department of Public Works.
- (h) At any time after Subcontractor approval has been requested and prior to being granted, the contracting agency may require the Contractor to submit Documentation Demonstrating Best Efforts to Obtain Certified Minority or Women-owned Business Enterprises. In addition, the contracting agency may require the Contractor to submit such documentation at any time after Subcontractor approval when the contracting agency has reasonable cause to believe that the existing Best Efforts Checklist may be inaccurate. Within ten working days (10) of any such request by the contracting agency, the Contractor must submit Documentation.
- (i) In the case where a request is made by the contracting agency or a Deputy County Executive acting on behalf of the contracting agency, the Contractor must, within two (2) working days of such request, submit evidence to demonstrate that it employed Best Efforts to obtain Certified M/WBE participation through proper documentation.
- (j) Award of a County Contract alone shall not be deemed or interpreted as approval of all Contractor's Subcontracts and Contractor's fulfillment of Best Efforts to obtain participation by Certified M/WBEs.
- (k) A Contractor shall maintain Documentation Demonstrating Best Efforts to Obtain Certified Minority or Women-owned Business Enterprises for a period of six (6) years. Failure to maintain such records shall be deemed failure to make Best Efforts to comply with this Appendix EE, evidence of false certification as M/WBE compliant or considered breach of the County Contract.
- (l) The Contractor shall be bound by the provisions of Section 109 of Local Law No. 14-2002 providing for enforcement of violations as follows:
 - a. Upon receipt by the Executive Director of a complaint from a contracting agency that a County Contractor has failed to comply with the provisions of Local Law No. 14-2002, this Appendix EE or any other contractual provisions included in furtherance of Local Law No. 14-2002, the Executive Director will try to resolve the matter.
 - b. If efforts to resolve such matter to the satisfaction of all parties are unsuccessful, the Executive Director shall refer the matter, within thirty days (30) of receipt of the complaint, to the American Arbitration Association for proceeding thereon.

- c. Upon conclusion of the arbitration proceedings, the arbitrator shall submit to the Executive Director his recommendations regarding the imposition of sanctions, fines or penalties. The Executive Director shall either (i) adopt the recommendation of the arbitrator (ii) determine that no sanctions, fines or penalties should be imposed or (iii) modify the recommendation of the arbitrator, provided that such modification shall not expand upon any sanction recommended or impose any new sanction, or increase the amount of any recommended fine or penalty. The Executive Director, within ten days (10) of receipt of the arbitrators award and recommendations, shall file a determination of such matter and shall cause a copy of such determination to be served upon the respondent by personal service or by certified mail return receipt requested. The award of the arbitrator, and the fines and penalties imposed by the Executive Director, shall be final determinations and may only be vacated or modified as provided in the civil practice law and rules ("CPLR").

(m) The contractor shall provide contracting agency with information regarding all subcontracts awarded under any County Contract, including the amount of compensation paid to each Subcontractor and shall complete all forms provided by the Executive Director or the Department Head relating to subcontractor utilization and efforts to obtain M/WBE participation.

Failure to comply with provisions (a) through (m) above, as ultimately determined by the Executive Director, shall be a material breach of the contract constituting grounds for immediate termination. Once a final determination of failure to comply has been reached by the Executive Director, the determination of whether to terminate a contract shall rest with the Deputy County Executive with oversight responsibility for the contracting agency.

Provisions (a), (b) and (c) shall not be binding upon Contractors or Subcontractors in the performance of work or the provision of services or any other activity that are unrelated, separate, or distinct from the County Contract as expressed by its terms.

The requirements of the provisions (a), (b) and (c) shall not apply to any employment or application for employment outside of this County or solicitations or advertisements therefor or any existing programs of affirmative action regarding employment outside of this County and the effect of contract provisions required by these provisions (a), (b) and (c) shall be so limited.

The Contractor shall include provisions (a), (b) and (c) in every Subcontract in such a manner that these provisions shall be binding upon each Subcontractor as to work in connection with the County Contract.

As used in this Appendix EE the term "Best Efforts Checklist" shall mean a list signed by the Contractor, listing the procedures it has undertaken to procure Subcontractors in accordance with this Appendix EE.

As used in this Appendix EE the term "County Contract" shall mean (i) a written agreement or purchase order instrument, providing for a total expenditure in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), whereby a County contracting agency is committed to expend or does expend funds in return for labor, services, supplies, equipment, materials or any combination of the foregoing, to be performed for, or rendered or furnished to the County; or (ii) a written agreement in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), whereby a County contracting agency is committed to expend or does expend funds for the acquisition,

construction, demolition, replacement, major repair or renovation of real property and improvements thereon. However, the term "County Contract" does not include agreements or orders for the following services: banking services, insurance policies or contracts, or contracts with a County contracting agency for the sale of bonds, notes or other securities.

As used in this Appendix EE the term "County Contractor" means an individual, business enterprise, including sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, not-for-profit corporation, or any other person or entity other than the County, whether a contractor, licensor, licensee or any other party, that is (i) a party to a County Contract, (ii) a bidder in connection with the award of a County Contract, or (iii) a proposed party to a County Contract, but shall not include any Subcontractor.

As used in this Appendix EE the term "County Contractor" shall mean a person or firm who will manage and be responsible for an entire contracted project.

As used in this Appendix EE "Documentation Demonstrating Best Efforts to Obtain Certified Minority or Women-owned Business Enterprises" shall include, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Proof of having advertised for bids, where appropriate, in minority publications, trade newspapers/notices and magazines, trade and union publications, and publications of general circulation in Nassau County and surrounding areas or having verbally solicited M/WBEs whom the County Contractor reasonably believed might have the qualifications to do the work. A copy of the advertisement, if used, shall be included to demonstrate that it contained language indicating that the County Contractor welcomed bids and quotes from M/WBE Subcontractors. In addition, proof of the date(s) any such advertisements appeared must be included in the Best Effort Documentation. If verbal solicitation is used, a County Contractor's affidavit with a notary's signature and stamp shall be required as part of the documentation.
- b. Proof of having provided reasonable time for M/WBE Subcontractors to respond to bid opportunities according to industry norms and standards. A chart outlining the schedule/time frame used to obtain bids from M/WBEs is suggested to be included with the Best Effort Documentation
- c. Proof or affidavit of follow-up of telephone calls with potential M/WBE subcontractors encouraging their participation. Telephone logs indicating such action can be included with the Best Effort Documentation
- d. Proof or affidavit that M/WBE Subcontractors were allowed to review bid specifications, blue prints and all other bid/RFP related items at no charge to the M/WBEs, other than reasonable documentation costs incurred by the County Contractor that are passed onto the M/WBE.
- e. Proof or affidavit that sufficient time prior to making award was allowed for M/WBEs to participate effectively, to the extent practicable given the timeframe of the County Contract.
- f. Proof or affidavit that negotiations were held in good faith with interested M/WBEs, and that M/WBEs were not rejected as unqualified or unacceptable without sound business reasons based on (1) a thorough investigation of

M/WBE qualifications and capabilities reviewed against industry custom and standards and (2) cost of performance. The basis for rejecting any M/WBE deemed unqualified by the County Contractor shall be included in the Best Effort Documentation.

- g. If an M/WBE is rejected based on cost, the County Contractor must submit a list of all sub-bidders for each item of work solicited and their bid prices for the work.
- h. The conditions of performance expected of Subcontractors by the County Contractor must also be included with the Best Effort Documentation.
- i. County Contractors may include any other type of documentation they feel necessary to further demonstrate their Best Efforts regarding their bid documents.

As used in this Appendix EE the term "Executive Director" shall mean the Executive Director of the Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs; provided, however, that Executive Director shall include a designee of the Executive Director except in the case of final determinations issued pursuant to Section (a) through (l) of these rules.

As used in this Appendix EE the term "Subcontract" shall mean an agreement consisting of part or parts of the contracted work of the County Contractor.

As used in this Appendix EE, the term "Subcontractor" shall mean a person or firm who performs part or parts of the contracted work of a prime contractor providing services, including construction services, to the County pursuant to a county contract. Subcontractor shall include a person or firm that provides labor, professional or other services, materials or supplies to a prime contractor that are necessary for the prime contractor to fulfill its obligations to provide services to the County pursuant to a county contract. Subcontractor shall not include a supplier of materials to a contractor who has contracted to provide goods but no services to the County, nor a supplier of incidental materials to a contractor, such as office supplies, tools and other items of nominal cost that are utilized in the performance of a service contract.

Provisions requiring contractors to retain or submit documentation of best efforts to utilize certified subcontractors and requiring Department head approval prior to subcontracting shall not apply to inter-governmental agreements. In addition, the tracking of expenditures of County dollars by not-for-profit corporations, other municipalities, States, or the federal government is not required.

Contract Appendix L
Certificate of Compliance

In compliance with Local Law 1-2006, as amended, the Proposer/Bidder hereby certifies the following:

1. The chief executive officer of the Proposer/Bidder is:

_____ (Name)

_____ (Address)

_____ (Telephone Number)

2. The Proposer/Bidder agrees to comply with the requirements of the Nassau County Living Wage Law, and with all applicable federal, state and local laws.

3. In the past five years, Proposer/Bidder _____ has _____ has not been found by a court or a government agency to have violated federal, state, or local laws regulating payment of wages or benefits, labor relations, or occupational safety and health. If a violation has been assessed by the Proposer/Bidder, describe below:

4. In the past five years, an administrative proceeding, investigation, or government body-initiated judicial action _____ has _____ has not been commenced against or relating to the Proposer/Bidder in connection with federal, state, or local laws regulating payment of wages or benefits, labor relations, or occupational safety and health. If such a proceeding, action, or investigation has been commenced, describe below:

5. Proposer/Bidder agrees to permit access to work sites and relevant payroll records by authorized County representatives for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the Living Wage Law and investigating employee complaints of noncompliance.

I hereby certify that I have read the foregoing statement and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct and complete. Any statement or representation made herein shall be accurate and true as of the date stated below.

Dated
Signature of Chief Executive Officer

Name of Chief Executive Officer

Sworn to before me this
_____ day of _____, 20 .

Notary Public