SOLICITATION NUMBER: 72062420R00006
ISSUANCE DATE: February 24, 2020
CLOSING DATE/TIME: March 09, 2020/17:00 GMT

SUBJECT: Solicitation for U.S./TCN Personal Service Contractor (US/TCN PSC):
PEPFAR Senior Strategic Information Advisor, USAID/West Africa

Dear Prospective Offerors:

The United States Government, represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking offers from qualified persons to provide personal services under contract as described in this solicitation.

Offers must be in accordance with Attachment 1, Sections I through V of this solicitation. Incomplete or unsigned offers will not be considered. Offerors should retain copies of all offer materials for their records.

This solicitation in no way obligates USAID to award a PSC contract, nor does it commit USAID to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of any offer.

All offers must be submitted to the Point of Contact via email: accrapsc@usaid.gov

Any questions must be directed in writing to Patience Charway at pcharway@usaid.gov or Yusif Ibrahim at vibraham@usaid.gov with a copy to Karla Camp at kcamp@usaid.gov.

Sincerely,

Karla Camp
Contracting Officer
USAID/West Africa
I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. SOLICITATION NO.: 72062420R00006

2. ISSUANCE DATE: February 24, 2020

3. CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS: March 09, 2020, 17:00GMT

4. POINT OF CONTACT: USAID/West Africa, Accra; e-mail at accrapsc@usaid.gov

5. POSITION TITLE: PEPFAR Senior Strategic Information Advisor

6. MARKET VALUE: $78,681 - $102,288 equivalent to GS-13
   Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value.

7. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: Two (2) years, estimated to start o/a 08/2020 with an option of three (3) one-year extensions for a maximum of five (5) years. Exercise of options will depend on continuing need of services, availability of funds, and Washington’s approval.

   Based on Agency need, the Contracting Officer may exercise the additional **option periods** for Three (3) years for the dates estimated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Period:</td>
<td>o/a 08/2020 to 08/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option Period 1:</td>
<td>o/a 08/2022 to 08/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option Period 2:</td>
<td>o/a 08/2023 to 08/2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option Period 3:</td>
<td>o/a 08/2024 to 08/2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. PLACE OF PERFORMANCE: USAID/West Africa, Accra-Ghana, with extensive travel within the West Africa region and travel to U.S as needed.

9. ELIGIBLE OFFERORS: Open to U.S. Citizens (including lawful Permanent legal residents) or Third Country Nationals.

   **Hiring Preference:**
   In order of preference, U.S. Citizens (including Permanent legal residents) offers will be evaluated first and only when it is determined that there is no qualified U.S. Citizens (including Permanent legal residents) that offers from Third Country Nationals (TCN) will be considered.
   References 309.3.1.10 and 309.3.1.4.

10. SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED: Facility Access
11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

BASIC FUNCTION OF THE POSITION:

The U.S. Ambassador to Ghana heads the West Africa PEPFAR Regional Program and is the final decision-maker for all program plans and activities submitted to the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator. The Embassy Front Office leads a coordinated multi-agency PEPFAR team to develop and implement a single USG Regional Operational Plan that is aligned with the West Africa national strategies for HIV/AIDS and is responsive to local needs and circumstances. The Front Office also ensures that the program is integrated to support mutual accountability for results.

The PEPFAR Senior Regional Strategic Information (SI) Advisor (“Senior Regional SI Advisor”) will be responsible for providing technical guidance to the USG PEPFAR strategic information (SI) activities including surveillance and surveys, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), targeted evaluations, health informatics, and PEPFAR data analysis and use in collaboration with the CDC staff working on SI in the West Africa region.

The Senior Regional SI Advisor maintains highly collaborative interagency relationships and ensures that data generated by program monitoring and other SI systems are of high quality and use for program planning, policy development, advocacy, and program evaluation. S/he will serve as a key strategic information expert and primary USAID contact for strategic information strategies and implementation for West Africa’s PEPFAR programs, as well as the development of protocols for public health evaluations, data analytics and use.

S/he will provide advice, guidance, and coordination to USG implementing agencies, ministries of health, and other collaborating organizations in the implementation and strengthening of strategic information systems for PEPFAR programs, with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS Key Population (KP) activities supported by USG in West Africa. The Senior Regional SI Advisor will play a key role in providing technical guidance and capacity development on PEPFAR data interpretation and reporting in response to interagency guidance (through Epidemic Control Teams [ECTs], and Implementation Subject Matter Experts [ISMEs]), country-team, and agency-specific requests. S/he will provide direct technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of the ROP country stakeholders at regional, national, and subnational levels on strategic information and data use, and will play a critical role in the transition of PEPFAR strategic information services and capabilities to host government stakeholders.

The Senior Regional SI Advisor will be responsible for reporting on progress toward achieving PEPFAR targets, using strategic information to improve PEPFAR programming and delivery of services, providing accountability for use of PEPFAR resources, and supporting internal and external capacity for using SI in combating HIV/AIDS. S/he will also be responsible for the collection and management of targeting and results information using Data for Accountability, Transparency, and Impact (DATIM) – a tool powered by District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2) software. S/he will monitor and evaluate the progress of the PEPFAR program and on the expanded use of unique identifier codes (UICs) for key populations receiving HIV services, will identify technical, personnel,
logistical, and financial problems, and will recommend revisions as necessary to overcome obstacles and constraints to progress.

Identification of training needs and participation in the development and implementation of training materials and courses for partner organizations as related to strategic information is essential including the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Guidance, quarterly presentations for the PEPFAR Oversight Accountability Response Team (POART), Semi-Annual Program Results (SAPR) and Annual Program Results (APR), and various tools for the annual ROP preparation. The Senior Regional SI Advisor will participate in and provide input on strategic information issues at technical, policy and strategic planning meetings, including meetings with collaborators and donor agencies.

The Senior Regional SI Advisor will also provide leadership and direct high-quality technical expertise to the USG PEPFAR team in West Africa in the development and implementation of SI systems to meet the needs of PEPFAR’s support to West Africa’s HIV and AIDS program. S/he will develop and manage monitoring tools to track activities progress and to identify and address performance challenges in a timely manner. S/he will also serve as primary SI Technical Advisor to PEPFAR implementing partners in West Africa.

The Senior Regional SI Advisor will work in close and continuous collaboration with CDC SI personnel, providing support throughout the region. In addition, the Senior Regional Advisor will work in tandem with the Senior HIV/AIDS advisor for West Africa as well as with all PEPFAR technical staff throughout West Africa. Lastly, the Senior Regional SI Advisor will work closely with the Regional PEPFAR Coordinator to ensure all SI related products for all six West Africa countries meet the required reporting standards. The Senior Regional SI Advisor will receive day-to-day guidance from the Director of the Regional Health Office, USAID/West Africa.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
Under the supervision of the Director, Regional Health Office (RHO), USAID/West Africa or her designate, the major duties and responsibilities for this position will include but not be limited to:

a) Strategic Coordination (25% LOE)
The Senior Regional SI Advisor will:
• Coordinate SI-related processes required for the development of the annual PEPFAR ROP; oversee the fiscal year and planning year target setting exercises; and provide technical guidance and vision for the SI needs of PEPFAR West Africa.
• Serve as the link between West Africa’s implementing agencies, USAID Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA) and the Office of Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) regarding all OGAC SI related policies, information requests and reporting.
• Lead and participate with USG team in joint SI work with the Global Fund, including periodic data quality and service delivery assessments.
• Participate with USG, host country governments, and other partners and stakeholders in the annual review of targets and HIV/AIDS program projections, including periodic
review of epidemiological projections and SPECTRUM/AIDS Impact Model projections.

- Participate in data audits and program reviews; serve as a subject matter expert (SME) for strategic information.
- Establish and maintain a close relationship with all international development partner representatives and government officials to encourage consistency and harmony of results reporting and reaching consensus around issues of attribution.
- Collaborate with host-country counterparts and ensure that the country reporting data and indicators meet benchmark data quality standards.

b) **Technical Leadership (25% LOE)**

The Senior Regional SI Advisor will:

- Provide strategic leadership to the West Africa Regional PEPFAR Team and technical guidance to other USG staff involved in HIV/AIDS SI and M&E activities and to senior government counterparts, ensuring that data generated by the SI systems are used for program planning, policy development, advocacy, and program evaluations, and support the increased use of host country systems for PEPFAR reporting.
- Guide SI investments to affect overall program sustainability, capacity building, and the delivery of quality services.
- Establish and maintain a close relationship with international development partner representatives and host country government officials to ensure consistency and harmony of results reporting and to reach consensus around issues of attribution.

c) **Data Management/Oversight (30% LOE)**

The Senior Regional SI Advisor will:

- Work with USG agencies and implementing partner organizations to build capacity to respond to SI requirements.
- Review and assess the targets set for individual partners, ensuring these are ambitious, yet rational.
- Develop and manage monitoring tools to track activity progress and to identify and address performance challenges in a timely manner.
- Evaluate results achieved by implementing partners against their targets and track overall progress in achieving PEPFAR goals as outlined in the ROP. As necessary, adapt targets to be consistent with appropriate budgets, country constraints, and new opportunities.
- Ensure PEPFAR data meet benchmark data quality standards.
- Provide technical guidance for national reporting guidelines, standards, and manuals.
- Participate with PEPFAR Country Teams in the various National HIV/AIDS SI Technical Working Groups and coordinate the SI components of the various technical working groups involving national governments and other stakeholders.
- Build the capacity of local organizations and new partners to meet PEPFAR monitoring and reporting (MER) requirements.
- Liaise with OGAC on OGAC reporting guidance and how it applies to the West Africa PEPFAR program.
• Contribute to the analysis and synthesis, visualization and manipulation of data, report
development of data into summary reports, and dissemination of findings, outcomes, and
results of program activities and public health evaluations.

d) Routine Reporting (20% LOE)
The Senior Regional SI Advisor will:
• Lead the PEPFAR SI Team, national governments and USG agencies to prepare data and
financial tools for the annual ROP, and other tools and reports required by OGAC to
track and monitor Implementing Partners’ (IPs) progress.
• Liaise with agencies’ SI and M&E staff, activity managers, and agency implementing
partners as required, to monitor performance and identify corrective actions through Site
Improvement through Monitoring System (SIMS visits) and provide accurate, high
quality and timely reporting of results.
• Support the development and implementation of UIC systems in the West Africa Region
countries.
• Review the weekly data reported by IPs and identify corrective actions as needed.
• Compile summaries of surveys and surveillance activities of the USG/PEPFAR funded
program.
• Provide definitive information and work with the Embassy and other USG agencies in
responding to OGAC/HQ, congressional inquiries, and other ad hoc requests.
• Serve as the PEPFAR reporting system Power User; train others on the various tools in
the system.

POSITION ELEMENTS:

a) Available Guidelines: The incumbent is required to understand major agency-specific
policies and procedures of the participating PEPFAR agencies which are relevant to
project activity planning and management. Oral guidance from the immediate supervisor
and specific detailed instructions will be given (when necessary) for carrying out unique
assignments. The incumbent will be required to be proactive in keeping abreast of
evolving guidelines and policies which affect the overall PEPFAR initiative and keeping
abreast of evolving development on HIV/AIDS issues in West Africa.

b) Supervision Received: The Director, RHO, USAID/West Africa or her designate will
supervise this position and provide on-site line management and regional-level policy
direction.

c) Administrative and Supervisory Controls: The Senior Regional Strategic Information
Advisor will work under the leadership of the Director of the Regional Health Office, or
her designate, as part of the USG PEPFAR Team in West Africa. This position will be
administratively hired and managed by the USAID Regional Office in Accra, and will
serve as an inter-agency Regional Strategic Information Advisor for the PEPFAR
program across West Africa.

S/he represents the USG as the primary point of contact and coordinator for strategic information activities related to PEPFAR in-country, playing a critical role in the planning, implementing and reporting of program performance. The Senior Regional SI Advisor will serve as the liaison for strategic information to the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and ensure that the PEPFAR West Africa program is routinely informed about and in alignment with key PEPFAR developments, strategic directions and reporting timelines. Administrative supervision by the Director, RHO or her designate includes approval for travel, leave, and time and attendance. These actions will be administered under USAID/West Africa.

d) **Authority to Make Commitments:** The incumbent has no independent authority to commit U.S. Government (USG) funds on behalf of the U.S. Government.

e) **Exercise of Judgment:** In instances not clearly covered by written guidelines, the incumbent should use her/his own personal, well informed judgment in devising innovative approaches to resolving technical, administrative, managerial and/or policy problems. Excellent (balanced) judgment must be exercised in setting priorities. The use of initiative, discretion and patience is expected from the incumbent in dealing with USG and representatives from donor organizations to resolve problems that arise during the course of work for which there is often no clear or immediate solution.

f) **Nature, Level and Purpose of Contacts:** The incumbent may be expected to accompany USG inter-agency team members or the PEPFAR Regional Coordinator to visit government officials and ministerial level as well as representatives of private and nongovernment sectors. S/he will interact with a wide variety of persons including: technical counterparts (i.e., chiefs of M&E units) within host governments, U.S. Government, and other donor agencies in order to develop M&E systems, and share information on data management related to HIV/AIDS programs. The incumbent is required to work closely with OGAC, foundations, NGOs, other foreign donor institutions (i.e., WHO, WAHO, WB, ADB, DFID, etc.), and other local and international groups.

g) **Time Expected to Reach Full Performance Level:** One year.

h) **Extraordinary Situations or Conditions**

The legal, regulatory, and policy framework for the position is broadly stated and lacks detail and specificity; it largely consists of pertinent sections of the public laws authorizing and funding PEPFAR, the President's vision for PEPFAR, the U.S. Government's global HIV/AIDS strategy, and the strategic objectives and views of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator. As a result of the nonspecific nature of these few, available guidelines, the Senior Regional SI Advisor must exercise considerable
judgment and ingenuity within their overall intent to devise and oversee the strategies, tactical approaches, and program initiatives that will strengthen the quality, availability, and sustainability of Emergency Plan HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care services.

If a third country national (TCN) is selected for award, during the period of this contract, the TCN personal services contractor must provide at least **2 days/16 hours per week** of training to a cooperating country national (CCN) designated by USAID. The PSC Supervisor will establish a training plan with benchmarks to measure the TCNPSC's progress toward achieving this training deliverable.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS
The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION
This position requires a highly qualified and experienced individual with exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to foster inter-agency collaboration and strategic cooperation, the ability to foster inter-agency technical team work, the capacity for strategic thinking, and an understanding of the technical and policy requirements to achieve the PEPFAR goals in West Africa. The incumbent must be familiar with and be able to work well in an overseas environment and with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental counterparts. The Senior Regional SI Advisor must have the following qualifications:

**Education:**
- An advanced degree (Master's degree or higher) in professional disciplines such as public health, public policy, epidemiology, demography, social or behavioral science is required.

**Work Experience:**
- At least five (5) years of progressively senior level experience managing HIV/AIDS, health, or other development programs, preferably in a developing country context, with at least three (3) years of experience in managing and implementing HIV/AIDS programs. At least five (3) years of proven experience working with large, complex international or domestic programs is required.

**Communication and Language:**
- Fluency in English (level III) required and French (level III) required, in both oral and written communication in professional, technical, and policy communication with host country government representatives and partners across sectors.
III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Government may award a contract without discussions with offerors in accordance with FAR 52.215-1. The CO reserves the right at any point in the evaluation process to establish a competitive range of offerors with whom negotiations will be conducted pursuant to FAR 15.306(c). In accordance with FAR 52.215-1, if the CO determines that the number of offers that would otherwise be in the competitive range exceeds the number at which an efficient competition can be conducted, the CO may limit the number of offerors in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition among the most highly rated offers. The FAR provisions referenced above are available at https://www.acquisition.gov/browse/index/far.

The following factors will be the basis for the evaluation of applications meeting the required minimum qualifications. All applications will be evaluated based on the documentation submitted with the application. USAID reserves the right to contact your previous employers for relevant information concerning your performance and may consider such information in its evaluation. The highest ranking applicants may be selected for an interview, but an interview is not always necessary.

Education: (0 Points)
An advanced degree (Master's degree or higher) in professional disciplines such as public health, public policy, epidemiology, demography, social or behavior science field is required.

Work Experience: (40 Points)
• At least Five (5) years of progressively senior level experience managing HIV/AIDS, health, or other development programs, preferably in a developing country context, with at least three (3) years of experience in managing and implementing HIV/AIDS programs. At least three (3) years of proven experience working with large, complex international or domestic programs is required.
• Must demonstrate experience operating in his/her non-native cultural environment and demonstrate strong knowledge and understanding of PEPFAR policies and programming parameters. Actual experience managing PEPFAR or relevant public health programs (e.g., PMI, GFATM, etc.) is required.
• Demonstrated in-depth technical knowledge of M&E practice, programs, methods, processes, tools and techniques (Eg. GIS) used to monitor and evaluate results of HIV, TB, STI, and other public health programs.
• Demonstrated experience managing complex programs with cooperation among multiple USG agencies with sometimes competing priorities and demands.

Skills, Technical Knowledge, and Abilities: (45 Points)
• Strong quantitative and analytical skills with a demonstrated ability to obtain, analyze, organize and interpret data and present findings in both oral and written form. Strong skills in interpretation of targeted evaluation and operational research data and advanced numerical skills
for data analysis are required.

- Excellent oral and written communications skills to develop and maintain effective, sustainable working relationships with national and international health partners required.
- Ability to cooperatively lead results-driven interagency/intergovernmental project teams and workgroups and ability to be an effective team member.
- Ability to exercise considerable ingenuity and tact in applying guidelines to unique and different settings.
- Intermediate user level of word processing, spreadsheets (such as MS Excel), and databases is required.
- Evidence of excellent interpersonal (including conflict resolution skills), facilitation and team building skills/experience required. Ability to communicate technical information clearly and effectively to both technical and non-technical colleagues.
- Strong capacity to multi-task, including managing, prioritizing and fulfilling competing demands in real time.
- Ability to keep track of a large amount of data and manage complex inter-agency planning and reporting processes.
- Excellent leadership, project management, and coordination skills.

Communication and Language: (15 Points)

- Fluency in English (Level III) required and French (Level III) required, in both oral and written communication in professional, technical, and policy communication with host country government representatives and partners across sectors.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate clearly and concisely on personal or highly technical areas.
- Ability to articulate clearly and concisely to high level decision-makers on topics outside of his/her area of expertise.
- Excellent computer skills are required to implement, analyze, and monitor, and manage activity goals, inputs, outcomes, and achievements, both program objectives and impact.

Maximum Evaluation Score: 100 Points

**USAID policy specifies that U.S. citizens or resident aliens (USNs) are preferred over third country nationals (TCNs). Therefore, USN and TCN offers will not be evaluated together. USAID will evaluate USN offers first and if the CO determines that there are no qualified USNs, only then will USAID evaluate TCN offers.**

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

1. Eligible offerors are required to complete and submit the offer form AID 309-2,

2. Offers must be received by the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3, and submitted to the Point of Contact in Section I.

3. Offeror submissions must clearly reference the Solicitation number on all offeror submitted documents.

4. A Cover Letter of not more than three (3) pages describing how the incumbent’s skills and experience fit the requirements of the position.

5. A current CV/resume. The CV/resume must contain sufficient relevant information to evaluate the Offers in accordance with the stated evaluation criteria. Broad general statements that are vague or lacking specificity will not be considered as effectively addressing particular selection criteria. Complete dates (month/year) are also required on CV.

6. Applicants also must address the above Section III: Evaluation and Selection Factors, in a Summary Statement to be included in the Offers. This Summary Statement, limited to two (2) pages, must describe specifically and accurately what experience, training, education, and/or awards the applicant has received that are relevant to each selection factor above. The Summary Statement must include the name of the applicant and the announcement number at the top of each page.

7. Applicants must provide a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) references within the last five years from the applicant’s professional life, namely individuals who are not family members or relatives. Three references must be from direct supervisors who can provide information regarding the applicant’s work knowledge and professional experience. Applicants must provide e-mail addresses and/or working telephone numbers for all references.

8. Hard copies of diplomas, certificates or relevant degrees may be included to corroborate the CV/resume.

9. Applicants must provide their full mailing address with telephone, facsimile numbers (if available) and email address and should retain for their records copies of all enclosures that accompany their submission.

V. LIST OF REQUIRED FORMS PRIOR TO AWARD

The CO will provide instructions about how to complete and submit the following forms after an offeror is selected for the contract award:

Forms outlined below can be found at: http://www.usaid.gov/forms/
1. Offeror Information for Personal Services Contracts with Individuals (AID 309-2);
2. Contractor Physical Examination (AID Form 1420-62); *
3. Questionnaire for Sensitive Positions (for National Security) (SF-86); * or
4. Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions (SF-85); *
5. Finger Print Card (FD-258). *

* Forms 2 through 5 shall be completed only upon the advice of the Contracting Officer that an applicant is the successful candidate for the job.
VI. **BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES**

As a matter of policy, and as appropriate, a US/TCNPSC is normally authorized the following benefits and allowances:

1. **BENEFITS:**
   
   (a) Employer's FICA Contribution
   (b) Contribution toward Health & Life Insurance
   (c) Pay Comparability Adjustment
   (d) Annual Increase (pending a satisfactory performance evaluation)
   (e) Eligibility for Worker's Compensation
   (f) Annual and Sick Leave

*Note: A US citizen’s salary will be subject to employee’s FICA and Medicare contribution.*

2. **ALLOWANCES:**

   Section numbers refer to rules from the Department of State Standardized Regulations (Government Civilians Foreign Areas), available at https://aoprals.state.gov/content.asp?content_id=282&menu_id=101

   (a) Temporary Quarter Subsistence Allowance (Section 120)
   (b) Living Quarters Allowance (Section 130)
   (c) Cost-of-Living Allowance (Chapter 210)
   (d) Post Allowance (Section 220)
   (e) Separate Maintenance Allowance (Section 260)
   (f) Education Allowance (Section 270)
   (g) Education Travel (Section 280)
   (h) Post Differential (Chapter 500)
   (i) Payments during Evacuation/Authorized Departure (Section 600), and
   (j) Danger Pay Allowance (Section 650)

VII. **TAXES**

USPSCs are required to pay Federal income taxes, FICA, Medicare and applicable State Income taxes.

VIII. **USAID REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND CONTRACT CLAUSES**

USAID regulations and policies governing USPSC awards are available at these sources:


Pricing by line item is to be determined upon contract award as described below:

**LINE ITEMS**

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<tr>
<th>ITEM NO</th>
<th>SUPPLIES/SERVICES (DESCRIPTION)</th>
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<td>TBD at Award after negotiations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Award Type: PSC
- Product Service Code: R497
- Accounting Info: TBD

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d. **Ethical Conduct.** By the acceptance of a USAID personal services contract as an individual, the contractor will be acknowledging receipt of the “**Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch,**” available from the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, in accordance with **General Provision 2** and **5 CFR 2635**. See [https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGE%20Regulations](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGE%20Regulations).

[END OF SOLICITATION]