



INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB Number: 3160005746

Stand Up, Mississippi Communication Campaign
for Opioid Awareness

Issue Date: March 15, 2023

CLOSING DATE AND TIME

Bids must be received by April 17, 2023, at 9:00 AM (CST)

CLOSING LOCATION

Mississippi Department of Mental Health
239 North Lamar Street, Suite 1001
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

BID COORDINATOR

Cyndi Eubank, General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
Telephone: 601-359-1288
E-Mail: Cyndi.Eubank@dmh.ms.gov

Section 1 – Background, Authority, and Purpose

The Department of Mental Health (hereinafter “Agency”) has issued this solicitation for the purpose of soliciting sealed bids from qualified providers to provide Comprehensive Communication Services. The Agency wants assistance to The MS Department of Mental Health is seeking to establish a contract for a Comprehensive Communications Campaign for Opioid Awareness. The communications consultant engaged for providing the marketing campaign described herein will assist DMH and the key partner organizations of Stand Up, Mississippi by soliciting and securing media buys for digital, television, radio, outdoor, and print media statewide using specific messaging developed for Stand Up, Mississippi by their creative design firm. The primary goals of this effort are to improve public perception of people dealing with substance use disorder, strengthen policies for prevention and treatment, and promote statewide partnerships to combat the opioid crisis in Mississippi. Targeted audiences for this contract shall be high-risk populations (selected by DMH) and rural areas of the state including working class, ages 24 – 55 in high-risk occupations, such as the construction industry, food and service industry, farming, manufacturing, oil refinery, and any other high-risk occupation as determined by DMH. The tone of the campaign should remain positive and uplifting while continuing to emphasize solutions to the opioid epidemic like prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Section 2 – Timeline

Invitation for Bid Issue Date:	March 15, 2023
Questions and Requests for Clarification Deadline:	March 28, 2023 @ 4:00 PM CST
Anticipated Posting of Written Answers to Questions:	March 31, 2023 @ 5:00 PM CST
Bid Package Submission Deadline:	April 17, 2023 @ 9:00 AM CST
Bid Opening:	April 17, 2023 @ 10:00 AM CST
Anticipated Date of the Notice of Intent to Award:	April 21, 2023 @ 5:00 PM CST
Anticipated Post-Award Debriefing Request Due Date:	April 25, 2023 @ 4:00 PM CST
Anticipated Post-Award Debriefing Held by Date:	April 28, 2023 @ 4:00 PM CST
Anticipated Protest Deadline Date:	April 26, 2023 @ 4:00 PM CST

Section 3 – Contact and Questions/Requests for Clarification

3.1 Bidders must carefully review this solicitation, the contract, risk management provisions, and all attachments for defects, questionable, or objectionable material. Following review, vendors may have questions to clarify or interpret the IFB in order to submit the best bid possible. To accommodate the questions and requests for clarifications, vendors shall submit any such question via email by the deadline reflected in Section 2. All questions and requests for clarifications must be directed by email to:

Cyndi Eubank, Office of General Counsel
Telephone: 601-359-6269
E-mail: Cyndi.Eubank@dmh.ms.gov

3.2 Vendors should enter “IFB RFX Number 3160005746- Questions” as the subject for the email. Question submittals should include a reference to the applicable IFB section and be submitted in the format shown below:

	IFB Section, Page Number	Vendor Question/Request for Clarification
1.		

3.3 Official responses will be provided only for questions submitted as described above and only to clarify information already included in the IFB. The identity of the organization submitting the question(s) will not be revealed. All questions and answers will be published on the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal website and the agency's website as an amendment to the IFB by the date and time reflected in Section 2.

3.4 The agency will not be bound by any verbal or written information that is not contained within this IFB unless formally noticed and issued by the contact person as an IFB amendment. Bidders are cautioned that any statements made by agency personnel that materially change any portion of the bid document shall not be relied upon unless subsequently ratified by a formal written amendment to the bid document.

3.5 All vendor communications regarding this IFB must be directed to the Bid Coordinator. Unauthorized contact regarding the IFB with other employees of the agency may result in the vendor being disqualified, and the vendor may also be suspended or disbarred from the State.

3.6 No Pre-Bid Conference, Tour, or Site Visit will be held for this IFB.

3.7 Acknowledgement of Amendments: Should an amendment to the IFB be issued, it will be posted on the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal website and the agency's website in a manner that all bidders will be able to view. Further, bidders must acknowledge receipt of any amendment to the solicitation by signing and returning the amendment with the bid package, by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on the bid form, or by letter. The acknowledgment should be received by the agency by the time, date, and at the place specified for receipt of bids. It is the bidder's sole responsibility to monitor the websites for any updates or amendments to the IFB.

3.8 Bidder must provide a signed Acknowledgements of IFB Amendment(s), Questions and Answer document(s), and/or Summary of Pre-Bid Conference, Tour, or Site Visit, if any were issued/posted on the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal website and the agency's website.

3.9 The IFB is comprised of the base IFB document, any attachments, any amendments issued prior to the submission deadline, and any other documents released before contract award.

Section 4 – Scope of Work

The MS Department of Mental Health is requesting sealed bids for a Comprehensive Communications Campaign for Opioid Awareness. The agency seeks to continue and expand the efforts of Stand Up, Mississippi - a statewide targeted communication strategy to end the opioid crisis and inspire all Mississippians to work together to create a stronger and healthier future by increasing the public's understanding of opioid addiction and how to access needed services. Contractor shall perform and complete in a timely and satisfactory manner the services described in Attachment "H" captioned "Scope of Work", which is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference. The scope of work is from procurement IFB RFX Number 3160005746 which was issued by the Agency and incorporated herein by reference.

- 4.1.1 State Furnished Property/Services:** The agency will provide access to the existing campaign components regarding the efforts of Stand Up, Mississippi
- 4.1.2 Contractor-Furnished Property:** The contractor will provide all necessary equipment, supplies and promotional materials.
- 4.1.3 Quality Assurance:** The contractor will provide project updates to the agency contact through each phase of the project. Deliverable must be met prior to the submission of an invoice for services.

4.2 The Contractor shall:

- 4.2.1** Assign a Contractor Account Representative to work directly with the Contracting Agency Representative.
- 4.2.2** All state facilities are non-smoking; the Contractor and its personnel must adhere to this requirement. The use of tobacco products is prohibited, except within designated smoking areas.
- 4.2.3** Contractors are required to sign-in and sign-out at most state facilities. Security provisions for all state facilities must be strictly observed.
- 4.2.4** Abide by all State and/or agency policies, procedures, ordinances, and/or laws pertaining to the Contracting Agency's operation at all times, including but not limited to the items listed above. Deviations from these policies by the Contractor or its personnel will not be tolerated and will be considered grounds for contract termination.

4.2.5 Perform all services provided in the contract between the bidder/Vendor and the Contracting Agency in accordance with customary and reasonable industry standards as well as in strict conformance to all laws, statutes, and ordinances and the applicable rules, regulations, methods and procedures of all government boards, bureaus, offices, and other agents. The Contractor shall be responsible for the complete performance of all work; for the methods, means, and equipment used; and for furnishing all materials, tools, apparatus, and property of every description used in connection therewith. No statement within this IFB shall negate compliance with any applicable governing regulation. The absence of detail specifications or the omission of detail description shall be recognized as meaning that only the best commercial practices are to prevail, and that only first quality materials and workmanship are to be used.

4.3 Contractors shall also:

4.3.1 Administer and maintain all employment and payroll records, payroll processing, and payment of payroll checks and taxes, including the deductions required by state, federal, and local laws such as social security and withholding taxes for their business and employees;

4.3.2 Make all unemployment compensation contributions as required by federal and state law(s) and process claims as required for their business and employees;

4.3.3 Perform a background check and/or drug screening prior to placement if requested by the Contracting Agency and verify and/or provide the results; and,

4.3.4 Replace immediately, at no additional expense to the Contracting Agency, any employee not performing satisfactorily.

Section 5 - Basis for Award

5.1 All bids will be reviewed first to determine whether a vendor is responsive, responsible, and/or acceptable. Requirements are not assigned a point percentage and/or score but are instead simply recorded as PASS or FAIL. Bids with errors that do not alter the substance of the bid can be accepted, and the Agency Chief Procurement Officer may allow the bidder to correct the problem prior to review as long as the irregularities are insignificant mistakes that can be waived or corrected without prejudice to other bidders.

5.2 The agency has the right to waive minor defects or variations of a bid from the exact requirements of the specifications that do not affect the price, quality, quantity, delivery, or performance time of the services being procured. If insufficient information is submitted by a bidder with the bid for the agency to properly evaluate the bid, the agency has the right to

require such additional information as it may deem necessary after the time set for receipt of bids, provided that the information requested does not change the price, quality, quantity, delivery, or performance time of the services being procured.

- 5.3** All bids which are determined to be responsive, responsible, and/or acceptable will continue on to the price bid or cost evaluation. The lowest cost bid will receive the maximum 100 points allocated to cost. The point allocations for cost on the other bids will be evaluated according to the following formula: Price of the lowest responsive and responsible bid divided by the price of the responsive and responsible bid being rated times the maximum 100 points allocated for cost equal the awarded points.
- 5.4** The agency intends to award one contract to provide the services described in this IFB to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder.

Section 6 – Minimum Bidder Qualifications

The vendor must have:

- 6.1 Prior Experience:** Contractor must have been in business and provided services similar in requirements and scale to those described in this IFB for a minimum of three (3) years. Work samples to document experience managing a state-wide awareness campaign and the ability to research current trends in data and opioid awareness educational tactics must be provided. Documentation of experienced staff and proof of the ability to produce content and provide direct reach to the targeted audience through email/data marketing platforms must also be provided in order to be deemed a responsible bidder.
- 6.2 Budget:** Bids in excess of \$150,000.00 will be considered non-responsive and will not be evaluated.
- 6.3** A minimum score of six (6) on the Reference Score Sheet (Attachment D) from reference interviews by agency staff with two (2) bidder references (for a total minimum scoring requirement of twelve (12) points), as well as all other requirements of this IFB.
- 6.4** The bidder may be required before the award of any contract to show to the complete satisfaction of the agency that it has the necessary facilities, ability, and financial resources to provide the service specified therein in a satisfactory manner. The bidder may also be required to give a past history and references in order to satisfy the agency in regard to the bidder's qualifications. The agency may make reasonable investigations deemed necessary and proper to determine the ability of the bidder to perform the work, and the bidder shall furnish to the agency all information for this purpose that may be requested. The agency reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, the bidder fails to satisfy the agency that the bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of

the contract and to complete the work described therein. Evaluation of the bidder's qualifications shall include:

1. the ability, capacity, skill, and financial resources to perform the work or provide the service required;
2. the ability of the bidder to perform the work or provide the service promptly or within the time specified, without delay or interference;
3. the character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the bidder; and,
4. the quality of performance of previous contracts or services.

Section 7 – Duration

The estimated period of performance of any contract resulting from this IFB is tentatively scheduled to begin on or about May 1, 2023 and to end on September 29, 2024.

Section 8 – Bid Submission Requirements

8.1 Submission Format

8.1.1 Bid Cover Sheet (Attachment A)

8.1.2 Bid Form (Attachment B) - all pricing must be submitted on the bid form. Failure to complete and/or sign the bid form may result in bidder being determined nonresponsive.

8.1.3 References (Attachment C) - each bidder must furnish a listing of **at least three (3)** trade references along with the contact person, address, and phone number for each. These references must be familiar with the bidder's abilities in the areas involved with this solicitation. Agency staff will use these references to determine the bidder's ability to perform the services. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that the reference contact information is correct and current. Agency staff will not track down references. Bidders should verify before submitting their bid that the contact person and phone number are correct for each reference. **Agency staff must be able to reach two (2) references for a bidder within two (2) business days of bid opening to be considered responsive. Further, the bidder must score a minimum of six (6) points on each Reference Score Sheet which will be used by the agency staff when interviewing the two (2) references (for a total minimum scoring requirement of twelve (12) points) to be considered responsive and/or responsible.** (See **Section 6.5 and Attachments C and D.**) Only bidders who are found responsive and/or responsible will have their bids considered. Bidder may submit as many references as desired. Agency staff will begin contacting references at the top of the list and will continue down the list until they have completed Reference Score Sheets for two (2) references. After two (2) score sheets are completed, the reference check process will end.

8.2 Submission Requirements

- 8.2.1** The signed original bid package, 3 copies of the signed original bid package, and 1 electronic copy (on CD, DVD, or flash drive) of its bid package submitted in a sealed envelope or package to Mississippi Department of Mental Health, 239 North Lamar St, 1001 Robert E. Lee Building, Jackson, MS 39201, Attn: Cyndi Eubank no later than the time and date specified for receipt of bids. The electronic files shall not be password protected, shall be in .PDF or .XLS format, and shall be capable of being copied to other media including readable in Microsoft Word and/or Microsoft Excel. (Also see, 8.2.2 and 8.2.3)
- 8.2.2** The sealed envelope or package shall be marked with the bid opening date and time, and the number of the invitation for bids (9:00 AM CST, April 17, 2023; IFB Number 3160005746). Bids are subject to rejection unless submitted with the information included on the outside the sealed bid envelope or package.
- 8.2.3** Sealed bids should be mailed or hand-delivered to and labeled as follows:
- IFB for Stand Up, MS Communications Campaign Services
IFB RFX Number 3160005746
Opening Date: 10:00 AM CST, April 17, 2023
Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Attention: Cyndi Eubank, Office of General Counsel
239 North Lamar St., 1001 Robert E. Lee Building
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
SEALED BID – DO NOT OPEN
- 8.2.4** All bid packages must be received by the agency no later than 9:00 AM CST, April 17, 2023. Bids submitted via facsimile (fax) machine **will not** be accepted. It is suggested that if a bid is mailed to the agency, it should be posted in certified mail with a return receipt requested. The agency will not be responsible for mail delays or lost mail. All risk of late arrival due to unanticipated delay – whether delivered by hand, U.S. Postal Service, courier or other delivery service or method – is entirely on the vendor. All vendors are urged to take the possibility of delay into account when submitting a bid.
- 8.2.5** Timely submission of the bid package is the responsibility of the bidder. Bids received after the specified time will be rejected and maintained unopened in the procurement file. A bid received at the place designated in the solicitation for receipt of bids after the exact time specified for receipt will not be considered unless it has been determined by the agency that the late receipt was due solely to mishandling by the agency after receipt at the specified address.

- 8.2.6** The time and date of receipt will be indicated on the sealed bid envelope or package by agency staff. The only acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the office identified for bid opening is the time and date stamp of that office on the bid wrapper or other documentary evidence of receipt used by that office.
- 8.2.7** Each page of the bid form and all attachments shall be identified with the name of the bidder.
- 8.2.8** Failure to submit a bid on the bid form provided will be considered cause for rejection of the bid. **Modifications or additions to any portion of the bid document may be cause for rejection of the bid.** The agency reserves the right to decide, on a case-by-case basis, whether to reject a bid with modifications or additions as non-responsive.
- 8.2.9** Bidders taking exception to any part or section of the solicitation shall indicate such exceptions on the IFB Exception(s) form, **Attachment G**. Failure to indicate any exception will be interpreted as the bidder's intent to comply fully with the requirements as written. Conditional or qualified bids, unless specifically allowed, shall be subject to rejection in whole or in part. The bid must contain a high degree of acceptance of contract terms and conditions listed in **Attachment E and F** of this IFB.
- 8.2.10** A bid response that includes terms and conditions that do not conform to the terms and conditions in the bid document is subject to rejection as non-responsive. The agency reserves the right to permit the bidder to withdraw nonconforming terms and conditions from its bid response prior to a determination by the agency of non-responsiveness based on the submission of nonconforming terms and conditions.
- 8.2.11** As a precondition to bid acceptance, the agency may request the bidder to withdraw or modify those portions of the bid deemed non-responsive that do not affect quality, quantity, price, or delivery of the service.
- 8.2.12** Any bidder claiming that its response contains information exempt from the Mississippi Public Records Act (Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.* and 79-23-1), shall segregate and mark the information as confidential and provide the specific statutory authority for the exemption.

Section 9 – Bidder Certification

The bidder agrees that submission of a signed bid form is certification that the bidder will accept an award made to it as a result of the submission.

Section 10 – Debarment

By submitting a bid, the bidder certifies that it is not currently debarred from submitting bids for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi and that it is not an agent of a person or entity that is currently debarred from submitting bids for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi.

Section 11 – Registration with Mississippi Secretary of State

By submitting a bid, the bidder certifies that it is registered to do business in the State of Mississippi as prescribed by Mississippi law and the Mississippi Secretary of State or, if not already registered, that it will do so within seven (7) business days of being notified by the agency that it has been selected for contract award.

Section 12 – Insurance, Bonds, or Other Sureties

12.1 Each successful bidder shall, at its own expense, obtain and maintain insurance, bond, or other surety which shall include the following types and coverage limits:

12.1.1 Workers Compensation coverage as required by the State of Mississippi. The policy shall provide coverage for all states of operation that apply to the performance of scope of work.

12.1.2 Comprehensive General Liability or Professional Liability insurance, with minimum limits of \$500,000 per occurrence.

12.2 Additionally:

12.2.1 In no event shall the requirement for an insurance, bond, or other surety be waived.

12.2.2 All insurance policies will list the State of Mississippi as an additional insured.

12.2.3 All insurance policies shall be issued by companies authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Mississippi, meaning insurance carriers must be licensed or hold a Certificate of Authority from the Mississippi Department of Insurance.

12.2.4 Contractor shall submit to Agency within seven (7) days of notification of intent to award, a certificate of insurance and/or bond which outlines the coverage and limits defined in the procurement and contract. There are no provisions for exceptions to this requirement. Failure to provide the certificates of insurance within the seven (7) day period may be cause for your bid to be declared non-responsive or for your contract to be cancelled.

- 12.2.5** Contractor shall obtain at Contractor's expense the insurance and/or bond requirements specified in the procurement and contract prior to performing under this Contract, and Contractor shall maintain the required insurance and/or bond coverage throughout the duration of this Contract and all warranty periods. There are no provisions for exceptions to this requirement.
- 12.2.6** Contractor shall not commence work under this contract until it obtains all insurance and/or bond required under this provision and furnishes a certificate or other form showing proof of current coverage to the State. After work commences, the Contractor will keep in force all required insurance and/or bond until the contract is terminated or expires.
- 12.2.7** Contractor shall submit renewal certificates as appropriate during the term of the contract.
- 12.2.8** Contractor shall instruct the insurers to provide the Agency thirty (30) days advance notice of any insurance cancellation.
- 12.2.9** Contractor shall ensure that should any of the above-described policies be cancelled before the expiration date thereof, or if there is a material change, potential exhaustion of aggregate limits or intent not to renew insurance and/or bond coverage(s), that written notice will be delivered to the Agency Chief Procurement Officer.
- 12.2.10** There shall be no cancellation, material change, potential exhaustion of aggregate limits or non-renewal of insurance and/or bond coverage(s) to Agency. Any failure to comply with the reporting provisions of this clause shall constitute a material breach of Contract and shall be grounds for immediate termination of this Contract by Agency.

Section 13 – Bid Opening

Bid opening will be open to the public; however, this will include opening, reading, and listing the name of each bidder and the bid price of each bid only. No discussions will be entered into with any bidder as to the quality or provisions of the specifications and no award will be made either stated or implied at the bid opening.

Section 14 – Award Notification

Award(s) for this procurement will be posted on the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal website and the agency website at <http://www.dmh.ms.gov>. Bidders will be notified via e-mail of the awards. Additionally, a letter will be sent to all bidders.

Section 15 – Procurement Methodology

15.1 Restrictions on Communications with Agency and Agency Staff

At no time shall any bidder or its personnel contact, or attempt to contact, any agency staff regarding this IFB except the contact person as set forth and, in the manner, prescribed in Section 3.

15.2 Bidder Investigations

Before submitting a bid, each bidder shall make all investigations and examinations necessary to ascertain all site conditions and requirements affecting the full performance of the contract and to verify any representations made by the agency upon which the bidder will rely. If the bidder receives an award as a result of its bid submission, failure to have made such investigations and examinations will in no way relieve the bidder from its obligation to comply in every detail with all provisions and requirements of the contract documents, nor will a plea of ignorance of such conditions and requirements be accepted as a basis for any claim whatsoever for additional compensation.

15.3 Expenses Incurred in Preparing Bid

The agency accepts no responsibility for any expense incurred by any bidder in the preparation and presentation of a bid. Such expenses shall be borne exclusively by the bidder.

15.4 Independent Price Determination

By submitting a bid, the bidder certifies that the prices submitted in response to the solicitation have been arrived at independently and without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other bidder or competitor relating to those prices, the intention to submit a bid, or the methods or factors used to calculate the prices bid. The prices quoted shall be inclusive of, but not limited to the following: all required labor; all required equipment/material; all required insurance, bond, or other surety; all required overhead; all required profit; all required vehicles; all required fuel and mileage; all required labor and supervision; all required training; all required business and professional licenses, certifications, fees, or permits; and any and all other costs]. All pricing should include all associated costs with no additional or hidden fees.

15.5 Rejection of Bids

A bid response that includes terms and conditions that do not conform to the terms and conditions in the IFB document is subject to rejection as non-responsive. Further, submission of a bid form that is not complete and/or signed is subject to rejection as non-responsive. The agency reserves the right to permit the bidder to withdraw nonconforming terms and

conditions from its bid response prior to a determination by the agency staff of non-responsiveness based on the submission of nonconforming terms and conditions. Furthermore, if a bidder's price is substantially higher than those of other bidders, meaning those in excess of a twenty-five percent (25%) differential, the bidder's price will be deemed non-responsive.

15.6 Withdrawal of Bids

If the price bid is substantially lower than those of other bidders, a mistake may have been made. A bidder may withdraw its bid from consideration if certain conditions are met:

- (1) The bid is submitted in good faith;
- (2) The price bid is substantially lower than those of other bidders because of a mistake;
- (3) The mistake is a clerical error, not an error of judgment; and,
- (4) Objective evidence drawn from original work papers, documents, and other materials used in the preparation of the bid demonstrates clearly that the mistake was an unintentional error in arithmetic or an unintentional omission of a quantity of labor or material.

To withdraw a bid that includes a clerical error after bid opening, the bidder must give notice in writing to the agency of claim of right to withdraw a bid. Within two (2) business days after the bid opening, the bidder requesting withdrawal must provide to the agency all original work papers, documents, and other materials used in the preparation of the bid.

A bidder may also withdraw a bid, prior to the time set for the opening of bids, by simply making a request in writing to the agency. No explanation is required.

No bidder who is permitted to withdraw a bid shall, for compensation, supply any material or labor to or perform any subcontract or other work for the person to whom the contract is awarded, or otherwise benefit from the contract.

No partial withdrawals of a bid are permitted after the time and date set for the bid opening; only complete withdrawals are permitted.

15.7 Post-Award Vendor Debriefing

A bidder, successful or unsuccessful, may request a post-award vendor debriefing, in writing, by U.S. mail or electronic submission. The written request must be received by Cyndi Eubank, General Counsel within three (3) business days of notification of the contract award. A post-award vendor debriefing is a meeting and not a hearing; therefore, legal representation is not required. A debriefing typically occurs within three (3) business days of receipt of the request. If a bidder prefers to have legal representation present, the bidder must notify Cyndi Eubank, General Counsel in writing and identify its attorney by name, address, and telephone number. The agency will schedule and/or suspend and reschedule the meeting at

a time when a Representative of the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General can be present.

For additional information regarding Post-Award Vendor Debriefing, as well as the information that may be provided and excluded, please see Section 7-113 through 7-113.07, Post-Award Vendor Debriefing, of the *PPRB OPSCR Rules and Regulations* as updated and replaced by PPRB.

15.8 Protests

Any actual or prospective bidder who is aggrieved in connection with this solicitation or the outcome of this IFB may file a protest with Cyndi Eubank, General Counsel. The protest shall be submitted within seven (7) calendar days of notification of the contract award or on or before 4:00 PM CST, April 26, 2023, in writing after such aggrieved person or entity knows or should have known of the facts giving rise thereto. The written protest letter shall contain an explanation of the specific basis for the protest. All protests must be in writing, dated, signed by the bidder or an individual authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the protesting bidder, and contain a statement of the reason(s) for protest, citing the law(s), rule(s) and regulation(s) or procedure(s) on which the protest is based. The protesting bidder must provide facts and evidence to support the protest. A protest is considered filed when received by Cyndi Eubank, General Counsel via either U.S. mail, postage prepaid, or by personal delivery. Protests filed after 4:00 PM CST, April 26, 2023, will not be considered.

Section 16 – Required Contract Terms and Conditions

Any contract entered into with the Contracting Agency pursuant to this IFB shall have the required clauses found in Attachment E and those required by the *PPRB OPSCR Rules and Regulations* as updated and replaced by PPRB. The agency discourages exceptions from these required clauses. Such exceptions may cause a bid to be rejected as non-responsive. Bids which condition the bid based upon the State accepting other terms and conditions not found in the IFB, or which take exception to the State's terms and conditions, may be found non-responsive, and no further consideration of the bid will be given.

Section 17 – Optional Contract Terms and Conditions

Any contract entered into with the Contracting Agency pursuant this IFB may have at the discretion of the Contracting Agency, the optional clauses found in Attachment F and those within the *PPRB OPSCR Rules and Regulations* as updated and replaced by PPRB. The agency discourages exceptions from these optional clauses. Such exceptions may cause a bid to be rejected as non-responsive. Bids which condition the bid based upon the State accepting other terms and conditions not found in the IFB, or which take exception to the State's terms and conditions, may be found non-responsive, and no further consideration of the bid will be given.

Section 18 – Agency Website

This IFB, questions and answers concerning this IFB, and the Notice of Intent To Award will be posted on the agency website at <http://www.dmh.ms.gov> and on the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal website.

Section 19 – Attachments

The attachments to this IFB are made a part of this IFB as if copied herein in words and figures.

Attachment A

BID COVER SHEET

Bids are to be submitted as listed below, on or before 9:00 AM CST, November 30, 2021.

PLEASE MARK YOUR ENVELOPE:

IFB for Stand UP, Mississippi Communications Campaign
IFB RFX Number 3160005746
Opening Date: 10:00 AM CST, April 17, 2023
Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Attention: Cyndi Eubank, General Counsel
239 North Lamar St.
1001 Robert E. Lee Bldg.
Jackson, MS 39201
SEALED BID – DO NOT OPEN

Name of Company: _____

Quoted By: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Name and phone number of Company Representative to be contacted by Agencies seeking to contract for services pursuant to this IFB: _____

In addition to providing the above contact information, please answer the following questions regarding your company:

What year was your company started? _____

How many years has the firm been in business of performing the services called for in this IFB?

Please provide the physical location and mailing address of your company's home office, principal place of business, and place of incorporation. _____

If your company is not physically located within the vicinity, how will you supply Communications Campaign to the agency?

Is your company currently for sale or involved in any transaction to expand or to become acquired by another business entity? If yes, please discuss the impact both in organizational and directional terms. _____

Is your company licensed and/or certified to provide Communication Campaign Services as required by any and all applicable Federal and State law(s)?

List all licenses or permits your company possesses that are applicable to performing the services required in this IFB. _____

For how many customers has your company provided Communication Campaign Services in the past two years?

What is the largest customer your company has provided Communication Campaign Services for in the past two years?

Describe any specific services which your company offers along with any specialized experience, certification, and/or education of your current staff. _____

Attachment B

BID FORM

Company	Contact Person	Telephone Number & Email Address

The pricing quoted shall be inclusive of, but not limited to the following:

1. All required equipment/material;
2. All required insurance, bond, or other surety;
3. All required overhead;
4. All required profit;
5. All required vehicles;
6. All required fuel and mileage;
7. All required labor and supervision;
8. All required business and professional certifications, licenses, permits, or fees; and,
9. Any and all other costs.

All pricing for Communication Campaign Services should include all associated costs for the items with no additional or hidden fees.

Unit Description	Unit Price

By signing below, the company Representative certifies that he/she has authority to bind the company, and further acknowledges and certifies on behalf of the company:

1. That he/she has thoroughly read and understands the Invitation for Bids and Attachments thereto;
2. That the company meets all requirements and acknowledges all certifications contained in the Invitation for Bids and Attachments thereto;
3. That the company agrees to all provisions of the Invitation for Bids and Attachments thereto including, but not limited to, the Required and Optional Clauses to be included in any contract resulting from this IFB (Attachments E and F);
4. That the company will perform the services required at the prices quoted above;
5. That, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the cost or pricing data submitted is accurate, complete, and current as of the submission date;

6. The Contractor represents that its workers are licensed, certified and possess the requisite credentials to Communication Campaign Services; and,
7. **NON-DEBARMENT:** By submitting a bid, the bidder certifies that it is not currently debarred from submitting bids for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi and that it is not an agent of a person or entity that is currently debarred from submitting bids for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi.
8. **INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION:** The bidder certifies that the prices submitted in response to the solicitation have been arrived at independently and without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other bidder or competitor relating to those prices, the intention to submit a bid, or the methods or factors used to calculate the prices bid/offered.
9. **PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S REPRESENTATION REGARDING CONTINGENT FEES:** The prospective contractor represents as a part of such Contractor's bid that such Contractor *has not* retained any person or agency on a percentage, commission, or other contingent arrangement to secure this contract.
10. **REPRESENTATION REGARDING CONTINGENT FEES:** Contractor represents that it *has not* retained a person to solicit or secure a State contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or other contingent fee, except as disclosed in the Contractor's bid.
11. **REPRESENTATION REGARDING GRATUITIES:** Contractor represents that it has not violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 6-204 (Gratuities) of the *PPRB OPSCR Rules and Regulations*.

Company Name: _____

Printed Name of Representative: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Note: Failure to sign the bid form may result in the bid being rejected as non-responsive. Modifications or additions to any portion of this bid document may be cause for rejection of the bid.

Attachment C

REFERENCES

Bidder may submit as many references as desired by submitting as many additional copies of Attachment C, References, as deemed necessary. References will be contacted in order listed until two references have been interviewed and Reference Score Sheets completed for each of the two references. No further references will be contacted; however, bidders are encouraged to submit additional references to ensure that at least two references are available for interview. Agency staff must be able to contact two references within two (2) business days of bid opening to be considered responsive or no later than December 2, 2021.

REFERENCE 1

Name of Company: _____
Dates of Service: _____
Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Cell Number: _____
E-mail: _____
Alternative Contact Person (optional): _____
Telephone Number: _____
Cell Number: _____
E-mail: _____

REFERENCE 2

Name of Company: _____
Dates of Service: _____
Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Cell Number: _____
E-mail: _____
Alternative Contact Person (optional): _____
Telephone Number: _____
Cell Number: _____
E-mail: _____

REFERENCE 3

Name of Company: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Alternative Contact Person (optional): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

REFERENCE 4

Name of Company: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Alternative Contact Person (optional): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

REFERENCE 5

Name of Company: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Alternative Contact Person (optional): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Attachment D

References Score Sheet

IFB Number 3160005746

IFB for Stand Up, Mississippi Communication Campaign Services

TO BE COMPLETED BY AGENCY STAFF ONLY

Company Name: _____

Reference Name: _____

Person Contacted, Title/Position: _____

Date/Time Contacted: _____

Service From/To Dates: _____

Able to provide Communication Campaign services when you called?	Yes	No
Satisfied with the Communication Campaign services provided? If no, please explain.	Yes	No
Vendor easy to work with in scheduling Communication Campaign services?	Yes	No
Were the Communication Campaign services completed on time and within budget?	Yes	No
Vendor listened when you had an issue and readily offered a solution? (If never had an issue, please check here ____.)	Yes	No
Would you enter into a contract with them again?	Yes	No
Would you recommend them?	Yes	No

Bidder must have a minimum of 6 “yes” answers on the questions above from two references (total of 12 “yes” answers) to be considered responsible and for its bid to be considered.

Score: Pass/Fail

Do you have any business, professional or personal interest in the vendor’s organization? If yes, please explain.	Yes	No
---	-----	----

A “yes” to the above question may result in an automatic disqualification of the provided reference; therefore, resulting in a score of zero as responses to previous questions become null and void.

Notes: _____

Called by: _____
Signature Title Date

Attachment E

REQUIRED CLAUSES FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS RESULTING FROM THIS IFB

1. Applicable Law: The contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi, excluding its conflicts of law's provisions, and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the courts of the State. Contractor shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
2. Approval: It is understood that if this contract requires approval by the Public Procurement Review Board and/or the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration Office of Personal Service Contract Review and this contract is not approved by the PPRB and/or OPSCR, it is void and no payment shall be made hereunder.
3. Availability of Funds: It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligation of the Agency to proceed under this agreement is conditioned upon the appropriation of funds by the Mississippi State Legislature and the receipt of state and/or federal funds. If the funds anticipated for the continuing fulfillment of the agreement are, at any time, not forthcoming or insufficient, either through the failure of the federal government to provide funds or of the State of Mississippi to appropriate funds or the discontinuance or material alteration of the program under which funds were provided or if funds are not otherwise available to the Agency, the Agency shall have the right upon ten (10) working days written notice to Contractor, to terminate this agreement without damage, penalty, cost or expenses to the Agency of any kind whatsoever. The effective date of termination shall be as specified in the notice of termination.
4. Compliance with Laws: Contractor understands that the State of Mississippi is an equal opportunity employer and therefore, maintains a policy which prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, physical handicap, disability, genetic information, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws. All such discrimination is unlawful, and Contractor agrees during the term of the agreement that Contractor will strictly adhere to this policy in its employment practices and provision of services. Contractor shall comply with, and all activities under this agreement shall be subject to, all applicable federal, State of Mississippi, and local laws and regulations, as now existing and as may be amended or modified.
5. E-Payment: Contractor agrees to accept all payments in United States currency via the State of Mississippi's electronic payment and remittance vehicle. The agency agrees to make payment in accordance with Mississippi law on "Timely Payments for Purchases by Public Bodies," which generally provides for payment of undisputed amounts by the agency within forty-five (45) days of receipt of invoice. Mississippi Code Annotated § 31-7-301 *et seq.*
6. E-Verification: If applicable, Contractor represents and warrants that it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act of 2008 and will register and participate in the status

verification system for all newly hired employees. Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 71-11-1 *et seq.*... The term “employee” as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, “status verification system” means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Contractor agrees to maintain records of such compliance. Upon request of the State and after approval of the Social Security Administration or Department of Homeland Security when required, Contractor agrees to provide a copy of each such verification. Contractor further represents and warrants that any person assigned to perform services hereafter meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws. The breach of this agreement may subject Contractor to the following:

- a. termination of this contract for services and ineligibility for any state or public contract in Mississippi for up to three (3) years with notice of such cancellation/termination being made public;
- b. the loss of any license, permit, certification, or other document granted to Contractor by an agency, department, or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year; or,
- c. both.

In the event of such cancellation/termination, Contractor would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to Contract cancellation or loss of license or permit to do business in the State.

7. Insurance, Bond, or Other Surety: Contractor represents that it will, at its own expense, obtain and maintain insurance, bond, or other surety which shall include at a minimum, the following types and coverage limits:
 - a. **Workers Compensation** coverage as required by the State of Mississippi. The policy shall provide coverage for all states of operation that apply to the performance of scope of work.
 - b. **Comprehensive General Liability or Professional Liability** insurance, with minimum limits of \$500,000.00 per occurrence.
 - c. The Contractor is responsible for ensuring that any subcontractors provide adequate insurance and/or bond coverage for the activities arising out of subcontracts.

Additionally:

- In no event shall the requirement for an insurance, bond, or other surety be waived.
- All insurance policies will list the State of Mississippi as an additional insured.
- All insurance policies shall be issued by companies authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Mississippi, meaning insurance carriers must be licensed or hold a Certificate of Authority from the Mississippi Department of Insurance.
- Contractor shall submit to Agency within seven (7) days of notification of intent to award, a certificate of insurance and/or bond which outlines the coverage and limits defined in

the procurement and contract. There are no provisions for exceptions to this requirement. Failure to provide the certificates of insurance within seven (7) day period may be cause for your bid to be declared non-responsive or for your contract to be cancelled.

- Contractor shall obtain at Contractor's expense the insurance and/or bond requirements specified in the procurement and contract prior to performing under this Contract, and Contractor shall maintain the required insurance and/or bond coverage throughout the duration of this Contract and all warranty periods. There are no provisions for exceptions to this requirement.
 - Contractor shall not commence work under this contract until it obtains all insurance and/or bond required under this provision and furnishes a certificate or other form showing proof of current coverage to the State. After work commences, the Contractor will keep in force all required insurance and/or bond until the contract is terminated or expires.
 - Contractor shall submit renewal certificates as appropriate during the term of the contract.
 - Contractor shall instruct the insurers to provide the Agency 30 days advance notice of any insurance cancellation.
 - Contractor shall ensure that should any of the above-described policies be cancelled before the expiration date thereof, or if there is a material change, potential exhaustion of aggregate limits or intent not to renew insurance and/or bond coverage(s), that written notice will be delivered to the Agency Chief Procurement Officer.
 - There shall be no cancellation, material change, potential exhaustion of aggregate limits or non-renewal of insurance and/or bond coverage(s) to Agency. Any failure to comply with the reporting provisions of this clause shall constitute a material breach of Contract and shall be grounds for immediate termination of this Contract by Agency.
8. Paymode: Payments by state agencies using the State's accounting system shall be made and remittance information provided electronically as directed by the State. These payments shall be deposited into the bank account of Contractor's choice. The State may, at its sole discretion, require Contractor to electronically submit invoices and supporting documentation at any time during the term of this Agreement. Contractor understands and agrees that the State is exempt from the payment of taxes. All payments shall be in United States currency.
9. Procurement Regulations: The contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the *PPRB OPSCR Rules and Regulations*, a copy of which is available at 501 North West Street, Suite 701E, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 for inspection, or downloadable at <http://www.DFA.ms.gov>.
10. Representation Regarding Contingent Fees: Contractor represents that it has not retained a person to solicit or secure a state contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except as disclosed in Contractor's

bid.

11. Representation Regarding Gratuities: The Contractor represents that it has not violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 6-204 (Gratuities) of the *PPRB OPSCR Rules and Regulations*.

12. Stop Work Order:

- a. *Order to Stop Work:* The Chief Procurement Officer, may, by written order to Contractor at any time, and without notice to any surety, require Contractor to stop all or any part of the work called for by this contract. This order shall be for a specified period not exceeding 90 days after the order is delivered to Contractor unless the parties agree to any further period. Any such order shall be identified specifically as a stop work order issued pursuant to this clause. Upon receipt of such an order, Contractor shall forthwith comply with its terms and take all reasonable steps to minimize the occurrence of costs allocable to the work covered by the order during the period of work stoppage. Before the stop work order expires, or within any further period to which the parties shall have agreed, the Chief Procurement Officer shall either:
 - i. cancel the stop work order; or,
 - ii. terminate the work covered by such order as provided in the Termination for Default clause or the Termination for Convenience clause of this contract.
- b. *Cancellation or Expiration of the Order:* If a stop work order issued under this clause is canceled at any time during the period specified in the order, or if the period of the order or any extension thereof expires, Contractor shall have the right to resume work. An appropriate adjustment shall be made in the delivery schedule or Contractor price, or both, and the contract shall be modified in writing accordingly, if:
 - i. the stop work order results in an increase in the time required for, or in Contractor's cost properly allocable to, the performance of any part of this contract; and,
 - ii. Contractor asserts a claim for such an adjustment within 30 days after the end of the period of work stoppage; provided that, if the Chief Procurement Officer decides that the facts justify such action, any such claim asserted may be received and acted upon at any time prior to final payment under this contract.
- c. *Termination of Stopped Work:* If a stop work order is not canceled and the work covered by such order is terminated for default or convenience, the reasonable costs resulting from the stop work order shall be allowed by adjustment or otherwise.
- d. *Adjustment of Price:* Any adjustment in contract price made pursuant to this clause shall be determined in accordance with the Price Adjustment clause of this contract.

13. Termination for Convenience:

- a. *Termination.* The Agency Head or designee may, when the interests of the State so require, terminate this contract in whole or in part, for the convenience of the State. The Agency Head or designee shall give written notice of the termination to Contractor specifying the part of the contract terminated and when termination becomes effective.
- b. *Contractor's Obligations.* Contractor shall incur no further obligations in connection with the terminated work and on the date set in the notice of termination Contractor will stop

work to the extent specified. Contractor shall also terminate outstanding orders and subcontracts as they relate to the terminated work. Contractor shall settle the liabilities and claims arising out of the termination of subcontracts and orders connected with the terminated work. The Agency Head or designee may direct Contractor to assign Contractor's right, title, and interest under terminated orders or subcontracts to the State. Contractor must still complete the work not terminated by the notice of termination and may incur obligations as are necessary to do so.

14. Termination for Default:

- a. *Default.* If Contractor refuses or fails to perform any of the provisions of this contract with such diligence as will ensure its completion within the time specified in this contract or any extension thereof, or otherwise fails to timely satisfy the contract provisions, or commits any other substantial breach of this contract, the Agency Head or designee may notify Contractor in writing of the delay or nonperformance and if not cured in ten (10) days or any longer time specified in writing by the Agency Head or designee, such officer may terminate Contractor's right to proceed with the contract or such part of the contract as to which there has been delay or a failure to properly perform. In the event of termination in whole or in part, the Agency Head or designee may procure similar supplies or services in a manner and upon terms deemed appropriate by the Agency Head or designee. Contractor shall continue performance of the contract to the extent it is not terminated and shall be liable for excess costs incurred in procuring similar goods or services.
- b. *Contractor's Duties.* Notwithstanding termination of the contract and subject to any directions from the Chief Procurement Officer, Contractor shall take timely, reasonable, and necessary action to protect and preserve property in the possession of Contractor in which the State has an interest.
- c. *Compensation.* Payment for completed services delivered and accepted by the State shall be at the contract price. The State may withhold from amounts due Contractor such sums as the Agency Head or designee deems to be necessary to protect the State against loss because of outstanding liens or claims of former lien holders and to reimburse the State for the excess costs incurred in procuring similar goods and services.
- d. *Excuse for Nonperformance or Delayed Performance.* Except with respect to defaults of subcontractors, Contractor shall not be in default by reason of any failure in performance of this contract in accordance with its terms (including any failure by Contractor to make progress in the prosecution of the work hereunder which endangers such performance) if Contractor has notified the Agency Head or designee within 15 days after the cause of the delay and the failure arises out of causes such as: acts of God; acts of the public enemy; acts of the State and any other governmental entity in its sovereign or contractual capacity; fires; floods; epidemics; quarantine restrictions; strikes or other labor disputes; freight embargoes; or unusually severe weather. If the failure to perform is caused by the failure of a subcontractor to perform or to make progress, and if such failure arises out of causes similar to those set forth above, Contractor shall not be deemed to be in default, unless the services to be furnished by the subcontractor were reasonably obtainable from other sources in sufficient time to permit Contractor to meet the contract requirements.

Upon request of Contractor, the Agency Head or designee shall ascertain the facts and extent of such failure, and, if such officer determines that any failure to perform was occasioned by any one or more of the excusable causes, and that, but for the excusable cause, Contractor's progress and performance would have met the terms of the contract, the delivery schedule shall be revised accordingly, subject to the rights of the State under the clause entitled (in fixed-price contracts, "Termination for Convenience," in cost-reimbursement contracts, "Termination"). (As used in this Paragraph of this clause, the term "subcontractor" means subcontractor at any tier).

- e. *Erroneous Termination for Default.* If, after notice of termination of Contractor's right to proceed under the provisions of this clause, it is determined for any reason that the contract was not in default under the provisions of this clause, or that the delay was excusable under the provisions of Paragraph (d) (Excuse for Nonperformance or Delayed Performance) of this clause, the rights and obligations of the parties shall, if the contract contains a clause providing for termination for convenience of the State, be the same as if the notice of termination had been issued pursuant to such clause.
 - f. *Additional Rights and Remedies.* The rights and remedies provided in this clause are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.
15. Termination Upon Bankruptcy: This contract may be terminated in whole or in part by Agency upon written notice to Contractor, if Contractor should become the subject of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, whether voluntary or involuntary, or upon the execution by Contractor of an assignment for the benefit of its creditors. In the event of such termination, Contractor shall be entitled to recover just and equitable compensation for satisfactory work performed under this contract, but in no case shall said compensation exceed the total contract price.
16. Trade Secrets, Commercial and Financial Information: It is expressly understood that Mississippi law requires that the provisions of this contract which contain the commodities purchased or the personal or professional services provided, the price to be paid, and the term of the contract shall not be deemed to be a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information and shall be available for examination, copying, or reproduction.
17. Transparency: This contract, including any accompanying exhibits, attachments, and appendices, is subject to the "Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983," and its exceptions. See Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.* and Mississippi Code Annotated § 79-23-1. In addition, this contract is subject to the provisions of the Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008. Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 27-104-151 *et seq.* Unless exempted from disclosure due to a court-issued protective order, a copy of this executed contract is required to be posted to the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration's independent agency contract website for public access at <http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov>. Information identified by Contractor as trade secrets, or other proprietary information, including confidential vendor information or any other information which is required confidential by state or federal law or outside the applicable freedom of information statutes, will be redacted.

Attachment F

OPTIONAL CLAUSES FOR USE IN SERVICE CONTRACTS RESULTING FROM THIS IFB

1. Attorney's Fees and Expenses: Subject to other terms and conditions of this agreement, in the event Contractor defaults in any obligations under this agreement, Contractor shall pay to the State all costs and expenses (including, without limitation, investigative fees, court costs, and attorney's fees) incurred by the State in enforcing this agreement or otherwise reasonably related thereto. Contractor agrees that under no circumstances shall the customer be obligated to pay any attorney's fees or costs of legal action to Contractor.
2. Change in Scope of Work: The Agency may order changes in the work consisting of additions, deletions, or other revisions within the general scope of the contract. No claims may be made by Contractor that the scope of the project or of Contractor's services has been changed, requiring changes to the amount of compensation to Contractor or other adjustments to the contract, unless such changes or adjustments have been made by written amendment to the contract signed by the Agency and Contractor.

If Contractor believes that any particular work is not within the scope of the project, is a material change, or will otherwise require more compensation to Contractor, Contractor must immediately notify the Agency in writing of this belief. If the Agency believes that the particular work is within the scope of the contract as written, Contractor will be ordered to and shall continue with the work as changed and at the cost stated for the work within the contract.

3. Confidentiality: Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained herein, it is recognized that Agency is a public agency of the State of Mississippi and is subject to the Mississippi Public Records Act. Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.*. If a public records request is made for any information provided to Agency pursuant to the agreement and designated by the Contractor in writing as trade secrets or other proprietary confidential information, Agency shall follow the provisions of Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-9 and 79-23-1 before disclosing such information. The Agency shall not be liable to the Contractor for disclosure of information required by court order or required by law.
4. Disclosure of Confidential Information: In the event that either party to this agreement receives notice that a third party requests divulgence of confidential or otherwise protected information and/or has served upon it a subpoena or other validly issued administrative or judicial process ordering divulgence of confidential or otherwise protected information that party shall promptly inform the other party and thereafter respond in conformity with such subpoena to the extent mandated by law. This section shall survive the termination or completion of this agreement. The parties agree that this section is subject to and superseded by Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.*

5. Failure to Deliver: In the event of failure of Contractor to deliver services in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the Agency, after due oral or written notice, may procure the services from other sources and hold Contractor responsible for any resulting additional purchase and administrative costs. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedies that the Agency may have.
6. Failure to Enforce: Failure by the Agency at any time to enforce the provisions of the contract shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provisions. Such failure to enforce shall not affect the validity of the contract or any part thereof or the right of the Agency to enforce any provision at any time in accordance with its terms.
7. Indemnification: To the fullest extent allowed by law, Contractor shall indemnify, defend, save and hold harmless, protect, and exonerate the agency, its commissioners, board members, officers, employees, agents, and representatives, and the State of Mississippi from and against all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses, and costs of every kind and nature whatsoever including, without limitation, court costs, investigative fees and expenses, and attorney's fees, arising out of or caused by Contractor and/or its partners, principals, agents, employees and/or subcontractors in the performance of or failure to perform this agreement. In the State's sole discretion upon approval of the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General, Contractor may be allowed to control the defense of any such claim, suit, etc. In the event Contractor defends said claim, suit, etc., Contractor shall use legal counsel acceptable to the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General. Contractor shall be solely responsible for all costs and/or expenses associated with such defense, and the State shall be entitled to participate in said defense. Contractor shall not settle any claim, suit, etc. without the concurrence of the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.
8. Independent Contractor Status: Contractor shall, at all times, be regarded as and shall be legally considered an independent contractor and shall at no time act as an agent for the State. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed or construed by the State, Contractor, or any third party as creating the relationship of principal and agent, master and servant, partners, joint ventures, employer, and employee, or any similar such relationship between the State and Contractor. Neither the method of computation of fees or other charges, nor any other provision contained herein, nor any acts of the State or Contractor hereunder creates or shall be deemed to create a relationship other than the independent relationship of the State and Contractor. Contractor's personnel shall not be deemed in any way, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, to be employees of the State. Neither Contractor nor its employees shall, under any circumstances, be considered servants, agents, or employees of the agency, and the Agency shall be at no time legally responsible for any negligence or other wrongdoing by Contractor, its servants, agents, or employees. The Agency shall not withhold from the contract payments to Contractor any federal or state unemployment taxes, federal or state income taxes, Social Security tax, or any other amounts for benefits to Contractor. Further, the Agency shall not provide to Contractor any insurance

coverage or other benefits, including Worker's Compensation, normally provided by the State for its employees.

9. **Modification or Renegotiation:** This agreement may be modified only by written agreement signed by the parties hereto. The parties agree to renegotiate the agreement if federal and/or state revisions of any applicable laws or regulations make changes in this agreement necessary.
10. **Notices:** All notices required or permitted to be given under this agreement must be in writing and personally delivered or sent by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to the party to whom the notice should be given at the address set forth below. Notice shall be deemed given when actually received or when refused. The parties agree to promptly notify each other in writing of any change of address.

For the Agency:	For Contractor:
Cyndi Eubank, General Counsel	[Name, Title]
Mississippi Department of Mental Health	[Contractor Name]
239 North Lamar St., Suite 1001	[Address]
Jackson, MS 39201	[City, State, Zip]

11. **Ownership of Documents and Work Papers:** Agency shall own all documents, files, reports, work papers and working documentation, electronic or otherwise, created in connection with the project, which is the subject of this agreement, except for Contractor's internal administrative and quality assurance files and internal project correspondence. Contractor shall deliver such documents and work papers to Agency upon termination or completion of the agreement. The foregoing notwithstanding, Contractor shall be entitled to retain a set of such work papers for its files. Contractor shall be entitled to use such work papers only after receiving written permission from Agency and subject to any copyright protections.
12. **Record Retention and Access to Records:** Provided Contractor is given reasonable advance written notice and such inspection is made during normal business hours of Contractor, the State or any duly authorized representatives shall have unimpeded, prompt access to any of Contractor's books, documents, papers, and/or records which are maintained or produced as a result of the project for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions. All records related to this agreement shall be retained by Contractor for three (3) years after final payment is made under this agreement and all pending matters are closed; however, if any audit, litigation or other action arising out of or related in any way to this project is commenced before the end of the three (3) year period, the records shall be retained for one (1) year after all issues arising out of the action are finally resolved or until the end of the three (3) year period, whichever is later.
13. **Severability:** If any part of this agreement is declared to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of the agreement that can be given effect without the invalid or unenforceable provision, and to this end the provisions

hereof are severable. In such event, the parties shall amend the agreement as necessary to reflect the original intent of the parties and to bring any invalid or unenforceable provisions in compliance with applicable law.

14. Third Party Action Notification: Contractor shall give the customer prompt notice in writing of any action or suit filed, and prompt notice of any claim made against Contractor by any entity that may result in litigation related in any way to this agreement.

15. Waiver: No delay or omission by either party to this agreement in exercising any right, power, or remedy hereunder or otherwise afforded by contract, at law, or in equity shall constitute an acquiescence therein, impair any other right, power or remedy hereunder or otherwise afforded by any means, or operate as a waiver of such right, power, or remedy. No waiver by either party to this agreement shall be valid unless set forth in writing by the party making said waiver. No waiver of or modification to any term or condition of this agreement will void, waive, or change any other term or condition. No waiver by one party to this agreement of a default by the other party will imply, be construed as, or require waiver of future or other defaults.

Attachment G
IFB #3160005746
Invitation for BIDS for Communications Campaign
IFB Exception(s)

Bidder taking exception to any part or section of the solicitation shall indicate such exceptions on the table below. If no exceptions are taken, then the Bidder shall state in this section "No Exceptions Taken." Failure to indicate any exception will be interpreted as the Bidder's intent to comply fully with the requirements as written. Conditional or qualified bids, unless specifically allowed, shall be subject to rejection in whole or in part.

Procurement Section and Page Number	Original Language	Requested Change/Exception	Agency Decision
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Attachment H SCOPE OF SERVICES

Continue and expand the efforts of Stand Up, Mississippi - a statewide targeted communication strategy to end the opioid crisis and inspire all Mississippians to work together to create a stronger and healthier future by increasing the public's understanding of opioid addiction and how to access needed services including:

- Developing communication strategies including but not limited to: website content and updates, social media, web-based and printed outreach materials, advertisements/Public Service Announcements, news media, and presentations for target audiences.
- Conducting media placement procurement to include the appropriate mix of the following (based on final budget and availability):
 - Print and digital ad space for newspapers and magazines
 - Digital buys (e.g., streaming radio, website advertisements, social media, etc.)
 - Outdoor billboards
 - Broadcast radio
 - Print materials
 - All media buys will include negotiating for best and lowest cost, seeking value added promotional opportunities, conducting appropriate focused market research, target audience segmentation and regionalization.
- Actively engaging public relations/news media collaboration plans.
- Communicating routinely with DMH to report on progress and performance as part of the ongoing evaluation.
- Actively searching for unique outreach opportunities within Mississippi for Stand Up, Mississippi presence targeting the populations as identified by DMH.
 - Registering DMH staff and purchasing exhibitor/sponsorship opportunities at state conferences.
- Providing ongoing evaluation of the campaign and make recommendations regarding innovative ideas to reach target audiences, methods, and budget allocation as necessary to meet campaign objectives.

Specifics:

- -Proven experience of managing the Stand Up, Mississippi campaign or a state-wide opioid awareness campaign of the like.
- -Dedicated staff to generate innovative and unique outreach ideas and conduct strategic planning that will reach intended audiences.
- -Ability to conduct research from reliable and relevant sources on current trends in data and opioid awareness educational tactics used to curb overdose deaths.
- -Ability to produce content and provide direct reach to audiences through email/database marketing platforms.

-Established relationships with entities that could benefit the mission of the Stand Up, Mississippi campaign.