

**Part 1 – Grant Award Detail**

STATE OF VERMONT GRANT AGREEMENT				Part 1-Grant Award Detail			
SECTION I - GENERAL GRANT INFORMATION							
<sup>1</sup> Grant #: 03410-2600-25			<sup>2</sup> Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Amendment # <input type="checkbox"/>		
<sup>3</sup> Grant Title: 2025 Vermont Health Connect Navigator Program							
<sup>4</sup> Amount Previously Awarded: \$0.00		<sup>5</sup> Amount Awarded This Action: \$30,000.00		<sup>6</sup> Total Award Amount: \$30,000.00			
<sup>7</sup> Award Start Date: 07/01/2024		<sup>8</sup> Award End Date: 06/30/2025		<sup>9</sup> Subrecipient Award: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
<sup>10</sup> Supplier #: 41866		<sup>11</sup> Grantee Name: Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital					
<sup>12</sup> Grantee Address: 1315 Hospital Drive							
<sup>13</sup> City: St Johnsbury			<sup>14</sup> State: VT		<sup>15</sup> Zip Code: 05819		
<sup>16</sup> State Granting Agency: Department of Vermont Health Access				<sup>17</sup> Business Unit: 03410			
<sup>18</sup> Performance Measures: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		<sup>19</sup> Match/In-Kind:		Description:			
<sup>20</sup> If this action is an amendment, the following is amended: Amount: <input type="checkbox"/> Funding Allocation: <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Period: <input type="checkbox"/> Scope of Work: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/>							
SECTION II - SUBRECIPIENT AWARD INFORMATION							
<sup>21</sup> Grantee Identifier [UEI] #: VCPKVK3JU932			<sup>22</sup> Indirect Rate: 5%		<sup>23</sup> FFATA: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
<sup>24</sup> Grantee Fiscal Year End Month (MM format): 9			(Approved rate or de minimis 10%)		<sup>25</sup> R&D: <input type="checkbox"/>		
<sup>26</sup> Entity Identifier [UEI] Name (if different than VISION Vendor Name in Box 11):							
SECTION III - FUNDING ALLOCATION							
STATE FUNDS							
Fund Type	<sup>27</sup> Awarded Previously	<sup>28</sup> Award This Action	<sup>29</sup> Cumulative Award	<sup>30</sup> Special & Other Fund Descriptions			
General Fund		\$16,130.65	\$16,130.65				
Special Fund			\$0.00				
Global Commitment (see-subrecipient funds)			\$0.00				
Other State Funds			\$0.00				
FEDERAL FUNDS <i>(includes subrecipient Global Commitment funds)</i>					Required Federal Award Information		
<sup>31</sup> CFDA#	<sup>32</sup> Program Title	<sup>33</sup> Awarded Previously	<sup>34</sup> Award This Action	<sup>35</sup> Cumulative Award	<sup>36</sup> FAIN	<sup>37</sup> Fed Award Date	<sup>38</sup> Total Federal Award
93.767	State Children's Insurance Program		\$534.44	\$534.44	2405V75ADM	10/01/2023	\$38,414,371.00
<sup>39</sup> Federal Awarding Agency:		<sup>40</sup> Federal Award Project Descr:					
93.778	Medical Assistance Program		\$13,334.81	\$13,334.91	2405V75ADM	10/01/2023	\$38,414,371.00
Federal Awarding Agency:		Federal Award Project Descr:					
				\$0.00			
Federal Awarding Agency:		Federal Award Project Descr:					
				\$0.00			
Federal Awarding Agency:		Federal Award Project Descr:					
				\$0.00			
Federal Awarding Agency:		Federal Award Project Descr:					
<b>Total Awarded - All Funds</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>			
SECTION IV - CONTACT INFORMATION							
STATE GRANTING AGENCY				GRANTEE			
NAME: Michael Swaim				NAME: Dians Gibbs			
TITLE: Assistant Program Manager				TITLE: VP Marketing & Community Health Improvement			
PHONE: (802) 241-9915				PHONE: (802) 748-7590			
EMAIL: Michael.Swaim@vermont.gov				EMAIL: D.Gibbs@nrvh.org			

**Part 2 – Grant Agreement**

**1. Parties:** This is a Grant Agreement for services between the State of Vermont, Department of Vermont Health Access (“State”), and Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital with a principal place of business at 1315 Hospital Drive, St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819 (“Subrecipient”). It is the Subrecipient’s responsibility to contact the Vermont Department of Taxes to determine if, by law, the Subrecipient is required to have a Vermont Department of Taxes Business Account Number.

**2. Subject Matter:** The subject matter of this Grant is to provide free in person assistance with enrolling in and maintaining health coverage through Vermont Health Connect and Green Mountain Care to individuals and businesses in communities across Vermont. Detailed services to be provided by Subrecipient are described in Attachment A.

**3. Maximum Amount:** In consideration of services to be performed by the Subrecipient, the State agrees to pay the Subrecipient, per payment provisions specified in Attachment B, a sum not to exceed \$30,000.00.

**4. Grant Term:** The effective date of this Grant Agreement shall retroactively begin on July 1, 2024 and end on June 30, 2025.

**5. Amendment:** No changes, modifications, or amendments in the terms and conditions of this procurement grant shall be effective unless reduced to writing, numbered, and signed by the duly authorized representative of the State and Subrecipient.

**6. Cancellation:** This Grant Agreement may be suspended or cancelled by either party by giving the other party written notice at least 30 days in advance. Notwithstanding this provision, if a governmental agency with due authority determines that a program or facility operated by the Subrecipient, wherein services authorized under this Grant Agreement are provided, is not in compliance with State and Federal law, the State may terminate this Grant Agreement immediately and notify the Subrecipient accordingly. Also, in the event that federal funds supporting this Grant become unavailable or are reduced, the State may cancel this Grant Agreement with no obligation to pay the Subrecipient from State revenues.

**7. Contact Persons for this Award:**

	<u>For the State</u>	<u>For the Subrecipient</u>
Assister Program Manager:	Michael Swaim	Diana Gibbs
Phone #:	802-777-4669	802-748-7590
E-mail:	Michael.Swaim@vermont.gov	D.Gibbs@NVRH.org
Financial:	Emily Weidman	Andre Bissonnette
Phone #:	802-798-2658	802-748-7520
E-mail:	Emily.Weidman@vermont.gov	a.bissonnette@nvrh.org

**8. Notices to the Parties Under this Agreement:** To the extent notices are made under this agreement, the parties agree that such notices shall only be effective if sent to the following persons as representative of the parties:

	STATE REPRESENTATIVE	SUBRECIPIENT
Name	Office of General Counsel	Diana Gibbs
Address	NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671	1315 Hospital Drive St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Email	<a href="mailto:AHS.DVHAlegal@vermont.gov">AHS.DVHAlegal@vermont.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:D.Gibbs@NVRH.org">D.Gibbs@NVRH.org</a>

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The parties agree that notices may be sent by electronic mail except for the following notices which must be sent by United States Postal Service certified mail: damage claims, breach notifications, alteration of this paragraph.

**9. DVHA Monitoring of Grant Agreement:** The parties agree that the DVHA Assister Program Manager is solely responsible for the review of invoices presented by the Subrecipient.

**10. Fiscal Year:** Subrecipient’s fiscal year starts on October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**11. Attachments:** This Grant Agreement consists of 32 pages including the following attachments which are incorporated herein:


- Attachment A – Scope of Work to be Performed
- Attachment B – Payment Provisions
- Attachment C – Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants
- Attachment E – Business Associate Agreement
- Attachment F – AHS Customary Grant Provisions
- Attachment G – Navigator Conflict of Interest Framework
- Attachment H – Federal Terms Supplement (Non-Construction)
- Appendix I – Subcontractor Compliance Form

**12. Order of Precedence:** Any ambiguity, conflict or inconsistency in the Grant Agreement documents shall be resolved according to the following order of precedence:

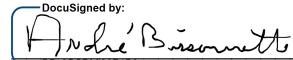
1. Grant Agreement Part 1 and Part 2 (Pages 1-3 of this Agreement)
2. Attachment C – Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants
3. Attachment H – Federal Terms Supplement (Non-Construction)
4. Attachment A – Scope of Work to be Performed
5. Attachment B – Payment Provisions
6. Attachment E – Business Associate Agreement
7. Attachment F – AHS Customary Grant Provisions
8. Attachment G – Navigator Conflict of Interest Framework
9. Appendix I – Subcontractor Compliance Form

**WE, THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES, AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THIS GRANT AGREEMENT.**

**BY THE STATE OF VERMONT:**

DocuSigned by:  
  
 7/12/2024  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adaline Strumolo Date  
 Acting Commissioner, DVHA  
 NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive  
 Waterbury, VT 05671  
 Phone: 802-585-5356  
 Email: [Adaline.Strumolo@vermont.gov](mailto:Adaline.Strumolo@vermont.gov)

**BY THE SUBRECIPIENT:**

DocuSigned by:  
  
 7/12/2024  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Andre Bissonnette DATE  
 Chief Financial Officer, NVRH  
 1615 Hospital Drive  
 St. Johnsbury, VT  
 Phone: 802-748-7520  
 Email: [A.Bissonnette@nvrh.org](mailto:A.Bissonnette@nvrh.org)

## **ATTACHMENT A SCOPE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED**

By accepting this Grant Agreement, the Subrecipient agrees to serve as a Navigator Organization.

Subrecipient shall:

- 1) Provide free in-person enrollment assistance to individuals and businesses in Vermont;
- 2) Fulfill all duties and criteria as determined by State and Federal law; and
- 3) Adhere to applicable Federal regulations or guidelines specific to the funding that supports this Grant Agreement.

### **I. Definitions**

**Certified** – an individual who has met all requirements for certification as a Navigator including attending and completing all required training and passing the Initial Certification Course exam.

**Navigator** – an individual Certified as an in-person Assister who is employed by a designated Navigator Organization.

**Navigator Organization** - organization chosen for funding under this Grant Agreement that is responsible for the selection, management, oversight, and performance of individual Navigators.

**Qualified** – means, at minimum, being a high school graduate *and* having prior education or employment experience that is relevant to the Navigator role.

### **II. Scope of Services**

#### **A. Subrecipient Duties and Criteria**

The Subrecipient shall:

- Recruit and assign qualified personnel to be trained and certified as Navigators by the State.
- Evaluate and manage performance of Navigators.
- Ensure that Navigators have the appropriate technological skills and equipment to complete on-line applications through Vermont Health Connect (VHC).
- Obtain a State of Vermont criminal conviction report on each Navigator for whom one was not previously obtained by the Subrecipient organization and keep on file throughout the term of this Grant Agreement. If the prospective Navigator has not resided in the State of Vermont for the past five consecutive years, then an FBI criminal background check is required. The Subrecipient shall make the criminal conviction report available to the State upon request.
- Ensure that only those certified by the Assister Program are providing assistance to customers. Participate in monthly check-in calls with and provide reports to the State upon request.
- Attend conference calls and webinars when indicated as mandatory by the State.
- Manage compensation of Navigators, if applicable.
- Notify the Assister Program Manager immediately if a Navigator terminates employment with the Navigator organization.
- Subrecipient shall maintain a physical office location in Vermont from which Navigators shall frequently provide face-to-face assistance to customers.

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- Submit documentation to State before beginning work under this Grant Agreement, and no later than July 30, 2024, attesting to being and remaining conflict of interest free pursuant to 45 CFR 155.215 for any period of this Grant Agreement. This includes performing relationship checks on the individual Navigators working for the Subrecipient. The State retains the right to require Subrecipient to prepare and perform a written remediation plan should there be any concerns or questions regarding the attestation or the relationship checks.
- Ensure that individual Navigators are competent, professional and have the appropriate skills to adequately fulfill Navigator duties.

The Subrecipient shall ensure its individual Navigators:

- Maintain expertise in enrollment and program specifications.
- Provide information and services to Vermonters in a fair, accurate and impartial manner.
- Facilitate selection of a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) and/or Medicaid, Dr. Dynasaur, and other public health benefit program for eligible individual applicants using Agency of Human Services authorized enrollment methods, including online platforms and the VHC website.
- Provide referrals to any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or health insurance ombudsman established under section 2793 of the Public Health Service Act, or any other appropriate State agency or agencies, for any enrollee with a grievance, complaint, or question regarding their health plan, coverage, or a determination under such plan or coverage.
- Maintain appropriate technical capabilities to assist customers through online applications and self-service platforms.
- Maintain adaptability in response to emerging health climates and to assist customers during such public health concerns/emergencies.
- Provide information in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate to the needs of the population being served by the Subrecipient, including individuals with limited English proficiency, and ensure accessibility and usability of Navigator tools and functions for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The Subrecipient shall have such policies or procedures that are necessary to ensure that individual Navigators:

- Obtain a signed 205ASSIST “Consent for In Person Assistance” form (located in the Assister Resource Center) from each customer they assist in obtaining and maintaining appropriate health care coverage. These consent forms are required to be stored securely by the Subrecipient and available upon request by the State of Vermont. The Consent Form policy is subject to change and the Subrecipient must comply with any changes that occur.
- Meet all requirements for certification as a Navigator including attending and completing all required training and passing the Initial Certification Course exam.
- Attend additional training as required by Federal and State mandates to maintain certification.
- Confirm there are no conflicts of interest and disclose any current or former relationships in the last 5 years with any health insurance or stop loss insurer, or subsidiary, or any existing employment relationship between a health insurer and the individual’s spouse or domestic partner.

**B. Review of Outreach/Marketing Materials**

Subrecipient shall provide VHC with at least one (1) copy, unless otherwise specified, of any information Subrecipient intends to mail, publish or distribute to their clientele and/or the general public regarding Navigator services or VHC, including, but not limited to, newsletters, print advertisements, health education materials, web pages, and special announcements. Subrecipient will provide copies of these documents to the Assister Program Manager for review and approval. The State will provide feedback or approval within 5 business days of receipt. Expedited review may be provided by State upon request by Subrecipient. In the case of non-response by the State, the request shall be presumed denied.

Unless approved by the State, any Subrecipient web pages and online social media platforms that discuss a) health care reform or b) enrolling in coverage shall feature text describing VHC, along with a link to VHC's website. Any press releases and print materials that discuss a) health care reform or b) enrolling in coverage should feature a standard paragraph, to be provided by VHC, about VHC, a link to VHC's website, and VHC's call center telephone number.

**C. Management of Navigators**

Subrecipient's care integration coordinator (or in-person Assister supervisor) shall provide management and oversight directly to the Navigators. The coordinator plays an active role in building and sustaining partnerships with community organizations. The Subrecipient uses an asset-based model of care to link clients to economic, social, health, mental health, and community supports via State agencies and community-based organizations. This model consists of building and sustaining relationships with clients to assist them in improving their quality of life and health.

**D. The State's Training Process and Requirements**

Subrecipient shall be responsible for ensuring that new Navigators complete Assister training as provided and required by the State and pass any corresponding required exams. Subrecipient acknowledges and agrees that training for Navigators could be provided through a combination of in-person, remote/videoconferencing, and/or on-line training. Certification training for each Navigator candidate shall consist of:

- I. Completing the full Initial Assister Certification Course requirements (approximately 4 hours) located on the Assister Resource Center (ARC);
- II. Returning any compliance documents required by VHC; and
- III. Signing the VHC Assister Code of Conduct when required by the State.

Subrecipient agrees that existing Navigators will be required to complete additional training to maintain their certification for the current grant year. Continuing education for existing Navigators will be conducted by the State throughout the year and may include a combination of in-person, remote/videoconferencing, and/or on-line courses.

Subrecipient agrees to put in place such measures as are necessary to ensure that Navigators shall maintain knowledge of, and training in, all current and newly issued regulations related to VHC and Green Mountain Care (GMC) throughout the term of this Grant Agreement.

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**E. Evaluation of Navigator Organizations**

Subrecipient will submit program reports as requested by the State. Reports will be reviewed by the Assister Program Manager for progress against engagement and enrollment goals provided in this Grant Agreement.

The State will conduct customer satisfaction surveys with Vermonters regarding their experience with VHC, including with the Subrecipient, if applicable. These surveys will be used to evaluate individual Subrecipient staff members' performance, and thus, overall Subrecipient performance. Subrecipient may upon State's request be required to distribute such surveys to their consumers.

**F. Enrollment and Target Population:**

Subrecipient shall track the number of consultations performed and submit this report monthly to State's Assister Program Manager.

Although Subrecipient's service area is largely English speaking, the Subrecipient shall have no-cost access to Interpretation Services by calling the Customer Support Center at 855-899-9600 and Deaf Talk online, as well as in-person interpreter services for the deaf.

**ATTACHMENT B  
PAYMENT PROVISIONS**

The maximum dollar amount payable under this agreement is not intended as any form of a guaranteed amount. The State agrees to compensate the Subrecipient for services performed up to the maximum amounts stated below, provided such services are within the scope of the Grant Agreement and are authorized as provided for under the terms and conditions of this Grant. State of Vermont payment terms are Net 00 days from date of accurate invoice submission; payments against this Grant must comply with the State's payment terms. The payment schedule for delivered products, or rates for services performed, and any additional reimbursements, are included in this attachment. The following provisions specifying payments are:

1. The Subrecipient shall invoice the State monthly, for actual expenditures to date, in a total annual amount not to exceed the total Grant amount of \$30,000.00 for personnel expenses in Attachment A. Invoices must be itemized. Payment is contingent upon invoice review and acceptance by the State. Invoices shall be accompanied by receipts and/or documentation to substantiate all staff costs.
2. The Subrecipient shall perform services specified in Attachment A through the full term agreed to in this Grant Agreement. Should the Subrecipient expend funds available under this Grant Agreement at a rate that would draw all Grant funds prior to June 30, 2025, the Subrecipient shall meet with the Assister Program Manager to establish a remediation plan.
3. The Subrecipient is responsible for holding receipts and documentation on file for all Grant expenditures and make documentation available upon request by the State. Mileage expense for use of personal vehicles and meal expense will be reimbursed at the current State rate. All travel expenses must be in compliance with State of Vermont Administrative Bulletin 3.4.
4. By the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, the Subrecipient shall submit a monthly report in a format to be provided by the State for this Grant Agreement in electronic format. Reports shall reference this Grant Agreement number and be sent to:

Michael Swaim, Assister Program Manager: [Michael.Swaim@Vermont.gov](mailto:Michael.Swaim@Vermont.gov)

By the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, the Subrecipient shall submit invoices with original signature to:

[AHS.DVHAInvoices@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DVHAInvoices@vermont.gov)

5. A final invoice will be due no later than 30 days after the end date of the Grant Agreement. The final invoice will report actual approved expenditures against payments received within 30 days of the end of the Grant Agreement.
6. The State reserves the right to withhold part or all of the Grant funds if the Subrecipient cannot provide evidence of working toward objectives in Attachment A. The State also reserves the right to withhold part or all of the Grant funds if the Subrecipient fails to adhere to the Assister Program Manager's guidance regarding public communication, coordination with other Navigator organizations, and necessary adjustments to outreach and enrollment efforts.



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**Budget for 07/01/2024 to 06/30/2025**

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Total Budget*</b>
Navigator Salaries	\$30,000.00

\*Total cost may be inclusive of up to 30% of total Fringe Benefits. Funding may be split between Navigator personnel with no specified split percentage per employee, not to exceed more than 25% of the total budget per quarter (\$7,500.00). The Subrecipient may request, in writing, approval by the State to carry forward funds across quarterly periods if necessary, to accomplish grant deliverables.

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**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 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>.

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**ATTACHMENT E  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT**

**SOV CONTRACTOR/GRANTEE/BUSINESS ASSOCIATE: NORTHEASTERN VERMONT REGIONAL HOSPITAL**

**SOV CONTRACT NO. 03410-2600-25 CONTRACT EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2024**

This Business Associate Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between the State of Vermont Agency of Human Services, operating by and through its **Department of Vermont Health Access** (“Covered Entity”) and Party identified in this Agreement as Contractor or Grantee above (“Business Associate”). This Agreement supplements and is made a part of the contract or grant (“Contract or Grant”) to which it is attached.

Covered Entity and Business Associate enter into this Agreement to comply with the standards promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”), including the Standards for the Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 (“Privacy Rule”), and the Security Standards, at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 (“Security Rule”), as amended by Subtitle D of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH), and any associated federal rules and regulations.

**The parties agree as follows:**

**1. Definitions.** All capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined in this Agreement have the meanings set forth in 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 as amended by HITECH and associated federal rules and regulations. Terms defined in this Agreement are italicized. Unless otherwise specified, when used in this Agreement, defined terms used in the singular shall be understood if appropriate in their context to include the plural when applicable.

“*Agent*” means an *Individual* acting within the scope of the agency of the *Business Associate*, in accordance with the Federal common law of agency, as referenced in 45 CFR § 160.402(c) and includes Workforce members and *Subcontractors*.

“*Breach*” means the acquisition, Access, Use or Disclosure of *Protected Health Information (PHI)* which compromises the Security or privacy of the *PHI*, except as excluded in the definition of *Breach* in 45 CFR § 164.402.

“*Business Associate*” shall have the meaning given for “Business Associate” in 45 CFR § 160.103 and means Contractor or Grantee and includes its Workforce, *Agents* and *Subcontractors*.

“*Electronic PHI*” shall mean *PHI* created, received, maintained or transmitted electronically in accordance with 45 CFR § 160.103.

“*Individual*” includes a Person who qualifies as a personal representative in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.502(g).

“*Protected Health Information*” (“*PHI*”) shall have the meaning given in 45 CFR § 160.103, limited to the *PHI* created or received by *Business Associate* from or on behalf of Covered Entity.

“*Required by Law*” means a mandate contained in law that compels an entity to make a use or disclosure of *PHI* and that is enforceable in a court of law and shall have the meaning given in 45 CFR § 164.103.

“*Report*” means submissions required by this Agreement as provided in section 2.3.

“*Security Incident*” means the attempted or successful unauthorized Access, Use, Disclosure, modification, or destruction of Information or interference with system operations in an Information System relating to *PHI* in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.304.

“*Services*” includes all work performed by the *Business Associate* for or on behalf of Covered Entity that requires the Use and/or Disclosure of *PHI* to perform a *Business Associate* function described in 45 CFR § 160.103.

“*Subcontractor*” means a Person to whom *Business Associate* delegates a function, activity, or service, other than in the capacity of a member of the workforce of such *Business Associate*.

“*Successful Security Incident*” shall mean a *Security Incident* that results in the unauthorized Access, Use, Disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with system operations in an Information System.

“*Unsuccessful Security Incident*” shall mean a *Security Incident* such as routine occurrences that do not result in unauthorized Access, Use, Disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with system operations in an Information System, such as: (i) unsuccessful attempts to penetrate computer networks or services maintained by *Business Associate*; and (ii) immaterial incidents such as pings and other broadcast attacks on *Business Associate's* firewall, port scans, unsuccessful log-on attempts, denials of service and any combination of the above with respect to *Business Associate's* Information System.

“*Targeted Unsuccessful Security Incident*” means an *Unsuccessful Security Incident* that appears to be an attempt to obtain unauthorized Access, Use, Disclosure, modification or destruction of the Covered Entity’s *Electronic PHI*.

## **2. Contact Information for Privacy and Security Officers and Reports.**

- 2.1 *Business Associate* shall provide, within ten (10) days of the execution of this Agreement, written notice to the Contract or Grant manager the names and contact information of both the HIPAA Privacy Officer and HIPAA Security Officer of the *Business Associate*. This information must be updated by *Business Associate* any time these contacts change.
- 2.2 Covered Entity’s HIPAA Privacy Officer and HIPAA Security Officer contact information is posted at: <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/rules-policies/health-insurance-portability-and-accountability-act-hipaa>
- 2.3 *Business Associate* shall submit all *Reports* required by this Agreement to the following

email address: [AHS.PrivacyAndSecurity@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.PrivacyAndSecurity@vermont.gov)

### **3. Permitted and Required Uses/Disclosures of PHI.**

- 3.1 Subject to the terms in this Agreement, *Business Associate* may Use or Disclose *PHI* to perform *Services*, as specified in the Contract or Grant. Such Uses and Disclosures are limited to the minimum necessary to provide the *Services*. *Business Associate* shall not Use or Disclose *PHI* in any manner that would constitute a violation of the Privacy Rule if Used or Disclosed by Covered Entity in that manner. *Business Associate* may not Use or Disclose *PHI* other than as permitted or required by this Agreement or as *Required by Law* and only in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- 3.2 *Business Associate* may make *PHI* available to its Workforce, *Agent* and *Subcontractor* who need Access to perform *Services* as permitted by this Agreement, provided that *Business Associate* makes them aware of the Use and Disclosure restrictions in this Agreement and binds them to comply with such restrictions.
- 3.3 *Business Associate* shall be directly liable under HIPAA for impermissible Uses and Disclosures of *PHI*.

**4. Business Activities.** *Business Associate* may Use *PHI* if necessary for *Business Associate's* proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities. *Business Associate* may Disclose *PHI* for *Business Associate's* proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities if a Disclosure is *Required by Law* or if *Business Associate* obtains reasonable written assurances via a written agreement from the Person to whom the information is to be Disclosed that such *PHI* shall remain confidential and be Used or further Disclosed only as *Required by Law* or for the purpose for which it was Disclosed to the Person, and the Agreement requires the Person to notify *Business Associate*, within five (5) business days, in writing of any *Breach* of Unsecured *PHI* of which it is aware. Such Uses and Disclosures of *PHI* must be of the minimum amount necessary to accomplish such purposes.

### **5. Electronic PHI Security Rule Obligations.**

- 5.1 With respect to *Electronic PHI*, *Business Associate* shall:
- a) Implement and use Administrative, Physical, and Technical Safeguards in compliance with 45 CFR sections 164.308, 164.310, and 164.312;
  - b) Identify in writing upon request from Covered Entity all the safeguards that it uses to protect such *Electronic PHI*;
  - c) Prior to any Use or Disclosure of *Electronic PHI* by an *Agent* or *Subcontractor*, ensure that any *Agent* or *Subcontractor* to whom it provides *Electronic PHI* agrees in writing to implement and use Administrative, Physical, and Technical Safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability of *Electronic PHI*. The written agreement must identify Covered Entity as a direct and intended third party beneficiary with the right to enforce any breach of the agreement concerning the Use or Disclosure of *Electronic PHI*, and be provided to Covered Entity upon request;
  - d) Report in writing to Covered Entity any *Successful Security Incident* or *Targeted Unsuccessful Security Incident* as soon as it becomes aware of such incident and in no event later than five (5) business days after such awareness. Such *Report* shall be timely

made notwithstanding the fact that little information may be known at the time of the *Report* and need only include such information then available;

- e) Following such *Report*, provide Covered Entity with the information necessary for Covered Entity to investigate any such incident; and
- f) Continue to provide to Covered Entity information concerning the incident as it becomes available to it.

5.2 Reporting *Unsuccessful Security Incidents*. *Business Associate* shall provide Covered Entity upon written request a *Report* that: (a) identifies the categories of *Unsuccessful Security Incidents*; (b) indicates whether *Business Associate* believes its current defensive security measures are adequate to address all *Unsuccessful Security Incidents*, given the scope and nature of such attempts; and (c) if the security measures are not adequate, the measures *Business Associate* will implement to address the security inadequacies.

5.3 *Business Associate* shall comply with any reasonable policies and procedures Covered Entity implements to obtain compliance under the Security Rule.

## **6. Reporting and Documenting Breaches.**

6.1 *Business Associate* shall *Report* to Covered Entity any *Breach* of Unsecured *PHI* as soon as it, or any Person to whom *PHI* is disclosed under this Agreement, becomes aware of any such *Breach*, and in no event later than five (5) business days after such awareness, except when a law enforcement official determines that a notification would impede a criminal investigation or cause damage to national security. Such *Report* shall be timely made notwithstanding the fact that little information may be known at the time of the *Report* and need only include such information then available.

6.2 Following the *Report* described in 6.1, *Business Associate* shall conduct a risk assessment and provide it to Covered Entity with a summary of the event. *Business Associate* shall provide Covered Entity with the names of any *Individual* whose Unsecured *PHI* has been, or is reasonably believed to have been, the subject of the *Breach* and any other available information that is required to be given to the affected *Individual*, as set forth in 45 CFR § 164.404(c). Upon request by Covered Entity, *Business Associate* shall provide information necessary for Covered Entity to investigate the impermissible Use or Disclosure. *Business Associate* shall continue to provide to Covered Entity information concerning the *Breach* as it becomes available.

6.3 When *Business Associate* determines that an impermissible acquisition, Access, Use or Disclosure of *PHI* for which it is responsible is not a *Breach*, and therefore does not necessitate notice to the impacted *Individual*, it shall document its assessment of risk, conducted as set forth in 45 CFR § 402(2). *Business Associate* shall make its risk assessment available to Covered Entity upon request. It shall include 1) the name of the person making the assessment, 2) a brief summary of the facts, and 3) a brief statement of the reasons supporting the determination of low probability that the *PHI* had been compromised.

7. **Mitigation and Corrective Action.** *Business Associate* shall mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to it of an impermissible Use or Disclosure of *PHI*, even if the impermissible Use or Disclosure does not constitute a *Breach*. *Business Associate* shall draft and carry out a plan of corrective action to address any incident of impermissible Use or

Disclosure of *PHI. Business Associate* shall make its mitigation and corrective action plans available to Covered Entity upon request.

## **8. Providing Notice of Breaches.**

- 8.1 If Covered Entity determines that a *Breach* of *PHI* for which *Business Associate* was responsible, and if requested by Covered Entity, *Business Associate* shall provide notice to the *Individual* whose *PHI* has been the subject of the *Breach*. When so requested, *Business Associate* shall consult with Covered Entity about the timeliness, content and method of notice, and shall receive Covered Entity's approval concerning these elements. *Business Associate* shall be responsible for the cost of notice and related remedies.
- 8.2 The notice to affected *Individuals* shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible and in no case later than sixty (60) calendar days after *Business Associate* reported the *Breach* to Covered Entity.
- 8.3 The notice to affected *Individuals* shall be written in plain language and shall include, to the extent possible: 1) a brief description of what happened; 2) a description of the types of Unsecured *PHI* that were involved in the *Breach*; 3) any steps *Individuals* can take to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the *Breach*; 4) a brief description of what the *Business Associate* is doing to investigate the *Breach* to mitigate harm to *Individuals* and to protect against further *Breaches*; and 5) contact procedures for *Individuals* to ask questions or obtain additional information, as set forth in 45 CFR § 164.404(c).
- 8.4 *Business Associate* shall notify *Individuals* of *Breaches* as specified in 45 CFR § 164.404(d) (methods of *Individual* notice). In addition, when a *Breach* involves more than 500 residents of Vermont, *Business Associate* shall, if requested by Covered Entity, notify prominent media outlets serving Vermont, following the requirements set forth in 45 CFR § 164.406.

**9. Agreements with Subcontractors.** *Business Associate* shall enter into a Business Associate Agreement with any *Subcontractor* to whom it provides *PHI* to require compliance with HIPAA and to ensure *Business Associate* and *Subcontractor* comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. *Business Associate* must enter into such written agreement before any Use by or Disclosure of *PHI* to such *Subcontractor*. The written agreement must identify Covered Entity as a direct and intended third party beneficiary with the right to enforce any breach of the agreement concerning the Use or Disclosure of *PHI*. *Business Associate* shall provide a copy of the written agreement it enters into with a *Subcontractor* to Covered Entity upon request. *Business Associate* may not make any Disclosure of *PHI* to any *Subcontractor* without prior written consent of Covered Entity.

**10. Access to PHI.** *Business Associate* shall provide access to *PHI* in a Designated Record Set to Covered Entity or as directed by Covered Entity to an *Individual* to meet the requirements under 45 CFR § 164.524. *Business Associate* shall provide such access in the time and manner reasonably designated by Covered Entity. Within five (5) business days, *Business Associate* shall forward to Covered Entity for handling any request for Access to *PHI* that *Business Associate* directly receives from an *Individual*.

**11. Amendment of PHI.** *Business Associate* shall make any amendments to *PHI* in a Designated Record Set that Covered Entity directs or agrees to pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.526, whether at the request of Covered Entity or an *Individual*. *Business Associate* shall make such amendments in the time and manner reasonably designated by Covered Entity. Within five (5) business days, *Business Associate* shall forward to Covered Entity for handling any request for amendment to *PHI* that *Business Associate* directly receives from an *Individual*.

**12. Accounting of Disclosures.** *Business Associate* shall document Disclosures of *PHI* and all information related to such Disclosures as would be required for Covered Entity to respond to a request by an *Individual* for an accounting of disclosures of *PHI* in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.528. *Business Associate* shall provide such information to Covered Entity or as directed by Covered Entity to an *Individual*, to permit Covered Entity to respond to an accounting request. *Business Associate* shall provide such information in the time and manner reasonably designated by Covered Entity. Within five (5) business days, *Business Associate* shall forward to Covered Entity for handling any accounting request that *Business Associate* directly receives from an *Individual*.

**13. Books and Records.** Subject to the attorney-client and other applicable legal privileges, *Business Associate* shall make its internal practices, books, and records (including policies and procedures and *PHI*) relating to the Use and Disclosure of *PHI* available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the time and manner designated by the Secretary. *Business Associate* shall make the same information available to Covered Entity, upon Covered Entity's request, in the time and manner reasonably designated by Covered Entity so that Covered Entity may determine whether *Business Associate* is in compliance with this Agreement.

**14. Termination.**

14.1 This Agreement commences on the Effective Date and shall remain in effect until terminated by Covered Entity or until all the *PHI* is destroyed or returned to Covered Entity subject to Section 18.8.

14.2 If *Business Associate* fails to comply with any material term of this Agreement, Covered Entity may provide an opportunity for *Business Associate* to cure. If *Business Associate* does not cure within the time specified by Covered Entity or if Covered Entity believes that cure is not reasonably possible, Covered Entity may immediately terminate the Contract or Grant without incurring liability or penalty for such termination. If neither termination nor cure are feasible, Covered Entity shall report the breach to the Secretary of HHS. Covered Entity has the right to seek to cure such failure by *Business Associate*. Regardless of whether Covered Entity cures, it retains any right or remedy available at law, in equity, or under the Contract or Grant and *Business Associate* retains its responsibility for such failure.

**15. Return/Destruction of PHI.**

15.1 *Business Associate* in connection with the expiration or termination of the Contract or Grant shall return or destroy, at the discretion of the Covered Entity, *PHI* that *Business Associate* still maintains in any form or medium (including electronic) within thirty (30) days after such expiration or termination. *Business Associate* shall not retain any copies of



*PHI. Business Associate* shall certify in writing and report to Covered Entity (1) when all *PHI* has been returned or destroyed and (2) that *Business Associate* does not continue to maintain any *PHI. Business Associate* is to provide this certification during this thirty (30) day period.

- 15.2 *Business Associate* shall report to Covered Entity any conditions that *Business Associate* believes make the return or destruction of *PHI* infeasible. *Business Associate* shall extend the protections of this Agreement to such *PHI* and limit further Uses and Disclosures to those purposes that make the return or destruction infeasible for so long as *Business Associate* maintains such *PHI*.

**16. Penalties.** *Business Associate* understands that: (a) there may be civil or criminal penalties for misuse or misappropriation of *PHI* and (b) violations of this Agreement may result in notification by Covered Entity to law enforcement officials and regulatory, accreditation, and licensure organizations.

**17. Training.** *Business Associate* understands its obligation to comply with the law and shall provide appropriate training and education to ensure compliance with this Agreement. If requested by Covered Entity, *Business Associate* shall participate in Covered Entity's training regarding the Use, Confidentiality, and Security of *PHI*; however, participation in such training shall not supplant nor relieve *Business Associate* of its obligations under this Agreement to independently assure compliance with the law and this Agreement.

**18. Miscellaneous.**

- 18.1 In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the terms of this Agreement and the terms of the Contract or Grant, the terms of this Agreement shall govern with respect to its subject matter. Otherwise, the terms of the Contract or Grant continue in effect.
- 18.2 Each party shall cooperate with the other party to amend this Agreement from time to time as is necessary for such party to comply with the Privacy Rule, the Security Rule, or any other standards promulgated under HIPAA. This Agreement may not be amended, except by a writing signed by all parties hereto.
- 18.3 Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be resolved to permit the parties to comply with the Privacy Rule, Security Rule, or any other standards promulgated under HIPAA.
- 18.4 In addition to applicable Vermont law, the parties shall rely on applicable federal law (e.g., HIPAA, the Privacy Rule, Security Rule, and HITECH) in construing the meaning and effect of this Agreement.
- 18.5 *Business Associate* shall not have or claim any ownership of *PHI*.
- 18.6 *Business Associate* shall abide by the terms and conditions of this Agreement with respect to all *PHI* even if some of that information relates to specific services for which *Business Associate* may not be a "*Business Associate*" of Covered Entity under the Privacy Rule.
- 18.7 *Business Associate* is prohibited from directly or indirectly receiving any remuneration in exchange for an *Individual's PHI*. *Business Associate* will refrain from marketing activities that would violate HIPAA, including specifically Section 13406 of the HITECH Act. *Reports* or data containing *PHI* may not be sold without Covered Entity's or the affected *Individual's* written consent.
- 18.8 The provisions of this Agreement that by their terms encompass continuing rights or

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responsibilities shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement. For example:  
(a) the provisions of this Agreement shall continue to apply if Covered Entity determines that it would be infeasible for *Business Associate* to return or destroy *PHI* as provided in Section 14.2 and (b) the obligation of *Business Associate* to provide an accounting of disclosures as set forth in Section 12 survives the expiration or termination of this Agreement with respect to accounting requests, if any, made after such expiration or termination.

Rev. 05/22/2020

**ATTACHMENT F**  
**AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES' CUSTOMARY CONTRACT/GRANT PROVISIONS**

1. **Definitions:** For purposes of this Attachment F, the term “Agreement” shall mean the form of the contract or grant, with all of its parts, into which this Attachment F is incorporated. The meaning of the term “Party” when used in this Attachment F shall mean any named party to this Agreement *other than* the State of Vermont, the Agency of Human Services (AHS) and any of the departments, boards, offices and business units named in this Agreement. As such, the term “Party” shall mean, when used in this Attachment F, the Contractor or Grantee with whom the State of Vermont is executing this Agreement. If Party, when permitted to do so under this Agreement, seeks by way of any subcontract, sub-grant or other form of provider agreement to employ any other person or entity to perform any of the obligations of Party under this Agreement, Party shall be obligated to ensure that all terms of this Attachment F are followed. As such, the term “Party” as used herein shall also be construed as applicable to, and describing the obligations of, any subcontractor, sub-recipient or sub-grantee of this Agreement. Any such use or construction of the term “Party” shall not, however, give any subcontractor, sub-recipient or sub-grantee any substantive right in this Agreement without an express written agreement to that effect by the State of Vermont.
2. **Agency of Human Services:** The Agency of Human Services is responsible for overseeing all contracts and grants entered by any of its departments, boards, offices and business units, however denominated. The Agency of Human Services, through the business office of the Office of the Secretary, and through its Field Services Directors, will share with any named AHS-associated party to this Agreement oversight, monitoring and enforcement responsibilities. Party agrees to cooperate with both the named AHS-associated party to this contract and with the Agency of Human Services itself with respect to the resolution of any issues relating to the performance and interpretation of this Agreement, payment matters and legal compliance.
3. **Medicaid Program Parties** (*applicable to any Party providing services and supports paid for under Vermont’s Medicaid program and Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Waiver*):

**Inspection and Retention of Records:** In addition to any other requirement under this Agreement or at law, Party must fulfill all state and federal legal requirements, and will comply with all requests appropriate to enable the Agency of Human Services, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (along with its Inspector General and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), the Comptroller General, the Government Accounting Office, or any of their designees: (i) to evaluate through inspection or other means the quality, appropriateness, and timeliness of services performed under this Agreement; and (ii) to inspect and audit any records, financial data, contracts, computer or other electronic systems of Party relating to the performance of services under Vermont’s Medicaid program and Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Waiver. Party will retain for ten years all documents required to be retained pursuant to 42 CFR 438.3(u).

**Subcontracting for Medicaid Services:** Notwithstanding any permitted subcontracting of services to be performed under this Agreement, Party shall remain responsible for ensuring that this Agreement is fully performed according to its terms, that subcontractor remains in compliance with the terms hereof, and that subcontractor complies with all state and federal laws and regulations relating to the Medicaid program in Vermont. Subcontracts, and any service provider agreements entered into by Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement, must clearly specify in writing the responsibilities of the subcontractor or other service provider and Party must retain the authority to revoke its subcontract or service provider agreement or to impose other sanctions if the performance of the subcontractor or service provider is inadequate or if its performance deviates from any requirement of

this Agreement. Party shall make available on request all contracts, subcontracts and service provider agreements between the Party, subcontractors and other service providers to the Agency of Human Services and any of its departments as well as to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**Medicaid Notification of Termination Requirements:** Party shall follow the Department of Vermont Health Access Managed-Care-Organization enrollee-notification requirements, to include the requirement that Party provide timely notice of any termination of its practice.

**Encounter Data:** Party shall provide encounter data to the Agency of Human Services and/or its departments and ensure further that the data and services provided can be linked to and supported by enrollee eligibility files maintained by the State.

**Federal Medicaid System Security Requirements Compliance:** Party shall provide a security plan, risk assessment, and security controls review document within three months of the start date of this Agreement (and update it annually thereafter) in order to support audit compliance with 45 CFR 95.621 subpart F, *ADP System Security Requirements and Review Process*.

**4. Workplace Violence Prevention and Crisis Response** (*applicable to any Party and any subcontractors and sub-grantees whose employees or other service providers deliver social or mental health services directly to individual recipients of such services*):

Party shall establish a written workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy meeting the requirements of Act 109 (2016), 33 VSA §8201(b), for the benefit of employees delivering direct social or mental health services. Party shall, in preparing its policy, consult with the guidelines promulgated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration for *Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Services Workers*, as those guidelines may from time to time be amended.

Party, through its violence protection and crisis response committee, shall evaluate the efficacy of its policy, and update the policy as appropriate, at least annually. The policy and any written evaluations thereof shall be provided to employees delivering direct social or mental health services.

Party will ensure that any subcontractor and sub-grantee who hires employees (or contracts with service providers) who deliver social or mental health services directly to individual recipients of such services, complies with all requirements of this Section.

**5. Non-Discrimination:**

Party shall not discriminate, and will prohibit its employees, agents, subcontractors, sub-grantees and other service providers from discrimination, on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, on the basis of handicap under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, on the basis of sex under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and on the basis of race, color or national origin under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Party shall not refuse, withhold from or deny to any person the benefit of services, facilities, goods, privileges, advantages, or benefits of public accommodation on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity as provided by Title 9 V.S.A. Chapter 139.

No person shall on the grounds of religion or on the grounds of sex (including, on the grounds that a woman is pregnant), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination, to include sexual harassment, under any program or activity supported by State of Vermont and/or federal funds.

Party further shall comply with the non-discrimination requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC Section 2000d, et seq., and with the federal guidelines promulgated pursuant to Executive Order 13166 of 2000, requiring that contractors and subcontractors receiving federal funds assure that persons with limited English proficiency can meaningfully access services. To the extent Party provides assistance to individuals with limited English proficiency through the use of oral or written translation or interpretive services, such individuals cannot be required to pay for such services.

**6. Employees and Independent Contractors:**

Party agrees that it shall comply with the laws of the State of Vermont with respect to the appropriate classification of its workers and service providers as “employees” and “independent contractors” for all purposes, to include for purposes related to unemployment compensation insurance and workers compensation coverage, and proper payment and reporting of wages. Party agrees to ensure that all of its subcontractors or sub-grantees also remain in legal compliance as to the appropriate classification of “workers” and “independent contractors” relating to unemployment compensation insurance and workers compensation coverage, and proper payment and reporting of wages. Party will on request provide to the Agency of Human Services information pertaining to the classification of its employees to include the basis for the classification. Failure to comply with these obligations may result in termination of this Agreement.

**7. Data Protection and Privacy:**

**Protected Health Information:** Party shall maintain the privacy and security of all individually identifiable health information acquired by or provided to it as a part of the performance of this Agreement. Party shall follow federal and state law relating to privacy and security of individually identifiable health information as applicable, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and its federal regulations.

**Substance Abuse Treatment Information:** Substance abuse treatment information shall be maintained in compliance with 42 C.F.R. Part 2 if the Party or subcontractor(s) are Part 2 covered programs, or if substance abuse treatment information is received from a Part 2 covered program by the Party or subcontractor(s).

**Protection of Personal Information:** Party agrees to comply with all applicable state and federal statutes to assure protection and security of personal information, or of any personally identifiable information (PII), including the Security Breach Notice Act, 9 V.S.A. § 2435, the Social Security Number Protection Act, 9 V.S.A. § 2440, the Document Safe Destruction Act, 9 V.S.A. § 2445 and 45 CFR 155.260. As used here, PII shall include any information, in any medium, including electronic, which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual’s identity, such as his/her name, social security number, biometric records, etc., either alone or when combined with any other personal or identifiable information that is linked or linkable to a specific person, such as date and place of birth, mother’s maiden name, etc.

**Other Confidential Consumer Information:** Party agrees to comply with the requirements of AHS Rule No. 08-048 concerning access to and uses of personal information relating to any beneficiary or recipient of goods, services or other forms of support. Party further agrees to comply with any applicable Vermont State Statute and other regulations respecting the right to individual privacy. Party shall ensure that all of its employees, subcontractors and other service providers performing services under this agreement understand and preserve the sensitive, confidential and non-public nature of information to which they may have access.

**Data Breaches:** Party shall report to AHS, through its Chief Information Officer (CIO), any impermissible use or disclosure that compromises the security, confidentiality or privacy of any form of protected personal information identified above within 24 hours of the discovery of the breach. Party

shall in addition comply with any other data breach notification requirements required under federal or state law.

**8. Abuse and Neglect of Children and Vulnerable Adults:**

**Abuse Registry.** Party agrees not to employ any individual, to use any volunteer or other service provider, or to otherwise provide reimbursement to any individual who in the performance of services connected with this agreement provides care, custody, treatment, transportation, or supervision to children or to vulnerable adults if there has been a substantiation of abuse or neglect or exploitation involving that individual. Party is responsible for confirming as to each individual having such contact with children or vulnerable adults the non-existence of a substantiated allegation of abuse, neglect or exploitation by verifying that fact though (a) as to vulnerable adults, the Adult Abuse Registry maintained by the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living and (b) as to children, the Central Child Protection Registry (unless the Party holds a valid child care license or registration from the Division of Child Development, Department for Children and Families). See 33 V.S.A. §4919(a)(3) and 33 V.S.A. §6911(c)(3).

**Reporting of Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation.** Consistent with provisions of 33 V.S.A. §4913(a) and §6903, Party and any of its agents or employees who, in the performance of services connected with this agreement, (a) is a caregiver or has any other contact with clients and (b) has reasonable cause to believe that a child or vulnerable adult has been abused or neglected as defined in Chapter 49 or abused, neglected, or exploited as defined in Chapter 69 of Title 33 V.S.A. shall: as to children, make a report containing the information required by 33 V.S.A. §4914 to the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families within 24 hours; or, as to a vulnerable adult, make a report containing the information required by 33 V.S.A. §6904 to the Division of Licensing and Protection at the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living within 48 hours. Party will ensure that its agents or employees receive training on the reporting of abuse or neglect to children and abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

**9. Information Technology Systems:**

**Computing and Communication:** Party shall select, in consultation with the Agency of Human Services' Information Technology unit, one of the approved methods for secure access to the State's systems and data, if required. Approved methods are based on the type of work performed by the Party as part of this agreement. Options include, but are not limited to:

1. Party's provision of certified computing equipment, peripherals and mobile devices, on a separate Party's network with separate internet access. The Agency of Human Services' accounts may or may not be provided.
2. State supplied and managed equipment and accounts to access state applications and data, including State issued active directory accounts and application specific accounts, which follow the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) security and the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards.

**Intellectual Property/Work Product Ownership:** All data, technical information, materials first gathered, originated, developed, prepared, or obtained as a condition of this agreement and used in the performance of this agreement -- including, but not limited to all reports, surveys, plans, charts, literature, brochures, mailings, recordings (video or audio), pictures, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, software computer programs and accompanying documentation and printouts, notes and memoranda, written procedures and documents, which are prepared for or obtained specifically for this agreement, or are a result of the services required under this grant -- shall be considered "work for

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hire" and remain the property of the State of Vermont, regardless of the state of completion unless otherwise specified in this agreement. Such items shall be delivered to the State of Vermont upon 30-days notice by the State. With respect to software computer programs and / or source codes first developed for the State, all the work shall be considered "work for hire," i.e., the State, not the Party (or subcontractor or sub-grantee), shall have full and complete ownership of all software computer programs, documentation and/or source codes developed.

Party shall not sell or copyright a work product or item produced under this agreement without explicit permission from the State of Vermont.

If Party is operating a system or application on behalf of the State of Vermont, Party shall not make information entered into the system or application available for uses by any other party than the State of Vermont, without prior authorization by the State. Nothing herein shall entitle the State to pre-existing Party's materials.

Party acknowledges and agrees that should this agreement be in support of the State's implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, Party is subject to the certain property rights provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations and a Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Such agreement will be subject to, and incorporates here by reference, 45 CFR 74.36, 45 CFR 92.34 and 45 CFR 95.617 governing rights to intangible property.

**Security and Data Transfers:** Party shall comply with all applicable State and Agency of Human Services' policies and standards, especially those related to privacy and security. The State will advise the Party of any new policies, procedures, or protocols developed during the term of this agreement as they are issued and will work with the Party to implement any required.

Party will ensure the physical and data security associated with computer equipment, including desktops, notebooks, and other portable devices, used in connection with this Agreement. Party will also assure that any media or mechanism used to store or transfer data to or from the State includes industry standard security mechanisms such as continually up-to-date malware protection and encryption. Party will make every reasonable effort to ensure media or data files transferred to the State are virus and spyware free. At the conclusion of this agreement and after successful delivery of the data to the State, Party shall securely delete data (including archival backups) from Party's equipment that contains individually identifiable records, in accordance with standards adopted by the Agency of Human Services.

Party, in the event of a data breach, shall comply with the terms of Section 7 above.

**10. Other Provisions:**

**Environmental Tobacco Smoke.** Public Law 103-227 (also known as the Pro-Children Act of 1994) and Vermont's Act 135 (2014) (An act relating to smoking in lodging establishments, hospitals, and child care facilities, and on State lands) restrict the use of tobacco products in certain settings. Party shall ensure that no person is permitted: (i) to use tobacco products or tobacco substitutes as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 1001 on the premises, both indoor and outdoor, of any licensed child care center or afterschool program at any time; (ii) to use tobacco products or tobacco substitutes on the premises, both indoor and in any outdoor area designated for child care, health or day care services, kindergarten, pre-kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services; and (iii) to use tobacco products or tobacco substitutes on the premises of a licensed or registered family child care home while children are present and in care. Party will refrain from promoting the use of tobacco products for all

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clients and from making tobacco products available to minors.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the federal law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity. The federal Pro-Children Act of 1994, however, does not apply to portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment; service providers whose sole source of applicable federal funds is Medicare or Medicaid; or facilities where Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) coupons are redeemed.

**2-1-1 Database:** If Party provides health or human services within Vermont, or if Party provides such services near the Vermont border readily accessible to residents of Vermont, Party shall adhere to the "Inclusion/Exclusion" policy of Vermont's United Way/Vermont 211 (Vermont 211), and will provide to Vermont 211 relevant descriptive information regarding its agency, programs and/or contact information as well as accurate and up to date information to its database as requested. The "Inclusion/Exclusion" policy can be found at [www.vermont211.org](http://www.vermont211.org).

**Voter Registration:** When designated by the Secretary of State, Party agrees to become a voter registration agency as defined by 17 V.S.A. §2103 (41), and to comply with the requirements of state and federal law pertaining to such agencies.

**Drug Free Workplace Act:** Party will assure a drug-free workplace in accordance with 45 CFR Part 76.

**Lobbying:** No federal funds under this agreement may be used to influence or attempt to influence an officer or employee of any 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, continuation, renewal, amendments other than federal appropriated funds.

*AHS ATT. F 5/16/2018*



**ATTACHMENT G  
NAVIGATOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST FRAMEWORK**

It is Vermont Health Connect's intent that the Assister Program provides Vermont Health Connect customers with high quality, community-based education, in-person information and guidance that is unbiased and impartial. In order to assure the delivery of high-quality Assister services, and to minimize or eliminate the existence of conflicts of interest or the appearance of impropriety, Vermont Health Connect will:

1. Monitor for potential conflicts of interest during the Navigator Organization selection process and throughout the term of engagement with the Navigator Organization.
  2. Provide robust initial and ongoing training that includes instruction on providing impartial education and in-person assistance with customer selection of a qualified health plan.
  3. Require from Navigator Organization and Assisters current or within the last 5 years disclosures of affiliations that may present a direct or indirect conflict of interest.
  4. Require from Navigator Organization and Assisters a written attestation stating that they are conflict of interest free
  5. Require Navigator Organization and Assisters a written plan to remain conflict of interest free throughout the contract.
  6. Require Navigator Organizations and individual Assisters to attest to being and to remain to be conflict of interest free in the certification process as long as they are a certified VHC Assister.
  7. Require all Navigator entities, including the Navigator's staff, to disclose to the Exchange and, in plain language, to each consumer who receives application assistance from the Navigator:
    - a. Any lines of insurance business, not covered by the restrictions on participation and prohibitions on conduct in §155.210(d), which the entity or individual intends to sell while carrying out the consumer assistance functions.
    - b. Any existing employment relationships, or any former employment relationships within the last 5 years, with any health insurance issuers or issuers of stop loss insurance, or subsidiaries of health insurance issuers or issuers of stop loss insurance, including any existing employment relationships between a spouse or domestic partner and any health insurance issuers or issuers of stop loss insurance, or subsidiaries of health insurance issuers or issuers of stop loss insurance; and
    - c. Any existing or anticipated financial, business, or contractual relationships with one or more health insurance issuers or issuers of stop loss insurance, or subsidiaries of health insurance issuers or issuers of stop loss insurance.
  8. Monitor Navigator enrollment practices through use of reporting in Vermont Health Connect's system.
  9. Actively solicit customer satisfaction feedback on their Navigator experience.
  10. As circumstances command where a conflict of interest arises, require mitigation, revocation of certification, or termination of the grant.
- 1. Assister and Navigator Organization Conduct**
- Sub-recipient agrees that it and the Assisters employed by it are not and shall not at any time during the period of this Agreement:
- 1.1. Be a health insurance issuer or issuer of stop loss insurance
  - 1.2. Be a subsidiary of a health insurance issuer or issuer of stop loss insurance

- 1.3. Be an association that includes members of, or lobbies on behalf of, the insurance industry;  
or
  - 1.4. Receive any consideration directly or indirectly from any health insurance or stop loss insurance issuer in connection with the enrollment of any individuals or employees in a QHP [qualified health plan] or non-QHP [qualified health plan]. “Indirect” consideration includes but is not limited to in-kind compensation.
  - 1.5. Be a provider entity (including, but not limited to, hospitals, clinics, and physician practices) that is directly owned by, a subsidiary of, or exclusively contracts with, a single insurer or its subsidiaries, except in cases where the provider can demonstrate that due to geography or other factors, there are significant limitations on available insurers with whom to contract.
- 2. Assister and Navigator Organization Conflicts of Interest**
- 2.1. Shall not receive consideration directly or indirectly from any health insurance issuer in connection with enrollment of individuals or employees.
  - 2.2. Shall disclose to Vermont Health Connect and to customers prior to assistance, any current or former relationships in the last 5 years with any health insurance or stop loss insurer, or subsidiary, or any existing employment relationship between a health insurer and the individual’s spouse or domestic partner.
  - 2.3. Shall provide to customers impartial information about all qualified health plans for which customers are eligible.
  - 2.4. Shall not allow personal or professional interests to influence the customers’ decisions.
  - 2.5. Shall not in any way solicit or persuade customers to enroll in any specific health insurance plan.
  - 2.6. Shall not in any way solicit or persuade customers to switch from one carrier to another.
  - 2.7. Shall not in any way persuade or compel customers to select a particular provider.
  - 2.8. Shall not in any way solicit or persuade customers to engage a particular agent or broker.
  - 2.9. Shall not charge for Navigator services.
  - 2.10. Shall not use the Navigator role for lead generation or profit.
  - 2.11. Shall adhere to Vermont Health Connect monitoring and evaluation requirements.
  - 2.12. Shall not have any existing or anticipated financial, business, or contractual relationships with one or more health insurance issuers or issuers of stop loss insurance, or subsidiaries of health insurance issuers or issuers of stop loss insurance.

All conflict of interest documentation must be submitted at the time of the proposal. Additional documentation following the hiring of a navigator must be submitted to VHC prior to the Navigator(s) certification as a VHC Navigator.

**ATTACHMENT H**  
**STATE OF VERMONT- FEDERAL TERMS SUPPLEMENT (Non-Construction)**  
**(Revision date: July 19, 2023)**  
**PROCUREMENT OF RECOVERED MATERIALS**

In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA-designated Items unless the products cannot be acquired-

1. Competitively within a time frame providing for compliance with the contract performance schedule;
2. Meeting contract performance requirements; or
3. At a reasonable price

Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA-designated items, is available at the EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site,

<https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>.

The Contractor also agrees to comply with all other applicable requirements of section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

**CLEAN AIR ACT**

1. The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.
2. The contractor agrees to report each violation to the State of Vermont and understands and agrees that the State of Vermont will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
3. The contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by FEMA.

**FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT**

1. The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
2. The contractor agrees to report each violation to the State of Vermont and understands and agrees that the State of Vermont will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
3. The contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by FEMA. a. Standard. Non-Federal entities and contractors are subject to the debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension (1986) and Executive Order 12689, Debarment and Suspension (1989) at 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and the Department of Homeland Security's regulations at 2 C.F.R. Part 3000 (Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension).

### CONTRACTOR BREACH, ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

1. Any breach of the terms of this contract, or material errors and omissions in the work product of the contractor must be corrected by the contractor at no cost to the State, and a contractor may be liable for the State's costs and other damages resulting from errors or deficiencies in its performance.
2. Neither the States' review, approval or acceptance of nor payment for, the services required under this contract shall be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights under this contract or of any cause of action arising out of the performance of this contract.
3. The rights and remedies of the State provided for under this contract are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or elsewhere in the contract.

### TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

#### 1. General

- a. Any termination for convenience shall be effected by delivery to the Contractor an Order of Termination specifying the termination is for the convenience of the Agency, the extent to which performance of work under the Contract is terminated, and the effective date of the termination.
- b. In the event such termination occurs, without fault and for reasons beyond the control of the Contractor, all completed or partially completed items of work as of the date of termination will be paid for in accordance with the contract payment terms.
- c. No compensation will be allowed for items eliminated from the Contract.
- d. Termination of the Contract, or portion thereof, shall not relieve the Contractor of its contractual responsibilities for work completed and shall not relieve the Contractor's Surety of its obligation for and concerning any just claim arising out of the work performed.

#### 2. Contractor Obligations

After receipt of the Notice of Termination and except as otherwise directed by the State, the Contractor shall immediately proceed to:

- a. To the extent specified in the Notice of Termination, stop work under the Contract on the date specified.
- b. Place no further orders or subcontracts for materials, services, and/or facilities except as may be necessary for completion of such portion(s) of the work under the Contract as is (are) not terminated.
- c. Terminate and cancel any orders or subcontracts for related to the services, except as may be necessary for completion of such portion(s) of the work under the Contract as is (are) not terminated.
- d. Transfer to the State all completed or partially completed plans, drawings, information, and other property which, if the Contract had been completed, would be required to be furnished to the State.
- e. Take other action as may be necessary or as directed by the State for the protection and preservation of the property related to the contract which is in the possession of the contractor and in which the State has or may acquire any interest.
- f. Make available to the State all cost and other records relevant to a determination of an equitable settlement.

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### 3. Claim by Contractor

After receipt of the Notice of Termination from the state, the Contractor shall submit any claim for additional costs not covered herein or elsewhere in the Contract within 60 days of the effective termination date, and not thereafter. Should the Contractor fail to submit a claim within the 60-day period, the State may, at its sole discretion, based on information available to it, determine what, if any, compensation is due the Contractor and pay the Contractor the determined amount.

### 4. Negotiation

Negotiation to settle a timely claim shall be for the sole purpose of reaching a settlement equitable to both the Contractor and the State. To the extent settlement is properly based on Contractor costs, settlement shall be based on actual costs incurred by the Contractor, as reflected by the contract rates. Consequential damages, loss of overhead, loss of overhead contribution of any kind, and/or loss of anticipated profits on work not performed shall not be included in the Contractor's claim and will not be considered, allowed, or included as part of any settlement.

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**Appendix I – Required Forms  
Department of Vermont Health Access  
Subcontractor Compliance Form**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Contractor/Grantee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contract/Grant #: \_\_\_\_\_

Subcontractor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Scope of Subcontracted Services:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is any portion of the work being outsourced outside of the United States?  YES  NO  
**(If yes, do not proceed)**

All vendors under contract, grant, or agreement with the State of Vermont, are responsible for the performance and compliance of their subcontractors with the Standard State Terms and Conditions in Attachment C. This document certifies that the vendor is aware of and in agreement with the State expectation and has confirmed the subcontractor is in full compliance (or has a compliance plan on file) in relation to the following:

- Subcontractor does not owe, is in good standing, or is in compliance with a plan for payment of any taxes due to the State of Vermont.
- Subcontractor (if an individual) does not owe, is in good standing, or is in compliance with a plan for payment of Child Support due to the State of Vermont.
- Subcontractor is not on the State’s disbarment list.

In accordance with State Standard Contract Provisions (Attachment C), the State may set off any sums which the subcontractor owes the State against any sums due the Vendor under this Agreement; provided, however, that any set off of amounts due the State of Vermont as taxes shall be in accordance with the procedures more specifically provided in Attachment C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Subcontractor Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Vendor Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Received by DVHA Business Office Date

**Required: Contractor cannot subcontract until this form has been returned to DVHA Contracts & Grants Unit.**

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**Language to be included from State of Vermont Bulletin 3.5 in all subcontracting agreements:**

**Fair Employment Practices and Americans with Disabilities Act:** Party agrees to comply with the requirement of 21 V.S.A. Chapter 5, Subchapter 6, relating to fair employment practices, to the full extent applicable. Party shall also ensure, to the full extent required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, that qualified individuals with disabilities receive equitable access to the services, programs, and activities provided by the Party under this Agreement.

**False Claims Act:** The Party acknowledges that it is subject to the Vermont False Claims Act as set forth in 32 V.S.A. § 630 *et seq.* If the Party violates the Vermont False Claims Act it shall be liable to the State for civil penalties, treble damages and the costs of the investigation and prosecution of such violation, including attorney's fees, except as the same may be reduced by a court of competent jurisdiction. The Party's liability to the State under the False Claims Act shall not be limited notwithstanding any agreement of the State to otherwise limit Party's liability.

**Whistleblower Protections:** The Party shall not discriminate or retaliate against one of its employees or agents for disclosing information concerning a violation of law, fraud, waste, abuse of authority or acts threatening health or safety, including but not limited to allegations concerning the False Claims Act. Further, the Party shall not require such employees or agents to forego monetary awards as a result of such disclosures, nor should they be required to report misconduct to the Party or its agents prior to reporting to any governmental entity and/or the public.

**Taxes Due to the State:**

- A. Party understands and acknowledges responsibility, if applicable, for compliance with State tax laws, including income tax withholding for employees performing services within the State, payment of use tax on property used within the State, corporate and/or personal income tax on income earned within the State.
- B. Party certifies under the pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date the Agreement is signed, the Party is in good standing with respect to, or in full compliance with, a plan to pay any and all taxes due the State of Vermont.
- C. Party understands that final payment under this Agreement may be withheld if the Commissioner of Taxes determines that the Party is not in good standing with respect to or in full compliance with a plan to pay any and all taxes due to the State of Vermont.
- D. Party also understands the State may set off taxes (and related penalties, interest and fees) due to the State of Vermont, but only if the Party has failed to make an appeal within the time allowed by law, or an appeal has been taken and finally determined and the Party has no further legal recourse to contest the amounts due.

Party also understands the State may set off taxes (and related penalties, interest and fees) due to the State of Vermont, but only if the Party has failed to make an appeal within the time allowed by law, or an appeal has been taken and finally determined and the Party has no further legal recourse to contest the amounts due.

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**Child Support:** (Only applicable if the Party is a natural person, not a corporation or partnership.) Party states that, as of the date the Agreement is signed, he/she:

- A. is not under any obligation to pay child support; or
- B. is under such an obligation and is in good standing with respect to that obligation; or
- C. has agreed to a payment plan with the Vermont Office of Child Support Services and is in full compliance with that plan.

Party makes this statement with regard to support owed to any and all children residing in Vermont. In addition, if the Party is a resident of Vermont, Party makes this statement with regard to support owed to any and all children residing in any other state or territory of the United States.

**No Gifts or Gratuities:** Party shall not give title or possession of anything of substantial value (including property, currency, travel and/or education programs) to any officer or employee of the State during the term of this Agreement.

**Certification Regarding Debarment:** Party certifies under pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date that this Agreement is signed, neither Party nor Party's principals (officers, directors, owners, or partners) are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or excluded from participation in federal programs, or programs supported in whole or in part by federal funds.

Party further certifies under pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date that this Agreement is signed, Party is not presently debarred, suspended, nor named on the State's debarment list at: <http://bgs.vermont.gov/purchasing/debarment>

**Certification Regarding Use of State Funds:** In the case that Party is an employer and this Agreement is a State Funded Grant in excess of \$1,001, Party certifies that none of these State funds will be used to interfere with or restrain the exercise of Party's employee's rights with respect to unionization.

**State Facilities:** If the State makes space available to the Party in any State facility during the term of this Agreement for purposes of the Party's performance under this Agreement, the Party shall only use the space in accordance with all policies and procedures governing access to and use of State facilities which shall be made available upon request. State facilities will be made available to Party on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, with no warranties whatsoever.

**Location of State Data:** No State data received, obtained, or generated by the Party in connection with performance under this Agreement shall be processed, transmitted, stored, or transferred by any means outside continental United States, except with the express written permission of the State.