



GARRETT COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

GARRETT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION FOR QUALIFIED
GARRETT COUNTY PARTICIPANTS - NON-EMERGENCY
AMBULANCE SERVICES
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

IFB: #24-0701A

ISSUE DATE: June 5, 2024

BID CLOSING DATE: July 1, 2024 9:00 AM EST

NO BID NOTICE/VENDOR FEEDBACK FORM

To help us improve the quality of State solicitations, and to make our procurement process more responsive and business friendly, please provide comments and suggestions regarding this solicitation. Please return your comments with your response. If you have chosen not to respond to this solicitation, please email or fax this completed form to the attention of the Procurement Officer (see Key Information Summary Sheet below for contact information).

Title: Medical Assistance Transportation For Qualified Garrett County Participants - Non-Emergency Ambulance Services

Solicitation No: 24-0701A

1. If you have chosen not to respond to this solicitation, please indicate the reason(s) below:
 - Other commitments preclude our participation at this time
 - The subject of the solicitation is not something we ordinarily provide
 - We are inexperienced in the work/commodities required
 - Specifications are unclear, too restrictive, etc. (Explain in REMARKS section)
 - The scope of work is beyond our present capacity
 - Doing business with the State is simply too complicated. (Explain in REMARKS section)
 - We cannot be competitive. (Explain in REMARKS section)
 - Time allotted for completion of the Bid/Proposal is insufficient
 - Start-up time is insufficient
 - Bonding/Insurance requirements are restrictive (Explain in REMARKS section)
 - Bid/Proposal requirements (other than specifications) are unreasonable or too risky (Explain in REMARKS section)
 - Prior State of Maryland contract experience was unprofitable or otherwise unsatisfactory. (Explain in REMARKS section)
 - Payment schedule too slow
 - Other: _____

2. If you have submitted a response to this solicitation, but wish to offer suggestions or express concerns, please use the REMARKS section below. (Attach additional pages as needed.)

REMARKS:

Vendor Name: _____

Date: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

KEY INFORMATION SUMMARY SHEET

Invitation for Bids	Medical Assistance Transportation For Qualified Garrett County Participants - Non-Emergency Ambulance Services
Solicitation Number:	24-0701A
IFB Issue Date:	06/05/2024
IFB Issuing Office:	Garrett County Health Department
Procurement Officer: E-mail: Office Phone:	Vickie Weeks vickie.weeks@maryland.gov (240) 226-0022
Bids are to be sent to:	Garrett County Health Department 1025 Memorial Drive Oakland, MD 21550 ATTN: Vickie Weeks
Questions Due Date and Time	June 17, 2024 by 9:00 AM EST
Bid Due (Closing) Date and Time:	July 1, 2024 9:00 AM EST
Public Bid Opening	July 1, 2024 9:30 AM EST
Contract Type:	The Contract that results for this Invitation For Bid (IFB) shall be an indefinite quantity contract with fixed unit price.
Contract Duration:	For a term of eleven months beginning August 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025 with an option for up to (2) two (1) one year renewal terms.
Primary Place of Performance:	Garrett County
Federal Funding:	Yes

INVITATION FOR BIDS

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION FOR QUALIFIED GARRETT COUNTY PARTICIPANTS-NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES

IFB #24-0701A

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Garrett County Health Department (GCHD) will accept sealed Bids from Bidders to provide non-emergency ambulance transportation services for all Garrett County residents who are actively enrolled in full benefit Medicaid and are qualified for Medical Assistance transportation through a grant from the Maryland Department of Health. The Bidder must be able to provide transportation services for all Garrett County residents who are eligible and qualified for Medical Assistance transportation, for non-emergency ambulance transport, either by the vendor or through a GCHD approved subcontractor. Bidders may bid on any services at their discretion, such as, hospital discharges, medical appointments, or all ambulance transports. Services are required for non-emergency transports to sites including physician offices, laboratories, outpatient clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, dental clinics and other medical facilities or destinations for the purpose of accessing a Medicaid covered service.
- 1.2 Bid documents may be obtained in person from the Garrett County Health Department, Administration Department, 1025 Memorial Drive, Oakland, MD 21550. A copy of the bid documents can also be downloaded from the GCHD website at: <https://garretthealth.org/requestforproposals/>. Inquiries may be made by calling (240) 226-0022.
- 1.3 All Bids must be sealed and clearly marked on the outside of the envelope, "Invitation for Bids - Medical Assistance Transportation For Qualified Garrett County Participants - Non-Emergency Ambulance Services" and be submitted to the Garrett County Health Department, Administration Department, 1025 Memorial Drive, Oakland, Maryland 21550 on or before the close of business Monday, July 1, 2024, at 9:00 AM (local time). Public Bid Opening will be Monday, July 1, 2024 at 9:30 AM EST. Submission may be made via mail, or in person. Bidders are required to submit an original and three (3) copies of their Bid at the time of submission.
- 1.4 GCHD reserves the right to not consider any Bids received after the time due. All Bids shall be retained as documentation for the procurement file.
- 1.5 Nothing herein is intended to exclude any responsible Bidder or in any way restrain or restrict competition. On the contrary, all responsible Bidders are encouraged to submit Bids. GCHD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids and to waive technicalities in any part thereof deemed to be in the best interest of the GCHD. GCHD also reserves the right to reject the Bid from a Bidder who has previously failed to perform properly or complete on time contracts of a similar nature, or a Bid from any Bidder, which investigation shows is deemed not responsible to perform the contract.
- 1.6 Any Bid submitted must be signed by the Bidder submitting the Bid. All Bids submitted without such signature shall be deemed non-responsive and shall not be considered.
- 1.7 As is more fully explained throughout this Invitation for Bid ("IFB"), an award, if made, shall be made to the responsible Bidder, whose Bid is most advantageous to the GCHD, taking into consideration cost and evaluation factors. **Multiple awards may be made** to any or all responsive, responsible Bidders.
- 1.8 It is the GCHD's intention to obtain services as specified in this IFB, from a Contract between the selected Bidder and the GCHD. The anticipated duration of services to be provided under this Contract is eleven months with two (2) single year renewal options. Bidders shall be operational and able to provide services effective 8/1/2024.

2. Minimum Qualifications

- 2.1** The Bidder shall be a Commercial Ambulance Service licensed in Maryland by the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), State Office of Commercial Ambulance Licensing and Regulation (SOCALR) to provide Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support (ALS), and Specialty Care Transport (SCT). As proof of meeting this requirement, the Bidder shall provide with its Bid a current Commercial Ambulance Service license issued by MIEMSS evidencing the Bidder's licensure.
- 2.2** The Bidder shall be enrolled as a Maryland Medicaid Provider. As proof of meeting this requirement, the Bidder shall provide with its bid their Maryland Medicaid Provider Identification Number.
- 2.3** The Bidder shall maintain an Active status with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation.
- 2.4** The Bidder shall maintain all MIEMSS standards for licensure and documentation for all employees. As proof of meeting this requirement, the Bidder shall provide with its Bid all current licensure documentation for employees.
- 2.5** The Bidder shall provide licenses for EMT for BLS (Basic Life Support) Units, CRT-1 or Paramedic for ALS (Advanced Life Support) Units and/or an SCT Paramedic/or/Nurse for SCT Units.
- 2.6** The Bidder shall identify the location(s) from which it proposes to provide services, including, any current facilities that they operate. They shall provide documentation that they maintain a permanent place of business and have had at least three (3) successful years of experience in providing transportation services.
- 2.7** The Bidder shall provide documentation to the number of clients/customers and geographic locations that the Contractor currently serves, as well as the number of years the Bidder has provided the similar goods and services.

3. Scope of Work

3.1 Ambulance Transportation Service definitions:

- 1. Ambulance Transportation** - Ambulance transportation shall mean the door-through-door transportation of clients who non-ambulatory, as attested on a valid Provider Certification Form, and are physically unable to be transported by bus, sedan, passenger van, wheelchair van, public transit, or private automobile and the ambulance transportation is not for the convenience of the client or the medical provider.
- 2. ALS (Advanced Life Support)** - Care rendered in vehicles that must be staffed by at least two (2) people who meet the requirement of State and local laws where the services are being furnished and where at least one of whom must meet the vehicle staff requirement for Basic Life Support (BLS) vehicles and be certified as a CRT-(1) or a paramedic by the State or local authority where the services are being furnished to perform one or more ALS Services.
- 3. BLS (Basic Life Support)** - Care rendered by Emergency Medical Technicians or emergency medical responders under the Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services Providers that is not Advanced Life Support (ALS) care.
- 4. SCT (Specialty Care Transport)** - The transport of a patient who either: requires care or monitoring commensurate with the scope of practice of a Physician or registered nurse and beyond the scope of a Paramedic credentialed to provide Specialty Care Transport; or, requires ongoing care or monitoring that is within the scope of a Paramedic who is credentialed to provide SCT as defined in the “Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers” and who does not currently need or is not anticipated to need intervention during transport that would be beyond the scope of a Paramedic credentialed to provide SCT under the “Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers.”
- 5. Bariatric** - A Participant who meets the clinical definition of Morbid Obesity based on Body Mass Index (BMI) whose weight is greater than 350 lbs. and girth is such that they will not fit in a standard wheelchair or on a standard Ambulance stretcher.
- 6. EMT-B** - Emergency Medical Technician - means the professional designation of a credentialed prehospital provider at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level.

3.2 A Partial List of the Commercial Ambulance Licensing & Regulations criteria for transport is listed below with an attached hyperlink to the MIEMSS Medical Protocols website. All MIEMSS Medical Protocols shall be followed.

Basic Life Support – (BLS)

- Oxygen – low concentration (if high concentration, consult RN) 15 liters per minute
- Existing Tracheostomy
- Hep Locks and “Locked” central lines
- Returns to residence/nursing home
- Foley Catheters
- Non-infusing gastric/nasogastric tubes
- No infusing intravenous lines (IV’s)
- IV fluids containing Lactated Ringers, 10%Dextrose and .9 Saline
- Exception of Potassium – 20 mcq of K or less can go BLS

Advanced Life Support – (ALS)

- Cardiac monitoring

Non-medicated intravenous lines
Chronic ventilator clients
Tracheostomy clients (some can go BLS, but check with RN)
Chest tubes with Heimlich Valve
External jugular catheters
Adenocard with doctor's orders, as per Maryland State Protocols,
6 ml rapid IV push may repeat

Critical Care Transport – ALS with Transport RN

Potassium intravenous lines of greater than 20 mcq of K
All acutely ill or admitted to monitored critical care area
Medically intravenous lines
Infusion of blood products
Infusion of HA's/TPN
Physician Order (even if condition does not seem to warrant RN)
Anticipated need for sedation or pain control
Chest tubes and associated drainage systems
High-risk obstetrical clients
Neonates
Acutely ill ventilator clients

http://www.miemss.org/home/Portals/0/Docs/Guidelines_Protocols/MD-Medical-Protocols-2022-Mobile-20220816.pdf?ver=2022-08-16-094758-727

3.3 Summary

1. GCHD seeks to contract for Maryland Medicaid-Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Services to begin on August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Bids shall include ALS, BLS, and SCT levels of care with prices broken down by type of transport. The Contractor Bid pricing shall include a per person base rate, and a fixed rate per loaded mile. **NEMT will only pay for the base rate and loaded miles. This contract does not include payment for wait times or no-shows.**
2. Non-Emergency Ambulance transportation services shall be provided door-through-door and shall not be terminated until clinical transfer of care to the responsible party or facility personnel has been completed.
3. The Bidder shall maintain and provide staffing and equipment available in Garrett County 24/7/365 to handle the transportation needs of the Medicaid transportation clients. It is crucial that the Contractor be able to maintain a timely schedule for the clients' medical appointments not to exceed ten (10) minutes past the scheduled pickup time. Late pickups and returns will not be tolerated under this contract.
4. A Bidder, either directly or through GCHD approved subcontractor(s), must be able to provide all goods and services and meet all of the requirements requested in this solicitation and the successful Bidder (the Contractor) shall remain responsible for Contract performance regardless of subcontractor participation in the work.

3.4 Funding

Funding for this project will come from the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Long Term Services and Supports, Division of Community Support Services.

3.5 Background

Prior Contract Number of Transports:

The **actual** number of transports, each leg of a trip is counted separately, made during July 1, 2023– March 31, 2024 were the following:

Ambulance/BLS passenger transports: 134 for 6922 miles
Ambulance/ALS passenger transports: 10 for 622 miles
Ambulance/SCT passenger transports: 3 for 166 miles

3.6 Contractor requirements:

The Contractor shall:

1. Provide ambulance services including BLS, ALS & SCT (see Section 3.1 1-6) to the residents and clients of GCHD. Hospital discharges and transfers shall be completed on the date requested by the hospital.
 - a. Interfacility transfers to a higher level of care for services not available at the sending facility (hospital to hospital) require a 60-minute response time to the bedside.
 - b. Hospital discharges from the Emergency Department shall have a response time not to exceed 3 hours.
 - c. Hospital discharges shall be completed on the date requested by the hospital when scheduled in advance. When scheduled on the same day, response time shall not exceed 4 hours.
2. Arrive on time according to scheduled pick up time for pre-scheduled transport service (scheduled 24 hours in advance).
 - a. In the event the Contractor is late or misses a pre-scheduled transport causing the cancellation of a scheduled appointment, the Contractor will be deemed deficient/non-responsive, payment will be withheld **and** the Contractor will reimburse the GCHD for any transportation expenses incurred in resolving the situation.
 - b. In the event a participant misses an appointment because the participant was a “no show”, there will be no penalty to the Contractor, or
 - c. Clients not ready within ten (10) minutes of the designated pick up time.
3. Notify GCHD within 24 hours of an accident, or incident with a disruptive and/or violent patient, a sick patient requiring 911 transport or other serious event.
4. Allow one client attendant (facility staff or family member) to accompany a client on a transport when requested.
5. Prohibit smoking or tobacco use by employees and shall have a policy against any abusive, rude, threatening, obscene or vulgar behavior or any activity on the part of the employee, which might be considered injurious to an individual's person or self-respect.
6. Have a policy in place for infection control and contaminated materials disposal. These policies are to be strictly enforced at all times.
7. Complete all GCHD authorized transports to and from Medicaid providers for medically necessary care. These transports may not be limited to Garrett County as the closest appropriate provider may be

located outside of Garrett County.

8. Maintain, for six years, comprehensive records of the transport provided under this contract. The information shall include all details of the transport (including dates, vehicle and staff information) and will be made available to the Grantor for inspection upon request.
9. Cooperate with vendor monitoring visits from the Grantor and the Office of Health Services.
10. Maintain records and documents in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and in accordance with State and federal laws that sufficiently and properly reflect all direct and indirect costs of any nature expended in the course of this contract. These books, records, documents and other evidence shall be available for inspection.
 - a. If review reveals that funds are not expended within the limits of the approved budget or modifications, it is understood that restitution of monies found to be in violation of this Contract shall be made to the MDH. All records must be retained for 6 years and audited by MDH, whichever is later.
11. Acknowledge and attest that funds awarded under this contract are used toward payment of any entity or individual found on the Federal or State LEIE database, shall be in accordance with Maryland Medicaid [Transmittal PT 36-09](#). (See policy#: 10.09.19 PT36-09 LEIE)
<https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/docs/PT36-09.pdf>
12. Not accept complaints directly, instead referring the complainant to the GCHD. The Medicaid Transportation Grantee at GCHD will investigate, resolve and make necessary notifications regarding the complaint.
 - a. If the Contractor is made aware in any manner of a complaint, a list of complainants shall be maintained and submitted to GCHD within 24 hours, and shall include all contact information for the client.
 - b. Complainants shall be instructed to contact GCHD directly where complaints will be investigated by the Contract Coordinator or designee within a reasonable time.
 - c. Problems or issues identified by the Contractor shall be submitted to the GCHD within 24 hours and shall include all necessary documents to resolve the issue.
13. Reference that the GCHD **does not** guarantee a minimum or maximum quantity of any of the different types of transport during any term of the contract.

3.7 Scheduling of Transports:

1. The GCHD shall notify the Contractor of Non-Emergency Ambulance transports as soon as the appointments are scheduled and with at least a 24-hour notice if possible.
2. All clients are given a pickup time by GCHD. The Contractor is responsible for notifying GCHD of the scheduled time for pick-up; GCHD staff will then contact the client.
3. In addition to these scheduled transports, the GCHD may telephone the Contractor to schedule additional transports on the same day as well as local return transports from a health provider to the clients' residence after service has been received. (See item "4" below.)

4. **Vendor agrees to sub-contract with other ambulance companies to provide services if the vendor cannot provide the service due to an unusually heavy demand or due to his/her equipment being in use, being repaired, or otherwise being unavailable.**
 - a. In this event, the vendor shall notify the GCHD approved sub-contractor, schedule the transport, and pay the GCHD approved sub-contractor for the service.
 - b. The vendor and/or GCHD approved sub-contractor may not deny transportation services that have been scheduled by GCHD for any reason. It is the Contractor's responsibility to do whatever necessary to provide the transportation service. GCHD will not be responsible for communication with the GCHD approved sub-contractor. All questions, etc. from the GCHD approved sub-contractor are to be directed to the vendor.
5. Garrett Regional Medical Center (GRMC) or UPMC Western Maryland may contact the Contractor directly for transport of clients when the GCHD is closed, i.e. after normal business hours, weekends or holidays. The Contractor shall verify that the client is active in the Medical Assistance Program by telephoning the Eligibility Verification System (EVS) line (1-800-492-2134). In the event the client is inactive and/or Medicaid pending, the Contractor shall **not** transport the client and shall contact GRMC or UPMC Western Maryland immediately and notify them of the ineligibility. GCHD shall not be held responsible for the cost of the transport of clients whose status is inactive and/or pending. The Contractor **may not** bill the clients for any services provided during or after hours, under this contract.
 - a. Transportation arranged after hours, directly with the facilities and accepted by the Contractor, are known as After Hours Transports. Documentation for After Hours Transports must be submitted to GCHD **the next business day by 9:00 AM** for review by the GCHD program for Medicaid Eligibility and Medical Necessity of the Transport.
 - b. Accepting the transport, verifying EVS eligibility, and agreeing to the level of Medical Necessity or After Hours Transports is at the risk of the Contractor. If the Contractor does not feel this transport is an appropriate use of the NEMT Program, the Contractor must have that dialogue with the sending facility prior to accepting the transport.
6. Clients who are "Medicaid Pending" are only GCHD reimbursable if the client becomes retroactively eligible on the date of service. Otherwise, the responsibility of payment for the transport falls to the hospital, nursing home or vendor, depending on their contract. Medicaid clients shall not be held financially responsible for transportation provided under this contract.
7. GCHD will verify each and every approval/denial for a transport individually. The time for approval/denial may vary. Each client will be verified through the Eligibility Verification System (EVS). The transportation staff will verify with GCHD Physician/Ombudsman to make sure that the transport is/was medically necessary by the mode of transport requested.
8. For all ambulance transports, the attending Physician shall determine the mode of transport based on the medical condition of the client. The Physician Certification form **must** be completed prior to transport and verified by a nurse at the GCHD, or the transport will not be paid.
9. Transports shall be performed at the most cost-effective trip type possible and in accordance with the provisions contained herein.
10. In the event that a facility decides not to utilize the Contractor for the GCHD for a transport due to convenience, the GCHD will not be liable for payment of the transport.
11. Failure by the Contractor to provide any scheduled daily transports in a timely manner shall be grounds for immediate termination of the contract by the GCHD.

3.8 Unallowable Costs:

1. The NEMT Program will not cover no-shows, wait time, commuting miles, duplicate miles, unloaded miles, gratuities, transportation to receive non-medical services or non-covered medical services, transportation of non-medical assistance recipients, transportation to/and from correctional facilities/institutions, transportation to/and from State facilities while the recipient is a resident of that facility, and emergency transportation services.
2. The GCHD shall not be invoiced for any transports of clients with primary insurance coverage (Medicare, commercial insurance, etc.) until after the Contractor has processed a claim to the primary insurance. If the primary insurance issues a denial of coverage, or partial coverage for the service rendered, the contractor must include the Explanation of Benefits/Denial, with other required documentation (see section 4.4.4) at the time of invoice.
3. The GCHD will **NOT** reimburse the contractor for **NO SHOW** transports, wait-times, or unloaded mileage.

3.9 Response Time:

1. The response time under this contract shall be scheduled by the appointment time and the Contractor shall be responsible for pickup to assure arrival to that appointment time. For weekend or holiday transports requested by any hospital, when the GCHD is closed, the response time shall be by 11:59 PM the day the call is received from the hospital.
2. In the event the ambulance is late (due to the Contractor) for a transport, and the health care provider cannot serve the client, **the GCHD shall not be liable for the payment of the transport to or from the medical provider.** In the event the client is charged a fee by the health care provider for being late, the expense shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor and not the responsibility of the GCHD.
3. In the event the ambulance arrives at the scheduled destination to make a pick-up and the client cannot be located and does not appear, or appears and declines to go, this situation will be called a **NO SHOW**. All **NO SHOWS** shall be reported immediately by the Contractor by telephone to GCHD. In the event that the GCHD is closed, the **NO SHOW** must be faxed or emailed on the next scheduled workday. If a client is a **NO SHOW**, the Contractor, according to State policy, is required to wait ten (10) minutes from the scheduled pick-up time before leaving the pick-up location.
4. The Contractor shall provide room in the ambulance, when approved and requested by the GCHD, for one (1) attendant in addition to the client. Determination of **acceptance or denial of an additional transport shall be the sole responsibility of the GCHD.** The attendant must be age eighteen (18) or older and not necessarily a family member for clients whose provider has specified an attendant on the Provider Certification Form or a parent of a minor.
5. The response time for Ambulance transports during normal weekday business shall be scheduled in accordance with the medical appointment time. The Contractor shall be responsible for contacting GCHD to schedule the pick-up time so that the client arrives at his/her medical appointment at the appropriate time. For weekend or holiday transports requested by GRMC or UPMC Western Maryland, when the GCHD is closed, the response time shall be within sixty (60) minutes from the time of the call from the hospital.

3.10 Workforce/Personnel Requirements:

The Contractor shall:

1. Provide transportation in compliance with all applicable City, County, Maryland Department of Health (MDH), State and federal regulations regarding licensing and certification of personnel and vehicles,

including insurance coverage and safety inspections. The driver of the vehicle must meet all requirements for the operation of a transport vehicle.

2. Recognize that transportation of clients as approved for transportation by the GCHD **may not be denied by the Contractor and/or GCHD approved sub-contractor for any reason and/or circumstance.** The Contractor is responsible for establishing whatever contracts or arrangements are necessary to accommodate the transports. Contractor shall employ appropriate staffing to complete the Contract throughout the term of the Contract.
3. Designate a Transportation Manager responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Contract. The Contractor will notify the GCHD what staff member has been designated for this position and their contact information. The Contractor will also notify GCHD of any personnel changes to this position during the term of the Contract.
4. Provide documentation of the number of staff to be used in providing transportation services and they shall retain appropriate staffing throughout the term of the Contract. Contractors shall be able to provide services effective 8/1/2024.
5. Ensure that all personnel providing ambulance services under this Contract have been licensed by MIEMSS to provide EMS care in Maryland.
6. Obtain from all personnel assigned to work on the Contract a signed statement permitting a criminal background check. The Contractor shall secure at its own expense a Maryland State Police and/or FBI background check and provide the Contract Monitor with completed checks on personnel assigned to work under the Contract prior to assignment. At a minimum, these background checks must include all convictions and probation before judgment (PBJ) dispositions. The Contractor may not assign an individual whose background check reflects any criminal activity to work under this Contract. The Contractor shall have a policy in place, shared with the GCHD, which allows for the review and continuous monitoring of their active employees. The policy shall include the procedure for the handling of drivers who obtain new moving violations during the term of the contract and the disciplinary steps which may ultimately end in a termination of employment.
7. Provide an organizational chart outlining Personnel and their related duties to assist the Contract Monitor. The Contractor shall provide a draft Problem Escalation Procedure (PEP) that includes, at a minimum, titles of individuals to be contacted by the Contract Monitor should problems arise under the Contract and explains how problems with work under the Contract will be escalated in order to resolve any issues in a timely manner.

3.11 Equipment Requirements:

1. All transport vehicles shall meet all applicable Federal, State, City and Local regulations governing the operation of like vehicles. The transport equipment and all equipment carried will be operable and regularly maintained to ensure its operability; upon request, the successful Contractor shall submit evidence of copies of current licensure or documentation. All equipment shall be in good repair and appearance.
2. All drivers and vehicles are in compliance with the Motor Vehicle Code of the State of Maryland and provide proof that each has a current driver's license suitable and approved for the specific type of transportation to be performed for each and every driver to be used on this contract. GCHD shall have the right to inspect maintenance records under this Contract at any time.
3. All Contractors shall provide evidence of insurance consistent with the type of transportation provided to include a listing of all vehicles, by vehicle identification number (VIN) and all drivers, covered by the insurance policy.

4. All Contractors shall have medical equipment and vehicles as required for Commercial Ambulance Service licensure in excellent condition as recommended by the manufacturer and including, but not limited to: a high level of adequacy of vehicles for passenger safety, comfort, sufficiency of equipment accessibility and compliance with Federal and State motor vehicle safety standards. Vehicles shall be kept clean (interior and exterior) at all times. All systems and equipment must be maintained in proper working order to include the climate control system (heat & air conditioning). GCHD shall have the right to inspect maintenance records of ambulances covered under this Contract at any time.
5. Contractor shall provide the necessary client care equipment including but not limited to a bariatric stretcher, clean linen, first aid supplies, oxygen, telecommunication equipment and other safety and lifesaving equipment required by Federal, State and local laws that classify the vehicle as an ambulance.
6. All Contractor vehicles shall be equipped with a means of two way communication directly with the dispatcher and such other radio equipment as may be required by the licensing authority.

3.12 Reporting Requirements:

The Contractor shall:

1. Check all databases required by the grantor on a monthly basis to ensure that none of said employees or entities have been excluded from providing Medicaid services due to fraudulent activity. Contractor will complete an Attestation form based on this information and send it to GCHD, who will then provide the information to the grantor each month (General Provider Transmittal No. 73 and 42 CFR 455.104 through CFR 455.106). This attestation shall be received by the 1st business day of the following month.
2. Provide a quarterly report by mode and mileage quarterly as well as any other reports or information on an as needed basis.
3. Provide a copy of each year's independent audit as soon as it is available, if applicable.

3.13 Legal Requirements:

The Contractor shall:

1. Comply with all the terms of the Federal Wage and Hour Act, all local and Federal laws, rules, and regulations, and specifically, rules applying to employment of minors, the Executive Order 11246 (Equal Opportunity) and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The Contractor shall be responsible for all administration costs, payroll, Federal and Maryland taxes, unemployment compensation costs and insurance.
2. Comply with all applicable laws required by Medicare and Medicaid. The Contractor shall provide documentation of compliance upon the request of the GCHD.
3. Be licensed to do business in the State of Maryland, be in good standing with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT), and have an SDAT number.
4. Provide proof of all current licenses required by federal or State laws.
5. Provide evidence of adequate insurance coverage based on industry and GCHD standards.
6. Provide written policies and procedures, which describe all aspects of the operations and that addresses all operational requirements by state or federal law.

7. Comply with all applicable federal and state policies governing the transportation of eligible Maryland Medicaid participants to and from covered services including but not limited to 42 CFR 431.53, 42 CFR 440.170, and COMAR 10.09.19.
8. Ensure that throughout the term of the Contract all applicable licenses, certifications, and accreditations required by the State Office of Commercial Ambulance Licensing and Regulation (SOCALR) are maintained in a current status. In addition, the Contractor shall remain compliant with any applicable local and Federal laws and regulations required of an ambulance service operating under the terms of the Contract.

4. Contractor Requirements: General

4.1 Contractor Initiation Requirements

Contractor shall schedule and hold a kickoff meeting within 10 business days of the Notice to Proceed Date. At the kickoff meeting, the Contractor shall furnish all the required documentation to include the following:

Forms that can be obtained from GCHD website:

- Purchasing Preference Affidavit (Attachment B)
- Bid/Proposal Instructions & Form (Attachment B-1)
- Bid/Proposal Affidavit (Attachment C)
- Maryland Living Wage Requirements for Service Contracts and Affidavit of Agreement Attachments D)
- Federal Funds (Attachment E)
- Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure (Attachment F)
- Non-Disclosure Agreement (Contractor) (Attachment G)
- Bidder/Offeror Information Sheet (Attachment H)
- HIPAA Business Associate Agreement (Attachment I)
- Contract Affidavit (Attachment J)
- Criminal Background Check Affidavit (Attachment L)
- Contract (Attachment M)

Contractor shall provide the following:

- Proof of Insurance - refer to **Section 4.6**
- Policy and procedure plans
- Problem Escalation Procedure - refer to **Section 4.8**
- Form W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification and Certification
- Proof of all current required licenses

Contractor shall also consult with the GCHD IT staff and/or MD Strategic Data Initiative (SDI) Team for form completion relating to the data use agreement.

4.2 End of Contract Transition

1. The Contractor shall provide transition assistance as requested by the GCHD to facilitate the orderly transfer of services to the GCHD or a follow-on contractor, for a period of up to sixty (60) days prior to Contract end date, or the termination thereof. Such transition efforts shall consist of:
 - a. Provide additional services/support to successfully complete the transition;
 - b. Maintain the services of the Contract at the required level of proficiency;
 - c. Provide update/current System Documentation and operating procedures.
2. This Contract Transition will be coordinated by the GCHD Contract Monitor.

4.3 Return and Maintenance of GCHD Data - THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE SEPARATE FROM THE REQUIREMENTS LISTED IN 3.6.8 & 3.6.10A

1. Upon termination or the expiration of the Contract Term, the Contractor shall:
 - a. Preserve, maintain, and protect all GCHD data until the earlier of a direction by the GCHD to delete such data or the expiration of 90 days (“the retention period”) from the date of termination or expiration of the Contract term;

- b. After the retention period, the Contractor shall securely dispose of and permanently delete all GCHD data in all of its forms, such as disk, CD/DVD, backup tape and paper such that it is not recoverable, according to National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)-approved methods with certificates of destruction to be provided to the GCHD; and
 - c. Prepare an accurate accounting from which the GCHD may reconcile all outstanding accounts. The final monthly invoice for the services provided hereunder shall include all charges for the 90-day data retention period.
2. During any period of service suspension, the Contractor shall maintain all GCHD data in its then existing form, unless otherwise directed in writing by the Contract Monitor.
 3. In addition to the foregoing, the GCHD shall be entitled to any post-termination/expiration assistance generally made available by Contractor with respect to the services.

4.4 Invoicing

1. All invoices for services shall be signed by the **Contractor** and submitted to the Contract Monitor. All Invoices shall include the following information:
 - a. Contractor name and address;
 - b. Remittance address;
 - c. Federal taxpayer identification (FEIN) number, social security number, as appropriate;
 - d. Invoice period (i.e. time period during which services covered by invoice were performed);
 - e. Invoice date;
 - f. Invoice number;
 - g. Detailed listing of goods or services provided;
 - h. Amount due; and
 - i. Any additional documentation required by State/County regulation or the Contract.
2. GCHD reserves the right to reduce or withhold Contract payment in the event the Contractor does not provide GCHD with all required deliverables within the time frame specified in the Contract or in the event that the Contractor otherwise materially breaches the terms and conditions of the Contract until such time as the Contractor brings itself into full compliance with the Contract.
3. The State/County is generally exempt from federal excise taxes, Maryland sales and use taxes, District of Columbia sales taxes and transportation taxes. The **Contractor**; however, is not exempt from such sales and use taxes and may be liable for the same.
4. The Contractor shall accept payment in full from the GCHD for transports as specified herein. The Contractor shall submit at a minimum bi-monthly (twice a month) invoices to:

Garrett County Health Department,
 1025 Memorial Drive,
 Oakland, MD 21550,
 Attention: April Paugh
 Medical Assistance Transportation Coordinator

With a listing of:

- the date range
- client names

- pick-up and destination address
- mobility, mileage, and type of transport and
- any pertinent discharge orders from the Hospital
- Ambulance Patient Care Report

Payment shall be made within forty-five (45) calendar days from receipt of the invoice by the GCHD. The GCHD shall pay at the rates specified on the Bid Form for services satisfactorily rendered and approved by the GCHD.

4.5 Invoice Submission Schedule

1. The **Contractor** shall submit invoices in accordance with the following schedule:

The Contractor shall bill the GCHD at a minimum bi-monthly (twice a month), certifying thereto that the work and services have been performed, that payment for said work has not been received, and that the amount specified is due and owing.

For the purposes of the Contract an amount shall not be deemed due and payable if:

- a. The amount invoiced is inconsistent with the Contract;
- b. The invoice has not been received by the party or office specified in the Contract;
- c. The invoice or performance is in dispute, or the **Contractor** has failed to otherwise comply with the provisions of the Contract;
- d. The item or services have not been accepted;
- e. The items or services do not meet the quality requirements of the Contract;
- f. The Contractor has not submitted satisfactory documentation or other evidence reasonably required by the Procurement Officer concerning performance under the Contract and compliance with its provisions.
- g. The Contractor has not properly submitted a claim to the client's primary insurance (see section 3.8.2).

4.6 Insurance Requirements

1. The Contractor shall maintain, at a minimum, the insurance coverages outlined below, or any minimum requirements established by law if higher, for the duration of the Contract, including option periods, if exercised:

The following type(s) of insurance and minimum amount(s) of coverage are required:

- Commercial General Liability - of \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury, property damage, and personal and advertising injury and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate. The minimum limits required herein may be satisfied through any combination of primary and umbrella/excess liability policies.
- Errors and Omissions/Professional Liability - \$1,000,000 per combined single limit per claim and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate.
- Worker's Compensation - The Contractor shall maintain such insurance as necessary or as required under Workers' Compensation Acts, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, and the Federal Employers' Liability Act, to not be less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)

per occurrence (unless a state's law requires a greater amount of coverage). Coverage must be valid in all states where work is performed.

- Automobile or Commercial Truck Insurance - The Contractor shall maintain Automobile or Commercial Truck Insurance (including owned, leased, hired, and non-owned vehicles) as appropriate with Liability, Collision, and PIP limits no less than those required by the State where the vehicle(s) is registered, but in no case less than those required by the State of Maryland.
2. The successful Contractor will be required to provide a Certificate of Insurance for General Liability Insurance, Errors and Omissions/Professional Liability, Workers Compensation and Automobile in the amounts outlined in the Insurance Table. The GCHD shall be listed as an additional insured on all applicable policies. These certificates are required at the Kickoff Meeting, and will be retained by:

Jennifer Hare, Grant Manager
Garrett County Health Department
1025 Memorial Drive
Oakland, MD 21550

3. All insurance policies shall be endorsed to include a clause that requires that the insurance carrier provide the Procurement Officer, by certified mail, not less than 30 days' advance notice of any non-renewal, cancellation, or expiration. In the event the Procurement Officer receives a notice of non-renewal, the Contractor shall provide the Procurement Officer with an insurance policy from another carrier at least 15 days prior to the expiration of the insurance policy then in effect.
4. All insurance policies shall be with a company licensed by the State to do business.
5. The recommended awardee must provide current certificate(s) of insurance with the prescribed coverages, limits and requirements set forth in this section within ten (10) Business Days from notice of recommended award. During the period of performance for multi-year contracts, the Contractor shall provide certificates of insurance annually, or as otherwise directed by the Contract Monitor.
6. The Contractor shall require any GCHD approved subcontractors to obtain and maintain comparable levels of coverage and shall provide the Contract Monitor with the same documentation as is required of the Contractor.

4.7 Criminal Background Check

1. A criminal background check for any Contractor Personnel shall be completed prior to each Contractor Personnel providing any services under the Contract.
2. The Contractor shall obtain at its own expense a Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) State and federal criminal background check, including fingerprinting, for all Contractor Personnel. At a minimum, these checks must contain convictions and probation before judgment (PBJ) pleadings within the State of Maryland. This check may be performed by a public or private entity.
3. The Contractor shall provide certification to the GCHD that the Contractor has completed the required criminal background check described in this IFB for each required Contractor Personnel prior to assignment, and that the Contractor Personnel have successfully passed this check.
4. Criminal Background Affidavit (Attachment L) is provided at the end of this IFB.
5. The Contractor may not assign an individual whose background check reflects any criminal activity to work under this Contract. The Contractor shall have a policy in place which allows for the review and continuous monitoring of their active employees. The policy shall include the procedure for handling any identified project individual who obtains a new violation during the term of the contract and the disciplinary steps that may ultimately end in a termination of employment.

4.8 Security Requirements

Data Protection and Controls

Contractor shall comply with the MDH Data Use Policy and assist in the Strategic Data Initiative Team review of the agreement.

4.9 Problem Escalation Procedure

- 1.** The Contractor must provide and maintain a Problem Escalation Procedure (PEP) for both routine and emergency situations. The PEP must state how the Contractor will address problem situations as they occur during the performance of the Contract, especially problems that are not resolved to the satisfaction of the GCHD within appropriate timeframes.
- 2.** The Contractor shall provide contact information to the Contract Monitor, as well as to other GCHD personnel as directed should the Contract Monitor not be available.
- 3.** The Contractor shall provide the PEP no later than ten (10) Business Days after notice of recommended award or after the date of the Notice to Proceed, whichever is earlier. The PEP, including any revisions thereto, must also be provided within ten (10) Business Days after the start of each Contract year and within ten (10) Business Days after any change in circumstance which changes the PEP. The PEP shall detail how problems with work under the Contract will be escalated in order to resolve any issues in a timely manner. The PEP shall include:
 - a.** The process for establishing the existence of a problem;
 - b.** Names, titles, and contact information for progressively higher levels of personnel in the Contractor's organization who would become involved in resolving a problem;
 - c.** For each individual listed in the Contractor's PEP, the maximum amount of time a problem will remain unresolved with that individual before the problem escalates to the next contact person listed in the Contractor's PEP;
 - d.** Expedited escalation procedures and any circumstances that would trigger expediting them;
 - e.** The method of providing feedback on resolution progress, including the frequency of feedback to be provided to the GCHD;
 - f.** Contact information for persons responsible for resolving issues after normal business hours (e.g., evenings, weekends, holidays) and on an emergency basis; and
 - g.** A process for updating and notifying the Contract Monitor of any changes to the PEP.
- 4.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any rights of the Contract Monitor or the GCHD which may be allowed by the Contract or applicable law.

5. Procurement Instructions

5.1 Questions:

1. All questions relating to the IFB shall be submitted in writing via e-mail to the Procurement Officer at least ten (10) days prior to the Bid due date or no later than the date and time specified on the Key Information Summary Sheet. The Procurement Officer, based on the availability of time to research and communicate an answer, shall decide whether an answer can be given before the Bid due date.

Procurement Officer
Vickie Weeks
vickie.weeks@maryland.gov
(240) 226-0022

2. Answers to all questions that are not clearly specific only to the requestor will be distributed via the same mechanism as for IFB amendments.
3. The statements and interpretations contained in responses to any questions, whether responded to verbally or in writing, are not binding on the GCHD unless it issues an amendment in writing.

5.2 Procurement Method

A Contract will be awarded in accordance with the Competitive Sealed Bid Method.

5.3 Bid Timeline (also referred to in the Key Information Summary Sheet)

<u>STEPS TO COMPLETION</u>	<u>COMPLETION DATE</u>
IFB Issued	June 5, 2024
Question Deadline	June 17, 2024 at 9:00 AM
Bid Submission Deadline	July 1, 2024 at 9:00 AM
Public Bid Opening	July 1, 2024 at 9:30 AM
Complete Evaluation of Bids	July 8, 2024
Letter of Award Disbursed	July 9, 2024
Work to Begin	August 1, 2024

1. Bids must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than the Bid due date and time indicated on the Key Information Summary Sheet in order to be considered.
2. Requests for extension of this date or time shall not be granted.

3. Bidders submitting Bids should allow sufficient delivery time to ensure timely receipt by the Procurement Officer. Bids received after the due date and time listed in the Key Information Summary Sheet will not be considered.
4. Bids may be modified or withdrawn by written notice received by the Procurement Officer before the time and date set forth in the Key Information Summary Sheet for receipt of Bids.
5. Bids may not be submitted by e-mail or facsimile. Bids will be opened publicly at the date and time indicated on the Key Information Summary Sheet.
6. Potential Bidders not responding to this solicitation are requested to submit the “No Bid Notice/Vendor Feedback” form, which includes company information and the reason for not responding (e.g., too busy, cannot meet mandatory requirements).
7. All information required by the Invitation to Bid must be supplied to constitute a proper Bid. GCHD will not be responsible for the premature opening of Bids if not properly addressed, or identified.

5.4 Multiple Award:

1. GCHD is seeking a list of qualified Bidders who are capable of performing the services needed. For this reason, **multiple awards may be made** to any or all responsive, responsible Bidders. In the event that multiple awards for the same service are made, transports (with the exception of hospital discharges) will be assigned using the following priority guidelines:
 - a. Contact the lowest proposing Bidder;
 - b. Contact the next lowest proposing Bidder; etc.
2. The Bidder(s) shall be paid for actual trips provided as required to clients based on the unit costs specified on the Bid Form for the contract period.
3. The GCHD reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any informality or deficiency in Bids received whenever such rejection or waiver is in the best interest of the GCHD. The GCHD also reserves the right to reject the Bid of a Bidder who has previously failed to perform properly or complete on time Contracts of a similar nature, or the Bid of the Bidder whose investigation shows is not in a position to perform the Contract.
4. Award of this contract will not be final and complete until after:
 - a. The Bidder submits complete and satisfactory documentation required under the Contract and/or documentation required by the Procurement Officer; and
 - b. The Contract is signed by the GCHD following any required approvals of the Contract.

5.5 Receipt, Opening and Recording of Bids

1. Upon receipt, each Bid and any timely modification(s) to a Bid shall be stored in a secure place until the time and date set for bid opening. Before Bid opening, the GCHD may not disclose the identity of any Bidder.
2. Bids shall be opened publicly, at the time, date and place designated in the IFB Key Information Summary Sheet. The name of each Bidder, the unit cost by line item Bid Price, and such other information as is deemed appropriate shall be read aloud or otherwise made available and recorded at the time of bid opening.

5.6 Tie Bids

If two or more Bidders submit identical Bids and are equally qualified, the decision of the GCHD to make an award to one or more of such Bidders shall be final. Selection may be made by drawing lots.

5.7 Bids Binding 90 days

Unless otherwise specified all formal Bids submitted shall be binding for ninety (90) calendar days following Bid opening date, unless the Bidder, upon written request to the GCHD, agrees to an extension.

5.8 Revisions to the IFB

1. If the IFB is revised before the Bid due date, the GCHD shall provide such addenda to all prospective Bidders that were sent this IFB or are otherwise known by the Procurement Officer to have obtained this IFB.
2. Acknowledgment of the receipt of all addenda to this IFB, issued before the Bid due date shall accompany the Bid, or in the manner specified in the addendum notice.
3. Failure to acknowledge receipt of an addendum does not relieve the Bidder from complying with the terms, additions, deletions, or corrections set forth in the addendum, and may cause the Bid to be deemed not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

5.9 Cancellations

The GCHD reserves the right to cancel this IFB, accept or reject any and all Bids, in whole or in part, received in response to this IFB and to waive or permit the cure of minor irregularities.

5.10 Incurred Expense

The GCHD will not be responsible for any costs incurred by any Bidder in preparing and submitting a Bid or performing any other activities related to submitting a Bid in response to this solicitation.

5.11 Bid Protest

1. For the purpose of this Section, the following words have the meanings indicated:
 - a. Interested party means an actual or prospective Bidder, Offeror, or Contractor that may be aggrieved by the solicitation or Award of a Contract, or by the protest.
 - b. Protestor means any actual or prospective Bidder, Offeror, or Contractor who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or the Award of a Contract and who files the protest.
 - c. Filed means receipt in the GCHD Office of Procurement.
2. An Interested Party may protest to the GCHD Office of Procurement the Award or the Proposed Award of a Contract for supplies, services or construction. The protest shall be in writing and addressed to the GCHD Office of Procurement. Protests based upon alleged improprieties of any type in solicitations which are apparent before Bid opening or the closing date for receipt of initial bids shall be filed prior to said closing date, all other cases Bid protests shall be filed no later than seven (7) calendar days after the basis for protest is known or should have been known, whichever is earlier. Any protest filed after the time limit prescribed above shall not be considered.
 - a. The written protest shall include as a minimum the following:
 - 1). The name and address of the Protestor.
 - 2). Appropriate identification of the procurement, and if Contract had been awarded, its number, if known.
 - 3). A statement of reasons for the protest.
 - 4). Supporting exhibits, evidence, or documents to substantiate any claims unless not available within the filing time in which case the expected availability date shall be indicated.

3. The GCHD Office of Procurement shall submit a copy of the protest to the Health Officer upon receipt of the protest.
 - a. Any additional information requested of the Protestor by the GCHD shall be submitted within five (5) days after receipt of notification in order to expedite consideration of the protest. Failure to comply with the request for information by the GCHD may result in a resolution of the protest without consideration of any information, which is untimely filed pursuant to such request.
4. Upon written request, the GCHD shall make available to any interested party information submitted that bears on the substance of the protest except when information is proprietary or otherwise permitted or required to be withheld by law or regulation.
5. A decision on a protest shall be made by the Health Officer in writing as expeditiously as possible after receiving all relevant, requested information. Before issuance, the decision of the Health Officer shall be reviewed by the Garrett County Department of General Services.
 - a. Should the Protestor disapprove of the Health Officer's decision, they may appeal the decision to the County Commissioners within seven (7) days after receipt of the decision. All information used to support the protest and the decision of the Health Officer shall be made available to the County Commissioners.
6. A written decision on the protest shall be made expeditiously by the Garrett County Commissioners and deemed the final action on the protest.

5.12 Award or Rejection of Bids:

1. In determining responsibility, the following other qualifications, in addition to price, will be considered by the GCHD.
 - a. The ability, capacity and skill of the Bidder to perform the service required.
 - b. The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience and efficiency of the Bidder.
 - c. The quality of performance of previous Contracts or services.
 - d. The previous and existing compliance by the Bidder with laws and ordinances relating to the Contract or service.
 - e. The sufficiency of the financial resources and ability of the Bidder to perform the Contract or provide the service.
 - f. The quality, availability and adaptability of the supplies, or services, to the particular use required.
 - g. The ability of the Bidder to provide future maintenance and service for the use of the subject of the Contract.
 - h. Whether the Bidder is in arrears to the State of Maryland, Garrett County, or the GCHD on a debt or Contract or is a defaulter on surety to the State, Garrett County or GCHD.

5.13 Bidder Responsibilities/Compliance with Law/Arrearages

1. Bidders must be able to provide all goods and services and meet all of the requirements requested in this solicitation and the successful Bidder shall be responsible for Contract performance including any GCHD approved subcontractor participation.

2. All GCHD approved subcontractors shall be identified and a complete description of their role relative to the Bid shall be included in the Bid.
3. Before a business entity can do business in the State/County, it must be registered with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). It is strongly recommended that any potential Bidder complete registration prior to the Bid due date and time. The Bidder's failure to complete registration with SDAT may disqualify an otherwise successful Bidder from final consideration and recommendation for Contract award.
4. By submitting a Bid in response to this IFB, the Bidder, if selected for award, agrees that it will comply with all federal, State, and local laws applicable to its activities and obligations under the Contract. Be current and in compliance with employee benefits and licensing requirements of Garrett County; and, if a Corporation conducting business in Garrett County or the State of Maryland, shall be registered and in "Good Standing" with the Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation, and shall not become so in arrears during the term of the Contract.

5.14 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

By submitting a Bid in response to this IFB, the Bidder, if selected for award, shall be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of this IFB and the Contract. Any exceptions to this IFB or the Contract must be raised prior to Bid submission. Changes to the solicitation, including the Bid Form or Contract, made by the Bidder may result in Bid rejection.

5.15 False Statements

1. In connection with a procurement contract a person may not willfully:
 - a. Falsify, conceal, or suppress a material fact by any scheme or device.
 - b. Make a false or fraudulent statement or representation of a material fact.
 - c. Use a false writing or document that contains a false or fraudulent statement or entry of a material fact.
2. A person may not aid or conspire with another person to commit an act under **Section 5.15.1**.
3. A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or imprisonment not exceeding five (5) years or both.

5.16 Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer

By submitting a Bid in response to this solicitation, the Bidder, if selected for award:

1. Agrees to accept payments by electronic funds transfer (EFT) unless the State Comptroller's Office grants an exemption. Payment by EFT is mandatory for contracts exceeding \$200,000. The successful Bidder shall register using the COT/GAD X-10 Vendor Electronic Funds (EFT) Registration Request Form.
2. Any request for exemption must be submitted to the State Comptroller's Office for approval at the address specified on the COT/GAD X-10 form, must include the business identification information as stated on the form, and must include the reason for the exemption. The COT/GAD X-10 form may be downloaded from the Comptroller's website at:
http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.com/Vendor_Services/Accounting_Information/Static_Files/GADX10Form20150615.pdf.

6. Bid Format

6.1 One Part Submission

Each Bidder shall submit its Bid within a single sealed package.

6.2 Labeling

Each Bidder is required to label the sealed Bid with the IFB title and number, name and address of the Bidder, and closing date and time for receipt of the Bids on the outside of the package.

6.3 Bid Price Form

The Bid shall contain all price information in the format specified on the Bid Form. The Bidder shall complete the Bid Form only as provided in the Bid Pricing Instructions and the Bid Form. Do not amend, alter, or leave blank any items on the Bid Form or include additional clarifying or contingent language on or attached to the Bid Form. Failure to adhere to any of these instructions may result in the Bid being determined to be non-responsive and rejected by the GCHD.

6.4 Required Bid Submission

A Bidder shall include the following with its Bid:

1. **Bidder Information Sheet (Attachment H) and Bid Form & Signature Sheet.**
2. **Acknowledgement** of all addenda to this IFB.
3. **Minimum Qualifications Documentation.** The Bidder shall submit any Minimum Qualifications Documentation that may be required, as set forth in IFB **Section 2**.
4. **Bidder Qualifications** - Bidder shall describe how its organization can meet the requirements of this IFB including:
 - a. The number of years the Bidder has provided the similar goods and services;
 - b. The number of clients/customers and geographic locations that the Bidder currently serves.
5. **References.**
 1. The GCHD reserves the right to request references or utilize references not provided by the Bidder. Points of contact must be accessible and knowledgeable regarding Bidder performance.
6. **List of Current or Prior State Contracts.**

Provide a list of all contracts with any entity of the State of Maryland or County for which the Bidder is currently performing goods and services or for which services have been completed within the last year. For each identified contract, the Bidder is to provide:

 - a. The State/County contracting entity;
 - b. A brief description of the goods and services provided;
 - c. The dollar value of the contract;
 - d. The term of the contract;
 - e. The State/County employee contact person (name, title, telephone number, and, if possible, e-mail address); and
 - f. Whether the contract was terminated before the end of the term specified in the original contract, including whether any available renewal option was not exercised.

Information obtained regarding the Bidder's level of performance on State/County contracts will be used by the Procurement Officer to determine the responsibility of the Bidder and considered as part of the experience and past performance evaluation criteria of the IFB.

7. Financial Capability.

The Bidder must include in its Bid a commonly-accepted method to prove its fiscal integrity. If available, the Bidder shall include Financial Statements, preferably a Profit and Loss (P&L) statement and a Balance Sheet, for the last two (2) years (independently audited preferred).

8. Certificates of Insurance

The Bidder shall provide a copy of its current certificate of insurance showing the types and limits of insurance in effect as of the Bid submission date. The current insurance types and limits do not have to be the same as described in **Section 4.6**. See **Section 4.6** for the required insurance certificate submission for the apparent awardee. Please reference the Insurance Table on Page 30.

9. GCHD Approved Subcontractors.

The Bidder shall provide a complete list of all GCHD approved subcontractors that will work on the Contract if the Bidder receives an award. This list shall include a full description of the duties each GCHD approved subcontractor will perform and why/how each GCHD approved subcontractor was deemed the most qualified for this project.

10. Legal Action Summary.

This summary shall include:

- a. A statement as to whether there are any outstanding legal actions or potential claims against the Bidder and a brief description of any action;
- b. A brief description of any settled or closed legal actions or claims against the Bidder over the past five (5) years;
- c. A description of any judgments against the Bidder within the past five (5) years, including the court, case name, complaint number, and a brief description of the final ruling or determination; and
- d. In instances where litigation is ongoing and the Bidder has been directed not to disclose information by the court, provide the name of the judge and location of the court.

6.5 Delivery

1. Bidders may either mail or hand-deliver Bids.
2. For U.S. Postal Service deliveries, any bid that has been received at the appropriate mailroom, or typical place of mail receipt for the respective procuring unit by the time and date listed in the IFB will be deemed to be timely. If a Bidder chooses to use the U.S. Postal Service for delivery, the GCHD recommends that it use Express Mail, Priority Mail, or Certified Mail or another form for which both the date and time of receipt can be independently verified by the GCHD.
3. Hand-delivery includes delivery by commercial carrier acting for the Bidder. For any type of direct (non-mail) delivery, a Bidder is advised to secure a dated, signed, and time-stamped (or otherwise indicated) receipt of delivery.

7. Bid Evaluation and Award

7.1 Bid Evaluation Criteria

The Bids will be evaluated based on the lowest unit cost by line item bid price. All responsible Bidders will be ranked from the lowest (most advantageous) to the highest (least advantageous) price based on the cost by line item as submitted on the Bid Form & Signature Sheet.

7.2 Local Preference Program:

The Board of County Commissioners have duly adopted Resolution No. 2006-11 establishing a local preference program. If the State or political subdivision in which a nonresident firm is located gives an advantage to its resident businesses, the County Commissioners may give an identical advantage to the lowest responsive and responsible bid from a local firm over that of the nonresident firm. An advantage may include a percentage preference, an employee residency requirement, or any other provision that favors a local firm over a nonresident firm. All nonresident firms are required to complete and submit the Purchasing Preference Affidavit as part of its bid submission. The provisions of this Resolution are intended to repeal Resolution No. 5-4-99.

7.3 Award Determination

The GCHD reserves the right to make the award by item, or groups of items, or Total Bid Price if it is in the best interest of the GCHD to do so unless the Bidder specifies in its bid that a partial or progressive award is not acceptable.

7.4 Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award

1. Upon receipt of a notification of recommendation for contract award, the following documents shall be completed and submitted by the recommended awardee within ten (10) business days, unless noted otherwise. Submit one (1) copy of each of the following documents at the Contract Initiation Kickoff Meeting:
2. Refer to **Section 4.1.** for the complete list.

Invitation for Bids
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION FOR QUALIFIED GARRETT COUNTY
PARTICIPANTS-NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE
IFB #2024-0701A
Bid Form & Signature Sheet

Item No.	Trip Type	Unit Cost for FY25	Unit cost for FY26	Unit Cost for FY27
1	Ambulance/BLS –mileage rate for Hospital Discharge	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile
2	Ambulance/BLS – mileage rate for Medical/Dental/Labs/ Pharmacy	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile
3	Ambulance/ALS – mileage rate for Hospital Discharge	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile
4	Ambulance/SCT – mileage rate for Hospital Discharge	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile	\$ _____ transport base rate \$ _____ per mile

My signature certifies that the Bid as submitted complies with all Terms and Conditions set forth in this IFB.

My signature also certifies that the accompanying Bid is not the result of, or affected by, any unlawful act of collusion with another person or company engaged in the same line of business or commerce.

My signature also certifies that this firm has no business or personal relationships with any other companies or persons that could be considered as a conflict of interest to the GCHD, and that there are no principals, officers, agents, employees, or representatives of this firm that have any business or personal relationships with any other companies or persons that could be considered as a conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interest to GCHD, pertaining to any and all work or services to be performed as a result of this request and any resulting contract with GCHD.

I hereby certify that I am authorized to sign as representative for the Contractor:

Name of Company: _____

Address: _____

Fed ID No. _____

Signature: _____ Title: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax Number: _____

Date: _____ Email: _____

Insurance Requirements for the Garrett County Health Department

General Liability Insurance: Coverage shall be as broad as: Comprehensive General Liability endorsed to include Broad Form, Commercial General Liability form including Products/Completed Operations and, if necessary, **Commercial Umbrella Insurance** .

Minimum Limits

\$1,000,000	Each Occurrence
\$1,000,000	Products & Completed Operations
\$1,000,000	Personal Injury and Advertising Injury
\$2,000,000	Annual Aggregate
\$1,000,000	Fire Damage
\$5,000	Medical Expense Each Person
\$100,000	Medical Expense Each Occurrence

Automobile Liability Insurance: Coverage sufficient to cover owned, hired and non-owned coverage, including bodily injury, per person and occurrence and property damage per occurrence.*

Minimum Limits

\$1,000,000	Combined Single Limit
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*Required for all contracts EXCEPT architectural design, review and/or engineering services and planning, research and/or policy projects.

Statutory Workers Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance: Workers Compensation Coverage shall meet statutory limits as required by the State of Maryland or other applicable laws and Employers' Liability Insurance as follows.*

Minimum Limits

\$500,000	Each accident for bodily injury by accident
\$500,000	Policy limit for bodily injury by disease and
\$500,000	Each employee for bodily injury by disease

*Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance is required for all contracts who has employees or subcontractors.

Professional Liability Insurance: Coverage for errors, omissions, and negligent acts per claim and aggregate, with one year discovery period.*

Minimum Limits

\$1,000,000	Each Occurrence
\$5,000	Deductible

*Required for all Professional Service Contracts ONLY including but not limited to architectural design, review and/or engineering services.

Pollution Liability Insurance: Coverage for bodily injury, property damage, defense, and cleanup as a result of pollution conditions.*

Minimum Limits

\$1,000,000	Each Occurrence
\$1,000,000	Aggregate

*Required for contracts with remedial hazardous material operations.

Builders Risk Insurance: Coverage equal to the full value of project*

*Required for all property construction projects

A PRINTABLE/FILLABLE VERSION OF THIS FORM CAN BE OBTAINED ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER ATTACHMENTS FOR IFB'S

ATTACHMENT L – CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AFFIDAVIT

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

I HEREBY AFFIRM THAT:

I am _____ Business Name or Owner or Title (if applicable) _____ and the duly authorized representative of _____ Contractor _____ and that I possess the legal authority to make this Affidavit on behalf of myself and the business for which I am acting.

I hereby affirm that _____ (Contractor or individual) _____ has complied with Section 4.7, Criminal Background Check requirements of the **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION IFB**.

I hereby affirm that _____ (Contractor or individual) _____ has provided the GCHD with a summary of the security clearance results for the Contractor/staff that will be working on Solicitation Number **IFB 2024-0701A** and the Contractor/staff have successfully passed all of the background checks required under Section 4.7 of the **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION IFB**. The Contractor hereby agrees to provide security clearance results for any additional terms of the contract at least ten (10) days prior to the date the Contractor commences work on this Contract.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Contractor or Individual

Typed Name

Signature

Date