

H-GAC

Houston-Galveston Area Council
P.O. Box 22777 · 3555 Timmons · Houston, Texas 77227-2777

Cooperative Agreement -

GENERAL PROVISIONS

This Agreement is made and entered into, by and between the Houston-Galveston Area Council hereinafter referred to as H-GAC having its principal place of business at 3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77027 and _____, hereinafter referred to as the Contractor, having its principal place of business at _____.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, H-GAC hereby engages the Contractor to perform certain services in accordance with the specifications of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor has agreed to perform such services in accordance with the specifications of the Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, H-GAC and the Contractor do hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1: LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Contractor warrants and assures H-GAC that it possesses adequate legal authority to enter into this Agreement. The Contractor's governing body, where applicable, has authorized the signatory official(s) to enter into this Agreement and bind the Contractor to the terms of this Agreement and any subsequent amendments hereto.

ARTICLE 2: APPLICABLE LAWS

The Contractor agrees to conduct all activities under this Agreement in accordance with all applicable rules, regulations, directives, standards, ordinances, and laws, in effect or promulgated during the term of this Agreement, including without limitation, workers' compensation laws, minimum and maximum salary and wage statutes and regulations, and licensing laws and regulations. When required, the Contractor shall furnish H-GAC with satisfactory proof of its compliance therewith.

ARTICLE 3: INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

The execution of this Agreement and the rendering of services prescribed by this Agreement do not change the independent status of H-GAC or the Contractor. No provision of this Agreement or act of H-GAC in performance of the Agreement shall be construed as making the Contractor the agent, servant or employee of H-GAC, the State of Texas or the United States Government. Employees of the Contractor are subject to the exclusive control and supervision of the Contractor. The Contractor is solely responsible for employee related disputes and discrepancies, including employee payrolls and any claims arising therefrom.

ARTICLE 4: WHOLE AGREEMENT

The General Provisions, Special Provisions, and Attachments, as provided herein, constitute the complete Agreement ("Agreement") between the parties hereto, and supersede any and all oral and written agreements between the parties relating to matters herein. Except as otherwise provided herein, this Agreement cannot be modified without written consent of the parties.

ARTICLE 5: SCOPE OF SERVICES

The services to be performed by the Contractor are outlined in an Attachment to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6: PERFORMANCE PERIOD

This Agreement shall be performed during the period which begins _____ and ends _____. All services under this Agreement must be rendered within this performance period, unless directly specified under a written change or extension provisioned under Article 15, which shall be fully executed by both parties to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 7: PAYMENT OR FUNDING

Payment provisions under this Agreement are outlined in the Special Provisions.

ARTICLE 8: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

If the Contractor fails to submit to H-GAC in a timely and satisfactory manner any report required by this Agreement, or otherwise fails to satisfactorily render performances hereunder, H-GAC may terminate this agreement with notice as identified in Article 16 of these General Provisions. H-GAC has final determination of the adequacy of performance and reporting by Contractor. Termination of this agreement for failure to perform may affect Contractor's ability to participate in future opportunities with H-GAC. The Contractor's failure to timely submit any report may also be considered cause for termination of this Agreement.

Any additional reporting requirements shall be set forth in the Special Provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9: INSURANCE

Contractor shall maintain insurance coverage for work performed or services rendered under this Agreement as outlined and defined in the attached Special Provisions.

ARTICLE 10: SUBCONTRACTS and ASSIGNMENTS

Except as may be set forth in the Special Provisions, the Contractor agrees not to subcontract, assign, transfer, convey, sublet or otherwise dispose of this Agreement or any right, title, obligation or interest it may have therein to any third party without prior written approval of H-GAC. The Contractor acknowledges that H-GAC is not liable to any subcontractor or assignee of the Contractor. The Contractor shall ensure that the performance rendered under all subcontracts shall result in compliance with all the terms and provisions of this Agreement as if the performance rendered was rendered by the Contractor. Contractor shall give all required notices, and comply with all laws and regulations applicable to furnishing and performance of the work. Except where otherwise expressly required by applicable law or regulation, H-GAC shall not be responsible for monitoring Contractor's compliance, or that of Contractor's subcontractors, with any laws or regulations.

ARTICLE 11: AUDIT

Notwithstanding any other audit requirement, H-GAC reserves the right to conduct or cause to be conducted an independent audit of any transaction under this Agreement, such audit may be performed by the H-GAC local government audit staff, a certified public accountant firm, or other auditors designated by H-GAC and will be conducted in accordance with applicable professional standards and practices. The Contractor understands and agrees that the Contractor shall be liable to the H-GAC for any findings that result in monetary obligations to H-GAC.

ARTICLE 12: EXAMINATION OF RECORDS

The Contractor shall maintain during the course of the work complete and accurate records of all of the Contractor's costs and documentation of items which are chargeable to H-GAC under this Agreement. H-GAC, through its staff or designated public accounting firm, the State of Texas, and United States Government, shall have the right at any reasonable time to inspect, copy and audit those records on or

off the premises by authorized representatives of its own or any public accounting firm selected by H-GAC. The right of access to records is not limited to the required retention period, but shall last as long as the records are retained. Failure to provide access to records may be cause for termination of the Agreement. The records to be thus maintained and retained by the Contractor shall include (without limitation): (1) personnel and payroll records, including social security numbers and labor classifications, accounting for total time distribution of the Contractor's employees working full or part time on the work, as well as cancelled payroll checks, signed receipts for payroll payments in cash, or other evidence of disbursement of payroll payments; (2) invoices for purchases, receiving and issuing documents, and all other unit inventory records for the Contractor's stocks or capital items; and (3) paid invoices and cancelled checks for materials purchased and for subcontractors' and any other third parties' charges.

The Contractor further agrees that the examination of records outlined in this article shall be included in all subcontractor or third-party agreements.

ARTICLE 13: RETENTION OF RECORDS

The Contractor and its subcontractors shall maintain all records pertinent to this Agreement, and all other financial, statistical, property, participant records, and supporting documentation for a period of no less than seven (7) years from the later of the date of acceptance of the final payment or until all audit findings have been resolved. If any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit or other action involving the records has been started before the expiration of the retention period, the records shall be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the seven (7) years, whichever is later, and until any outstanding litigation, audit, or claim has been fully resolved.

ARTICLE 14: CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

- A. Any alterations, additions, or deletions to the terms of this Agreement, which are required by changes in federal or state law or by regulations, are automatically incorporated without written amendment hereto, and shall become effective on the date designated by such law or by regulation.
- B. To ensure the legal and effective performance of this Agreement, both parties agree that any amendment that affects the performance under this Agreement must be mutually agreed upon and that all such amendments must be in writing. After a period of no less than 30 days subsequent to written notice, unless sooner implementation is required by law, such amendments shall have the effect of qualifying the terms of this Agreement and shall be binding upon the parties as if written herein.

ARTICLE 15: TERMINATION PROCEDURES

The Contractor acknowledges that this Agreement may be terminated for Convenience or Default.

- A. *Convenience*
H-GAC may terminate this Agreement at any time, in whole or in part, with or without cause, whenever H-GAC determines that for any reason such termination is in the best interest of H-GAC, by providing written notice by certified mail to the Contractor. Upon receipt of notice of termination, all services hereunder of the Contractor and its employees and subcontractors shall cease to the extent specified in the notice of termination.

The Contractor may cancel or terminate this Agreement upon submission of thirty (30) days written notice, presented to H-GAC via certified mail. The Contractor may not give notice of cancellation after it has received notice of default from H-GAC.

- B. *Default*

H-GAC may, by written notice of default to the Contractor, terminate the whole or any part of the Agreement, in any one of the following circumstances:

- (1) If the Contractor fails to perform the services herein specified within the time specified herein or any extension thereof; or
- (2) If the Contractor fails to perform any of the other provisions of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, or so fails to make progress or otherwise violates the Agreements that completion of services herein specified within the Agreement term is significantly endangered, and in either of these two instances does not cure such failure within a period often (10) days (or such longer period of time as may be authorized by H-GAC in writing) after receiving written notice by certified mail of default from H-GAC.

ARTICLE 16: SEVERABILITY

H-GAC and Contractor agree that should any provision of this Agreement be determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect any other term of this Agreement, which shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 17: FORCE MAJEURE

To the extent that either party to this Agreement shall be wholly or partially prevented from the performance of any obligation or duty placed on such party by reason of or through strikes, stoppage of labor, riot, fire, flood, acts of war, insurrection, accident, order of any court, act of God, or specific cause reasonably beyond the party's control and not attributable to its neglect or nonfeasance, in such event, the time for the performance of such obligation or duty shall be suspended until such disability to perform is removed. Determination of force majeure shall rest solely with H-GAC.

ARTICLE 18: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer, member or employee of the Contractor or subcontractor, no member of the governing body of the Contractor, and no other public officials of the Contractor who exercise any functions or responsibilities in the review or Contractor approval of this Agreement, shall participate in any decision relating to this Agreement which affects his or her personal interest, or shall have any personal or pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 19: FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

Contractor agrees to comply with all federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination, labor standards, and environmental compliance. Additionally, for work to be performed under the Agreement or subcontract thereof, including procurement of materials or leases of equipment, Contractor shall notify each potential subcontractor or supplier of the Contractor's federal compliance obligations. These may include, but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 USC 676 et. seq.), (d) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; (e) the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 USC 621 et. seq.) and the Age Discrimination Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (f) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (g) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to the nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (h) §§ 523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. 290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (i) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (j) any other nondiscrimination provisions in any specific statute(s)

applicable to any Federal funding for this Agreement; (k) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to this Agreement; (l) applicable provisions of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1368), Executive Order 11738, and the Environmental Protection Agency regulations at 40 CFR Part 15; (m) applicable provisions of the Davis- Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a - 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. 276c), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327-332), as set forth in Department of Labor Regulations at 20 CFR 5.5a; (n) the mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94-163).

ARTICLE 20: CRIMINAL PROVISIONS AND SANCTIONS

The Contractor agrees to perform the Agreement in conformance with safeguards against fraud and abuse as set forth by the H-GAC, the State of Texas, and the acts and regulations of any related state or federal agency. The Contractor agrees to promptly notify H-GAC of any actual or suspected fraud, abuse, or other criminal activity through the filing of a written report within twenty-four (24) hours of knowledge thereof. Contractor shall notify H-GAC of any accident or incident requiring medical attention arising from its activities under this Agreement within twenty-four (24) hours of such occurrence. Theft or willful damage to property on loan to the Contractor from H-GAC, if any, shall be reported to local law enforcement agencies and H-GAC within two (2) hours of discovery of any such act.

The Contractor further agrees to cooperate fully with H-GAC, local law enforcement agencies, the State of Texas, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and any other duly authorized investigative unit, in carrying out a full investigation of all such incidents.

The Contractor shall notify H-GAC of the threat of lawsuit or of any actual suit filed against the Contractor pertaining to this Agreement or which would adversely affect the Contractor's ability to perform services under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 21: INDEMNIFICATION AND RECOVERY

H-GAC's liability under this Agreement, whether for breach of contract, warranty, negligence, strict liability, in tort or otherwise, is limited to its order processing charge. In no event will H-GAC be liable for any loss of use, loss of time, inconvenience, commercial loss, lost profits or savings or other incidental, special or consequential damages to the full extent such use may be disclaimed by law. Contractor agrees, to the extent permitted by law, to defend and hold harmless H-GAC, its board members, officers, agents, officials, employees and indemnities from any and all claims, costs, expenses (including reasonable attorney fees), actions, causes of action, judgements, and liens arising as a result of Contractor's negligent act or omission under this Agreement. Contractor shall notify H-GAC of the threat of lawsuit or of any actual suit filed against Contractor relating to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 22: LIMITATION OF CONTRACTOR'S LIABILITY

Except as specified in any separate writing between the Contractor and an END USER, Contractor's total liability under this Agreement, whether for breach of contract, warranty, negligence, strict liability, in tort or otherwise, but excluding its obligation to indemnify H-GAC, is limited to the price of the particular products/services sold hereunder, and Contractor agrees either to refund the purchase price or to repair or replace product(s) that are not as warranted. In no event will Contractor be liable for any loss of use, loss of time, inconvenience, commercial loss, loss of profits or savings or other incidental, special or consequential damages to the full extent such use may be disclaimed by law. Contractor understands and agrees that it shall be liable to repay and shall repay upon demand to

END USER any amounts determined by H-GAC, its independent auditors, or any agency of State or Federal government to have been paid in violation of the terms of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 23: TITLES NOT RESTRICTIVE

The titles assigned to the various Articles of this Agreement are for convenience only. Titles shall not be considered restrictive of the subject matter of any Article, or part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 24: JOINT WORK PRODUCT

This Agreement is the joint work product of H-GAC and the Contractor. This Agreement has been negotiated by H-GAC and the Contractor and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms and, in the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against any party.

ARTICLE 25: DISPUTES

All disputes concerning questions of fact or of law arising under this Agreement, which are not addressed within the Whole Agreement as defined pursuant to Article 4 hereof, shall be decided by the Executive Director of H-GAC or his designee, who shall reduce his decision to writing and provide notice thereof to the Contractor. The decision of the Executive Director or his designee shall be final and conclusive unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of such notice, the Contractor requests a rehearing from the Executive Director of H-GAC. In connection with any rehearing under this Article, the Contractor shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard and offer evidence in support of its position. The decision of the Executive Director after any such rehearing shall be final and conclusive. The Contractor may, if it elects to do so, appeal the final and conclusive decision of the Executive Director to a court of competent jurisdiction. Pending final decision of a dispute hereunder, the Contractor shall proceed diligently with the performance of the Agreement and in accordance with H-GAC's final decision.

ARTICLE 26: CHOICE OF LAW: VENUE

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas. Venue and jurisdiction of any suit or cause of action arising under or in connection with the Agreement shall lie exclusively in Harris County, Texas. Disputes between END USER and Contractor are to be resolved in accordance with the law and venue rules of the state of purchase. Contractor shall immediately notify H-GAC of such disputes.

ARTICLE 27: ORDER OF PRIORITY

In the case of any conflict between or within this Agreement, the following order of priority shall be utilized: 1) General Provisions, 2) Special Provisions, 3) Scope of Work, and, 4) Other Attachments.

SIGNATURES:

H-GAC and the Contractor have read, agreed, and executed the whole Agreement as of the date first written above, as accepted by:

Signature

Name

Title

Date

H-GAC

Signature

Name Chuck Wemple

Title Executive Director

Date