



Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street | Montpelier VT 05620-2601
802-828-2211
<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/>

SEALED BID REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Creation and Analysis of a Statistically Valid Survey and
Focus Group Facilitation for the
Renewal of Spectrum Northeast LLC doing business as Charter
Communications
Certificate of Public Good**

ISSUE DATE	September 23, 2024
QUESTIONS DUE	October 8 2024 4:30 PM – TIME (EST)
RFP RESPONSES DUE BY	October 24 2024 4:30 – 4:30 PM (EST)

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL NOTIFICATIONS, RELEASES, AND ADDENDUMS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS RFP WILL BE POSTED AT:

<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/requests-proposals>

THE STATE WILL MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT INTERESTED PARTIES WITH UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH BIDDER TO PERIODICALLY CHECK THE ABOVE WEBPAGE FOR ANY AND ALL NOTIFICATIONS, RELEASES AND ADDENDUMS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS RFP.

STATE CONTACT: Christine Peterson, CAPI Specialist
E-MAIL: christine.peterson@vermont.gov

1. OVERVIEW:

- 1.1. **SCOPE AND BACKGROUND:** Through this Request for Proposal (“RFP”) the Vermont Department of Public Service (hereinafter “the Department” or the “State”), is seeking to establish contracts with one or more companies that can create and analyze a statistically valid survey and facilitate two focus groups. The Department represents the public interest and Vermont ratepayers in utility cases before the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission” or “PUC”) and is charged with conducting a community needs assessment within the access service areas of incumbent cable operators seeking to renew Certificates of Public Good (“CPG”). The selected contractor(s) will assist the Department in conducting a community needs assessment that pertains to the petition of Spectrum Northeast, LLC d/b/a Charter Communications (“Charter”) for renewal of its CPG to provide cable television service in Vermont, filed with the Commission in Case No. 23-3732-PET.
- 1.2. **CONTRACT PERIOD:** Contracts arising from this RFP will be for a period of twelve months with an option to renew for up to two twelve-month periods.
- 1.3. **SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT:** All communications concerning this RFP are to be addressed in writing to the State Contact listed on the front page of this RFP. Actual or attempted contact with any other individual from the State concerning this RFP is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification.
- 1.4. **BIDDERS’ CONFERENCE:** A non-mandatory bidders’ conference will not be held remotely at the date and time indicated on the front page of this RFP.
- 1.5. **QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD:** Any bidder requiring clarification of any section of this RFP or wishing to comment on any requirement of the RFP must submit specific questions in writing no later than the deadline for question indicated on the first page of this RFP. Questions may be e-mailed to the point of contact on the front page of this RFP. Questions or comments not raised in writing on or before the last day of the question period are thereafter waived. At the close of the question period a copy of all questions or comments and the State’s responses will be posted on the State’s web site <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/requests-proposals>. Every effort will be made to post this information as soon as possible after the question period ends, contingent on the number and complexity of the questions. All information provided by vendors during this process will be public and bidders shall not provide confidential information, except as described in 4.1 below.
- 1.6. **CHANGES TO THIS RFP:** Any modifications to this RFP will be made in writing by the State through the issuance of an Addendum to this RFP and posted online at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/requests-proposals>. Modifications from any other source are not to be considered.

2. DETAILED REQUIREMENTS/DESIRED OUTCOMES:

The Department seeks proposals for contractor services that include developing and administering statistically valid as well as non-scientific community surveys, data analysis, planning and facilitating focus groups, and the production of a final report. The contractor(s) will provide these services primarily during the winter of 2024/2025 and spring of 2025, with the final report provided to the Department on the timeline dictated by the case schedule in PUC Case No. 23-3732-PET. The selected contractor(s) may also be required to provide testimony, live or in written form, in hearings before the Public Utility Commission.

The contractor’s services will support the Department’s review of Charter’s petition for CPG renewal, and contribute to the Department’s determination of whether Charter’s proposal is reasonable to meet the future cable-related community needs and interests in Charter’s service territories. Contractors must be qualified and prepared perform the tasks summarized in further detail in the Statement of Work appended to this RFP as Attachment A.

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- 3.1. **PRICING:** Bidders must price the terms of this solicitation at their best pricing. Any and all costs that Bidder wishes the State to consider must be submitted for consideration. If applicable, all equipment pricing is to include F.O.B. delivery to the ordering facility. No request for extra delivery cost will be

honored. All equipment shall be delivered assembled, serviced, and ready for immediate use, unless otherwise requested by the State.

- 3.1.1. Prices and/or rates shall remain firm for the initial term of the contract. The pricing policy submitted by Bidder must (i) be clearly structured, accountable, and auditable and (ii) cover the full spectrum of materials and/or services required.
- 3.1.2. **Cooperative Agreements.** Bidders that have been awarded similar contracts through a competitive bidding process with another state and/or cooperative are welcome to submit the pricing in response to this solicitation.
- 3.2. **STATEMENT OF RIGHTS:** The State shall have the authority to evaluate Responses and select the Bidder(s) as may be determined to be in the best interest of the State and consistent with the goals and performance requirements outlined in this RFP. The State of Vermont reserves the right to obtain clarification or additional information necessary to properly evaluate a proposal. Failure of bidder to respond to a request for additional information or clarification could result in rejection of that bidder's proposal. To secure a project that is deemed to be in the best interest of the State, the State reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, in whole or in part, with or without cause, and to waive technicalities in submissions. The State also reserves the right to make purchases outside of the awarded contracts where it is deemed in the best interest of the State.
 - 3.2.1. **Best and Final Offer (BAFO).** At any time after submission of Responses and prior to the final selection of Bidder(s) for Contract negotiation or execution, the State may invite Bidder(s) to provide a BAFO. The state reserves the right to request BAFOs from only those Bidders that meet the minimum qualification requirements and/or have not been eliminated from consideration during the evaluation process.
 - 3.2.2. **Presentation.** An in-person or webinar presentation by the Bidder may be required by the State if it will help the State's evaluation process. The State will factor information presented during presentations into the evaluation. Bidders will be responsible for all costs associated with providing the presentation.
- 3.3. **WORKER CLASSIFICATION COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:** In accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54), Bidders must comply with the following provisions and requirements.
 - 3.3.1. **Self Reporting:** For bid amounts exceeding \$250,000.00, Bidder shall complete the appropriate section in the attached Certificate of Compliance for purposes of self-reporting information relating to past violations, convictions, suspensions, and any other information related to past performance relative to coding and classification of workers. The State is requiring information on any violations that occurred in the previous 12 months.
 - 3.3.2. **Subcontractor Reporting:** For bid amounts exceeding \$250,000.00, Bidders are hereby notified that upon award of contract, and prior to contract execution, the State shall be provided with a list of all proposed subcontractors and subcontractors' subcontractors, together with the identity of those subcontractors' workers compensation insurance providers, and additional required or requested information, as applicable, in accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54). This requirement does not apply to subcontractors providing supplies only and no labor to the overall contract or project. This list MUST be updated and provided to the State as additional subcontractors are hired. A sample form is available online at <http://bgs.vermont.gov/purchasing-contracting/forms>. **The subcontractor reporting form is not required to be submitted with the bid response.**
- 3.4. **EXECUTIVE ORDER 05-16: CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS IN STATE PROCUREMENTS:**

For bid amounts exceeding \$25,000.00 Bidders are requested to complete the Climate Change Considerations in State Procurements Certification, which is included in the Certificate of Compliance for this RFP.

After consideration of all relevant factors, a bidder that demonstrates business practices that promote clean energy and address climate change as identified in the Certification, shall be given favorable consideration in the competitive bidding process. Such favorable consideration shall be consistent with and not supersede any preference given to resident bidders of the State and/or products raised or

manufactured in the State, as explained in the Method of Award section. But, such favorable consideration shall not be employed if prohibited by law or other relevant authority or agreement.

- 3.5. **METHOD OF AWARD:** Awards will be made in the best interest of the State. The State may award one or more contracts and reserves the right to make additional awards to other compliant bidders at any time if such award is deemed to be in the best interest of the State. All other considerations being equal, preference will be given first to resident bidders of the state and/or to products raised or manufactured in the state, and then to bidders who have practices that promote clean energy and address climate change, as identified in the applicable Certificate of Compliance.

3.5.1 Evaluation Criteria: Consideration shall be given to the Bidder's project approach and methodology, qualifications and experience, ability to provide the services within the defined timeline, cost, and/or success in completing similar projects, as applicable, and to the extent specified below including but not limited to: • Record of performance for similar services as determined through references. • Demonstrated knowledge and expertise of Digital Equity issues nationally and in possibly Vermont, and relating to areas including but not limited to, such as education, criminal justice, public health, healthcare, employment, housing, covered population, and economic opportunity as outlined in the DEP. • Demonstrated ability to execute highly complex, fast moving, and dynamic planning activities in close coordination with multiple and diverse stakeholders. • Proficiency and knowledge to facilitate a successful planning process that achieves optimal results in accordance with the guidelines and timelines established by state and federal programs. • Competitiveness and reasonableness of fee structure. • Exhibited a dedicated approach and commitment to fostering an equitable and genuine community engagement process. • Possess the flexibility to conduct research and apply analytical techniques related to DEP initiatives, allowing for the diversity of the Covered Populations. • Proven capability to create clear, precise, and compelling materials, encompassing written reports, web content, presentations, and various other collateral.

3.5.2 Provide the name and resume of the Project Manager to be assigned to the project, including relevant project experience Provide the names and resumes of the technical writing, editing, and graphic design and formatting team members and include related samples

3.5.3 Provide the name(s) and resume(s) of any intended technical subconsultant(s).

3.5.4 Provide a narrative for proposed approach to the project, including anticipated challenges and recommended solutions.

3.5.5 Provide an evaluation of the proposed schedule. Include in your proposal relevant milestones. Does the schedule present a challenge?

3.5.6 Provide a price schedule for the project.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATION: Upon completion of the evaluation process, the State may select one or more bidders with which to negotiate a contract, based on the evaluation findings and other criteria deemed relevant for ensuring that the decision made is in the best interest of the State. In the event State is not successful in negotiating a contract with a selected bidder, the State reserves the option of negotiating with another bidder, or to end the proposal process entirely.

- 3.6. **COST OF PREPARATION:** Bidder shall be solely responsible for all expenses incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFP and shall be responsible for all expenses associated with any presentations or demonstrations associated with this request and/or any proposals made.

- 3.7. **CONTRACT TERMS:** The selected bidder(s) will be expected to sign a contract with the State, including the Standard Contract Form and Attachment C as attached to this RFP for reference. If IT Attachment D is included in this RFP, terms may be modified based upon the solution proposed by the Bidder, subject to approval by the Agency of Digital Services.

3.7.1. **Business Registration.** To be awarded a contract by the State of Vermont a bidder (except an individual doing business in his/her own name) must be registered with the Vermont Secretary of State's office <https://sos.vermont.gov/corporations/registration/> and must obtain a Contractor's Business Account Number issued by the Vermont Department of Taxes <http://tax.vermont.gov/> .

3.7.2. The contract will obligate the bidder to provide the services and/or products identified in its bid, at the prices listed.

- 3.7.3. **Payment Terms.** Percentage discounts may be offered for prompt payments of invoices; however, such discounts must be in effect for a period of 30 days or more in order to be considered in making awards.
- 3.7.4. **Retainage.** In the discretion of the State, a contract resulting from this RFP may provide that the State withhold a percentage of the total amount payable for some or all deliverables, such retainage to be payable upon satisfactory completion and State acceptance in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract.
- 3.7.5. **Quality.** Contractor shall submit drafts, and other work in advance of deadlines to allow adequate time for the Department's review. Quality - Contractor shall ensure that any consulting, planning, analysis, recommendations, and written work, is well-written, clear and thorough without need for significant editing by the Department's staff. If applicable, all products provided under a contract with the State will be new and unused, unless otherwise stated. Factory seconds or remanufactured products will not be accepted unless specifically requested by the purchasing agency. All products provided by the contractor must meet all federal, state, and local standards for quality and safety requirements. Products not meeting these standards will be deemed unacceptable and returned to the contractor for credit at no charge to the State.
- 3.7.6. Relationships - Contractor shall work well with Department's staff, partners, opponents, and the general public

4. **CONTENT AND FORMAT OF RESPONSES:** The content and format requirements listed below are the minimum requirements for State evaluation. These requirements are not intended to limit the content of a Bidder's proposal. Bidders may include additional information or offer alternative solutions for the State's consideration. However, the State discourages overly lengthy and costly proposals, and Bidders are advised to include only such information in their response as may be relevant to the requirements of this solicitation.

4.1. **Unsolicited Bidder-Confidential Information Prohibited.** Bidders are hereby expressly directed not to include any confidential information in their proposal submissions, except as specifically permitted below, and so marked. By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, bidders acknowledge and agree to abide by the terms and conditions outlined in this document, including the prohibition on submitting confidential information. This prohibition reduces the burden on the State while preventing bidder-confidential information from entering the public record.

4.1.1. **Disclosure under Public Records Act.** All information received by the State in response to this RFP will become part of the contract file and subject to Vermont public records law. Responses by any bidder may become available to the public once a contract has been executed or otherwise following conclusion of this procurement process, in accordance with the State's Public Records Act, 1 V.S.A. § 315 et seq., or the State may choose to publicly post them.

4.1.2. **Unsolicited Confidential Materials.** This RFP does not solicit bidder confidential information and bidders are expressly prohibited from providing confidential information in response to this RFP. All materials furnished by bidders in response to this RFP, including those marked as confidential by bidders, are subject to disclosure if requested under the Public Records Act, or public posting.

4.1.3. **State Not Responsible for Disclosure of Unmarked Bidder-Confidential Information.** It is the sole responsibility of the bidder to ensure that, other than where specifically directed or permitted by this RFP and accordingly marked as described below, no information that should not be publicly disclosed is included in their proposal materials, including any 1) trade secrets or intellectual property, 2) proprietary financial or business information, 3) personal information, or 4) any other information that should not be disclosed to the public. For example, bidders should avoid including specific details of their proprietary technologies or methodologies that they consider confidential, and any references to previous client engagements should be presented in a manner that does not disclose the client's confidential information.

4.2. The bid should include a Cover Letter and Technical Response and Price Schedule.

4.3. **COVER LETTER:**

4.3.1. **Exceptions to Contract Terms and Conditions.** If a Bidder wishes to propose an exception to any terms and conditions set forth in the Standard Contract Form and its attachments, such exceptions must be included in the cover letter to the RFP response. Failure to note exceptions when responding to the

RFP will be deemed to be acceptance of the State contract terms and conditions. If exceptions are not noted in the response to this RFP but raised during contract negotiations, the State reserves the right to cancel the negotiation if deemed to be in the best interests of the State. Note that exceptions to contract terms may cause rejection of the proposal, and that the State's non-rejection of a proposal on this basis does not indicate acceptance of the exceptions.

4.4. **TECHNICAL RESPONSE.** In response to this RFP, a Bidder shall:

4.4.1. Provide details concerning your form of business organization, company size and resources.

4.4.2. Describe your capabilities and particular experience relevant to the RFP requirements.

4.4.2.1. Identify all current or past State projects.

4.4.3. Identify the names of all subcontractors you intend to use, the portions of the work the subcontractors will perform, and address the background and experience of the subcontractor(s), as per RFP section 4.3.2 above.

4.5. **REFERENCES.** Provide the names, addresses, and phone numbers of at least three companies with whom you have transacted similar business in the last 12 months. You must include contact names who can talk knowledgeably about performance.

4.6. **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Provide a sample of any reporting documentation that may be applicable to the Detailed Requirements of this RFP.

4.7. **PRICE SCHEDULE:** Bidders shall submit their pricing information in the Price Schedule attached to the RFP.

4.8. **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE:** This form must be completed and submitted as part of the response for the proposal to be considered valid.

5. **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

5.1. **CLOSING DATE:** Bids must be received by the State by the due date specified on the front page of this RFP. Late bids will not be considered.

5.1.1. The State may, for cause, issue an addendum to change the date and/or time when bids are due. If a change is made, the State will inform all bidders by posting at the webpage indicated on the front page of this RFP.

5.1.2. There will not be a public bid opening. However, the State will record the name, city and state for any and all bids received by the due date.

5.2. **BID DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:**

5.2.1. **ELECTRONIC:** Electronic bids will be accepted.

5.2.1.1. **E-MAIL BIDS.** Emailed bids will be accepted. Bids will be accepted via email submission to christine.peterson@vermont.com. Bids must consist of a single email with a single, digitally searchable PDF attachment containing all components of the bid. Multiple emails and/or multiple attachments will not be accepted. There is an attachment size limit of 40 MB (40,960KB). It is the Bidder's responsibility to compress the PDF file containing its bid if necessary in order to meet this size limitation. It is also the Bidder's responsibility to ensure that their own email system can send and receive messages up to this size.

5.2.1.2. **FAX BIDS:** Faxed bids will not be accepted.

5.3. **U.S. MAIL (Express delivery or hand delivery will not be accepted):**

5.3.1. All paper format bids must be addressed to

Department of Public Service
112 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05602.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED 'SEALED BID' AND SHOW THE REQUISITION NUMBER AND/OR PROPOSAL TITLE, OPENING DATE AND NAME OF BIDDER.

5.3.2. For bids submitted via mail, submit an unbound original (clearly marked as such), three (3) paper copies and one digital copy in PDF or USB flash drive copy.

5.3.3. Paper Format Delivery Methods:

5.3.4. U.S. MAIL: Bidders are cautioned that it is their responsibility to originate the mailing of bids in sufficient time to ensure bids are received and time stamped by the Department of Public Service prior to the time of the bid opening.

5.3.5 EXPRESS DELIVERY: Not acceptable

5.3.6 HAND DELIVERY: Not acceptable.

6 **BID SUBMISSION CHECKLIST:**

- ✓ Required Number of Copies
- ✓ Cover Letter
- ✓ Technical Response
- ✓ Redacted Technical Response, if applicable
- ✓ References
- ✓ Price Schedule
- ✓ Signed Certificate of Compliance

7 **ATTACHMENTS:**

7.3 Certificate of Compliance

7.4 Price Schedule

7.5 Worker Classification Compliance Requirement; Subcontractor Reporting Form

7.6 Standard State Contract with its associated attachments, including but not limited to, Attachment C: Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants (December 7, 2023)

8 **Notice of free assistance from Vermont APEX Accelerator**

APEX Accelerator. The Vermont APEX Accelerator (formerly the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)) specializes in helping small businesses navigate the documentation associated with State and Federal procurement. There is no cost to the Contractor for assistance provided by APEX Accelerator. Their website is: <https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development/programs/ptac>.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

For a bid to be considered valid, this form must be completed in its entirety, executed by a duly authorized representative of the bidder, and submitted as part of the response to the proposal.

- A. **NON COLLUSION:** Bidder hereby certifies that the prices quoted have been arrived at without collusion and that no prior information concerning these prices has been received from or given to a competitive company. If there is sufficient evidence to warrant investigation of the bid/contract process by the Office of the Attorney General, bidder understands that this paragraph might be used as a basis for litigation.

- B. **CONTRACT TERMS:** Bidder hereby acknowledges that is has read, understands and agrees to the terms of this RFP, including Attachment C: Standard State Contract Provisions, and any other contract attachments included with this RFP.

- C. **WORKER CLASSIFICATION COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT:** In accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54), the following provisions and requirements apply to Bidder when the amount of its bid exceeds \$250,000.00.

Self-Reporting. Bidder hereby self-reports the following information relating to past violations, convictions, suspensions, and any other information related to past performance relative to coding and classification of workers, that occurred in the previous 12 months.

Summary of Detailed Information	Date of Notification	Outcome

Subcontractor Reporting. Bidder hereby acknowledges and agrees that if it is a successful bidder, prior to execution of any contract resulting from this RFP, Bidder will provide to the State a list of all proposed subcontractors and subcontractors' subcontractors, together with the identity of those subcontractors' workers compensation insurance providers, and additional required or requested information, as applicable, in accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54), and Bidder will provide any update of such list to the State as additional subcontractors are hired. Bidder further acknowledges and agrees that the failure to submit subcontractor reporting in accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54) will constitute non-compliance and may result in cancellation of contract and/or restriction from bidding on future state contracts.

D. Executive Order 05 – 16: Climate Change Considerations in State Procurements Certification

Bidder certifies to the following (Bidder may attach any desired explanation or substantiation. Please also note that Bidder may be asked to provide documentation for any applicable claims):

1. Bidder owns, leases or utilizes, for business purposes, space that has received:
- Energy Star® Certification
 - LEED®, Green Globes®, or Living Buildings ChallengeSM Certification
 - Other internationally recognized building certification:
-

2. Bidder has received incentives or rebates from an Energy Efficiency Utility or Energy Efficiency Program in the last five years for energy efficient improvements made at bidder's place of business. Please explain:
-

3. Please Check all that apply:
- Bidder can claim on-site renewable power or anaerobic-digester power ("cow-power"). Or bidder consumes renewable electricity through voluntary purchase or offset, provided no such claimed power can be double-claimed by another party.
 - Bidder uses renewable biomass or bio-fuel for the purposes of thermal (heat) energy at its place of business.
 - Bidder's heating system has modern, high-efficiency units (boilers, furnaces, stoves, etc.), having reduced emissions of particulate matter and other air pollutants.
 - Bidder tracks its energy consumption and harmful greenhouse gas emissions. What tool is used to do this? _____
 - Bidder promotes the use of plug-in electric vehicles by providing electric vehicle charging, electric fleet vehicles, preferred parking, designated parking, purchase or lease incentives, etc..
 - Bidder offers employees an option for a fossil fuel divestment retirement account.
 - Bidder offers products or services that reduce waste, conserve water, or promote energy efficiency and conservation. Please explain:
-
-

4. Please list any additional practices that promote clean energy and take action to address climate change:
-
-
-

E. Executive Order 02 – 22: Solidarity with the Ukrainian People

- By checking this box, Bidder certifies that none of the goods, products, or materials offered in response to this solicitation are Russian-sourced goods or produced by Russian entities. If Bidder is unable to check the box, it shall indicate in the table below which of the applicable offerings are Russian-sourced goods and/or which are produced by Russian entities. An additional column is provided for any note or comment that you may have.

Provided Equipment or Product	Note or Comment

F. Certification Regarding Use of Contract Funds for Lobbying - Applicable to contracts over \$100,000.00 when federal monies are involved - this clause must be included in all subcontracts over \$100,000.00.

1. The prospective contractor certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, under the penalties of perjury under the laws of the State of Vermont and the United States that on behalf of the person, firm, association, or corporation he or she represents, that:

a. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

b. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

2. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31 U.S.C. 1352. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

3. The prospective contractor also agrees that they shall require that the language of this certification be included in all lower tier subcontracts, which exceed \$100,000 and that all such recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Bidder Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

Address: _____ Fax Number: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

By: _____ Name: _____
Signature of Bidder (or Representative) (Type or Print)

END OF CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

PRICE SCHEDULE

A. Hourly Labor Rates:

Service Category/Title of Positions	Hourly Rate
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

B. This contract can be extended up to two (2) additional 12-month periods with mutual agreement between both parties.

Name of Bidder: _____

Signature of Bidder: _____

Date: _____

SUBCONTRACTOR REPORTING FORM

This form must be completed in its entirety and submitted prior to contract execution and updated as necessary and provided to the State as additional subcontractors are hired.

The Department of Buildings and General Services in accordance with Act 54, Section 32 of the Acts of 2009 and for total project costs exceeding \$250,000.00 requires bidders to comply with the following provisions and requirements.

Contractor is required to provide a list of subcontractors on the job along with lists of subcontractor's subcontractors and by whom those subcontractors are insured for workers' compensation purposes. Include additional pages if necessary. This is not a requirement for subcontractor's providing supplies only and no labor to the overall contract or project.

Subcontractor	Insured By		Subcontractor's Sub	Insured By

Date: _____

Name of Company: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Fax Number: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Failure to adhere to Act 54, Section 32 of the Acts of 2009 and submit Subcontractor Reporting: Worker Classification Compliance Requirement will constitute non-compliance and may result in cancellation of contract and/or forfeiture of future bidding privileges until resolved.

Send Completed Form to: Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State St
Montpelier VT 05602

STANDARD CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

1. **Parties.** This is a contract for services between the State of Vermont, [REDACTED] (hereinafter called “State”), and [REDACTED], with a principal place of business in [REDACTED], (hereinafter called “Contractor”). Contractor’s form of business organization is [REDACTED]. It is Contractor’s responsibility to contact the Vermont Department of Taxes to determine if, by law, Contractor is required to have a Vermont Department of Taxes Business Account Number.

2. **Subject Matter.** The subject matter of this contract is services generally on the subject of [REDACTED]. Detailed services to be provided by Contractor are described in Attachment A.

3. **Maximum Amount.** In consideration of the services to be performed by Contractor, the State agrees to pay Contractor, in accordance with the payment provisions specified in Attachment B, a sum not to exceed \$ [REDACTED].00.

4. **Contract Term.** The period of Contractor’s performance shall begin on [REDACTED], 20__ and end on [REDACTED], 20__.

5. **Prior Approvals.** This Contract shall not be binding unless and until all requisite prior approvals have been obtained in accordance with current State law, bulletins, and interpretations.

6. **Amendment.** No changes, modifications, or amendments in the terms and conditions of this contract shall be effective unless reduced to writing, numbered and signed by the duly authorized representative of the State and Contractor.

7. **Termination for Convenience.** This contract may be terminated by the State at any time by giving written notice at least thirty (30) days in advance. In such event, Contractor shall be paid under the terms of this contract for all services provided to and accepted by the State prior to the effective date of termination.

8. **Attachments.** This contract consists of [REDACTED] pages including the following attachments which are incorporated herein:

Attachment A - Statement of Work

Attachment B - Payment Provisions

Attachment C – “Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants” a preprinted form (revision date 12/7/2023)

9. **Order of Precedence.** Any ambiguity, conflict or inconsistency between the documents comprising this contract shall be resolved according to the following order of precedence:

- (1) Standard Contract
- (2) Attachment C (Standard Contract Provisions for Contracts and Grants)
- (3) Attachment A
- (4) Attachment B

WE THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THIS CONTRACT

By the State of Vermont:

By the Contractor:

Date: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

ATTACHMENT A – STATEMENT OF WORK

Scope of Services Requested

The Department seeks proposals for community surveying and data analysis to assist the Department in its review of Charter's petition to renew its CPG, which is currently pending before the Commission in Case No. 23-3732-PET. The selected contractor(s) must be able to conduct the requested services, and provide a final report to the Department, during the winter of 2024/2025 and spring of 2025, on a timeline that is subject to change and will be determined by forthcoming schedules issued by the Commission in Case No. 23-3732-PET.

The Department expects that the required services will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the tasks summarized below.

Task I: Work with the Department and Charter staff to create a statistically valid survey.

Task II: Develop and conduct a statically valid survey of a representative sample of randomly selected households that measures, with regard to Public Educational Government ("PEG") access, attitudes and behaviors such as, but not limited to, subscribers' satisfaction, awareness, and use of PEG access for two PEG AMO ("Access Management Organization") territories. Produce an interim report of survey outputs.

The territory includes the City of Barre and the Towns of Barnet (including Passumpsic), Barre, Berlin, Bradford, Burke, Cabot, Calais, Chelsea, Concord, Danville, East Montpelier, Groton, Kirby, Lyndon, Marshfield, Newbury (and Village of Wells River), Orange, Peacham, Plainfield, Royalton, Ryegate, Sheffield, St. Johnsbury, Sutton, Tunbridge, Washington, Waterford, Wheelock, Williamstown, Woodbury, and Worcester

Task III: Develop and conduct a non-scientific survey of the educational, governmental, and non-profit organizational sectors in the PEG AMO service territories that measures the organizations' communication needs, and other needs that may have reasonable cable-related communication solutions. Produce an interim report of survey outputs.

Task IV: Work with Department staff to plan two or more in person or hybrid focus groups. Facilitate and record feedback by participants for each focus group.

Task V: Analyze the data from surveys and focus groups and prepare a final report for the Department to use as testimony.

Task VI: Consultant may be called upon to testify at a Public Utility Commission hearing on the methods used to collect data, and on the analysis and results of its surveys, focus groups, and final reporting. The testimony may be live or in a prefiled written format.

Oversight

The contract will be managed by the Department's Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division.

Proposal Format

All respondents to this RFP must include the following information, numbered as below:

1. A brief description of the respondent organization, which includes its history, organizational structure, and number of professional staff.
2. A discussion of the applicant's familiarity, expertise and experience with surveys and data analysis. Please include details of any projects similar to the one in the RFP.
3. A statement and discussion of the applicant's analysis of the RFP scope and requirements. This should include:
 - a. A proposed survey method or combination of methods (telephone, internet, etc.) and how these methods will ensure a statistically significant sample is captured.
 - b. Names and resumes with detailed qualifications and levels of competence of **all** individuals expected to perform services. This should include the estimated hours to be spent by each person on each group of issues, as identified in the Scope of Services section, above.
 - c. Statements and discussion of anticipated challenges with potential or recommended approaches for their solution.
4. A proposed work plan that describes each step, number of hours expected, timelines for completion and person(s) responsible.
5. Explanation of any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including any prior work done or proposed for Charter or its affiliates.
6. The contractor will be compensated on a time and material basis. Please indicate the estimated maximum total cost with a breakout of:
 - a. Fees for staff time, showing the level of staff to be assigned, titles, hourly rates and estimated number of hours;
 - b. Travel expenses, including transportation costs, lodging and subsistence.
 - c. Detailed analyses for all overhead and other costs.

Reimbursement for time and materials will be by voucher based upon the actual staff time assigned at the rates provided, and upon actual other costs incurred based upon documentation acceptable to the Department, subject to the maximum amount indicated.

Questions Concerning the RFP

Questions about this RFP should be directed via email to Christine Peterson at christine.peterson@vermont.gov.

ATTACHMENT B – PAYMENT PROVISIONS

The maximum dollar amount payable under this contract is not intended as any form of a guaranteed amount. The Contractor will be paid for products or services actually delivered or performed, as specified in Attachment A, up to the maximum allowable amount specified on page 1 of this contract.

1. Prior to commencement of work and release of any payments, Contractor shall submit to the State:
 - a. a certificate of insurance consistent with the requirements set forth in Attachment C, Section 8 (Insurance), and with any additional requirements for insurance as may be set forth elsewhere in this contract; and
 - b. a current IRS Form W-9 (signed within the last six months).
2. Payment terms are **Net 30** days from the date the State receives an error-free invoice with all necessary and complete supporting documentation.
3. Contractor shall submit detailed invoices itemizing all work performed during the invoice period, including the dates of service, rates of pay, hours of work performed, and any other information and/or documentation appropriate and sufficient to substantiate the amount invoiced for payment by the State. All invoices must include the Contract # for this contract.
4. Contractor shall submit invoices to the State in accordance with the schedule set forth in this Attachment B. Unless a more particular schedule is provided herein, invoices shall be submitted not more frequently than monthly.
5. Invoices shall be submitted to the State by email to PSD.invoice@vermont.gov with a cc to Christine.peterson@vermont.gov.
6. The payment schedule for delivered products, or rates for services performed, and any additional reimbursements, are as follows:

Contractor shall be paid according to its itemized invoice per hour for work performed under this Contract, at the rates quoted, and per other itemized expense as quoted. Contractor shall submit invoices not more frequently than monthly.

**ATTACHMENT C: STANDARD STATE PROVISIONS
FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS
REVISED DECEMBER 7, 2023**

“Attachment C: Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants” (revision version dated December 7, 2023) constitutes part of this Agreement and is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein and shall apply to the Contractor and to the purchase of all goods and/or services by the State under this Agreement. A copy of this document is available online at: <https://bgs.vermont.gov/purchasing-contracting/forms>.