

August 9, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Cleveland, through its Director of Human Resources is soliciting proposals from qualified firms interested in providing COBRA administrative services.

These services are needed to administer COBRA services for the City of Cleveland.

If your firm is interested, please submit one original and two (2) complete duplicates of your hardcopy proposal and an electronic copy (memory stick) of your fee proposal. Sealed proposals may be mailed to the address below and must be identified on the outside of the envelope as “**Response to RFP to Provide COBRA Services for the City of Cleveland.**”

Trisha Simon Webster  
City of Cleveland Department of Human Resources  
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 121  
Cleveland, OH 44114

Proposal must be submitted **no later than 4:00 EST September 8, 2023**. No proposals will be accepted after that date and time unless the City extends the deadline by a written addendum. Faxed or E-Mailed submissions will not be entertained. Please provide a sample Contract/Services Agreement with your proposal.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or portions of them, to waive irregularities, informalities, and technicalities, to re-issue or to proceed to obtain the service(s) desired otherwise, at any time or in any manner considered in the City's best interests. The Director may, at his/her sole discretion, modify or amend any provision of this notice or the RFP.

The selected provider will be notified as soon as practical after analysis of all proposals required in compliance with this request. The City reserves the right to review details of services with potential vendors to ensure system compatibility prior to the contract award. **The City may conduct Finalist meetings the week of September 25, 2023 (if necessary).**

It is anticipated that the contract will be effective no later than January 1, 2024. It is our hope that this RFP will be self-explanatory, however, if you need additional information, please email [clevelandrfp@thefedeligroup.com](mailto:clevelandrfp@thefedeligroup.com).

Sincerely,

Michael McGrath  
Senior Vice President, Sales Strategy  
The Fedeli Group

## **Table of Contents**

Scope of Services.....	4
Background and History.....	5
Project Schedule and Deliverables .....	5
Proposal Requirements .....	6
Qualifications for Proposal.....	12
Proposal Contents.....	13
Proposal Evaluation; Selection Criteria .....	16
Questionnaire .....	19
General Information .....	22
Northern Ireland Fair Employment Practices Disclosure .....	24
W-9 Form.....	26
Non-Competitive Bid Contract.....	32
Cleveland Small Business Subcontractor Participation Goal .....	34



## **Scope of Services**

### **General.**

The City of Cleveland is seeking professional COBRA Administration services as set forth in more detail below in the Description of Services. If approved, we expect that transition to the selected vendor will commence on or about January 1, 2024. The contract term will be for one year with two, one-year options to renew.

The scope of this Request for Proposal encompasses all COBRA Administration tasks.

### **Specific Services**

Emphasis will be placed on the following characteristics in selecting the vendor:

- Clients of similar size and industry
- Existing online transactional and reporting capabilities (reports available, online access, etc.)
- Flexibility of system, ability to handle various premium structures with rate changes at points in time determined by the City and not necessarily tied to existing COBRA time lines
- Demonstrated accuracy of administration
- Total cost of outsourcing services

The City reserves the right to modify the scope of services at any time before execution of a contract to add, delete, or otherwise amend any item(s), as it deems necessary, in its sole judgment, and in the best interest of the City.

## **Background and History**

The City provides medical, pharmacy, dental, and vision benefits along with a health care flexible spending account for approximately 7,320 employees plus their eligible dependents.

The objectives of this RFP are as follows:

1. To ensure compliance with COBRA regulations
2. To ensure accurate and timely COBRA administration, including premium collection/remittance/reconciliation, issuance of all mandated notices to newly eligible employees and participants subject to qualifying events, termination of COBRA coverage when necessary; and renewal notices if premiums are changing. To facilitate accurate reporting of COBRA to the City and its insurance partners via a complete set of online management reports/queries; and
3. To facilitate accurate payment and reporting of COBRA

## **Project Schedule and Deliverables**

The City has established the following list of reports that the consultant will be required to provide as deliverables. The City reserves the right to modify the list of deliverables at any time before execution of a contract to add, delete, or otherwise amend any report or other deliverable, as it deems necessary, in its sole judgment, and in the best interest of the City.

- A. The City reserves the right to add related services as needed.
- B. Unless otherwise expressly provided, the term of the Agreement shall begin upon its date of execution and, unless extended by City or unless sooner canceled or terminated under the provisions of the Agreement, shall expire when all required deliverables have been submitted to and approved by the Director and all other Services have been satisfactorily performed and accepted by the Director (“Term”).

## **Proposal Requirements**

### A. Submission of Proposal

Each proposer shall submit its proposal(s) in the number, form, and manner, and by the date and time and at the location required in the section, **Introduction and Background** above.

- i. Each Proposer shall provide all information requested in this Request for Proposal. The proposer must organize its proposal package to address each of the elements in this RFP. The proposer should carefully read all instructions and requirements and furnish all information requested. If a Proposal does not comply with all terms, conditions, and requirements for submittal, the City may consider it unacceptable and may reject it without further consideration.
- ii. The City wishes to promote the greatest feasible use of recycled and environmentally sustainable products and to minimize waste in its operations. To that end, all proposals should comply with the following guidelines: Unless absolutely necessary, copies should minimize or eliminate use of non-recyclable or non-re-usable materials. Materials should be in a format permitting easy removal and recycling of paper. A proposer should, to the extent possible, use products consisting of or containing recycled content in its proposal including, but not limited to, folders, binders, paper clips, diskettes, envelopes, boxes, etc. Do not submit any or a greater number of samples, attachments or documents not specifically requested.
- iii. If you find discrepancies or omissions in this RFP or if the intended meaning of any part of this RFP is unclear or in doubt, send a written request for clarification or interpretation to Michael McGrath and Jayne Czech at the The Fedeli Group at [clevelandrfp@thefedeligroup.com](mailto:clevelandrfp@thefedeligroup.com) no later than August 15, 2023.

### B. The City's Rights and Requirements

- i. The Director, at his/her sole discretion, may require any Proposer to augment or supplement its proposal or to meet with the City's designated representatives for interview or

presentation to further describe the Proposer's qualifications and capabilities. The requested information, interview, meeting, or presentation shall be submitted or conducted, as appropriate, at a time and place the Director specifies.

- ii. The City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reject any proposal that is incomplete or unresponsive to the requests or requirements of this RFP. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive and accept any informality or discrepancy in the proposal or the process as may be in the City's best interest.

- iii. **Proposal as a Public Record.**

Under the laws of the State of Ohio, all parts of a proposal, other than trade secret or proprietary information and the fee proposal, may be considered a public record which, if properly requested, the City must make available to the requester for inspection and copying. Therefore, to protect trade secret or proprietary information, the Proposer should clearly mark each page - but only that page - of its proposal that contains that information. The City will notify the proposer if such information in its proposal is requested, but cannot, however, guarantee the confidentiality of any proprietary or otherwise sensitive information in or with the proposal. Blanket marking of the entire proposal as "proprietary" or "trade secret" will not protect an entire proposal and is not acceptable.

- iv. **CLEVELAND AREA BUSINESS CODE**

Requirements. During performance of this Agreement, Contractor shall comply with all applicable requirements of the *Cleveland Area Business Code*, Chapter 187 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976 ("C.O."), and any *Regulations* promulgated under the *Code*, which *Code* and *Regulations* are incorporated into and made part of this RFP by this reference as fully as if rewritten in it or attached. Specifically, compliance under any resulting agreement shall include, but not be limited to, the Contractor's:

- Compliance with its proposal representations regarding CSB, MBE, and/or FBE participation in performance of the Agreement;

- Compliance and cooperation with Project Monitors, whether from the Mayor’s Office of Equal Opportunity (the “OEO”) or the contracting department;
- Accurate, complete, and on-time submission of all reports, forms, and documents including, but not limited to, employment reports, certified payrolls, monitoring forms, and other information the Director of the OEO may require, whether in printed or electronic form, to ascertain and verify Contractor’s compliance; and
- Attendance at and participation in all required project meetings, including OEO compliance meetings, and progress meetings called by the contracting department director(s) at key intervals during performance of the contract services (e.g. 25% completion, 50% completion, 75% completion).

Failure to Comply. When determining the contractor’s future eligibility for a City contract, the City shall consider a contractor’s failure to comply with the representations of its proposal and the requirements under the *Code* as a failure to faithfully perform a contract.

- a. Under the *Cleveland Area Business Code*, the City of Cleveland is firmly committed to assisting Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), Female Business Enterprises (FBEs), and Cleveland- area small businesses (CSBs) by providing and enhancing economic opportunities to participate in City contracts. The successful proposer for a contract will be a firm that shares that commitment. Accordingly, a proposer is strongly encouraged to utilize the services of qualified MBE/FBE/CSB sub-consultants that are certified by the Mayor’s Office of Equal Opportunity (the “OEO”) in its proposal.
- b. The standard subcontracting goal for professional services contracts is 10% Cleveland Area Small Business (“CSB”) subcontractor participation. Please review the attached Office of Equal Opportunity documents to ascertain the goal for the proposed contract. Proposers are required to make a good-faith effort to subcontract portions of the work to certified Minority Business Enterprise (“MBE”), Female Business Enterprise (“FBE”), and CSB firms, consistent with the subcontracting goal(s) applicable to this RFP.



- c. To document its good-faith effort to utilize certified MBE, FBE and CSB sub-consultants, each proposer must complete Schedules 1 through 4 found in the *Cleveland Area Business Code - Notice to Bidders and Schedules*. These schedules identify the Proposer's proposed use of MBE, FBE and CSB sub-consultants on the project, which evidences the proposer's good-faith effort to obtain the participation of certified sub-consultants. The Proposer shall submit the completed forms with its proposal and they will be forwarded to the City's Office of Equal Opportunity for evaluation. Failure to submit complete in the left-hand column for "CSB/MBE/FBE Registry".

Proposers may obtain a listing of firms certified by the OEO as CSBs, MBEs and FBEs by checking the City's website at <https://cleveland.diversitycompliance.com>, and clicking on "Search Certified Directory."

Proposers are responsible for obtaining the most current list and for contacting potential CSB/MBE/FBE sub-consultants. The City assumes no responsibility for matching prime consultants with qualified, certified MBE, FBE, and/or CSB sub-consultants.

The City Office of Equal Opportunity will monitor participation of MBE, FBE, and/or CSB sub-consultants throughout the duration of the engagement or project. The successful proposer, as contractor, will be responsible for providing the OEO with all information necessary to facilitate this monitoring.

The *Cleveland Area Business Code*, any *Regulations* promulgated under the *Code*, and the *OEO Notice to Bidders & Schedules* are, by this reference, incorporated in and made part of this solicitation and any resulting contract as fully as if written in it or attached.

- d. The successful proposer, as contractor, will be required to comply with all terms, conditions, and requirements imposed on a "contractor" in the following *Equal Opportunity Clause*, Section 187.22(b) of the Cleveland Codified Ordinances, and shall make the Clause part of every subcontract or agreement entered into for services or goods and binding on all persons and firms with which

the proposer may deal, as follows: No Contractor shall discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, ethnic group or Vietnam-era or disabled veteran status. Contractors shall take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, ethnic group or Vietnam-era or disabled veteran status. As used in this chapter, "treated" means and includes without limitation the following: recruited whether by advertising or other means; compensated, whether in the form of rates of pay or other forms of compensation; selected for training, including apprenticeship, promoted, upgraded, demoted, transferred, laid off and terminated. Contractors shall post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the hiring representative of contractors setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

- e. Within 60 calendar days after entering into a contract, the successful Proposer, as Contractor, shall file a written affirmative action program with the OEO containing standards and procedures and representations assuring that the Contractor affords all qualified employees and applicants for employment equal opportunities in the Contractor's recruitment, selection, and advancement processes.

v. **Term of Proposal's Effectiveness.**

By submission of a proposal, the Proposer agrees that its proposal will remain effective and eligible for acceptance by the City until the earlier of the execution of a final contract or 180 calendar days after the proposal submission deadline

vi. **Execution of a Contract.**

The Successful Proposer shall, within ten (10) business days after receipt of a contract prepared by the City Director of Law, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, execute and return the contract to the City together with evidence of proper insurance and intent to conform to all requirements of the contract. Attached hereto or which are a part hereof and all applicable

federal, state and local laws and ordinances prior to or at the time of execution of the contract.

vii. **“Short-listing”.**

The City reserves the right to select a limited number (a “short list”) of Proposers to make an oral presentation of their qualifications, proposed services, and capabilities. The City will notify the Proposers selected for oral presentations in writing.

viii. **Proposer’s Familiarity with RFP; Responsibility for Proposal**

By submission of a proposal, the Proposer acknowledges that it is aware of and understands all requirements, provisions, and conditions in and of this RFP and that its failure to become familiar with all the requirements, provisions, conditions, and information either in this RFP or disseminated either at a pre-proposal conference or by addendum issued prior to the proposal submission deadline, and all circumstances and conditions affecting performance of the services to be rendered by the successful proposer will not relieve it from responsibility for all parts of its Proposal and, if selected for contract, its complete performance of the contract in compliance with its terms. Proposer acknowledges that the City has no responsibility for any conclusions or interpretations made by Proposer on the basis of information made available by the City. The City does not guarantee the accuracy of any information provided and Proposer expressly waives any right to a claim against the City arising from or based upon any incorrect, inaccurate, or incomplete information or information not otherwise conforming to represented or actual conditions.

C. The City anticipates it will - but neither promises nor is obligated to - process proposals received according to the following schedule:

Milestone	Date	Time
Release Request for Proposal (RFP)	August 9, 2023	
Deadline to Submit Questions RE: RFP	August 15, 2023	
Deadline to Submit Proposals	September 8, 2023	4:00 EST
Contract Start Date Administered	January 1, 2024	

#### D. Interpretation

The City is not responsible for any explanation, clarification, interpretation, representation or approval made concerning this RFP or a Proposal or given in any manner, except by written addendum. The City will mail, e-mail, or otherwise deliver one copy of each addendum issued, if any, to each individual or firm that requested and received an RFP. Any addendum is a part of and incorporated in this RFP as fully as if originally written herein.

### **Qualification for Proposal**

A. Each Proposer, regardless of the form of its business entity, must meet the following requirements. Failure to meet all requirements may be cause for rejection of a proposal. If Proposer is a partnership or a joint venture, at least one general partner or constituent member must meet the requirements. Each Proposer must:

- i. Provide evidence that it has a minimum of 5 continuous years of experience within the last 5 years of providing and implementing COBRA administration services to the required services and deliverables described in this RFP.
- ii. Be authorized to conduct business in the State of Ohio, County of Cuyahoga, and the City of Cleveland.
- iii. Possess or demonstrate it qualifies for all applicable licenses, certificates, permits, or other authorizations required by any governmental authority, including the City, having jurisdiction over the operations of the Successful Proposer and the proposed services.
- iv. Submit with its proposal at least three (3) written, verifiable, references dated within the last three months from clients for which the Proposer has rendered services substantially similar to those sought by this RFP, and recommending Proposer for selection for such services.

B. **Insurance:** The Successful Proposer, at its expense, shall at all times during the term of the contract resulting from this RFP, maintain the following insurance coverage. The insurance company(ies) providing the required insurance shall be authorized by the Ohio Department of Insurance to do business in Ohio and rated "A" or above by A. M. Best Company or equivalent. The Successful Proposer, as contractor, shall provide a copy of the policy or policies and any necessary endorsements, or a substitute for them satisfactory to and approved by the Director of Law, evidencing the required insurances upon execution of the contract.

- i. Professional liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,00,000.00 for each occurrence and subject to a deductible for each occurrence of not more than \$25,000.00 per occurrence and in the aggregate, and if not written on an occurrence basis, shall be maintained for not less than two (2) years after satisfactory completion and written acceptance of the services under the contract.
- ii. Workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance as provided under the laws of the State of Ohio.
- iii. Statutory unemployment insurance protection for all of its employees.
- iv. Such other insurance coverage(s) as the City may reasonably require.

### **Proposal Contents**

Each proposal shall include the following parts in the below order. Please separate and identify each part by tabs for quick reference. Each proposal should be organized so as to facilitate its evaluation.

- A. **Cover Letter:** The cover letter shall identify and introduce the Proposer and provide other general information about Proposer's business organization including, at least, in one or more attachments or in the Proposal, Proposer's name, principal address, Federal ID number, telephone and facsimile numbers, and e-mail address.

If a corporation, provide the state of incorporation, and the full name, title, and experience of each high-level corporate officer. If the Proposer is not an Ohio corporation, please state whether or not the Proposer is qualified to do business in the State of Ohio as a foreign corporation. A foreign corporation must provide evidence, prior to execution of a contract, that is qualified to do business in the State of Ohio or it must register with the Ohio Secretary of State.

If the Proposer is a sole proprietorship, state the name of the proprietor doing business.

If a partnership, state the full name, address and other occupation, if any, of each partner; whether the partner is a general or limited partner, and whether active or passive; state each partner's experience and the proportionate share of the business owned by each partner.

If a joint venture, state the name of each firm participating in the joint venture and each principal officer of each firm; each officer's experience and the proportionate share of the joint venture owned by each joint venture partner.

- B. Executive Summary:** The Executive Summary should provide a complete and concise summary of Proposer's background, area(s) and level(s) of expertise, relevant experience and ability to meet the requirements of this RFP. The Executive Summary should briefly state why Proposer is the best candidate for the engagement. the Summary should be organized so it can serve as a stand-alone summary apart from the remainder of the proposal.
- C. Exceptions:** Proposer shall itemize any exceptions it has to the RFP. If it has no exceptions to or deviations from any part of this RFP, it shall so state on an "Exceptions" page. If no deviations or exceptions are identified, Proposer understands that if the City accepts the Proposer's proposal, it must comply with and conform to all of the requirements of the RFP.
- D. Qualifications:** In the Qualifications section, each Proposer should state in detail its qualifications, and experience, and how its services and/or products are unique and best suited to meet the requirements and intent of this RFP. Proposer may include as much information as needed to differentiate its services and product(s) from other Proposers. At a minimum, please include, the following:
- i. How Proposer meets or exceeds the qualifications;
  - ii. A description of the nature of the firm's experience in providing the service(s) and/or product(s) sought by this RFP and state the number of persons currently employed for such purpose;
  - iii. The total number of such engagements and the clients comparable to the City for which the firm has provided like or similar services within the last five (5) years;
  - iv. The name, location, and date of all Proposer's agreements for like services that have been terminated, canceled, or suspended prior to completion of the engagement or expiration of the full term within the past five (5) years, and any judgment terminating, or any pending lawsuits or unresolved claims or disputes for damages or termination of such agreements within the past five (5) years; and
  - v. The names and addresses of at least three (3) references for the firm's professional capabilities. Include the name, e-mail address, and telephone number of a contact person.

**E. Proposed Services:**

- i. Proposer shall describe in detail how Proposer's management and operating plan for delivery of the services for the engagement or project will achieve the intent and goal(s) of the RFP. In its response to this sub-section, Proposer shall provide or describe:
    - a. An organizational chart specific for the proposed engagement or project;
    - b. Resumes of key management personnel;
    - c. An operational plan describing in detail how Proposer will achieve the intent and purpose(s) of the engagement or project;
    - d. If applicable, a detailed description of the professional services/training to be provided;
    - e. Trouble shooting/follow-up protocols;
    - f. Project management tools to be used in implementation;
  - ii. **Description of Completed Project:** Proposer shall submit a detailed description of the engagement or project, as completed.
  - iii. **Environmental Sustainability:** Describe how the proposed services/project/solution incorporate environmental sustainability
- F. **Fee Proposal:** Proposer should submit its fee proposal for all its services in a separately sealed envelope clearly marked on the outside. Itemize the fee by project phase or other divisible unit completed, in dollars and percentage, or by deliverable. Proposer shall provide its best estimate of expenses including, but not limited to, travel and associated expenses. No qualification of the financial offer will be accepted. The fee proposal shall be a firm and final amount including the costs and expenses for all anticipated services.
- G. **Financial Information:** The Proposer shall include the following financial information:
- i. Balance sheet and income statement for the last two (2) fiscal years, prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals, reflecting the current financial condition of the Proposer. If a publicly held corporation, the Proposer should provide in lieu of the foregoing: consolidated financial statements as submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on Form 10K, the most recent Form 10Q, and any Forms 8K filed with the SEC in the last 12 months. Owners of closely-held corporations must submit a personal financial statement, current to within six months of the proposal date;

- ii. Ownership of the Proposer. If the Proposer is a corporation and its outstanding stock is held by fewer than 10 persons, the name and residence address of each shareholder and his/her shares of outstanding stock must be listed.); and
- iii. Three bank and three trade references.

H. **Proposers Affidavit:** Proposer shall submit with its proposal an affidavit stating that neither it nor its agents, nor any other party acting for it has paid or agreed to pay, directly or indirectly, any person, firm or corporation any money or valuable consideration for assistance in procuring or attempting to procure the contract proposed to result from its proposal, and further agreeing that no such money or reward will be paid.

I. **Additional Required Documents:** Proposer shall complete, execute, and return with its proposal the following documents, blank copies of which are attached to this RFP:

- i. The Office of Equal Opportunity *Notice to Bidders and Schedules*;
- ii. Federal *Form W-9* including Taxpayer Identification Number;
- iii. *Non-Competitive Bid Contract Statement for Calendar Year 2023*

### **Proposal Evaluation; Selection Criteria**

A. **Evaluation Methodology.** The City department/division issuing this RFP will evaluate each proposal submitted. The department will present its recommendations to the City Board of Control (“Board”). The Board may, but shall not be obligated to, entertain formal presentations. The Board may approve one or more contracts to one or more firms. The City will only consider proposals that are received on or before the proposal submission deadline, and which meet all the requirements of this RFP. The City reserves the right to request a “best and final offer” from Proposers meeting the minimum requirements.

B. **Scoring of Proposals.** The City will score each Proposal in each of the following categories:

- i. Experience and Staff
- ii. Program Management Plan
- iii. Proposed Services
- iv. Sustainability



v. Schedule/Timeline

The ratings are not intended or to be interpreted as a reflection of a Proposer's professional abilities. Instead, they reflect the City's best attempt to quantify each Proposer's ability to provide the services sought by the City and to meet the specific requirements of this RFP, for comparison purposes.

- C. **Disqualification of a Proposer/Proposal:** The City does not intend by this RFP to prohibit or discourage submission of a proposal that is based upon a Proposer's trade experience in relation to the nature or scope of work, services, or product(s) described in this RFP or to prescribe the manner in which its services are to be performed or rendered.

The City will not be obligated to accept, however, significant deviations from the work or services sought by this RFP, including terms inconsistent with or substantially varying from the services or the financial and operational requirements of the RFP, as determined solely by the City. The City reserves the right to reject any proposal that does not furnish or is unresponsive to the information required or requested herein. The City reserves the right to reject any proposal or to waive or to accept any deviation from this RFP or in any step of the proposal submission or evaluation process so as to approve the award of the contract considered in the City's best interest, as determined in the City's sole discretion.

Although the City prefers that each Proposer submit only one proposal including all alternatives to the proposal that the Proposer desires the City to consider, it will accept proposals from different business entities or combinations having one or more members in interest in common with another Proposer. The City may reject one or more proposals if it has reason to believe that proposers have colluded to conceal the interest of one or more parties in a proposal, and will not consider a future proposal from a participant in the collusion. In addition, the City will not accept a proposal from or approve a contract to any Proposer that is in default as surety or otherwise upon an obligation to the City or has failed to perform faithfully any previous agreement with the City, or is currently in default under any agreement with the City.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Failure by a Proposer to respond thoroughly and completely to all information and document requests in this RFP may result in rejection of its proposal. Further, the City reserves the right to independently investigate the financial status, qualifications, experience, and performance history of a Proposer.

The City reserves the right to cancel the approval or authorization of a contract award , with or without cause, at any time before its execution of a contract and to later enter into a contract that varies from the provisions of this RFP, if agreed to by another Proposer.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### **Company Information**

- 1) What is the full name of your organization, and the name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for this proposal?
- 2) Please provide an organizational overview including but not limited to:
  - a) How long has your company been in the business of processing COBRA administration for clients?
  - b) What is the number of COBRA administration clients?
  - c) Where is your company location and customer service location which will be responsible for the City of Cleveland's program?
  - d) What is the outline of organization ownership?
  - e) Does COBRA administration represent a core business unit or strategy or ancillary administrative product line? Please explain.
  - f) Approximately how many COBRA participants are you currently serving?
  - g) Approximately how many COBRA eligibility notifications do you mail monthly?
  - h) What are your telephone response time and call abandonment rates? Please provide 2 years of quarterly historic measures.
  - i) Please outline the service (team) set up for the COBRA administration program. Dedicated or non-dedicated team approach? Please outline all aspects of customer service via phone, mail, electronic submission etc.
  - j) Please provide biographical information on Senior Management in your organization.

k) Are any mergers or acquisitions planned within the next 12 months?

### **System Information**

- 3) Please provide a description of your COBRA administrative system, including platform, development (i.e., purchased or developed internally), recent enhancements, planned enhancements, etc.
- 4) Please provide a description of your management reporting capabilities and provide copies of standard management reports and available ad hoc reports.
- 5) Do you have online or Internet capabilities for COBRA participants, plan sponsor and insurance carriers to access eligibility information, participant payment history, administrative activities and related reports? Does your system allow COBRA participants to schedule payments by electronic draft, direct deposit or other automatic mechanism? If yes, please describe.
- 6) What type of security is in place for Protected Health Information?
- 7) Please provide detailed descriptions of your service delivery model(s). You may use flow charts. Responses should include the following:
  - Participant Services, to include telephone and online support as well as mailing of COBRA Eligibility Notifications; invoicing; collection and handling of premiums; and notification of eligibility update to TPA and other health plan vendors.
  - Turnaround time for posting of premiums and reporting to employer of changes and additions.
- 8) Are any system enhancements or upgrades planned within the next 12-24 months?

### **Examples**

- 9) Please provide samples of your COBRA Eligibility Notification package and any other forms you use to communicate with COBRA qualified beneficiaries.

10) Please provide samples of the notifications to employers of current participants.

11) Please provide a sample Service Agreement.

### **Other Information**

12) Can your organization include Life Insurance Conversion information with the COBRA notices?

13) Will you include copies of open enrollment materials if plan options are changing during open enrollment rather than simply issuing a premium change notice?

### **Administrative Fees**

14) Do you have an implementation fee related to your services? If so, what is the fee for the City of Cleveland? What does this fee cover?

15) Do you retain the 2% administrative surcharge above the COBRA-applicable premium?

16) What information is required to populate your data base for current COBRA participants? What format will be required? If manually loaded, what is the fee if any? Please send your implementation check list.

17) How do you bill for COBRA services? Please provide a sample of your billing statement.

18) Are there any additional charges applicable to COBRA administration? Please provide a menu of services and charges that the City may wish to consider.

19) Please advise if your system has the capability to accommodate various COBRA premium payment structures that the City currently has in place. (The City of Cleveland currently has 4 medical plans with 2 plan carriers, one prescription drug plan, one vision plan, and 3 dental plans with one carrier (DHMO and DPPO).

20) Are you willing to enter into a multi-year agreement? If so, please explain.

**General**

21) How do you differentiate your services against the competition?

22) What is your average turnaround from the time your organization is notified of a qualifying event until a notice is mailed to the participant?

23) Are you amenable to performance guarantees for the services contemplated under this RFP?

24) What metrics would form the basis of measurement against the guaranteed levels of performance?

25) Do you indemnify your clients? Please include your standard indemnification language with your response.

26) Are any of your customer service operations located offshore from the United States? If so, please specify the location and hours of operation for same. Also describe the circumstances where offshore call centers would be activated for City of Cleveland.

27) What percentage of all calls are routed to service locations outside the U.S.?

28) Can the City **require** a “domestic only” call center with no offshoring?

29) How do you handle unforeseen requests for exceptions?

30) Are all proposals are NET of Commissions?

31) Please provide a list of three references

Name of Account: City of Cleveland

601 Lakeside Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Number of Employees Eligible for Benefits – 7,230

Number of COBRA Beneficiaries - 140

Number of Health Care Plans - 6

Number of Health Care Carriers – 2

Number of Pharmacy Benefits Managers – 1

Number of Vision Carriers – 1

Number of Dental Carriers - 1

Subject: Submission of NORTHERN IRELAND FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES DISCLOSURE

Each bidder and/or appropriate parties should complete the DISCLOSURE and submit it with the bid, if possible. If not submitted with the bid, it must be completed and submitted to the Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies prior to any contract being awarded by the City. If a bidder or appropriate parties fail to complete and submit it, they shall not be eligible for a contract award.



**Subject: Submission of NORTHERN IRELAND FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES DISCLOSURE**

**Each bidder and/or appropriate parties should complete the DISCLOSURE and submit it with the bid, if possible. If not submitted with the bid, it must be completed and submitted to the Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies prior to any contract being awarded by the City. If a bidder or appropriate parties fail to complete and submit it, they shall not be eligible for a contract award.**

**CHECK WHICHEVER IS APPLICABLE:**

A. ( ) The undersigned or any controlling shareholder,\* subsidiary, or parent corporation of the undersigned is NOT ENGAGED IN ANY BUSINESS OR TRADING FOR PROFIT IN NORTHERN IRELAND. (If paragraph A. is checked, proceed to the signature line.)

B. ( ) The undersigned or any controlling shareholder,\* subsidiary, or parent corporation IS ENGAGED IN ANY BUSINESS OR TRADING FOR PROFIT IN NORTHERN IRELAND. (If paragraph B. is checked, please either check the stipulation contained in paragraph C. or attach documentation that shows that the undersigned has complied with the stipulation contained in paragraph C.

C. ( ) The undersigned and all enterprises identified in paragraph B. are TAKING LAWFUL AND GOOD FAITH STEPS TO ENGAGE IN FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO THE STANDARDS EMBODIED IN THE "MacBRIDE PRINCIPALS FOR FAIR EMPLOYMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND." A copy of the MacBride Principles can be obtained from the Office of the Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies. In lieu of checking this paragraph, the undersigned must attach documentation which the undersigned believes shows compliance with the stipulation contained in this paragraph C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Contractor or Subcontractor

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

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

\*"Controlling shareholder" means any shareholder owning more than fifty percent (50%) of the stock in the corporation or more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the stock in the corporation if no other shareholder owns a larger share of stock in the corporation.

# Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

**Give Form to the  
requester. Do not  
send to the IRS.**

▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/FormW9](http://www.irs.gov/FormW9) for instructions and the latest information.

<b>Print or type.</b> <b>See Specific Instructions on page 3.</b>	<p><b>1</b> Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.</p> <p><b>2</b> Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above</p> <p><b>3</b> Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only <b>one</b> of the following seven boxes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ▶ _____</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is <b>not</b> disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions) ▶ _____</p> <p><b>5</b> Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions.</p> <p><b>6</b> City, state, and ZIP code</p> <p><b>7</b> List account number(s) here (optional)</p>	<p><b>4</b> Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3):</p> <p>Exempt payee code (if any) _____</p> <p>Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____</p> <p><small>(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)</small></p> <p>Requester's name and address (optional)</p>
--	---	--

## Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

**Note:** If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

<b>Social security number</b>																								
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td colspan="2"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td colspan="6"></td> </tr> </table>															-			-						
		-			-																			
<b>or</b>																								
<b>Employer identification number</b>																								
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td colspan="9"></td> </tr> </table>															-									
		-																						

## Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

**Certification instructions.** You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

<b>Sign Here</b>	Signature of U.S. person ▶	Date ▶
------------------	----------------------------	--------

## General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

**Future developments.** For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to [www.irs.gov/FormW9](http://www.irs.gov/FormW9).

## Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Form 1099-INT (interest earned or paid)

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.

*If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See What is backup withholding, later.*

By signing the filled-out form, you:

1. Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued),
2. Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
3. Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income, and
4. Certify that FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that you are exempt from the FATCA reporting, is correct. See *What is FATCA reporting*, later, for further information.

**Note:** If you are a U.S. person and a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

**Definition of a U.S. person.** For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien;
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States;
- An estate (other than a foreign estate); or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

**Special rules for partnerships.** Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax under section 1446 on any foreign partners' share of effectively connected taxable income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, the rules under section 1446 require a partnership to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the section 1446 withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid section 1446 withholding on your share of partnership income.

In the cases below, the following person must give Form W-9 to the partnership for purposes of establishing its U.S. status and avoiding withholding on its allocable share of net income from the partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States.

- In the case of a disregarded entity with a U.S. owner, the U.S. owner of the disregarded entity and not the entity;
- In the case of a grantor trust with a U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner, generally, the U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner of the grantor trust and not the trust; and
- In the case of a U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust), the U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust) and not the beneficiaries of the trust.

**Foreign person.** If you are a foreign person or the U.S. branch of a foreign bank that has elected to be treated as a U.S. person, do not use Form W-9. Instead, use the appropriate Form W-8 or Form 8233 (see Pub. 515, *Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities*).

**Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien.** Generally, only a nonresident alien individual may use the terms of a tax treaty to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on certain types of income. However, most tax treaties contain a provision known as a "saving clause." Exceptions specified in the saving clause may permit an exemption from tax to continue for certain types of income even after the payee has otherwise become a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes.

If you are a U.S. resident alien who is relying on an exception contained in the saving clause of a tax treaty to claim an exemption from U.S. tax on certain types of income, you must attach a statement to Form W-9 that specifies the following five items.

1. The treaty country. Generally, this must be the same treaty under which you claimed exemption from tax as a nonresident alien.
2. The treaty article addressing the income.
3. The article number (or location) in the tax treaty that contains the saving clause and its exceptions.
4. The type and amount of income that qualifies for the exemption from tax.
5. Sufficient facts to justify the exemption from tax under the terms of the treaty article.

**Example.** Article 20 of the U.S.-China income tax treaty allows an exemption from tax for scholarship income received by a Chinese student temporarily present in the United States. Under U.S. law, this student will become a resident alien for tax purposes if his or her stay in the United States exceeds 5 calendar years. However, paragraph 2 of the first Protocol to the U.S.-China treaty (dated April 30, 1984) allows the provisions of Article 20 to continue to apply even after the Chinese student becomes a resident alien of the United States. A Chinese student who qualifies for this exception (under paragraph 2 of the first protocol) and is relying on this exception to claim an exemption from tax on his or her scholarship or fellowship income would attach to Form W-9 a statement that includes the information described above to support that exemption.

If you are a nonresident alien or a foreign entity, give the requester the appropriate completed Form W-8 or Form 8233.

## Backup Withholding

**What is backup withholding?** Persons making certain payments to you must under certain conditions withhold and pay to the IRS 24% of such payments. This is called "backup withholding." Payments that may be subject to backup withholding include interest, tax-exempt interest, dividends, broker and barter exchange transactions, rents, royalties, nonemployee pay, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, and certain payments from fishing boat operators. Real estate transactions are not subject to backup withholding.

You will not be subject to backup withholding on payments you receive if you give the requester your correct TIN, make the proper certifications, and report all your taxable interest and dividends on your tax return.

**Payments you receive will be subject to backup withholding if:**

1. You do not furnish your TIN to the requester,
2. You do not certify your TIN when required (see the instructions for Part II for details),
3. The IRS tells the requester that you furnished an incorrect TIN,
4. The IRS tells you that you are subject to backup withholding because you did not report all your interest and dividends on your tax return (for reportable interest and dividends only), or
5. You do not certify to the requester that you are not subject to backup withholding under 4 above (for reportable interest and dividend accounts opened after 1983 only).

Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding. See *Exempt payee code*, later, and the separate Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

Also see *Special rules for partnerships*, earlier.

## What is FATCA Reporting?

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) requires a participating foreign financial institution to report all United States account holders that are specified United States persons. Certain payees are exempt from FATCA reporting. See *Exemption from FATCA reporting code*, later, and the Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

## Updating Your Information

You must provide updated information to any person to whom you claimed to be an exempt payee if you are no longer an exempt payee and anticipate receiving reportable payments in the future from this person. For example, you may need to provide updated information if you are a C corporation that elects to be an S corporation, or if you no longer are tax exempt. In addition, you must furnish a new Form W-9 if the name or TIN changes for the account; for example, if the grantor of a grantor trust dies.

## Penalties

**Failure to furnish TIN.** If you fail to furnish your correct TIN to a requester, you are subject to a penalty of \$50 for each such failure unless your failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.

**Civil penalty for false information with respect to withholding.** If you make a false statement with no reasonable basis that results in no backup withholding, you are subject to a \$500 penalty.

**Criminal penalty for falsifying information.** Willfully falsifying certifications or affirmations may subject you to criminal penalties including fines and/or imprisonment.

**Misuse of TINs.** If the requester discloses or uses TINs in violation of federal law, the requester may be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

## Specific Instructions

### Line 1

You must enter one of the following on this line; **do not** leave this line blank. The name should match the name on your tax return.

If this Form W-9 is for a joint account (other than an account maintained by a foreign financial institution (FFI)), list first, and then circle, the name of the person or entity whose number you entered in Part I of Form W-9. If you are providing Form W-9 to an FFI to document a joint account, each holder of the account that is a U.S. person must provide a Form W-9.

a. **Individual.** Generally, enter the name shown on your tax return. If you have changed your last name without informing the Social Security Administration (SSA) of the name change, enter your first name, the last name as shown on your social security card, and your new last name.

**Note: ITIN applicant:** Enter your individual name as it was entered on your Form W-7 application, line 1a. This should also be the same as the name you entered on the Form 1040/1040A/1040EZ you filed with your application.

b. **Sole proprietor or single-member LLC.** Enter your individual name as shown on your 1040/1040A/1040EZ on line 1. You may enter your business, trade, or "doing business as" (DBA) name on line 2.

c. **Partnership, LLC that is not a single-member LLC, C corporation, or S corporation.** Enter the entity's name as shown on the entity's tax return on line 1 and any business, trade, or DBA name on line 2.

d. **Other entities.** Enter your name as shown on required U.S. federal tax documents on line 1. This name should match the name shown on the charter or other legal document creating the entity. You may enter any business, trade, or DBA name on line 2.

e. **Disregarded entity.** For U.S. federal tax purposes, an entity that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner is treated as a "disregarded entity." See Regulations section 301.7701-2(c)(2)(iii). Enter the owner's name on line 1. The name of the entity entered on line 1 should never be a disregarded entity. The name on line 1 should be the name shown on the income tax return on which the income should be reported. For example, if a foreign LLC that is treated as a disregarded entity for U.S. federal tax purposes has a single owner that is a U.S. person, the U.S. owner's name is required to be provided on line 1. If the direct owner of the entity is also a disregarded entity, enter the first owner that is not disregarded for federal tax purposes. Enter the disregarded entity's name on line 2, "Business name/disregarded entity name." If the owner of the disregarded entity is a foreign person, the owner must complete an appropriate Form W-8 instead of a Form W-9. This is the case even if the foreign person has a U.S. TIN.

### Line 2

If you have a business name, trade name, DBA name, or disregarded entity name, you may enter it on line 2.

### Line 3

Check the appropriate box on line 3 for the U.S. federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one box on line 3.

IF the entity/person on line 1 is a(n) . . .	THEN check the box for . . .
• Corporation	Corporation
• Individual • Sole proprietorship, or • Single-member limited liability company (LLC) owned by an individual and disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes.	Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC
• LLC treated as a partnership for U.S. federal tax purposes, • LLC that has filed Form 8832 or 2553 to be taxed as a corporation, or • LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner but the owner is another LLC that is not disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes.	Limited liability company and enter the appropriate tax classification. (P= Partnership; C= C corporation; or S= S corporation)
• Partnership	Partnership
• Trust/estate	Trust/estate

### Line 4, Exemptions

If you are exempt from backup withholding and/or FATCA reporting, enter in the appropriate space on line 4 any code(s) that may apply to you.

#### Exempt payee code.

- Generally, individuals (including sole proprietors) are not exempt from backup withholding.
- Except as provided below, corporations are exempt from backup withholding for certain payments, including interest and dividends.
- Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding for payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions.
- Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding with respect to attorneys' fees or gross proceeds paid to attorneys, and corporations that provide medical or health care services are not exempt with respect to payments reportable on Form 1099-MISC.

The following codes identify payees that are exempt from backup withholding. Enter the appropriate code in the space in line 4.

- 1—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), any IRA, or a custodial account under section 403(b)(7) if the account satisfies the requirements of section 401(f)(2)
- 2—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities
- 3—A state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or possession, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities
- 4—A foreign government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities
- 5—A corporation
- 6—A dealer in securities or commodities required to register in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. commonwealth or possession
- 7—A futures commission merchant registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission
- 8—A real estate investment trust
- 9—An entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940
- 10—A common trust fund operated by a bank under section 584(a)
- 11—A financial institution
- 12—A middleman known in the investment community as a nominee or custodian
- 13—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947

The following chart shows types of payments that may be exempt from backup withholding. The chart applies to the exempt payees listed above, 1 through 13.

IF the payment is for . . .	THEN the payment is exempt for . . .
Interest and dividend payments	All exempt payees except for 7
Broker transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4 and 6 through 11 and all C corporations. S corporations must not enter an exempt payee code because they are exempt only for sales of noncovered securities acquired prior to 2012.
Barter exchange transactions and patronage dividends	Exempt payees 1 through 4
Payments over \$600 required to be reported and direct sales over \$5,000 <sup>1</sup>	Generally, exempt payees 1 through 5 <sup>2</sup>
Payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4

<sup>1</sup> See Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, and its instructions.

<sup>2</sup> However, the following payments made to a corporation and reportable on Form 1099-MISC are not exempt from backup withholding: medical and health care payments, attorneys' fees, gross proceeds paid to an attorney reportable under section 6045(f), and payments for services paid by a federal executive agency.

**Exemption from FATCA reporting code.** The following codes identify payees that are exempt from reporting under FATCA. These codes apply to persons submitting this form for accounts maintained outside of the United States by certain foreign financial institutions. Therefore, if you are only submitting this form for an account you hold in the United States, you may leave this field blank. Consult with the person requesting this form if you are uncertain if the financial institution is subject to these requirements. A requester may indicate that a code is not required by providing you with a Form W-9 with "Not Applicable" (or any similar indication) written or printed on the line for a FATCA exemption code.

A—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) or any individual retirement plan as defined in section 7701(a)(37)

B—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities

C—A state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or possession, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities

D—A corporation the stock of which is regularly traded on one or more established securities markets, as described in Regulations section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

F—A corporation that is a member of the same expanded affiliated

M—A tax exempt trust under a section 403(b) plan or section 457(g) plan

**Note:** You may wish to consult with the financial institution requesting this form to determine whether the FATCA code and/or exempt payee code should be completed.

### Line 5

Enter your address (number, street, and apartment or suite number). This is where the requester of this Form W-9 will mail your information returns. If this address differs from the one the requester already has on file, write NEW at the top. If a new address is provided, there is still a chance the old address will be used until the payor changes your address in their records.

### Line 6

Enter your city, state, and ZIP code.

## Part I. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

**Enter your TIN in the appropriate box.** If you are a resident alien and you do not have and are not eligible to get an SSN, your TIN is your IRS individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Enter it in the social security number box. If you do not have an ITIN, see *How to get a TIN* below.

If you are a sole proprietor and you have an EIN, you may enter either your SSN or EIN.

If you are a single-member LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, enter the owner's SSN (or EIN, if the owner has one). Do not enter the disregarded entity's EIN. If the LLC is classified as a corporation or partnership, enter the entity's EIN.

**Note:** See *What Name and Number To Give the Requester*, later, for further clarification of name and TIN combinations.

**How to get a TIN.** If you do not have a TIN, apply for one immediately. To apply for an SSN, get Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card, from your local SSA office or get this form online at [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov). You may also get this form by calling 1-800-772-1213. Use Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to apply for an ITIN, or Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, to apply for an EIN. You can apply for an EIN online by accessing the IRS website at [www.irs.gov/Businesses](http://www.irs.gov/Businesses) and clicking on Employer Identification Number (EIN) under Starting a Business. Go to [www.irs.gov/Forms](http://www.irs.gov/Forms) to view, download, or print Form W-7 and/or Form SS-4. Or, you can go to [www.irs.gov/OrderForms](http://www.irs.gov/OrderForms) to place an order and have Form W-7 and/or SS-4 mailed to you within 10 business days.

If you are asked to complete Form W-9 but do not have a TIN, apply for a TIN and write "Applied For" in the space for the TIN, sign and date the form, and give it to the requester. For interest and dividend payments, and certain payments made with respect to readily tradable instruments, generally you will have 60 days to get a TIN and give it to the requester before you are subject to backup withholding on payments. The 60-day rule does not apply to other types of payments. You will be subject to backup withholding on all such payments until

**1. Interest, dividend, and barter exchange accounts opened before 1984 and broker accounts considered active during 1983.** You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

**2. Interest, dividend, broker, and barter exchange accounts opened after 1983 and broker accounts considered inactive during 1983.** You must sign the certification or backup withholding will apply. If you are subject to backup withholding and you are merely providing your correct TIN to the requester, you must cross out item 2 in the certification before signing the form.

**3. Real estate transactions.** You must sign the certification. You may cross out item 2 of the certification.

**4. Other payments.** You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification unless you have been notified that you have previously given an incorrect TIN. "Other payments" include payments made in the course of the requester's trade or business for rents, royalties, goods (other than bills for merchandise), medical and health care services (including payments to corporations), payments to a nonemployee for services, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, payments to certain fishing boat crew members and fishermen, and gross proceeds paid to attorneys (including payments to corporations).

**5. Mortgage interest paid by you, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, qualified tuition program payments (under section 529), ABLE accounts (under section 529A), IRA, Coverdell ESA, Archer MSA or HSA contributions or distributions, and pension distributions.** You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

**What Name and Number To Give the Requester**

For this type of account:	Give name and SSN of:
1. Individual	The individual
2. Two or more individuals (joint account) other than an account maintained by an FFI	The actual owner of the account or, if combined funds, the first individual on the account <sup>1</sup>
3. Two or more U.S. persons (joint account maintained by an FFI)	Each holder of the account
4. Custodial account of a minor (Uniform Gift to Minors Act)	The minor <sup>2</sup>
5. a. The usual revocable savings trust (grantor is also trustee)	The grantor-trustee <sup>1</sup>
b. So-called trust account that is not a legal or valid trust under state law	The actual owner <sup>1</sup>
6. Sole proprietorship or disregarded entity owned by an individual	The owner <sup>3</sup>
7. Grantor trust filing under Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 1 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(A))	The grantor <sup>*</sup>

For this type of account:	Give name and EIN of:
8. Disregarded entity not owned by an individual	The owner
9. A valid trust, estate, or pension trust	Legal entity <sup>4</sup>
10. Corporation or LLC electing corporate status on Form 8832 or Form 2553	The corporation
11. Association, club, religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization	The organization
12. Partnership or multi-member LLC	The partnership
13. A broker or registered nominee	The broker or nominee

For this type of account:	Give name and EIN of:
14. Account with the Department of Agriculture in the name of a public entity (such as a state or local government, school district, or prison) that receives agricultural program payments	The public entity
15. Grantor trust filing under the Form 1041 Filing Method or the Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 2 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(B))	The trust

<sup>1</sup> List first and circle the name of the person whose number you furnish. If only one person on a joint account has an SSN, that person's number must be furnished.

<sup>2</sup> Circle the minor's name and furnish the minor's SSN.

<sup>3</sup> You must show your individual name and you may also enter your business or DBA name on the "Business name/disregarded entity" name line. You may use either your SSN or EIN (if you have one), but the IRS encourages you to use your SSN.

<sup>4</sup> List first and circle the name of the trust, estate, or pension trust. (Do not furnish the TIN of the personal representative or trustee unless the legal entity itself is not designated in the account title.) Also see *Special rules for partnerships*, earlier.

**\*Note:** The grantor also must provide a Form W-9 to trustee of trust.

**Note:** If no name is circled when more than one name is listed, the number will be considered to be that of the first name listed.

**Secure Your Tax Records From Identity Theft**

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, SSN, or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. An identity thief may use your SSN to get a job or may file a tax return using your SSN to receive a refund.

To reduce your risk:

- Protect your SSN,
- Ensure your employer is protecting your SSN, and
- Be careful when choosing a tax preparer.

If your tax records are affected by identity theft and you receive a notice from the IRS, respond right away to the name and phone number printed on the IRS notice or letter.

If your tax records are not currently affected by identity theft but you think you are at risk due to a lost or stolen purse or wallet, questionable credit card activity or credit report, contact the IRS Identity Theft Hotline at 1-800-908-4490 or submit Form 14039.

For more information, see Pub. 5027, Identity Theft Information for Taxpayers.

Victims of identity theft who are experiencing economic harm or a systemic problem, or are seeking help in resolving tax problems that have not been resolved through normal channels, may be eligible for Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) assistance. You can reach TAS by calling the TAS toll-free case intake line at 1-877-777-4778 or TTY/TDD 1-800-829-4059.

**Protect yourself from suspicious emails or phishing schemes.** Phishing is the creation and use of email and websites designed to mimic legitimate business emails and websites. The most common act is sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft.

The IRS does not initiate contacts with taxpayers via emails. Also, the IRS does not request personal detailed information through email or ask taxpayers for the PIN numbers, passwords, or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank, or other financial accounts.

If you receive an unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, forward this message to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). You may also report misuse of the IRS name, logo, or other IRS property to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-366-4484. You can forward suspicious emails to the Federal Trade Commission at [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov) or report them at [www.ftc.gov/complaint](http://www.ftc.gov/complaint). You can contact the FTC at [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) or 877-IDTHEFT (877-438-4338). If you have been the victim of identity theft, see [www.IdentityTheft.gov](http://www.IdentityTheft.gov) and Pub. 5027.

Visit [www.irs.gov/IdentityTheft](http://www.irs.gov/IdentityTheft) to learn more about identity theft and how to reduce your risk.

## Privacy Act Notice

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to provide your correct TIN to persons (including federal agencies) who are required to file information returns with the IRS to report interest, dividends, or certain other income paid to you; mortgage interest you paid; the acquisition or abandonment of secured property; the cancellation of debt; or contributions you made to an IRA, Archer MSA, or HSA. The person collecting this form uses the information on the form to file information returns with the IRS, reporting the above information. Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and possessions for use in administering their laws. The information also may be disclosed to other countries under a treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce civil and criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism. You must provide your TIN whether or not you are required to file a tax return. Under section 3406, payers must generally withhold a percentage of taxable interest, dividend, and certain other payments to a payee who does not give a TIN to the payer. Certain penalties may also apply for providing false or fraudulent information.



CITY OF CLEVELAND  
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Department/Office)

**NON-COMPETITIVE BID CONTRACT  
STATEMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023  
(ALL DEPARTMENTS/OFFICES)**

This statement, properly executed and containing all required information must be completed. **IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY, YOUR PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Entity Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entity's Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETE SECTION I, II, OR III BELOW, WHICHEVER IS APPROPRIATE, AND SECTION IV.**

**NOTE:** For purposes of this Statement, the "Mayor" and "Mayor's Committee" means Justin Bibb, the Neighbors for Justin Bibb Committee, or any similar campaign committee of Justin Bibb, respectively.

**SECTION I. TO BE COMPLETED BY NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.**

If you are recognized by the IRS as a non-profit corporation or are a governmental entity, mark the appropriate designation below and proceed to the indicated section(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ NON-PROFIT CORPORATION **GO TO SECTIONS III and IV.**

\_\_\_\_\_ GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY **GO TO SECTION IV.**

**SECTION II. TO BE COMPLETED BY INDIVIDUALS, SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS, PARTNERSHIPS, INCORPORATED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS, ESTATES AND TRUSTS.**

The above-named entity is a (Please mark appropriate designation):

\_\_\_\_\_ SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ TRUST

\_\_\_\_\_ INCORPORATED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_ ESTATE

\_\_\_\_\_ UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_ PARTNERSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_ LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT VENTURE

For purposes of Section II, a "principal" means an individual, an owner, a partner, a shareholder, a member, an administrator, an executor or trustee connected with the above-named entity, or the spouse of any of them.

**PLEASE READ PARAGRAPHS ( A ) and ( B ) and mark the appropriate paragraph. If paragraph ( B ) is checked, the City of Cleveland is prohibited by Section 3517.13 of the Revised Code from awarding a non-competitively bid contract over \$500.00 to the entity during calendar year 2023 unless Council makes a direct award.**

\_\_\_\_\_ ( A ) NO ONE PRINCIPAL of the above named entity made one or more contributions to the Mayor or the Mayor's Committee between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022 that totaled in excess of \$1,000.00 per individual. (This paragraph also applies if no principal of the above-named entity made any contributions to the Mayor or the Mayor's Committee).

\_\_\_\_\_ ( B ) ONE OR MORE PRINCIPALS of the above named entity made, as individual(s), one or more contributions to the Mayor or the Mayor's Committee between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022 that totaled in excess of \$1,000.00.



**SECTION III. TO BE COMPLETED BY NON- PROFIT AND FOR-PROFIT CORPORATIONS AND BUSINESS TRUSTS.**

\_\_\_\_\_ NON-PROFIT CORPORATION \_\_\_\_\_ FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION  
\_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS TRUST (OTHER THAN INCORPORATED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS)

For purposes of Section III, a "principal" means an individual or an entity owning more than 20% of the corporation or business trust or the spouse of any such individual.

**PLEASE READ PARAGRAPHS ( A ) ( B ) ( C ) and ( D ) and mark the appropriate paragraph. If paragraph ( C ) is checked, the City of Cleveland is prohibited by Section 3517.13 of the Revised Code from awarding a non-competitively bid contract over \$500.00 to the entity during calendar year 2023 unless Council makes a direct award. If paragraph ( D ) is checked, the City of Cleveland is prohibited by Section 3599.03 from awarding a contract to the non-profit corporation.**

- ( A ) NO INDIVIDUAL or entity owned more than 20% of the corporation or business trust between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022.
- ( B ) NO PRINCIPAL of the above named entity made, as an individual, one or more contributions to the Mayor or the Mayor's Committee between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022 that totaled in excess of \$1,000.00. (This paragraph also applies if no principal of the above-named entity made any contributions to the Mayor or the Mayor's Committee).
- ( C ) ONE OR MORE PRINCIPALS of the above named entity made one or more contributions to the Mayor or the Mayor's Committee between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022 that totaled in excess of \$1,000.00 individual.
- ( D ) FUNDS OF THE NON-PROFIT CORPORATION were contributed to the Mayor or the Mayor's Committee at any time.

**GO TO SECTION IV.**

**SECTION IV. TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTITIES.**

I do hereby state that I have legal authority to complete this statement on behalf of the above-named entity and to the best of my knowledge and belief the answers herein are true and complete.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Print Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Area Code)

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 ) SS:  
 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared the above-named \_\_\_\_\_, who acknowledged that (he/she) did sign the foregoing statement and that the same is (his/her) free act deed, personally and as duly authorized representative of \_\_\_\_\_, and the free act and deed of the entity on whose behalf (he/she) signed.

Notary Public \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR MAYOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY**

\_\_\_\_\_ ELIGIBLE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ INELIGIBLE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

**SUBCONTRACTOR PARTICIPATION GOAL**

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT**

The Subcontractor Participation (Utilization) Goal for this contract has been waived:

A searchable database of all CSB firms eligible to fulfill the subcontractor participation goal can be found on the City of Cleveland Office of Equal Opportunity Website:

<http://cleveland.diversitycompliance.com>

On the website, click on [Search Certified Directory](#)