



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

INSURANCE, GROUP VISION PLAN

RFP Number:	<u>14-0027</u>	Contracting Officer:	<u>Susan Dugan</u>
Proposal Due Date:	<u>May 23, 2014</u>	Pre-Proposal Conference Date:	<u>None</u>
Proposal Due Time:	<u>3:00 p.m.</u>	RFP Issue Date:	<u>May 6, 2014</u>

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SPECIFIC SOLICITATION REQUIREMENTS ARE AS NOTED BELOW:	
Proposal and/or Performance Bond:	None
Certificate of Competency/License:	Section 3.19
Indemnification/Insurance:	Section 1.8
Pre-Proposal Conference/Walk-Thru:	None

At the date and time specified above, all proposals that have been received in a timely manner will be opened, recorded, and accepted for consideration. The names of the vendors submitting proposals will be read aloud and recorded. The proposals will be available for inspection during normal business hours in the Office of Procurement Services thirty (30) calendar days after the proposal due date. A separate contractual document will be signed by the County and the awarded firm.

NO-RESPONSE REPLY

If any vendor does not want to respond to this solicitation at this time, or, would like to be removed from Lake County's Vendor List, please mark the appropriate space, complete name below and return this page only.

- Not interested at this time; keep our firm on Lake County's Vendors List for future solicitations for this product / service
- Please remove our firm from Lake County's Vendor's List for this product / service.

VENDOR IDENTIFICATION

Company Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

E-mail Address: _____ **Contact Person:** _____

Section 1.1: Purpose

The purpose of this solicitation is to establish a contract to provide a voluntary, fully insured Group Vision Plan for the Lake County Board of County Commissioners (County) active employees, eligible COBRA participants and their eligible dependents up to 26 years of age, for plan effective October 1, 2014.

Lake County is a public sector employer located between Orlando and Ocala, Florida, at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, FL 32778. The County's Benefits Program consists of approximately 1,279 employees from the agencies listed below. The estimated number of lives, including dependents is approximately 2,728.

The following table represents the County and its agencies and estimated eligible employees

Agency Name	Est. Eligible Employees
Board of County Commissioners	719
Property Appraiser	39
Water Authority	15
Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization	7
Supervisor of Elections	13
Lake EMS	197
Tax Collector	77
Clerk of Courts	212

Section 1.1 Anticipated Schedule of Events (Subject to change as condition may dictate.)

Activity	Date
Release of RFP	May 6, 2014
Deadline for questions to Procurement – 1:00 p.m.	May 13, 2014
Proposals due to Procurement – 3:00 p.m.	May 23, 2014
BCC meeting for final approval	June 24, 2014
Annual Enrollment	July 1, 2014 – July 31, 2014
Effective date of coverage	October 1, 2014

Section 1.2: Designated Procurement Representative

Questions concerning any portion of this solicitation shall be directed in writing [fax and e-mail accepted] to the below named individual who shall be the official point of contact for this solicitation. To ensure reply, questions should be submitted no later than 1:00 p.m., May 13, 2014.

Susan Dugan, CPPB, Senior Contracting Officer
 Lake County BCC
 Office of Procurement Services
 315 W. Main Street, Room 441
 PO BOX 7800

Tavares, FL 32778-7800

Phone : 352.343.9839 Fax : 352.343.9473

E-mail: sdugan@lakecountyfl.gov

No answers given in response to questions submitted shall be binding upon this solicitation unless released in writing as an addendum to the solicitation by the Lake County Office of Procurement Services.

Section 1.3: Method of Award – Considering Qualifications and Pricing

Award will be made to the vendor who submits the overall proposal which is determined to best meet the needs of the County based on the evaluation criteria set forth herein.

The County shall not be under any requirement to complete the evaluation by any specific date and reserves the right to suspend or postpone the evaluation process should the need arise due to budget constraints, time constraints or other factors dictated by the County. However, it is anticipated that the review/evaluation process will be completed in a timely manner. Respondents will be notified, in writing of any unexpected delays as noted above or otherwise determined.

The County has engaged a third-party consultant to provide technical support for this process, and the consultant will receive fee compensation commensurate with their services. No additional compensation will be paid to the consultant by the County under this procurement action. The County, with the consultant's technical support, evaluates all responses to determine how effectively each satisfies the RFP requirements in the context of providing the services that maximize the benefits and minimizes costs to the County.

Additional material, information or references from respondents or from others may be requested. Discussions with and/or presentations by, vendors may be requested by the County.

The County acting through the Procurement Services Office, reserves the right to make site visits to locations and facilities provided in said response. Human Resources will make a recommendation to Procurement Services. Final contract award approval shall rest with the Lake County Board of County Commissioners.

Section 1.3.1 Basic Qualifications

A proposal will not be considered for inclusion in the full evaluation process unless the respondent has met the following qualifications:

- A. The respondent has demonstrated, through the responses to the questions in the RFP, that the proposed services meet the basic functional needs of the County.

- B. The respondent has successfully demonstrated that it has the experience and resources to implement systems on a large scale in the public sector, as specified in the RFP.
- C. The application of the system(s)/program(s) proposed is compatible with the environment of the County, as listed in the RFP.

Section 1.3.2 Evaluation Criteria

Respondents who have met the basic qualifications above, will be evaluated using the general categories from the worksheet.

- A. Proposed Costs/Fee Factors
- B. Network
- C. Plan Design
- D. Responsiveness and completeness of the written proposal to these instructions with regard to the Scope of Services.
- E. References

Section 1.4: Pre-Proposal Conference

Not applicable

Section 1.5: Term of Contract

This contract shall be effective immediately following the date of execution by the County for a plan year starting October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. The contract prices resultant from this solicitation shall prevail for the initial one (1) year contract term and the first two (2) renewals after that.

Section 1.6: Option to Renew

Prior to, or upon completion, of the initial term of this contract, the County shall have the option to renew this contract for four (4) additional one (1) year periods under the same pricing, terms and conditions, for a complete contract total of five (5) years. Exercised options are the County's prerogative, and not a right of the vendor.

It is the vendor's responsibility to request any pricing adjustment under this provision. For any adjustment to commence on the first day of any exercised option period, the vendor's request for adjustment must be supplied by April 1st before that renewal and January 2nd, in the final year. The vendor adjustment request must clearly substantiate requested increase and include all information supporting that request. The request for adjustment should not be in excess of the relevant pricing index change. If no adjustment request is received from the vendor, the County will assume that the vendor has agreed that the optional term may be exercised without pricing adjustment. Any adjustment request received after the commencement of a new option period shall not be considered.

The County reserves the right to reject any price adjustments submitted by the vendor and/or to not exercise any otherwise available option period based on such price adjustments. Continuation of the contract beyond the initial period, and any option subsequently exercised, is a County prerogative, and not a right of the vendor. This prerogative will be exercised only when such continuation is clearly in the best interest of the County. Should the vendor decline the vendor's eligibility for future contracts.

Section 1.7: Method of Payment

The County shall provide periodic payments for services rendered by the vendor. In order for the County to provide payment, the vendor shall submit a fully documented invoice that provides the basic information set forth below. Invoices shall be submitted monthly with payment made in advance for a given month's service. Vendors may provide alternate procedures that will be considered during the evaluation process.

All invoices shall contain the contract and/or purchase order number, date and location of delivery or service, and confirmation of acceptance of the goods or services by the appropriate County representative. Failure to submit invoices in the prescribed manner will delay payment, and the vendor may be considered in default of contract and its contract may be terminated. Payments shall be tendered in accordance with the Florida Prompt Payment Act, Part VII, Chapter 218, Florida Statutes.

Section 1.8: Insurance

Each vendor shall include in its solicitation response package proof of insurance capabilities, including but not limited to, the following requirements: [This does not mean that the vendor must have the coverage prior to submittal, but, that the coverage must be in effect prior to a purchase order or contract being executed by the County.]

An original certificate of insurance, indicating that the awarded vendor has coverage in accordance with the requirements of this section, shall be furnished by the vendor to the Contracting Officer within five (5) working days of such request and must be received and accepted by the County prior to contract execution and/or before any work begins.

The vendor shall provide and maintain at all times during the term of any contract, without cost or expense to the County, policies of insurance, with a company or companies authorized to do business in the State of Florida, and which are acceptable to the County, insuring the vendor against any and all claims, demands or causes of action whatsoever, for injuries received or damage to property relating to the performance of duties, services and/or obligations of the vendor under the terms and provisions of the contract. The vendor is responsible for timely provision of certificate(s) of insurance to the County at the certificate holder address evidencing conformance with the contract requirements at all times throughout the term of the contract.

Such policies of insurance, and confirming certificates of insurance, shall insure the vendor is in accordance with the following minimum limits:

General Liability insurance on forms no more restrictive than the latest edition of the Occurrence Form Commercial General Liability policy (CG 00 01) of the Insurance Services Office or equivalent without restrictive endorsements, with the following minimum limits and coverage:

Each Occurrence/General Aggregate	\$1,000,000/2,000,000
Products-Completed Operations	\$2,000,000
Personal & Adv. Injury	\$1,000,000
Fire Damage	\$50,000
Medical Expense	\$5,000
Contractual Liability	Included

Automobile liability insurance, including owned, non-owned, and hired autos with the following minimum limits and coverage:

Combined Single Limit	\$1,000,000
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Workers' compensation insurance based on proper reporting of classification codes and payroll amounts in accordance with Chapter 440, Florida Statutes, and/or any other applicable law requiring workers' compensation (Federal, maritime, etc). If not required by law to maintain workers compensation insurance, the vendor must provide a notarized statement that if he or she is injured; he or she will not hold the County responsible for any payment or compensation.

Employers Liability insurance with the following minimum limits and coverage:

Each Accident	\$1,000,000
Disease-Each Employee	\$1,000,000
Disease-Policy Limit	\$1,000,000

Professional liability and/or specialty insurance (medical malpractice, engineers, architect, consultant, environmental, pollution, errors and omissions, etc.) insurance as applicable, with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 and annual aggregate of \$2,000,000.

The following additional coverage must be provided if a dollar value is inserted below:

Loss of Use at coverage value: \$ _____
 Garage Keepers Liability at coverage value: \$ _____

Lake County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida, and the Board of County Commissioners, shall be named as additional insured as their interest may appear on all applicable liability insurance policies.

The certificate(s) of insurance, shall provide for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior written notice to the County of any change, cancellation, or nonrenewal of the provided insurance. It is

the vendor's specific responsibility to ensure that any such notice is provided within the stated timeframe to the certificate holder.

If it is not possible for the Vendor to certify compliance, on the certificate of insurance, with all of the above requirements, then the Vendor is required to provide a copy of the actual policy endorsement(s) providing the required coverage and notification provisions.

Certificate(s) of insurance shall identify the applicable solicitation (ITB/RFP/RFQ) number in the Description of Operations section of the Certificate.

Certificate holder shall be:

LAKE COUNTY, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF
FLORIDA, AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.
P.O. BOX 7800
TAVARES, FL 32778-7800

Certificates of insurance shall evidence a waiver of subrogation in favor of the County, that coverage shall be primary and noncontributory, and that each evidenced policy includes a Cross Liability or Severability of Interests provision, with no requirement of premium payment by the County.

The Vendor shall be responsible for subcontractors and their insurance. Subcontractors are to provide certificates of insurance to the prime vendor evidencing coverage and terms in accordance with the Vendor's requirements.

All self-insured retentions shall appear on the certificate(s) and shall be subject to approval by the County. At the option of the County, the insurer shall reduce or eliminate such self-insured retentions, or the vendor or subcontractor shall be required to procure a bond guaranteeing payment of losses and related claims expenses.

The County shall be exempt from, and in no way liable for, any sums of money, which may represent a deductible or self-insured retention in any insurance policy. The payment of such deductible or self-insured retention shall be the sole responsibility of the vendor and/or subcontractor providing such insurance.

Failure to obtain and maintain such insurance as set out above will be considered a breach of contract and may result in termination of the contract for default.

Neither approval by the County of any insurance supplied by the vendor or Subcontractor(s), nor a failure to disapprove that insurance, shall relieve the vendor or Subcontractor(s) of full responsibility for liability, damages, and accidents as set forth herein.

Section 1.9: Bonds

Not applicable

Section 1.10: Delivery

Not Applicable

Section 1.11: Acceptance of Services

The services rendered as a result of an award from this solicitation shall not be deemed complete, until accepted by the County and shall be in compliance with the terms herein, fully in accord with the specifications and of the highest quality.

In the event that the service does not conform to the specifications, the County reserves the right to terminate the contract and will not be responsible to pay for any such service.

Section 1.12: Warranty

Not applicable.

Section 1.13 Delivery of Solicitation Response

Unless a package is delivered by the vendor in person, all incoming mail from the U.S. Postal Service and any package delivered by a third party delivery organization (FedEx, UPS, DHL, private courier, etc.) will be opened for security and contamination inspection by the Lake County Clerk of the Circuit Court Mail Receiving Center in an off-site secure controlled facility prior to delivery to any Lake County Government facility, which includes the Lake County Office of Procurement Services.

To be considered for award, a bid or proposal must be received and accepted in the Office of Procurement Services prior to the date and time established within the solicitation. A response will not be considered for award if received in the Office of Procurement Services after the official due date and time regardless of when or how it was received by the Lake County Clerk of Court Mail Receiving Center. Allow sufficient time for transportation and inspection.

Each package shall be clearly marked with the applicable solicitation number, title, and company name. Ensure that your bid or proposal is securely sealed in an opaque envelope/ package to provide confidentiality of the bid or proposal prior to the due date for the solicitation.

If you plan on submitting your bid or proposal **IN PERSON**, please bring it to:

LAKE COUNTY PROCUREMENT SERVICES
315 W. MAIN STREET

4TH FLOOR, ROOM 441
TAVARES, FLORIDA

If you submit your bid or proposal by the **UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, (USPS)** please mail it to:

LAKE COUNTY PROCUREMENT SERVICES
PO BOX 7800
TAVARES, FL 32778-7800

If you submit your bid or proposal by a **THIRD PARTY CARRIER** such as FedEx, UPS, or a private courier, please send it to:

LAKE COUNTY PROCUREMENT SERVICES
MAIL RECEIVING CENTER
32400 COUNTY ROAD 473
LEESBURG, FL 34788

Facsimile (fax) or electronic submissions (e-mail) will not be accepted.

Section 1.14: Completion Requirements for this RFP

The original paper proposal, five (5) complete paper copies of the proposal, and two (2) CDs containing the RFP Worksheet and Network Provider Comparison shall be submitted by the vendor. This package shall be sealed and delivered to the Office of Procurement Services no later than the official proposal due date and time. Any proposal received after this time will not be considered and will be returned unopened to the submitter. The County is not liable or responsible for any costs incurred by any vendor in responding to this RFP including, without limitation, costs for product and/or service demonstrations if requested. When you submit your proposal, you are making a binding offer to the County.

Proposals shall include all of the information solicited in this RFP, and any additional data that the respondent deems pertinent to the understanding and evaluation of the proposal. Proposals shall be organized and sections tabbed in the order listed below. The respondent should not withhold any information from the written response in anticipation of presenting the information orally or in demonstration, since oral presentation or demonstrations may not be solicited.

Each proposal shall be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the proposer's capabilities to satisfy the conditions and requirements of this RFP. Fancy bindings, colored displays, and promotional material are not desired. The County emphasizes that the proposer concentrate on accuracy, completeness, and clarity of content.

To facilitate analysis of its proposal, the proposer shall prepare its proposal in accordance with the instructions outlined in this section. If the proposal deviates from these instructions, such proposal may, in the County's sole discretion, be rejected.

Page Size and Format: Page size shall be 8.5 x 11 inches, not including foldouts. The text size shall be 11 point or larger.

Proposers shall utilize the forms provided to prepare their responses; these shall not be modified in any fashion. The following items shall be included and submitted with your proposal:

Tab 1 RFP coversheet with all vendor entries and signed by an authorized agent of the business/corporation.

Tab 2 This tab shall include the following completed forms:

1. Completed Form 1 “RFP Worksheet” which contains the technical response and pricing proposal;
2. Completed Form 2a “Provider List” and Form 2b “Retail Chains” compares the current top providers against your recommended network;
3. The completed Section 4, Certifications & Signature Page from the RFP;
4. The completed addendum acknowledgement from the RFP.

Tab 3 Completed Form 3 “Similar Projects/References”

Complete the Similar Project/References Form for at least three (3) similar contracts.

Tab 4 This tab shall include information regarding the wellness support services your Company can provide to improve the health of the population.

Tab 5 Litigation

Information on the nature and magnitude of any litigation or proceeding whereby, during the past three (3) years, a court or any administrative agency has ruled against the firm in any matter related to the professional activities of the firm.

Tab 6 Proof of Insurance. Provide either a completed Accord form or a signed letter from your insurance agency on its letterhead stating that you have or can get the required insurance coverage.

Tab 7 This tab shall contain a W-9 form with the firm’s Federal I.D. number. You may also include any information that will provide insight to the

evaluators about the qualifications, fitness and abilities of your firm. This information should be succinct.

All respondents shall be prepared to supply a financial statement upon request, preferably a certified audit, but a third party prepared financial statement and the latest D&B report will be accepted.

Section 1.16 Public Records/ Copyrights

All electronic files, audio and/or video recordings, and all papers pertaining to any activity performed by the contractor for or on behalf of the County shall be the property of the County and will be turned over to the County upon request. In accordance with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, each file and all papers pertaining to any activities performed for or on behalf of the County are public records available for inspection by any person even if the file or paper resides in the contractor's office or facility. The vendor shall maintain the files and papers for not less than three (3) complete calendar years after the project has been completed or terminated, or in accordance with any grant requirements, whichever is longer. Prior to the close out of the contract, the contractor shall appoint a records custodian to handle any records request and provide the custodian's name and telephone number(s) to the Contracting Officer.

Any copyright derived from any agreement derived from this solicitation shall belong to the author. The author and the contractor shall expressly assign to the County nonexclusive, royalty free rights to use any and all information provided by the contractor in any deliverable and/or report for the County's use which may include publishing in County documents and distribution as the County deems to be in the County's best interests. If anything included in any deliverable limits the rights of the County to use the information, the deliverable shall be considered defective and not acceptable and the contractor will not be eligible for any compensation.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Provide the Lake County Board of County Commissioners and participating agencies a fully insured Group Vision Plan for active employees, eligible COBRA participants and their eligible dependents up to 26 years of age.

General Administration

- A. Effective date of October 1, 2014. The Plan Year is October 1st through September 30th. Annual enrollment occurs in July-August of each year.
- B. Waive minimum participation requirements.
- C. Provide an experienced client service manager, with expert support.
- D. Allow the County the option of either self-administration of the premium bill or payment from the Company's list bill on a monthly basis.
- E. Agree to accept an initial paper enrollment with access to an employer portal for eligibility changes and updates
- F. Provide educational brochures, plan documents, claim forms, and other materials that clearly explain how to use the vision benefit to its maximum levels in paper and electronic format.
- G. Participate in the annual enrollment process to explain the benefits of the program and attend at least five (5) meetings at locations throughout the County.
- H. The proposing company may utilize ID cards for identification of plan participants, but not required. The Company will be responsible for administration and maintenance of the identification system, inclusive of any costs associated with the administration and maintenance. The Company must agree not to utilize Social Security numbers on ID cards.
- I. The proposing company should include information regarding wellness support services your Company can provide to improve the health of the population. Provide participation in an annual health screening and health fair event to provide vision health.
- J. Experience reports must be provided on a quarterly and annual basis that provide, at a minimum, membership, premium, and claims cost by service type.
- K. Provide toll-free telephonic member services

I. Plan Design

- A. Proposals must meet or exceed the level of benefits as outlined.
- B. Proposals must describe the procedures members must follow to access vision benefits.
- C. Members shall have access to a wide variety of frame selections.

II. Network

- A. Members shall have access to in-network retail and independent providers.
- B. Maintain a network of preferred vision providers for enrollees. The network must be comprehensive in the Lake County Area (Lake, Orange, and Marion County) and provide adequate access to services.

III. Premium Proposal

- A. Premium rate (contributory) are to be proposed for the following tiers:
 - a. Employee Only
 - b. Employee + FamilyA minimum three (3) year rate guarantee is required.
- B. Proposals are to be submitted net of any agent or broker commissions.
- C. Performance Guarantees outlining standards and financial penalties are requested

3.1 DEFINITIONS

Addenda: A written change to a solicitation.

Contract: The agreement to perform the services set forth in this document signed by both parties with any addenda and other attachments specifically incorporated.

Contractor: The vendor to whom award has been made.

County: Shall refer to Lake County, Florida.

Modification: A written change to a contract.

Proposal: Shall refer to any offer(s) submitted in response to a Request for Proposal.

Proposer: Shall refer to anyone submitting an offer in response to a Request for Proposal.

Request for Proposal (RFP): Shall mean this solicitation documentation, including any and all addenda. An RFP involves evaluation of proposals, and award may be made on a best value basis with price, technical, and other factors considered.

Solicitation: The written document requesting either bids or proposals from the marketplace.

Vendor: a general reference to any entity responding to this solicitation or performing under any resulting contract.

The County has established for purposes of this Request for Proposal (RFP) that the words “shall”, “must”, or “will” indicate an essential requirement or condition which may not be waived.

3.2 INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS**A. Proposer Qualification**

It is the policy of the County to encourage full and open competition among all available qualified vendors. All vendors regularly engaged in the type of work specified in the solicitation are encouraged to submit proposals. Vendors may enroll with the County to be included on a mailing list for selected categories of goods and services. To be recommended for award the County requires that vendors provide evidence of compliance with the requirements below upon request:

1. Disclosure of Employment
2. Disclosure of Ownership.
3. Drug-Free Workplace.
4. W-9 and 8109 Forms – The vendor must furnish these forms as required by the Internal Revenue Service.
5. Social Security Number – The vendor must provide a copy of the primary owner’s social security card if the social security number is being used in lieu of the Federal Identification Number (F.E.I.N.)
6. Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.)
7. Conflict of Interest
8. Debarment Disclosure Affidavit.
9. Nondiscrimination
10. Family Leave
11. Antitrust Laws – By acceptance of any contract, the vendor agrees to comply with all applicable antitrust laws.

B. Public Entity Crimes

Pursuant to Section 287.133(2)(a) of the Florida Statutes, a person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY TWO for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

C. Request for Additional Information

Any communication or inquiries, except for clarification of process or procedure already contained in the solicitation, are to be made in writing to the attention of the procurement representative identified in the solicitation no later than five (5) working days prior to the proposal due date. Such inquiries or request for information shall be submitted to the procurement representative in writing and shall contain the requester’s name, address, and telephone number. The Procurement Services office may issue an addendum in response to any inquiry received, which changes or clarifies the terms,

provisions, or requirements of the solicitation. The proposer should not rely on any representation, statement or explanation whether written or verbal, other than those made in this solicitation document or in any addenda issued. Where there appears to be a conflict between this solicitation and any addenda, the last addendum issued shall prevail. It is the proposer’s responsibility to ensure receipt of all addenda and any accompanying documentation. Failure to acknowledge each addendum may prevent the proposal from being considered for award.

D. Contents of Solicitation and Proposers’ Responsibilities

The proposer shall become thoroughly familiar with the requirements, terms, and conditions of this solicitation. Pleas of ignorance of these matters by the proposer of conditions that exist or may exist will not be accepted as a basis for varying the requirements of the County, or the compensation to be paid.

E. Restricted Discussions

From the date of issuance of this solicitation until final County action, vendors should not discuss the solicitation or any part thereof with any employee, agent, or any other representative of the County except as expressly authorized by the designated procurement representative. The only communications that shall be considered pertinent to this solicitation are appropriately signed written documents from the vendor to the designated procurement representative and any relevant written document promulgated by the designated procurement representative.

F. Change or Withdrawal of Proposals

1. Changes to Proposal- Prior to the scheduled due date, a proposer may change its proposal by submitting a new proposal specified in the solicitation with a letter on the firm’s letterhead, signed by an authorized agent stating that the new submittal replaces the original submittal. The new submittal shall contain the letter and all information as required for submitting the original proposal.

2. Withdrawal of Proposal – A proposal shall be irrevocable unless the proposal is withdrawn as provided herein. A proposal may be withdrawn, either physically or by written notice, at any time prior to the proposal due date. If withdrawn by written notice, that notice must be addressed to, and received by, the designated procurement representative prior to the designated receipt date and time. A proposal may also be withdrawn after expiration of the designated acceptance period, and prior to award, by submitting a letter to the designated procurement representative. The letter must be on company letterhead and signed by an authorized agent of the proposer.

G. Conflicts within the Solicitation

Where there appears to be a conflict between the General Terms and Conditions, Special Conditions, the Technical Specifications, the Pricing Section, or any addendum issued, the order of precedence shall be: the last addendum issued, the Proposal Price Section, the Technical Specifications, the Special Conditions, and then the General Terms and Conditions. It is incumbent upon the vendor to identify such conflicts to the designated procurement representative prior to the proposal due date.

H. Prompt Payment Terms

It is the policy of the County that payment for all purchases by County agencies shall be made in a timely manner and that interest payments will be made on late payments in accordance with Part VII, Chapter 218, Florida Statutes, known as the Florida Prompt Payment Act. The proposer may offer cash discounts for prompt payments; however, such discounts will not be considered in determining the lowest price during proposal evaluation.

3.3 PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

- A. The Pricing Section of this solicitation defines requirements of items to be purchased, and must be completed and submitted with the proposal. Use of any other form or alteration of the form may result in rejection of the proposal
- B. The proposal submitted must be legible. Bidders shall use typewriter, computer or ink. All changes must be crossed out and initialed in ink. Failure to comply with these requirements may cause the bid to be rejected.
- C. An authorized agent of the proposers firm must sign the proposal. **FAILURE TO SIGN THE PROPOSAL MAY**

BE CAUSE TO REJECT THE PROPOSAL.

- D. The proposer may submit alternate proposal(s) for the same solicitation provided that such offer is allowable under the terms and conditions. The alternate proposal must meet or exceed the minimum requirements and be submitted as a separate proposal marked "Alternate Proposal".
- E. When there is a discrepancy between the unit prices and any extended prices, the unit prices will prevail.
- F. Any proposal received after the designated receipt date through no fault or error of the County will be considered late, and, except under the most exceptional circumstances, may not be considered for award

3.4 COLLUSION

Where two (2) or more related parties, as defined herein, each submit a proposal for the same contract, such proposals shall be presumed to be collusive. Related parties shall mean proposer or the principals thereof which have a direct or indirect ownership interest in another proposer for the same contract or in which a parent company or the principals thereof of one proposer have a direct or indirect ownership interest in another proposer for the same contract. Furthermore, any prior understanding, agreement, or connection between two (2) or more corporations, firms, or persons submitting a proposal for the same materials, supplies, services, or equipment shall also be presumed to be collusive. Proposals found to be collusive shall be rejected. Proposers which have been found to have engaged in collusion may be considered non-responsible, and may be suspended or debarred. Any contract resulting from collusive bidding may be terminated for default.

3.5 PROHIBITION AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES

The vendor warrants that they have not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the vendor to solicit or secure the contract and that they have not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the vendor, any consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of the contract.

3.6 CONTRACTING WITH COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Any County employee or member of his or her immediate family seeking to contract with the County shall seek a conflict of interest opinion from the County Attorney prior to submittal of a response to contract with the County. The affected employee shall disclose the employee's assigned function within the County and interest or the interest of his or her immediate family in the proposed contract and the nature of the intended contract.

3.7 INCURRED EXPENSES

This RFP does not commit the County to make an award nor shall the County be responsible for any cost or expense which may be incurred by any proposer in preparing and submitting a proposal, or any cost or expense incurred by any proposer prior to the execution of a purchase order or contract.

3.8 COUNTY IS TAX-EXEMPT

When purchasing on a direct basis, the County is generally exempt from Federal Excise Taxes and all State of Florida sales and use taxes. The County will provide an exemption certificate upon request by the seller for such purchases. Except for item(s) specifically identified by the vendor and accepted by the County for direct County purchase under the Sales Tax Recovery Program, Contractors doing business with the County are not exempt from paying sales tax to their suppliers for materials to fulfill contractual obligations with the County, nor shall any contractor be authorized to use any of the County's Tax Exemptions in securing such materials.

3.9 PROPRIETARY/CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Proposers are hereby notified that all information submitted as part of a proposal will be available for public inspection in compliance with Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes (the "Public Record Act"). The proposer should not submit any information in response to this RFP which the proposer considers proprietary or confidential. The submission of any information to the County in connection with this solicitation shall be deemed conclusively to be a waiver from release of the submitted information unless such information is

exempt or confidential under the Public Records Act.

3.10 CANCELLATION OF SOLICITATION

The County reserves the right to cancel, in whole or in part, any solicitation when doing so reflects the best interest of the County.

3.11 AWARD

- A. The contract resulting from this solicitation may be awarded to the responsible proposer which submits a proposal determined to provide the best value to the County with price, technical, and other applicable factors considered. The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive irregularities or technicalities and to re-advertise for all or any part of this solicitation as deemed in its best interest. The County shall be the sole judge of its best interest.
- B. When there are multiple line items in a solicitation, the County reserves the right to award on an individual item basis, any combination of items, total low bid or in whichever manner deemed in the best interest of the County. This provision specifically supersedes any method of award criteria stated in the solicitation when such action is clearly necessary to protect the best interests of the County.
- C. The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if it is determined that prices are excessive or determined to be unreasonable, or it is otherwise determined to be in the County's best interest to do so.
- D. Award of this solicitation will only be made to firms that satisfy all necessary legal requirements to do business with the County. The County may conduct a pre-award inspection of the proposer's site or hold a pre-award qualification hearing to determine if the proposer is capable of performing the requirements of this solicitation.
- E. The proposer's performance as a prime contractor or subcontractor on previous County contracts shall be taken into account in evaluating the responsibility of a proposer that submitted a proposal under this solicitation.
- F. Any tie situations will be resolved in consonance with current written procedure in that regard.
- G. Award of the contract resulting from this solicitation may be predicated on compliance with and submittal of all required documents as stipulated in the solicitation.
- H. A vendor wishing to protest any award decision resulting from this solicitation shall do so as set forth in the County's Purchasing Procedure Manual.

3.12 GENERAL CONTRACT CONDITIONS

The contract shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of each of the parties and of their respective successors and permitted assigns. The contract may not be amended, released, discharged, rescinded or abandoned, except by a written instrument duly executed by each of the parties hereto. The failure of any party hereto at any time to enforce any of the provisions of the contract will in no way constitute or be construed as a waiver of such provision or of any other provision hereof, nor in any way affect the validity of, or the right thereafter to enforce, each and every provision of the contract. Any dispute arising during the course of contract performance that is not readily rectified by coordination between the vendor and the County user department shall be referred to Procurement Services office for resolution.

3.13 OTHER AGENCIES

With the consent of the vendor, other agencies may make purchases in accordance with the contract. Such purchases shall be governed by the same terms and conditions as stated herein with the exception of the change in agency name.

3.14 CONTRACT EXTENSION

The County has the unilateral option to extend a contract for up to ninety (90) calendar days beyond the current contract period. In such event, the County will notify the vendor(s) in writing of such extensions. The contract may be extended beyond the initial ninety (90) day extension upon mutual agreement between the County and the vendor(s). Exercise of the above options requires the prior approval of the Director of Procurement Services.

3.15 WARRANTY

All warranties express and implied, shall be made available to the

County for goods and services covered by this solicitation. All goods furnished shall be fully guaranteed by the vendor against factory defects and workmanship. At no expense to the County, the vendor shall correct any and all apparent and latent defects that may occur within the manufacturer's standard warranty period. The special conditions of the solicitation may supersede the manufacturer's standard warranty.

3.16 ESTIMATED QUANTITIES

Estimated quantities or dollars are for vendor's guidance only. No guarantee is expressed or implied as to quantities or dollar value that will be used during the contract period. The County is not obligated to place any order for a given amount subsequent to the award of this solicitation. The County may use estimated quantities in the award evaluation process. Estimated quantities do not contemplate or include possible additional quantities that may be ordered by other entities that may utilize this contract. In no event shall the County be liable for payments in excess of the amount due for quantities of goods or services actually ordered.

3.17 NON-EXCLUSIVITY

It is the intent of the County to enter into an agreement that will satisfy its needs as described within this solicitation. However, the County reserves the right to perform, or cause to be performed, all or any of the work and services herein described in the manner deemed to represent its best interests. In no case will the County be liable for billings in excess of the quantity of goods or services actually provided under this contract.

3.18 CONTINUATION OF WORK

Any work that commences prior to, and will extend, beyond the expiration date of the current contract period shall, unless terminated by mutual written agreement between the County and the vendor, continue until completion without change to the then current prices, terms and conditions.

3.19 LAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND LICENSES

The vendor shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations applicable to provision of the goods and/or services specified in this solicitation. During the term of the contract the vendor assures that it is in compliance with Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as amended, and the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, in that the vendor does not on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability or marital status, discrimination in any form or manner against the end/or employees or applicants for employment. The vendor understands that any contract is conditioned upon the veracity of this statement.

3.20 SUBCONTRACTING

Unless otherwise stipulated herein, the vendor shall not subcontract any portion of the work without the prior written consent of the County. Subcontracting without the prior consent of the County may result in termination of the contract for default.

3.21 ASSIGNMENT

The vendor shall not assign or transfer any contract resulting from this solicitation, including any rights, title or interest therein, or its power to execute such contract to any person, company or corporation without the prior written consent of the County. This provision specifically includes any acquisition or hostile takeover of the awarded vendor. Failure to comply in this regard may result in termination of the contract for default.

3.22 RESPONSIBILITY AS EMPLOYER

The employee(s) of the vendor shall be considered at all times its employee(s), and not an employee(s) or agent(s) of the County. The contractor shall provide employee(s) capable of performing the work as required. The County may require the contractor to remove any employee it deems unacceptable. All employees of the contractor may be required to wear appropriate identification.

3.23 INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent permitted by law, the vendor shall indemnify and hold harmless the County and its officers, employees, agents and instrumentalities from any and all liability, losses or damages, including attorney's fees and costs of defense, which the County or its officers, employees, agents or instrumentalities may incur as a result of claims, demands, suits, causes of actions or proceedings of any kind or nature arising out of, relating to or resulting from

the performance of the agreement by the vendor or its employees, agents, servants, partners, principals or subcontractors. The vendor shall pay all claims and losses in connection therewith, and shall investigate and defend all claims, suits or actions of any kind or nature in the name of the County, where applicable, including appellate proceedings, and shall pay all costs, judgments, and attorney's fees which may be incurred thereon. The vendor expressly understands and agrees that any insurance protection required by this Agreement or otherwise provided by the vendor shall in no way limit the responsibility to indemnify, keep and save harmless and defend the County or its officers, employees, agents and instrumentalities as herein provided.

3.24 MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT

Any contract resulting from this solicitation may be modified by mutual consent of duly authorized parties, in writing through the issuance of a modification to the contract and/or purchase order as appropriate. This presumes the modification itself is in compliance with all applicable County procedures.

3.25 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

The County, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to terminate this contract upon thirty (30) days written notice. Upon receipt of such notice, the vendor shall not incur any additional costs under this contract. The County shall be liable only for reasonable costs incurred by the vendor prior to notice of termination. The County shall be the sole judge of "reasonable costs."

3.26 TERMINATION DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF CONTINUING FUNDING

When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a current or subsequent fiscal year, the contract shall be cancelled and the vendor shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any non-recurring costs incurred amortized in the price of the supplies or services/tasks delivered under the contract.

3.27 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT

The County reserves the right to terminate this contract, in part or in whole, or affect other appropriate remedy in the event the vendor fails to perform in accordance with the terms and conditions stated herein. The County further reserves the right to suspend or debar the vendor in accordance with the County ordinances, resolutions and/or administrative orders. The vendor will be notified by letter of the County's intent to terminate. In the event of termination for default, the County may procure the required goods and/or services from any source and use any method deemed in its best interest. All re-procurement cost shall be borne by the vendor.

3.28 FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION

Any individual, corporation or other entity that attempts to meet its contractual obligations through fraud, misrepresentation or other material misstatement, may be debarred for up to five (5) years. The County as a further sanction may terminate or cancel any other contracts with such individual, corporation or entity with such vendor held responsible for all direct or indirect costs associated with termination or cancellation, including attorney's fees.

3.29 RIGHT TO AUDIT

The County reserves the right to require the vendor to submit to an audit by any auditor of the County's choosing. The Contractor shall provide access to all of its records, which relate directly or indirectly to this Agreement at its place of business during regular business hours. The vendor shall retain all records pertaining to this Agreement and upon request make them available to the County for a minimum of three (3) years, or as required by Florida law, whichever is longer, following expiration of the Agreement. The vendor agrees to provide such assistance as may be necessary to facilitate the review or audit by the County to ensure compliance with applicable accounting and financial standards. Additionally, CONTRACTOR agrees to include the requirements of this provision in all contracts with subcontractors and material suppliers in connection with the work performed hereunder. If an audit inspection or examination pursuant to this section discloses overpricing or overcharges of any nature by the CONTRACTOR to the COUNTY in excess of one percent (1%) of the total contract

billings, in addition to making adjustments for the overcharges, the reasonable actual cost of the COUNTY's audit shall be reimbursed to the COUNTY by the CONTRACTOR. Any adjustments and/or payments which must be made as a result of any such audit or inspection of the CONTRACTOR's invoices and/or records shall be made within a reasonable amount of time, but in no event shall the time exceed ninety (90) days, from presentation of the COUNTY's audit findings to the CONTRACTOR.

3.30 PUBLIC RECORDS/ COPYRIGHTS

Pursuant to Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes, the awarded contractor shall comply with the Florida Public Records' laws, and shall:

1. Keep and maintain public records that ordinarily and necessarily would be required by the County in order to perform the services identified herein.
2. Provide the public with access to public records on the same terms and conditions that the County would provide the records and at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided for by law.
3. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law.

4. Meet all requirements for retaining public records and transfer, at no cost, to the County all public records in possession of the contractor upon termination of the contract and destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. All records stored electronically must be provided to the County in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the County. Failure to comply with this section shall be deemed a breach of the contract and enforceable as set forth in Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes.

Any copyright derived from this Agreement shall belong to the author. The author and the CONSULTANT shall expressly assign to the COUNTY nonexclusive, royalty free rights to use any and all information provided by the CONSULTANT in any deliverable and/or report for the COUNTY's use which may include publishing in COUNTY documents and distribution as the COUNTY deems to be in the COUNTY's best interests. If anything included in any deliverable limits the rights of the COUNTY to use the information, the deliverable shall be considered defective and not acceptable and the CONSULTANT will not be eligible for any compensation.

3.31 GOVERNING LAWS

The interpretation, effect, and validity of any contract(s) resulting from this solicitation shall be governed by the laws and regulations of the State of Florida, and Lake County, Florida. Venue of any court action shall be in Lake County, Florida. In the event that a suit is brought for the enforcement of any term of the contract, or any right arising there from, the parties expressly waive their respective rights to have such action tried by jury trial and hereby consent to the use of non-jury trial for the adjudication of such suit.

3.32 STATE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Any corporation submitting a bid in response to this RFP shall either be registered or have applied for registration with the Florida Department of State in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 607, Florida Statutes. A copy of the registration/ application may be required prior to award of a contract. Any partnership submitting a bid in response to this RFP shall have complied with the applicable provisions of Chapter 620, Florida Statutes. For additional information on these requirements, please contact the Florida Secretary of State's Office, Division of Corporations, 800.755.5111 (<http://www.dos.state.fl.us>).

3.33 PRIME CONTRACTOR

The vendor awarded the contract shall act as the prime contractor and shall assume full responsibility for the successful performance under the contract. The vendor shall be considered the sole point of contact with regard to meeting all requirements of the contract. All subcontractors will be subject to advance review by the County in regards to competency and security concerns. After the award of the contract no change in subcontractors will be made without the consent of the County. The vendor shall be responsible for all insurance, permits, licenses, and related matters for any and all subcontractors. Even if the subcontractor is self-insured, the

County may require the contractor to provide any insurance certificates required by the work to be performed.

3.34 FORCE MAJEURE

The parties will exercise every reasonable effort to meet their respective obligations hereunder, but shall not be liable for delays resulting from force majeure or other causes beyond their reasonable control, including, but not limited to, compliance with revisions to Government law or regulation, acts of nature, acts or omissions of the other party, fires, strikes, national disasters, wars, riots, transportation problems and/or any other cause whatsoever beyond the reasonable control of the parties. Any such cause may be cause for appropriate extension of the performance period.

3.35 NO CLAIM FOR DAMAGES

No claim for damages or any claim other than for an extension of time shall be made or asserted against the County because of any delays. No interruption, interference, inefficiency, suspension, or delay in the commencement or progress of the Work shall relieve the vendor of duty to perform, or give rise to any right to damages or additional compensation from the County. The vendor's sole remedy shall be the right to seek an extension to the contract time. However, this provision shall not preclude recovery of damages by the vendor for hindrances or delays due solely to fraud, bad faith, or active interference on the part of the County.

3.36 TRUTH IN NEGOTIATION CERTIFICATE

For each contract that exceeds One Hundred Ninety Five Thousand dollars (\$195,000.00), any organization awarded a contract must execute a truth-in-negotiation certificate stating that the wage rates and other factual unit costs are accurate, complete, and current, at the time of contracting. Any contract requiring this certificate shall contain a provision that the original contract price and any additions shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which the County determines the contract price was increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or non-current wage rates and other factual unit costs. All such contract adjustments shall be made within one (1) year following the end of the contract.

3.37 GRANT FUNDING

In the event any part of the contract is to be funded by federal, state, or other local agency monies, the vendor hereby agrees to comply with all requirements of the funding entity applicable to the use of the monies, including full application of requirements involving the use of minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms. Vendors are advised that payments under the contract may be withheld pending completion and submission of all required forms and documents required of the vendor pursuant to the grant funding requirements. .

RFP TITLE: Insurance, Group Vision Plan

NOTES:

- When purchasing on a direct basis, Lake County is exempt from all taxes (Federal, State, Local). A Tax Exemption Certificate will be furnished upon request for such purchases. **However, the vendor will be responsible for payment of taxes on all materials purchased by the vendor for incorporation into the project (see provision 3.8 for further detail).**
- The vendor shall not alter or amend any of the information (including, but not limited to stated units of measure, item description, or quantity) stated in the Pricing Section. If any quantities are stated in the pricing section as being “estimated” quantities, vendors are advised to review the “Estimated Quantities” clause contained in Section 3 of this solicitation.
- Any bid containing a modifying or “escalator” clause not specifically allowed for under the solicitation will not be considered.
- All pricing shall be FOB Destination unless otherwise specified in this solicitation document.
- All pricing submitted shall remain valid for a 90 day period. By signing and submitting a response to this solicitation, the vendor has specifically agreed to this condition.
- **Vendors are advised to visit our website at <http://www.lakecountyfl.gov> and register as a potential vendor. Vendors that have registered on-line receive an e-mail notice when the County issues a solicitation matching the commodity codes selected by a vendor during the registration process.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDENDA

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete Part I or Part II, whichever applies

Part I:

The bidder must list below the dates of issue for each addendum received in connection with this RFP:

Addendum #1, Dated: _____

Addendum #2, Dated: _____

Addendum #3, Dated: _____

Addendum #4, Dated: _____

Part II:

No Addendum was received in connection with this RFP.

PRICING SECTION

Complete Form 1, the “RFP Worksheet” which may be obtained from our website at http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/departments/fiscal_and_administrative_services/procurement_services/view_all_bids.aspx

By Signing This Proposal the Proposer Attests and Certifies That:

- It satisfies all legal requirements (as an entity) to do business with the County.
- The undersigned vendor acknowledges that award of a contract may be contingent upon a determination by the County that the vendor has the capacity and capability to successfully perform the contract.
- The proposer hereby certifies that it understands all requirements of this solicitation, and that the undersigned individual is duly authorized to execute this proposal document and any related contract(s).

Purchasing Agreements with Other Government Agencies

This section is optional and will not affect contract award. If Lake County awarded you the proposed contract, would you sell under the same terms and conditions, for the same price, to other governmental agencies in the State of Florida? Each governmental agency desiring to accept to utilize this contract shall be responsible for its own purchases and shall be liable only for materials or services ordered and received by it. Yes No (Check one)

Certification Regarding Felony Conviction

Has any officer, director, or an executive performing equivalent duties, of the bidding entity been convicted of a felony during the past ten (10) years? Yes No (Check one)

Reciprocal Vendor Preference:

Vendors are advised the County has established, under Lake County Code, Chapter 2, Article VII, Sections 2-221 and 2-222; a process under which a local vendor preference program applied by another county may be applied in a reciprocal manner within Lake County. The following information is needed to support application of the Code:

1. Primary business location of the responding vendor (city/state): _____
2. Does the responding vendor maintain a significant physical location in Lake County at which employees are located and business is regularly transacted: Yes No If “yes” is checked, provide supporting detail:

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Certification

Except as listed below, no employee, officer, or agent of the firm has any conflicts of interest, real or apparent, due to ownership, other clients, contracts, or interests associated with this project; and, this bid is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a proposal for the same services, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud.

General Vendor Information and Proposal Signature:	
Firm Name:	_____
Street Address:	_____
Mailing Address (if different):	_____
Telephone No.:	_____ Fax No.: _____ E-mail: _____
FEIN No. _____ - _____	Prompt Payment Terms: _____ % _____ days, net _____
Signature:	_____ Date: _____
Print Name:	_____ Title: _____

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE ATTACHED

Attachment 1:	Vision RFP Worksheet (Form 1)
Attachment 2a	Provider List (Form 2a)
Attachment 2b	Retail Chains (Form 2b)
Attachment 3:	Similar Projects/References (Form 3)
Attachment 4:	Census Form 4
Attachment 5:	Current Vision Policy Form 5
Attachment 6:	Claims Experience Report

Forms may be obtained by visiting our website at:

http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/departments/fiscal_and_administrative_services/procurement_services/view_all_bids.aspx