



SERVICES AGREEMENT (Business)

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between Houston Community College, a public community college district organized under Chapter 130 of the Texas Education Code, whose main office address is at 3100 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002 ("College"), for and on behalf of the [REDACTED] (**insert College/School and/or budgeted department name**) ("DEPARTMENT"), and [REDACTED] (**insert legal name of Contractor**), a [REDACTED] (**insert type of business structure such as corporation, limited liability company, or partnership**) with its principal place of business at [REDACTED] (**insert street address, city, state, zip code**) ("Contractor"), effective as of [REDACTED] (insert date) ("Effective Date")

College and Contractor hereby agree as follows:

1. **Contractor Services.**

Contractor will provide the services as set forth in **Exhibit A**, Statement of Work, attached hereto and incorporated for all purposes ("the Services"), to the satisfaction of College.

2. **Compensation.**

As consideration for the Services satisfactorily provided and/or performed by the Contractor, College will pay the Contractor an amount not to exceed [REDACTED] (**insert written amount**) dollars (\$ [REDACTED] (**insert numerical amount**)) (**note: this amount should be inclusive of all fees and expenses**) ("Fee"), during the Term and the Fee may otherwise be less than [REDACTED] in the event of certain conditions as set forth in this Agreement such as early termination of this Agreement or any other provision of this Contract that affects the Fee. Payment for services performed will be processed within thirty (30) days of receipt and approval of invoice. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, no payment of amounts owed hereunder shall be considered past due or not paid when due except in accordance with Section 2251.021 of the Texas Government Code.

Maximum Contract Value: The amount contained herein is the maximum contract value. If additional funding is required, it will be processed pursuant to the prior written approval of HCC. The delivery of any services undertaken by the Contractor, prior to receipt of any written approval by HCC, will be at the Contractors sole risk and expense.

Invoicing:

Contractor will submit monthly invoices to College. The invoices must be accompanied by a Time/Work Schedule for each Contractor employee contributing to hours billed.

The Time/Work Schedule will contain the following information:

- A. Name of individual performing the work;
- B. Description of work performed and related Objective in Exhibit A; and
- C. Date and number of hours worked.

Each invoice will be accompanied by documentation that College may reasonably request to support the invoice amount. College will, within thirty (30) days from the date it receives an invoice and supporting documentation, approve or disapprove the amount reflected in the invoice. If College approves the amount or any portion of the amount, College will promptly pay to Contractor the amount approved so long as Contractor is not in default under this Agreement. If College disapproves any invoice amount, College will give Contractor specific reasons for its disapproval in writing. Contractor will submit invoices to College as follows:

[Insert College contact name and complete address.]

3. Term.

This term of this Agreement shall be from [redacted] ("Term") unless earlier terminated in accordance with Section 8. **[OPTIONAL: The following renewal term may be incorporated if a renewal option was included in the original bid specification.** "College will have the option to renew this Agreement for [redacted] additional [redacted] year terms."]

4. Licenses, Permits, Taxes, Fees, Laws and Regulations.

- 4.1 Contractor warrants that it will obtain, maintain in effect, and pay the cost for all licenses, permits, or certifications that may be necessary for Contractor's performance of this Agreement.
- 4.2 Contractor will be responsible for the payment of all taxes, excises, fees, payroll deductions, employee benefits (if any), fines, penalties or other payments required by federal, state, or local law or regulation in connection with Contractor's performance of this Agreement.
- 4.3 Contractor will comply with, and will be responsible for requiring its officers and employees to comply with, all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations; applicable HCC board policies and relevant HCC procedures.

5. Ownership and Use of Work Material.

- 5.1 All drawings, specifications, plans, computations, sketches, data, records, photographs, tapes, renderings, models, publications, statements, accounts, reports, studies, and other materials prepared by Contractor or any Contractor's subcontractor in connection with the Services (collectively, "**Work Material**"), whether or not accepted or rejected by College, are the sole property of College and for its exclusive use and re-use at any time without further compensation and without any restrictions.
- 5.2 Contractor grants and assigns to College all rights and claims of whatever nature and whether now or hereafter arising in and to the Work Material and will cooperate fully with College in any steps College may take to obtain or enforce patent, copyright, trademark or like protections with respect to the Work Material.
- 5.3 Contractor will deliver all Work Material to College upon expiration or termination of this Agreement. College will have the right to use the Work Material for the completion of the Services or otherwise. College may, at all times, retain the originals of the Work Material. The Work Material will not be used by any person or organization other than College on other projects unless expressly authorized by College in writing.
- 5.4 The Work Material will not be used or published by Contractor or any other party unless expressly authorized by College in writing. Contractor will treat all Work Material as confidential.

6. **Confidentiality and Safeguarding of College Records; Press Releases; Public Information.**

- 6.1 Under this Agreement, Contractor may (1) create, (2) receive from or on behalf of College, or (3) have access to, records or record systems (collectively, "**College Records**"). Among other things, College Records may contain social security numbers, credit card numbers, or data protected or made confidential or sensitive by applicable federal, state and local, laws, regulations, and ordinances, including the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (Public Law No: 106-102) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g ("**FERPA**"). If College Records are subject to FERPA, (1) College designates Contractor as a College official with a legitimate educational interest in College Records, and (2) Contractor acknowledges that its improper disclosure or redisclosure of personally identifiable information from College Records will result in Contractor's exclusion from eligibility to contract with College for at least five (5) years. Contractor represents, warrants, and agrees that it will: (1) hold College Records in strict confidence and will not use or disclose College Records except as (a) permitted or required by this Agreement, (b) required by law, or (c) otherwise authorized by College in writing; (2) safeguard College Records according to commercially reasonable administrative, physical and technical standards (such as standards established by (i) the National Institute of Standards and Technology and (ii) the Center for Internet Security, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, as well as the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards) that are no less rigorous than best practices in the data security industry; (3) continually monitor

its operations and take any action necessary to assure that College Records are safeguarded and the confidentiality of College Records is maintained in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local, laws, regulations, and ordinances, including FERPA and the Gramm-Leach Bliley Act, and the terms of this Agreement; and (4) comply with the College's rules, policies, and procedures regarding access to and use of College's computer systems. At the request of College, Contractor agrees to provide College with a written summary of the procedures Contractor uses to safeguard and maintain the confidentiality of College Records.

6.1.1 Notice of Impermissible Use. If an impermissible use or disclosure of any College Records occurs, Contractor will provide written notice to College within one (1) business day after Contractor's discovery of that use or disclosure. Contractor will promptly provide College with all information requested by College regarding the impermissible use or disclosure.

6.1.2 Return of College Records. Contractor agrees that within thirty (30) days after the expiration or termination of this Agreement, for any reason, all College Records created or received from or on behalf of College will be (1) returned to College, with no copies retained by Contractor; or (2) if return is not feasible, destroyed. Twenty (20) days before destruction of any College Records, Contractor will provide College with written notice of Contractor's intent to destroy College Records. Within five (5) days after destruction, Contractor will confirm to College in writing the destruction of College Records.

6.1.3 Disclosure. If Contractor discloses any College Records to a permitted subcontractor or agent, Contractor will require the permitted subcontractor or agent to comply with the same restrictions and obligations as are imposed on Contractor by this Section.

6.1.4 Press Releases. Except when defined as part of the Services, Contractor will not make any press releases, public statements, or advertisement referring to the Project or the engagement of Contractor as an independent contractor of College in connection with the Project, or release any information relative to the Project for publication, advertisement or any other purpose without the prior written approval of College.

6.1.5 Public Information. College strictly adheres to all statutes, court decisions and the opinions of the Texas Attorney General with respect to disclosure of public information under the *Texas Public Information Act*, Chapter 552, *Texas Government Code*.

6.1.6 Termination. In addition to any other termination rights set forth in this Agreement and any other rights at law or equity, if College reasonably determines that Contractor has breached any of the restrictions or

obligations set forth in this Section, College may immediately terminate this Agreement without notice or opportunity to cure.

6.1.7 **Duration.** The restrictions and obligations under this Section will survive expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason.

7. Independent Contractor.

For all purposes of this Agreement and notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, Contractor is an independent contractor and is not a state employee, partner, joint venturer, or agent of College. Contractor will not bind nor attempt to bind College to any agreement or contract. As an independent contractor, Contractor is solely responsible for all taxes, withholdings, and other statutory or contractual obligations of any sort, including but not limited to workers' compensation insurance.

8. Termination.

8.1 This Agreement may be terminated for convenience by either Party with or without cause upon ten (10) days prior written notice to the other Party. In the event of termination without cause, College shall pay the Contractor any undisputed amounts not previously paid for Services actually performed in accordance with specifications in the Scope of Work, up to the date of termination.

8.2 Performance of this Agreement is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from the Texas State Legislature or allocation of funds by the HCC Board of Trustees. College shall have the right to cancel the Agreement at the end of the current fiscal year if funds are not allotted by the Board for the next fiscal year to continue the Agreement or funds are not appropriated by the Legislature. If funds are withdrawn or do not become available, College reserves the right to terminate the Agreement by giving the Contractor a ten (10) day written notice of cancellation without penalty. Upon cancellation, College shall be responsible only for payment for services performed up to the date of termination. The HCC fiscal year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31st.

8.3 This Agreement may be terminated by either Party in the event of breach of this Agreement. A breach occurs when either Party fails to perform its obligations under this Agreement or fails to comply with the terms of this Agreement. In the event of a breach, the Party claiming such breach shall provide the other Party with written notice of such breach setting forth the basis for such claim of breach. The breaching Party shall have thirty (30) days from the receipt of the notice of breach to cure such breach. If the breaching Party fails to cure the breach within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice, the aggrieved Party shall have the right to terminate the Agreement immediately and pursue any remedies available under law for breach of contract.

9. **Indemnification.**

CONTRACTOR AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, RELEASE, AND HOLD HCC AND HCC'S TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES, HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS, CAUSES OF ACTION, AND LIABILITIES (each as used herein shall be referred to as "Claim") OF ANY TYPE OR ANY NATURE WHATSOEVER (INCLUDING COSTS AND REASONABLE LEGAL AND EXPERT FEES) FOR DAMAGE TO, LOSS OF, OR DESTRUCTION OF ANY TANGIBLE PROPERTY OR BODILY INJURY OR DEATH TO ANY PERSON, ARISING FROM, IN CONNECTION WITH, OR ANY WAY INCIDENT TO THIS CONTRACT, TO THE EXTENT FINALLY DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY CONTRACTOR AND ITS PERSONNEL IN PERFORMANCE OF THE SERVICES.

10. **Insurance.**

10.1 Contractor agrees to maintain, at Contractor's sole expense, and to cause its agents, suppliers and permitted subcontractors (if any) to maintain, at their sole expense, the following insurance coverages in at least the amounts specified:

- 10.1.1 Workers Compensation: Statutory Limits
- 10.1.2 Employer's Liability: \$1,000,000 per accident and employee
- 10.1.3 Commercial General Liability (including contractual liability): \$1,000,000 per occurrence
- 10.1.4 Product/Completed Ops: \$2,000,000 aggregate
- 10.1.5 Auto Liability: \$1,000,000 combined single limit
- 10.1.6 All other insurance required by state or federal law

10.2 All policies (except Workers' Compensation) will name College as an Additional Insured. A Waiver of Subrogation in favor of College and thirty (30) day notice of cancellation is required on all policies. Certificates of insurance verifying the foregoing requirements will be provided to College prior to commencement of any services under this Agreement. If a policy contains deductible provisions, Contractor will be responsible for payment of the deductible amount for any claim(s) or the pursuit of any claim(s) or asserted claim(s) against College, its agents, employees or representatives.

10.3 Verification of Insurance Coverage will be forwarded to:

[Insert College Contact Name (such as Department Contract Administrator) and complete address.]

Contractor will obtain and maintain in force for the duration of this Agreement and any extensions thereof, at Contractor's sole expense, all insurance required by state or federal law, including but not limited to workers' compensation, unemployment insurance and automobile liability insurance. Upon College's request, Contractor will supply evidence of such insurance to College prior to performing services.]

11. Breach of Contract Claims.

To the extent that Chapter 2260, *Texas Government Code*, is applicable to this Agreement and is not preempted by other applicable law, the dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 and the related rules adopted by the Texas Attorney General pursuant to Chapter 2260, will be used by College and Contractor to attempt to resolve any claim for breach of contract made by Contractor that cannot be resolved in the ordinary course of business. The chief business officer of College will examine Contractor's claim and any counterclaim and negotiate with Contractor in an effort to resolve such claims. The parties specifically agree that (i) neither the execution of this Agreement by College nor any other conduct, action or inaction of any representative of College relating to this Agreement constitutes or is intended to constitute a waiver of College's or the state's sovereign immunity to suit; and (ii) College has not waived its right to seek redress in the courts.

12. Miscellaneous.

12.1 Assignment. Neither party may assign this Agreement, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the other party.

12.2 Representations and Warranties by Contractor. If Contractor is a corporation or a limited liability company, Contractor warrants, represents, covenants, and agrees that it is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the state of its incorporation or organization and is duly authorized and in good standing to conduct business in the State of Texas, that it has all necessary power and has received all necessary approvals to execute and deliver this Agreement, and the individual executing this Agreement on behalf of Contractor has been duly authorized to act for and bind Contractor.

12.3 Tax Certifications. If Contractor is a taxable entity as defined by Chapter 171, *Texas Tax Code* ("Chapter 171"), then Contractor certifies that it is not currently delinquent in the payment of any taxes due under Chapter 171, or that Contractor is exempt from the payment of those taxes, or that Contractor is an out-of-state taxable entity that is not subject to those taxes, whichever is applicable.

12.4 Texas Family Code Child Support Certification. Pursuant to Section 231.006, *Texas Family Code*, Contractor certifies that it is not ineligible to receive the award of or payments under this Agreement and acknowledges that this Agreement may be terminated and payment may be withheld if this certification is inaccurate.

12.5 Payment of Debt or Delinquency to the State. Pursuant to Sections 2107.008 and 2252.903, *Texas Government Code*, Contractor agrees that any payments owing to Contractor under this Agreement may be applied directly toward any debt or delinquency that Contractor owes the State of Texas or any agency of the State of Texas regardless of when it arises, until such debt or delinquency is paid in full.

12.6 Entire Agreement; Modifications. This Agreement supersedes all prior

agreements, written or oral, between Contractor and College and will constitute the entire Agreement and understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement and each of its provisions will be binding upon the parties and may not be waived, modified, amended or altered except by a writing signed by authorized representatives of College and Contractor.

- 12.8 State Auditor's Office. Contractor understands that acceptance of funds under this Agreement constitutes acceptance of the authority of the Texas State Auditor's Office, or any successor agency (collectively, "Auditor"), to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds pursuant to Section 51.9335(c) of the *Texas Education Code*. Contractor agrees to cooperate with the Auditor in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including without limitation providing all records requested. Contractor will include this provision in all contracts with permitted subcontractors.
- 12.9 Force Majeure. Neither party hereto will be liable or responsible to the other for any loss or damage or for any delays or failure to perform due to causes beyond its reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, epidemics, war, riots, civil unrest, flood, fire, tsunami, volcano, sabotage, air space closure, ground stop(s), a U.S. Department of State Travel Warning or any other circumstances of like character ("force majeure occurrence").
- 12.10 Venue; Governing Law. Harris County, Texas, will be the proper place of venue for suit on or in respect of this Agreement. This Agreement and all of the rights and obligations of the parties hereto and all of the terms and conditions hereof will be construed, interpreted and applied in accordance with and governed by and enforced under the laws of the State of Texas.
- 12.11 Ethics Matters; No Financial Interest. Contractor and its employees, agents, representatives and subcontractors have read and understand College's Conflicts of Interest Policy available at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/about-us/policies/c-human-resources/c4-nepotism-conflicts-of-interest/>, State of Texas Standards of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Provisions available at www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/docs/gv/htm/gv.572.htm, and applicable state ethics laws and rules. Neither Contractor nor its employees, agents, representatives or subcontractors will assist or cause College employees to violate College's Conflicts of Interest Policy, provisions described by State of Texas Standards of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Provisions, or applicable state ethics laws or rules. Contractor represents and warrants that no member of the Board or any College employee has a direct or indirect financial interest in the transaction that is the subject of this Agreement. The Contractor further warrants, represents, and covenants that, in performing this Contract, it will use reasonable care to ensure it does not employ any person who has any such interest
- 12.12 Waivers. No delay or omission in exercising any right accruing upon a default in performance of this Agreement will impair any right or be construed to be a waiver of any right. A waiver of any default under this Agreement will not be construed to be a waiver of any subsequent default under this Agreement.

College and Contractor have executed and delivered this Agreement to be effective as of the Effective Date.

<Insert Contractor's complete legal name>

Houston Community College

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

[Chancellor or College President]

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Attached:
Exhibit A – Statement of Work

SAMPLE

**Exhibit A
Statement of Work**

[Optional. Include the following provision if an RFP or other bid document was issued.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement, Contractor's performance of the Services will (1) conform to the specifications and requirements of that certain Request for Proposal related to [REDACTED] for Houston Community College, RFP No. [REDACTED] (the "RFP"), which is incorporated by reference for all purposes, and (2) to the extent consistent with the RFP, will conform with Contractor's proposal, dated [REDACTED] ("Contractor's Proposal") which was submitted by Contractor in response to the RFP and is incorporated by reference for all purposes. To the extent that the RFP or Contractor's Proposal conflict with the terms of this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement will control.]

I. Project: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
This section provides the Contractor and interested third parties with a broad overview of your department's objective. ("the Project").

- - - - -
II. Services and/or Deliverables. Contractor will provide the following services and/or deliverables in support of the Project:

[REDACTED]
The services to be provided by the Contractor may be divided into major phases (deliverables, tasks, items, etc). Each phase (deliverable, task, item, etc) may then be subdivided into important requirements within each phase. Consideration should be given to the inclusion of due dates for each.

Example:

Phase 1: [REDACTED]

1.1 [REDACTED]

1.2 [REDACTED]