

ARTICLE XVI TERMINATION AND TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

Section 16.01 **Expiration of Contract or Program Attachment(s).** Except as provided in the Survivability of Terms section of the General Terms Article, Contractor's service obligations stated in each Program Attachment will end upon the expiration date of that Program Attachment unless extended or renewed by written amendment. Prior to completion of the term of all Program Attachments, all or a part of this Contract may be terminated with or without cause under this Article.

Section 16.02 **Effect of Termination.** Termination is the permanent withdrawal of Contractor's authority to obligate previously awarded funds before that authority would otherwise expire or the voluntary relinquishment by Contractor of the authority to obligate previously awarded funds. Contractor's costs resulting from obligations incurred by Contractor after termination of an award are not allowable unless expressly authorized by the notice of termination. Upon termination of this Contract or Program Attachment, as applicable, Contractor shall cooperate with DSHS to the fullest extent possible to ensure the orderly and safe transfer of responsibilities under this Contract or Program Attachment, as applicable, to DSHS or another entity designated by DSHS. Upon termination of all or part of this Contract, Department and Contractor will be discharged from any further obligation created under the applicable terms of this Contract or the Program Attachment, as applicable, except for the equitable settlement of the respective accrued interests or obligations incurred prior to termination and for Contractor's duty to cooperate with DSHS, and except as provided in the Survivability of Terms section of the General Terms Article. Termination does not, however, constitute a waiver of any remedies for breach of this Contract. In addition, Contractor's obligations to retain records and maintain confidentiality of information will survive this Contract.

Section 16.03 **Acts Not Constituting Termination.** Termination does not include the Department's (1) withdrawal of funds awarded on the basis of Contractor's underestimate of the unobligated balance in a prior period; (2) withdrawal of the unobligated balance at the expiration of the term of a program attachment; (3) refusal to extend a program attachment or award additional funds to make a competing or noncompeting continuation, renewal, extension, or supplemental award; (4) non-renewal of a contract or program attachment at Department's sole discretion; or (5) voiding of a contract upon determination that the award was obtained fraudulently, or was otherwise illegal or invalid from inception.

Section 16.04 **Termination or Temporary Suspension Without Cause.**

- a) Either Party may terminate this Contract or a Program Attachment, as applicable, with at least thirty (30) calendar days prior written notice to the other Party, except that if Contractor seeks to terminate a Contract or Program Attachment that involves residential client services, Contractor shall give the Department at least ninety (90) calendar days prior written notice and shall submit a transition plan to ensure client services are not disrupted.
- b) The Parties may terminate this Contract or a Program Attachment by mutual agreement.
- c) DSHS may temporarily suspend or terminate this Contract or a Program Attachment if funds become unavailable through lack of appropriations, budget cuts, transfer of funds between programs or health and human services agencies, amendments to the Appropriations Act, health and human services consolidations, or any disruption of current appropriated funding for this Contract or Program Attachment. Contractor will be notified in writing of any termination or temporary suspension or of any cessation of temporary suspension. Upon notification of temporary suspension, Contractor shall discontinue performance under the Contract as of the effective date of the suspension, for the duration of the suspension.
- d) Department may terminate this Contract or a Program Attachment immediately when, in the sole determination of Department, termination is in the best interest of the State of Texas.

Section 16.05 Termination For Cause. Either Party may terminate for material breach of this Contract with at least thirty (30) calendar days written notice to the other Party. Department may terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, for breach of contract or for any other conduct that jeopardizes the Contract objectives, by giving at least thirty (30) calendar days written notice to Contractor. Such conduct may include one or more of the following:

- a) Contractor has failed to adhere to any laws, ordinances, rules, regulations or orders of any public authority having jurisdiction;
- b) Contractor fails to communicate with Department or fails to allow its employees or those of its subcontractor to communicate with Department as necessary for the performance or oversight of this Contract;
- c) Contractor breaches a standard of confidentiality with respect to the services provided under this Contract;
- d) Department determines that Contractor is without sufficient personnel or resources to perform under this Contract or that Contractor is otherwise unable or unwilling to fulfill any of its requirements under this Contract or exercise adequate control over expenditures or assets;
- e) Department determines that Contractor, its agent or another representative offered or gave a gratuity (e.g., entertainment or gift) to an official or employee of DSHS or HHSC for the purpose of obtaining a contract or favorable treatment;
- f) Department determines that this Contract includes financial participation by a person who received compensation from DSHS to participate in developing, drafting or preparing the specifications, requirements or statement(s) of work or Solicitation Document on which this Contract is based in violation of Tex. Gov. Code § 2155.004; or Department determines that Contractor was ineligible to receive this Contract under Tex. Gov. Code §§ 2155.006 or 2261.053 related to certain disaster response contracts;
- g) Contractor appears to be financially unstable. Indicators of financial instability may include one or more of the following:
 - 1) Contractor fails to make payments for debts;
 - 2) Contractor makes an assignment for the benefit of its creditors;
 - 3) Contractor admits in writing its inability to pay its debts generally as they become due;
 - 4) if judgment for the payment of money in excess of \$50,000 (that is not covered by insurance) is rendered by any court or governmental body against Contractor, and Contractor does not (a) discharge the judgment, or (b) provide for its discharge in accordance with its terms, or (c) procure a stay of execution within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of entry of the judgment, or (d) if the execution is stayed, within the thirty (30)-day period or a longer period during which execution of the judgment has been stayed, appeal from the judgment and cause the execution to be stayed during such appeal while providing such reserves for the judgment as may be required under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles;
 - 5) a writ or warrant of attachment or any similar process is issued by any court against all or any material portion of the property of Contractor, and such writ or warrant of attachment or any similar process is not released or bonded within thirty (30) calendar days after its issuance;
 - 6) Contractor is adjudicated bankrupt or insolvent;
 - 7) Contractor files a case under the Federal Bankruptcy Code or seeks relief under any provision of any bankruptcy, reorganization, arrangement, insolvency, readjustment of debt, dissolution, receivership or liquidation law of any jurisdiction then in effect, or consents to the filing of any case or petition against it under any such law;
 - 8) any property or portion of the property of Contractor is sequestered by court order and the order remains in effect for more than thirty (30) calendar days after Contractor obtains knowledge of the sequestration;

- 9) a petition is filed against Contractor under any state reorganization, arrangement, insolvency, readjustment of debt, dissolution, receivership or liquidation law of any jurisdiction then in effect, and the petition is not dismissed within thirty (30) calendar days; or
- 10) Contractor consents to the appointment of a receiver, trustee, or liquidator of Contractor or of all or any part of its property;
- h) Contractor's management system does not meet the UGMS management standards; or
- i) Any required license, certification, permit, registration or approval required to conduct Contractor's business or to perform services under this Contract is not obtained or is revoked, is surrendered, expires, is not renewed, is inactivated or is suspended.

Section 16.06 **Notice of Termination.** Either Party may deliver written notice of intent to terminate by any verifiable method. If either Party gives notice of its intent to terminate all or a part of this Contract, Department and Contractor shall attempt to resolve any issues related to the anticipated termination in good faith during the notice period.

ARTICLE XVII VOID, SUSPENDED, AND TERMINATED CONTRACTS

Section 17.01 **Void Contracts.** Department may void this Contract upon determination that the award was obtained fraudulently or was otherwise illegal or invalid from its inception.

Section 17.02 **Effect of Void, Suspended, or Involuntarily Terminated Contract.** A Contractor who has been a party to a contract with DSHS that has been found to be void, or is suspended, or is terminated for cause is not eligible for expansion of current contracts, if any, or new contracts or renewals until, in the case of suspension or termination, the Department has determined that Contractor has satisfactorily resolved the issues underlying the suspension or termination. Additionally, if this Contract is found to be void, any amount paid is subject to repayment.

Section 17.03 **Appeals Rights.** Pursuant to Tex. Gov. Code § 2105.302, after receiving notice from the Department of termination of a contract with DSHS funded by block grant funds, Contractor may request an administrative hearing under Tex. Gov. Code Chapter 2001.

ARTICLE XVIII CLOSEOUT

Section 18.01 **Cessation of Services At Closeout.** Upon expiration of this Contract or Program Attachment, as applicable, (and any renewals of this Contract or Program Attachment) on its own terms, Contractor shall cease services under this Contract or Program Attachment; and shall cooperate with DSHS to the fullest extent possible upon expiration or prior to expiration, as necessary, to ensure the orderly and safe transfer of responsibilities under this Contract to DSHS or another entity designated by DSHS. Upon receiving notice of Contract or Program Attachment termination or non-renewal, Contractor shall immediately begin to effect an orderly and safe transition of recipients of services to alternative service providers, as needed. Contractor also shall completely cease providing services under this Contract or Program Attachment by the date specified in the termination or non-renewal notice. Contractor shall not bill DSHS for services performed after termination or expiration of this Contract or Program Attachment, or incur any additional expenses once this Contract or Program Attachment is terminated or has expired. Upon termination, expiration (with no renewal) or non-renewal of this Contract or a Program Attachment, Contractor shall immediately initiate Closeout activities described in this Article.

Section 18.02 **Administrative Offset.** The Department has the right to administratively offset amounts owed by Contractor against billings.

Section 18.03 **Deadline for Closeout.** Contractor shall submit all financial, performance, and other Closeout reports required under this Contract within sixty (60) calendar days after the Contract or Program

Attachment end date. Unless otherwise provided under the Final Billing Submission section of the Payment Methods and Restrictions Article, the Department is not liable for any claims that are not received within sixty (60) calendar days after the Contract or Program Attachment end date.

Section 18.04 **Payment of Refunds.** Any funds paid to Contractor in excess of the amount to which Contractor is finally determined to be entitled under the terms of this Contract constitute a debt to the Department and will result in a refund due, which Contractor shall pay within the time period established by the Department.

Section 18.05 **Disallowances and Adjustments.** The Closeout of this Contract or Program Attachment does not affect the Department's right to disallow costs and recover funds on the basis of a later audit or other review or Contractor's obligation to return any funds due as a result of later refunds, corrections, or other transactions.