



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) /
MITIGATION (CDBG-MIT)**

**AGREEMENT FOR
LEGAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND CONSTRUCTION
DEVELOPMENTS
BETWEEN THE
PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND
VIDAL NIEVES & BAUZÁ LLC**



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This **AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENTS (Agreement or Contract)** is entered into in San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 7 of August, 2024, by and between the **PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING (PRDOH)**, a public agency created under Act No. 97 of June 10, 1972, as amended, 3 LPRA § 441, et seq., known as the "Organic Act of Department of Housing" with principal offices at 606 Barbosa Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico, herein represented by William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, attorney, of legal age, single, and resident of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, in his capacity as Secretary; and **VIDAL NIEVES & BAUZÁ LLC (CONTRACTOR)**, with principal offices in T-Mobile Center, B7 Tabonuco Street, Suite 1108, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, herein represented by Pedro J. Nieves Miranda, in his capacity as Manager, of legal age, married, and resident of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico duly authorized by Corporate Resolution issued on June 18, 2024.

WHEREAS, on September 2017, Hurricanes Irma and María made landfall in Puerto Rico causing catastrophic island-wide damage, knocking out power, water, and telecommunications for the entire island and its island municipalities. Hurricane María caused major structure and infrastructure damage to family homes, businesses and government facilities triggering the displacement of thousands of residents of the Island from their homes and jobs.

WHEREAS, under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017, signed into law on September 8, 2017 (Pub. L. 115-56), \$1.5 billion were allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (**HUD**) for disaster recovery assistance to the Government of Puerto Rico under the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (**CDBG-DR**) Program. These funds are intended to provide financial assistance to address unmet needs that arise and that are not covered by other sources of financial aid.

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2018, a Notice was published in the Federal Register, Vol. 83, No. 28 (83 FR 5844), that allocated \$1.5 billion for disaster recovery assistance to the Government of Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS, under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, signed into law February 9, 2018 (Pub. L. 115-123), an additional \$8.22 billion were allocated by HUD for disaster recovery assistance to the Government of Puerto Rico under CDBG-DR.

WHEREAS, pursuant to a letter dated February 23, 2018, sent by the former Governor of Puerto Rico to the Secretary of HUD, the PRDOH is the governmental agency designated as the grantee of the CDBG-DR funds allocated to the Government of Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2018, a Notice was published in the Federal Register Vol. 83, No. 157, (83 FR 40314) that made an additional allocation to Puerto Rico of \$8.22 billion for recovery. With these allocations of funding, the PRDOH aims to lead a transparent, comprehensive recovery to benefit the residents of Puerto Rico. PRDOH holds

accountability and is committed to the responsible, efficient, and transparent administration of CDBG-DR grant funding.

WHEREAS, On September 20, 2018, the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Secretary of HUD signed the Grant Agreement.

WHEREAS, under the Further Additional Supplemental Appropriations Act for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018, (Division B, Subdivision 1 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-123, approved February 9, 2018), \$8.285 billion were allocated by HUD for mitigation activities and assistance to the Government of Puerto Rico under the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (**CDBG-MIT**) Program. These funds are intended to provide financial assistance in areas impacted by recent disasters. Moreover, CDBG-MIT funds represent a unique and significant opportunity for Puerto Rico to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to mitigate disaster risks and reduce future losses.

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2019, a Notice was published in the Federal Register, Vol. 84, No. 169, (84 FR 45838), which described the grant requirements and procedures applicable to future allocations of CDBG-MIT funds to the Government of Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2021, the PRDOH Secretary and the Secretary of HUD signed Grant Agreement Number B-18-DP-72-0002; allowing PRDOH access to \$8,285,284,000 in CDBG-MIT funding, obligated under Pub. L. 115-123, as amended.

WHEREAS, the PRDOH is the government agency designated as the grantee of the CDBG-MIT funds allocated to the Government of Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS, PRDOH is interested in contracting a legal consulting services firm for commercial transactions and construction development for the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Programs under the PRDOH. This firm will assist PRDOH with legal services for the Investment Portfolio for Growth (IPG) Program, across the Economic Development Programs, and other CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funded programs on an as-needed basis. This firm will support PRDOH's objectives of ensuring compliance with all CDBG-DR/MIT, HUD, and applicable federal and local requirements, rules, and regulations, as well as in PRDOH's objectives of the Action Plan, as amended, and adequately coordinating and monitoring all CDBG-DR/MIT related activities.

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2024, the PRDOH issued "RFP-2024-02" with CDBG-DR/MIT funds. This request was placed through the "Registro Unico de Subastas del Gobierno" (**RUS**, for its Spanish acronym) and the CDBG-DR Program website. Through this procurement process, PRDOH received six (6) proposals. The proposals were evaluated by an Evaluation Committee appointed pursuant to Administrative Order No. 24-22 dated April 11, 2024. The Evaluation committee performed an evaluation of the Proposals based on the criteria stated in the RFP.

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2024, the CONTRACTOR submitted a proposal, which fully complied with the requirements set forth by the PRDOH.

WHEREAS, the PRDOH desires to enter into an Agreement with **VIDAL NIEVES & BAUZÁ LLC** to secure its services and accepts the CONTRACTOR's Proposal and reasonable costs, and the CONTRACTOR by its acceptance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement is ready, willing and able to provide the requested services contemplated under this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and the terms and conditions set forth herein, the PRDOH and the CONTRACTOR agree as follows:

I. TYPE OF CONTRACT

Contract Type: This is a fixed fee and hourly contract. Under this Agreement, the CONTRACTOR shall submit monthly invoices to the PRDOH based on **Attachment C** (Compensation Schedule) and as the services are rendered. Any and all changes and/or modifications to this Agreement shall be in writing and must be signed by both Parties.

Attachments Incorporated: The following attachments are incorporated into this Agreement by reference and are hereby made part of this Agreement:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Attachment A | Proposal |
| Attachment B | Scope of Services |
| Attachment C | Compensation Schedule |
| Attachment D | Performance Requirements |
| Attachment E | Insurance Requirements |
| Attachment F | HUD General Provisions |
| Attachment G | Contractor Certification Requirement |
| Attachment H | Non-Conflict of Interest Certification |

All Attachments hereto are fully incorporated herewith such that the terms and conditions of the Attachments shall be as binding as any terms and conditions of this executed written Agreement. The Agreement shall prevail if any inconsistency appears between the Attachments and this Agreement.


II. TERM OF AGREEMENT

- A.** This Agreement shall be in effect and enforceable between the Parties from the date of its execution. The Term of this Agreement will be for a performance period of **twenty-four (24) months**, ending on August, 6, 20²⁶.
- B. Contract Extensions:** PRDOH may, at its sole discretion, extend the Agreement's term for two (2) additional one (1) year terms, subject to the availability of funds, and the sole discretion of PRDOH, upon mutual agreement.
- C.** The term of this Agreement shall not exceed the lifetime of the initial Grant Agreement between PRDOH and HUD unless the term of the initial Grant Agreement is extended by HUD, in which case the Agreement nor extension shall not exceed said extended period.


III. SCOPE OF SERVICES

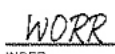
The CONTRACTOR will provide the services described in **Attachment B** (Scope of Services) of the Agreement. The Parties agree that the CONTRACTOR shall furnish all permits, consents, licenses, equipment, software, and supplies necessary to perform the Services, at the CONTRACTOR's sole cost.

IV. COMPENSATION AND PAYMENT

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- A. The PRDOH agrees to pay the CONTRACTOR for allowable Services rendered under this Agreement in accordance with the rates and amounts described in **Attachment C** (Compensation Schedule) of this Agreement.
- B. The PRDOH will pay the CONTRACTOR, for allowable services performed during the term of this Agreement, a maximum amount not to exceed **SIX HUNDRED ELEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE DOLLARS AND THIRTY-FIVE CENTS (\$611,823.35)**; Account Number mitm10edi-doh-un 4190-10-000; mitm10edi-doh-un 4190-13-000; r02e24edi-ppp-lm 4190-10-000; r02e24edi-ppp-lm 4190-13-000; r02e24edi-ppp-un 4190-10-000; r02e24edi-ppp-un 4190-13-000.
- C. Such payment shall be compensation for all allowable services required, performed, and accepted under this Agreement included in **Attachment B** (Scope of Services), **Attachment C** (Compensation Schedule), and **Attachment D** (Performance Requirements).
- D. Any additional funds to complete the services requested by the PRDOH to the CONTRACTOR will be subject to evaluation before acceptance as well as funds availability and will require a written amendment to this Agreement signed by both Parties.
- E. The CONTRACTOR shall submit an invoice to PRDOH on a monthly basis. Said invoice must be submitted including all required invoice supporting documents, including but not limited to monthly reports, timesheets, invoice and photos evidence, expense plan and/or work projections. If PRDOH determines that the submitted invoice and supporting documents are acceptable, then the invoice will be approved for payment.
- F. The services rendered under the Agreement, shall be payable within **forty-five (45) business days** from the date the invoice is received and approved by a PRDOH representative for payment. If PRDOH raises any objections, PRDOH will return the invoice for corrections and the CONTRACTOR shall modify the invoice and return it within **five (5) business days**. Once the CONTRACTOR returns the modified invoice, the PRDOH shall resume and conclude the payment process within the next **forty-five (45) business days**, counted from receiving the duly modified invoice and approved by a PRDOH representative for payment.
- G. An authorized representative of the PRDOH will review each invoice and, if adequate, will approve and process its payment. Payments to the CONTRACTOR shall be made by electronic funds transfer (**EFT**). PRDOH reserves the right to conduct any audits it deems necessary. The CONTRACTOR agrees to cooperate fully with any such audit or audits which includes, but is not limited to, after Agreement's expiration or termination.
- H. While providing the services under this Agreement, the CONTRACTOR must adhere to applicable requirements of the CDBG-DR/MIT grant. If the CONTRACTOR performs ineligible activities under the CDBG-DR/MIT grant or program, the CONTRACTOR cannot include them in the invoice for payment to the CONTRACTOR.
- I. CONTRACTOR shall be liable to the PRDOH for any costs disallowed pursuant to financial and/or compliance audit(s) of funds received under this Agreement.

CONTRACTOR shall reimburse such disallowed costs from funds other than those CONTRACTOR received under this Agreement.

-  J. The CONTRACTOR acknowledges and agrees to repay any CDBG-DR/MIT funds used for ineligible costs. As per, CDBG-DR Recapture of Funds Policy, as found in the CDBG-DR Website (<https://recuperacion.pr.gov/welcome/index.html>), which are herein included and made an integral part of this Agreement, as they may be updated from time to time, and any local or federal regulation, as applicable.

-  K. In order for the CONTRACTOR to receive payment for any work performed hereunder, the following certification must be included in each application for payment or invoice submitted to the PRDOH for payment:

"Under penalty of absolute nullity, I hereby certify that no public servant of the government entity is a party to or has an interest of any kind in the profits or benefits to be obtained under the contract which is the basis of this invoice, and should he be a party to, or have an interest in, the profits or benefits to be obtained under the contract, a waiver has been previously issued. The only consideration to provide the contracted goods or services under the contract is the payment agreed upon with the authorized representative of the government entity. The amount that appears in the invoice is fair and correct. The work has been performed, the goods have been delivered, and the services have been rendered, and no payment has been received therefor."

V. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

The PRDOH will not reimburse any costs incurred by the CONTRACTOR not included in the approved Proposal or in an executed written amendment.

VI. ADDITIONAL SERVICES


Should additional services be needed by the PRDOH, such additional services shall be agreed upon by the Parties in a written document signed by both Parties, prior to the issuance of a notice to proceed with the performance of such additional services.

VII. OWNERSHIP AND USE OF DOCUMENTS

- A. With the exception of the CONTRACTOR's working papers, the CONTRACTOR acknowledges the PRDOH's ownership of all information, drafts, documents, reports, papers, and other materials developed and prepared by the CONTRACTOR, its agents or representatives, for purposes of performing key obligations hereunder. In the event of any termination, which includes but is not limited to closeout process, the CONTRACTOR shall deliver such information, drafts, reports, papers and other materials to the PRDOH, in document form or as computer program data, and the CONTRACTOR recognizes the PRDOH's right to request such documentation or computer program data. If the CONTRACTOR fails to deliver said information, the PRDOH may seek a judicial order to enforce its rights.
- B. Proof of expenditures incurred by the CONTRACTOR on behalf of PRDOH must be made available to PRDOH. The CONTRACTOR agrees to maintain accurate records and files of all contract documents, correspondence, book estimates, bills, and other information related to the CONTRACTOR account. These documents shall be open for the PRDOH examination at all reasonable times during the term of this Agreement,

and up to **five (5) years** from the closeout of the grant to the state concludes, or the period required by other local applicable laws and regulations.

VIII. WORK FOR HIRE


The CONTRACTOR expressly acknowledges and agrees that all proprietary materials prepared under this Agreement shall be considered "Work Made for Hire" as defined under the Copyright Act, as amended, 17 U.S.C. § 10, and must be the exclusive property of PRDOH. These materials shall include, but shall not be limited to, any and all deliverables resulting from the legal consulting services for commercial transactions and construction developments or contemplated by the Agreement, all tangible results and proceeds of the Services, works in progress, records, diagrams, notes, drawings, specifications, schematics, documents, designs, improvements, inventions, discoveries, developments, trademarks, trade secrets, customer lists, codes, computer programs, databases, software, programs, middleware, applications, and solutions conceived, created, or discovered by the CONTRACTOR, whether independently or collaboratively, during the legal consulting services for commercial transactions and construction developments. These materials will encompass anything that may and/or has circumstantial, indirect or direct connection with the Agreement.

The CONTRACTOR commits to exercising the standard of care that a reasonably prudent person would have exercised in a similar situation, diligently safeguarding all proprietary materials, indemnifying PRDOH for any fault or negligence on its part. Additionally, the CONTRACTOR pledges to cooperate with PRDOH in any claim they may have against a third party for use of any proprietary materials.

The CONTRACTOR agrees that, under no circumstances, if the Images contain sensitive or confidential information, they shall not use these Images in their portfolio or for any other purpose that may compromise the confidentiality of the information. The CONTRACTOR acknowledges and respects the need to maintain the confidentiality of such content and refrains from using it in any manner that could disclose or compromise this confidentiality.

IX. DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDKEEPING

- A. Records to be Maintained:** The CONTRACTOR shall maintain records of the state and units of general local government, including supporting documentation, which must be retained for **five (5) years** from the closeout of the grant to the state concludes, or the period required by other local applicable laws and regulations, whichever is greater. Such records include but are not limited to: Records providing a full description of each activity undertaken; Records demonstrating that each activity undertaken meets one of the National Objectives of the CDBG-DR/MIT program; Records required to determine the eligibility of activities; Records required to document the acquisition, improvement, use or disposition of real property acquired or improved with CDBG-DR/MIT assistance; Records documenting compliance with the fair housing and equal opportunity requirements of the CDBG-DR/MIT program regulations; Financial records as required by 24 C.F.R. § 570.506, and 2 C.F.R. part 200, including records necessary to demonstrate compliance with all applicable procurement requirements; and other records necessary to document compliance with this Agreement, any other applicable Federal statutes and regulations, and the terms and conditions of PRDOH's Federal award.


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- B. Access to Records:** The CONTRACTOR shall permit the PRDOH and auditors to have access to the CONTRACTOR's records and financial statements as necessary for the PRDOH to meet its audit requirements under the Federal award.
- C. Record Retention and Transmission of Records to the PRDOH:** Prior to closeout of this Agreement, the CONTRACTOR must transmit to the PRDOH records sufficient for the PRDOH to demonstrate and satisfy that all costs under this Agreement met the requirements of the Federal award.
- D. CONTRACTOR's Data and Privileged Information:** The CONTRACTOR is required to maintain confidential data demonstrating client eligibility for activities provided under this Agreement. Such data may include, but not be limited to, client name, address, income level or other basis for determining eligibility, and description of activities provided.
- E. PII Policy:** The CONTRACTOR must comply with the PRDOH CDBG-DR/MIT Personal Identifiable Information Policy, as found in the CDBG-DR/MIT Website (<https://recuperacion.pr.gov/welcome/index.html>), which is herein included and made an integral part of this Agreement, as it may be updated from time to time.

X. ACCESS TO RECORDS

- A.** The CONTRACTOR agrees to provide the Government of Puerto Rico, PRDOH, HUD's Secretary, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representative's access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the CONTRACTOR which are directly pertinent to this Agreement for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions. The access includes, but is not limited to, as contemplated on section "VIII. Work for Hire".
- B.** The CONTRACTOR agrees to permit any of the foregoing Parties to reproduce by any means whatsoever or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed.

XI. NON-DISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. Confidential Information; Definition:** The term Confidential Information as used throughout this Section, means any information concerning PRDOH operations and that of its CONTRACTOR (e.g., the projects, computer processing systems, object and source codes and other PRDOH business and financial affairs). The term Confidential Information shall also deem to include all notes, analysis, compilation, studies and interpretation or other documents prepared by CONTRACTOR, its agents or representatives, in connection with PRDOH operations.
- B. Non-Disclosure:** CONTRACTOR agrees to take all reasonable steps or measures to keep confidential all Confidential Information and will not, at any time, present or future, without PRDOH express written authorization, signed by the Secretary of the PRDOH, use or sell, market or disclose any Confidential Information to any third party, contractor, corporation, or association for any purpose whatsoever. CONTRACTOR further agrees that, except as they relate to the normal course of the service, the CONTRACTOR will not make copies of the Confidential Information except upon PRDOH express written authorization, signed by an authorized representative of PRDOH, and will not remove any copy or sample of Confidential Information without prior signed written authorization from PRDOH. CONTRACTOR retains the right to control its work papers subject to these confidentiality provisions.

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- C. Return Documents:** Upon receipt of written request from the PRDOH, CONTRACTOR will return to PRDOH all copies or samples of Confidential Information which, at the time of the notice are in CONTRACTOR's or its agent's possession. CONTRACTOR reserves the right to retain a set of its work papers.
- D. Equitable Relief:** The CONTRACTOR acknowledges and agrees that a breach of the provision of subparagraph B and C of this Section will cause PRDOH to suffer irreparable damage that could not be remedied or compensated adequately only by mere monetary retribution. The CONTRACTOR further agrees that money damages may not be a sufficient remedy for any breach of this Section. Accordingly, the CONTRACTOR agrees that PRDOH shall have the right to seek injunctive relief and the specific performance of the provisions of this Section to enjoin a breach or attempted breach of the provision hereof, such right being in addition to any and all other rights and remedies that are available to PRDOH by law, equity, or otherwise.

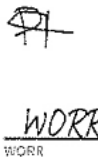
XII. PERFORMANCE WARRANTY

- (a) CONTRACTOR warrants that it will perform all work and provide all Deliverables under this Contract in a manner consistent with the degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of the same profession currently practicing under similar circumstances.
- (b) CONTRACTOR warrants that all Deliverables it completes under this Contract shall: meet or exceed the standards of CONTRACTOR's trade, profession, or industry; meet or exceed the specifications set forth in the Attachments to this Agreement; and be fit for ordinary use, of good quality, and with no material defects, if applicable.
- (c) If CONTRACTOR submits Deliverables that do not meet specifications, fails to complete Deliverables timely, or fails to perform its obligation under this Contract, PRDOH may require CONTRACTOR, at its sole expense, if applicable, to:
1. repair or replace Deliverables that do not meet specifications;
 2. refund payment for Deliverables that do not meet specifications and accept the return of such Deliverables;
 3. pay liquidated damages for any past due Deliverable; and
 4. take necessary action to ensure that future performance and Deliverables meet specifications and conform to the Contract.

XIII. TERMINATION

- A. Termination for Cause or Default:** The PRDOH may terminate this Agreement, in whole or in part, because of CONTRACTOR's failure to fulfill any of its obligations. The PRDOH shall terminate this Agreement by delivering to the CONTRACTOR a **thirty (30) calendar day** notice of termination specifying the extent to which the performance of the service under this Agreement is terminated, the reason therefor and the effective date of termination. CONTRACTOR shall, upon written notice, be provided a **ten (10) calendar day** opportunity to cure the alleged defect that resulted in the perceived default. If the defect is not cured within that period of time, CONTRACTOR shall immediately discontinue all such services being terminated and deliver to the PRDOH all information, notes, drafts, documents, analysis, reports, compilations, studies and other materials accumulated or generated in performing the services contemplated in this Agreement, whether completed or in process. Notwithstanding the above, the CONTRACTOR shall not be relieved of liability to the PRDOH for damage sustained to PRDOH CDBG-DR/MIT Program by virtue of any breach of the Agreement by the CONTRACTOR. The PRDOH may withhold any payments to the CONTRACTOR, for the purpose of off-set or partial payment, as the case may be, of

amounts owed to the PRDOH by the CONTRACTOR. PRDOH shall make payment, in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, of any amounts due to CONTRACTOR for allowable services rendered prior to the termination notice.

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- B. Termination for Convenience:** The PRDOH may terminate this Agreement, in whole or in part, whenever the PRDOH determines that such termination is necessary or convenient to the Agency. The PRDOH will terminate this Agreement by delivering to the CONTRACTOR a **thirty (30) calendar days'** notice of termination specifying the extent to which the performance of the work under this Agreement is terminated, and the effective date of termination. Upon receipt of such notice, the CONTRACTOR shall immediately discontinue all services affected and deliver to the PRDOH all information, studies and other materials property of the PRDOH. In the event of termination by Notice, the PRDOH shall only be liable for payment of services rendered up to and including the effective date of termination, taking into account the CONTRACTOR's obligation to immediately discontinue all affected services upon receipt of the termination notice. PRDOH shall make payment, in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, of any amounts due to CONTRACTOR for allowable services rendered prior to the termination notice.
- C. Termination by Unilateral Abandonment:** The PRDOH will consider this Agreement immediately terminated, in the event that the CONTRACTOR unilaterally and without prior notice, chooses to abandon (in any shape, form or fashion according to what PRDOH deduces) cease and desist in the specific performance of its general and particular duties and responsibilities as agreed in this Agreement. Upon the knowledge of such event, the PRDOH will not be held liable and will immediately, automatically and retroactively deduct from any future reimbursement, all funds from the day such unilateral abandonment took place. The PRDOH will not be compelled to continue the performance of this Agreement, should the CONTRACTOR breach this Agreement by unilateral abandonment. For the purposes of this Section, Abandonment shall mean that CONTRACTOR voluntarily and intentionally disavows its contractual duties in a manner that is overt and without question a relinquishment of said contractual duties.
- D. Unilateral Termination:** The PRDOH may terminate this Agreement, in whole or in part, at PRDOH's sole discretion, with or without cause, at any time. The PRDOH will terminate this Agreement by delivering to the CONTRACTOR a **thirty (30) calendar days'** notice of termination specifying the extent to which the performance of the work under this Agreement is terminated, and the effective date of termination. Upon receipt of such notice, the CONTRACTOR shall immediately discontinue all services affected and deliver to the PRDOH all information, studies and other materials property of the PRDOH. In the event of termination by Notice, the PRDOH shall only be liable for payment of services rendered up to and including the effective date of termination, taking into account the CONTRACTOR's obligation to immediately discontinue all affected services upon receipt of the termination notice.
- E. Suspension:** The PRDOH may suspend this Agreement in whole or in part at any time for the PRDOH's convenience. The PRDOH shall give the CONTRACTOR **five (5) business days'** written notice of such suspension. Upon receipt of said notice the CONTRACTOR shall immediately discontinue all Services affected.
- F. Immediate Termination:** In the event the CONTRACTOR is subjected to a criminal or civil action, suit, proceeding, inquiry or court of applicable jurisdiction, or any governmental agency, or the CONTRACTOR shall be subject to an order, judgment, or opinion, issued by any federal or local authority, a court of applicable jurisdiction,

or any governmental agency, in connection with the execution, delivery, and performance by the CONTRACTOR of this Agreement or the CONTRACTOR of this Agreement has been noncompliant, breach, inaccuracy of any representation, warranties, covenants, or the certifications provided herein, whether the noncompliance, breach or inaccuracy takes place before or after the execution of this Agreement, the PRDOH shall have the right to the immediate termination of this Agreement notwithstanding, any provisions to the contrary herein. This Section will apply, but is not limited to, in the event of any judgment that may obligate the PRDOH to terminate the Agreement pursuant to Act Number 2 of January 2, 2018, as amended, known as the Anti-Corruption Code for the New Puerto Rico.

G. Period of Transition: Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement, and for one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days, with the option of extending for two (2) additional terms of ninety (90) consecutive calendar days thereafter (the Transition Period), CONTRACTOR agrees to make himself available to assist the PRDOH with the transition of services assigned to CONTRACTOR by the PRDOH. CONTRACTOR shall provide to the PRDOH the assistance reasonably requested to facilitate the orderly transfer of responsibility for the performance of the Services to the PRDOH or a third party designated by the PRDOH. PRDOH reserves the right to provide for the execution of a Transition Services Agreement for the Transition Period. In such instance, the CONTRACTOR will be paid at a reasonable, agreed upon, hourly rate for any work performed for the PRDOH during the Transition Period. Transition Services Agreement for the Transition Period must be in writing, signed by both Parties, and executed before the expiration of this Agreement. Moreover, during that Transition Period, all finished or unfinished records (files, data, work product) connected with this Agreement will be turned over to PRDOH.


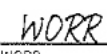
XIV. PENALTIES AND LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

A. Penalties

1. In the event the CONTRACTOR is determined to have engaged in any proscribed conduct or otherwise is in default as to any applicable term, condition, or requirement of this Agreement, at any time following the Effective Date of the Agreement, the CONTRACTOR agrees that PRDOH may impose sanctions against the CONTRACTOR for any default in accordance with **Attachment B** (Scope of Services) and **Attachment D** (Performance Requirements) and this Section. Refer to all required provisions set forth at 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and 24 C.F.R. § 570.489(g), if applicable, and the Contract and Subrecipient Agreement Manual, Section 2, Subsection 2.4.1(a), as found in the CDBG-DR/MIT Website (<https://recuperacion.pr.gov/welcome/index.html>) which is herein included and made an integral part of this Agreement, as it may be updated from time to time.
2. If the CONTRACTOR fails to comply with federal and/or local statutes, regulations or the terms and conditions of the Agreement, PRDOH may take one or more of the following actions:
 - i. Temporarily withhold cash payments pending correction of the deficiency by the CONTRACTOR.
 - ii. Disallow all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance.
 - iii. Initiate suspension or debarment proceedings as authorized under 2 C.F.R. part 180.
 - iv. Withhold further Federal awards for the project or program.

v. Take other remedies that may be legally available.

B. Liquidated damages



The CONTRACTOR shall pay to PRDOH, as liquidated damages, **one hundred dollars (\$100.00)** for each calendar day that any task deliverable required is late until deemed in compliance subject to a maximum of **one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)** established in this Agreement between PRDOH and the CONTRACTOR, in accordance with **Attachment B** (Scope of Services) and **Attachment D** (Performance Requirements). Said sum, in view of the difficulty of accurately ascertaining the loss which PRDOH will suffer by reason of delay in the completion of the **Work hereunder**, is hereby fixed and agreed as the liquidated damages that PRDOH will suffer by reason of such delay. Liquidated damages received hereunder are not intended to be nor shall they be treated as either a partial or full waiver or discharge of PRDOH's right to indemnification, or the CONTRACTOR's obligation to indemnify the PRDOH pursuant to this Contract, or to any other remedy provided for in this Contract or by Law. Liquidated damages may be assessed at the sole discretion of PRDOH. For the purpose of applying and calculating such liquidated damages, a grace period of **ten (10) business days** shall be observed. The PRDOH may deduct and retain out of the monies which may become due hereunder, the amount of any such liquidated damages; and in case the amount which may become due hereunder shall be less than the amount of liquidated damages due to the PRDOH per the formula above, the CONTRACTOR shall be liable to pay the difference.

XV. LIABILITY

In no event, the PRDOH shall be liable for any indirect, incidental, special or consequential damages, or damages for loss of profits, revenue, data or use, incurred by either party or any third party, whether in an action in Agreement or tort, even if the other party or any person has been advised of the possibility of such damages. Third parties operating under this program, with their agency, will have their own general civil and criminal liability imposed by law towards the PRDOH, the CONTRACTOR and any citizen.

The CONTRACTOR shall carry the insurances as are required by law (if applicable), as set forth below. The CONTRACTOR shall furnish PRDOH certificates of insurance.

XVI. INSURANCE

A. Required Coverage

The CONTRACTOR shall keep in force and effect for the period beginning from the execution of the Agreement and ending at the completion of all services to be provided hereunder which are included in the **Attachment B** (Scope of Services) and **Attachment D** (Performance Requirements), insurance policies in compliance with the Insurance Requirements, attached hereto and made an integral part hereof as **Attachment E** (Insurance Requirements). The CONTRACTOR shall meet all other insurance requirements as may be imposed by PRDOH from time to time.

Upon the execution of this Agreement, the CONTRACTOR shall furnish PRDOH with original and two (2) certified copies of the insurance policies described in **Attachment E** (Insurance Requirements) and any other evidence PRDOH may request as to the policies' full force and effect.

Any deductible amount, under any of the policies, will be assumed in whole by the CONTRACTOR for any and all losses, claims, expenses, suits, damages, costs, demands or liabilities, joint and several of whatever kind and nature arising from the Agreement resulting from this solicitation by and between the CONTRACTOR and PRDOH.

PRDOH shall not be held responsible under any circumstances for payments of any nature regarding deductibles of any Commercial Liability Policies for the aforementioned Agreement.

B. Endorsements

Each insurance policy maintained by the CONTRACTOR must be endorsed as follows:

1. PRDOH, Government of Puerto Rico, HUD and its officers, agents and employees are named as additional insured (except Worker's Compensation) but only with respect to liability arising out of tasks performed for such insured by or on behalf of the named insured.
2. To provide waiver of subrogation coverage for all insurance policies provided or herein in favor of PRDOH and its respective officers, agents and employees.
3. The insurer shall be required to give PRDOH written notice at least **thirty (30) calendar days** in advance of the effectiveness of any cancellation in any such policies.

The CONTRACTOR shall furnish to PRDOH, prior to commencement of the work, certificates of insurance from insurers with a rating by the A.M. Best Co. of B+ and five (5) or over on all policies, reflecting policies in force, and shall also provide certificates evidencing all renewals of such policies. Insurers shall retain an A.M. Best Co. rating of B+ and five (5) or over on all policies throughout the term of this Agreement and all policy periods required herein. The insurance company must be authorized to do business in Puerto Rico and be in good standing. The CONTRACTOR is solely responsible for reviewing whether the insurance company complies with the requirements included in this section.

C. Related Requirements

The CONTRACTOR shall furnish original Certificates of Insurance evidencing the required coverage to be in force on the Effective Date of Agreement. In the case of Payment and Performance Bond, Certificate of Authority, Power of Attorney and Power of Attorney License issued by the Commissioner of Insurance shall be furnished. THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE CONTRATOR COMMENCING WORK. NO CONTRACTOR OR ITS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES ARE TO BEGIN THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE AGREEMENT PRIOR TO FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THIS REQUIREMENT AND NOTIFICATION FROM PRDOH TO PROCEED.

Renewal Certificates of Insurance or such similar evidence is to be received by the Contract Administration of the Legal Division and/or the Finance area of the CDBG-DR/MIT program prior to expiration of insurance coverage. At PRDOH's option, non-compliance will result in one or more of the following actions: (1) The PRDOH will purchase insurance on behalf of the CONTRACTOR and will charge back all cost to the CONTRACTOR; (2) all payments due the CONTRACTOR will be held until the

CONTRACTOR has complied with the Agreement; and/or (3) The CONTRACTOR will be assessed **Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for every day of non-compliance.**

The receipt of any certificate does not constitute agreement by PRDOH that the insurance requirements in the Agreement have been fully met or that the insurance policies indicated on the certificate are in compliance with the requirements of the Agreement. The insurance policies shall provide for **thirty (30) calendar days'** written notice to be given to PRDOH in advance of the effectiveness in the event coverage is substantially changed, cancelled or non-renewed.

The CONTRACTOR shall require all subcontractors or consultants to maintain in force all insurance policies and/or bonds necessary to cover their individual participation in the risk or risks related to the subcontracted work or service to be rendered. The CONTRACTOR may provide the coverage for any or all of its subcontractors and if so, the evidence of insurance submitted shall so stipulate and adhere to the same requirements and conditions as outlined above.

The CONTRACTOR expressly understands and agrees that whenever the CONTRACTOR is covered by other primary, excess, or excess contingent insurance that, any insurance or self-insurance program maintained by PRDOH shall apply in excess of and will not contribute with insurance provided by the CONTRACTOR under this Agreement.

XVII. HOLD HARMLESS

The CONTRACTOR and its affiliates, its successors and assignees will indemnify the PRDOH from any damages and/or losses arising out of any breach of this Agreement by the CONTRACTOR or against personal injuries or property damage resulting from any act of negligence, omission or intention by the CONTRACTOR and its affiliates in connection with this Agreement.

XVIII. FORCE MAJEURE

In the event of a fire, flood, earthquake, natural disaster, hurricane, riot, act of governmental authority in its sovereign capacity, pandemic officially declared by the Government of Puerto Rico, or declare by the United States of America, strike, labor dispute or unrest, embargo, war, insurrection or civil unrest, any Force Majeure including inclement weather, herein collectively referred to as Force Majeure during the term of this Agreement, neither the PRDOH nor the CONTRACTOR shall be liable to the other party for nonperformance during the conditions created by such event. The party claiming Force Majeure shall exercise due diligence to prevent, eliminate, or overcome such Force Majeure event where it is possible to do so and shall resume performance at the earliest possible date.

The CONTRACTOR shall notify the PRDOH in writing as soon as possible, but in any event within **ten (10) business days** of the occurrence of the Force Majeure event and describe in reasonable detail the nature of the Force Majeure event, how the non-performance or delay relates to or arises from the Force Majeure event, its anticipated duration and any action taken to minimize its effect. The CONTRACTOR may be entitled to reasonable adjustments in schedules, among other measures, in the foregoing circumstances. If non-performance continues for more than **thirty (30) business days**, since the occurrence of the Force Majeure without reasonable justification, the PRDOH may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notification to the CONTRACTOR.

XIX. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The CONTRACTOR must comply with the ethics requirements set forth herein including, but not limited to federal and local regulations, and warrant that to the best of its knowledge and belief and except as otherwise disclosed, it does not have any organizational conflict of interest which is defined as a situation in which the nature of the work under a PRDOH contract and CONTRACTOR'S organizational, financial, contractual or other interest are such that:

- a) Award of the Agreement may result in an unfair competitive advantage; or
- b) The CONTRACTOR's objectivity in performing the contract work may be impaired.

The CONTRACTOR agrees that if after execution of this Agreement he or she discovers an organizational conflict of interest with respect to this Agreement, it shall make an immediate (within the next **seventy-two consecutive (72) hours**) and full disclosure in writing to the Contracting Officer, which shall include a description of the action, which the CONTRACTOR has taken or intends to take to eliminate or neutralize the conflict. The CONTRACTOR will disclose the details of any existing or future contractual agreement to provide services to third parties participating or for the purpose to participate in disaster recovery programs or projects in Puerto Rico. The PRDOH may, however, terminate the Agreement for the convenience of PRDOH if it would be in its best interest.

In the event the CONTRACTOR was aware of an organizational conflict of interest before the execution of this Agreement and did not disclose the conflict to the Contracting Officer, the PRDOH may terminate the Agreement for default.


The provisions of this clause shall be included in all subcontracts and/or consulting agreements wherein the work to be performed is similar to the services provided by the CONTRACTOR. The CONTRACTOR shall include in such subcontracts and consulting agreements any necessary provision to eliminate or neutralize conflicts of interest.

XX. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

The relationship of the CONTRACTOR to PRDOH shall be that of an independent CONTRACTOR rendering professional services. Neither the CONTRACTOR nor any personnel of the CONTRACTOR shall have any authority to execute contractual agreements or make commitments on behalf of PRDOH. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to create the relationship of employer/employee, principal/agent, joint venture or partner between the CONTRACTOR and PRDOH. Further, the CONTRACTOR recognizes that in view of its status as an independent CONTRACTOR, neither it nor its employees or subcontractors will be entitled to participate in or receive any fringe benefits normally granted to PRDOH employees under such programs, including, but not limited to, worker's compensation, voluntary disability, travel accident insurance, medical/dental insurance, life insurance, long-term disability, holiday pay, sick pay, salary continuation pay, leaves of absence (paid or unpaid), pension plan and savings plan.

The CONTRACTOR shall have exclusive control over its employees and subcontractors (and the CONTRACTOR's employees and subcontractors are herein, collectively, referred to as the "CONTRACTOR Personnel"), its labor and employee relations and its policies relating to wages, hours, working conditions and other employment conditions. The CONTRACTOR has the exclusive right to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, recall, promote, discipline, discharge and adjust grievances with its CONTRACTOR Personnel.

The CONTRACTOR is solely responsible for all salaries and other compensation of its CONTRACTOR Personnel who provide Services.

 The CONTRACTOR is solely responsible for making all deductions and withholdings from its employees' salaries and other compensation and paying all contributions, taxes and assessments, including union payments. The CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for and shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless PRDOH, and its agents, officers, directors, employees, representatives, CONTRACTOR's, successors and assigns against all costs, expenses and liabilities, including without limitation reasonably prudent attorneys' fees relative to the situation, in connection with the CONTRACTOR's employment and/or hiring of any CONTRACTOR Personnel providing any of the Services, including without limitation: (i) payment when due of wages and benefits, (ii) withholding of all payroll taxes, including but not limited to, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, FICA and FUTA, (iii) compliance with the Immigration Reform Control Act, and (iv) compliance with any other applicable laws relating to employment of any CONTRACTOR Personnel of, and/or hiring by, CONTRACTOR in connection with the Services.

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XXI. NOTICES

All notices required or permitted to be given under the Agreement shall be in writing, and shall be deemed given when delivered by hand, via email, or sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address as follows:

To: PRDOH

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary
Puerto Rico Department of Housing
606 Barbosa Ave.
Juan C. Cordero Dávila Bldg.
San Juan, PR 00918

To: CONTRACTOR

Pedro J. Nieves Bauzá
Manager
Vidal Nieves & Bauzá
B7 Tabonuco Street
Guaynabo, PR 00968-3342

XXII. THIRD PARTIES

Nothing contained in this Agreement shall create a contractual relationship with, or a cause of action of a third party against either the PRDOH or the CONTRACTOR.

XXIII. SUBCONTRACTS

- A. General:** All subcontracts shall contain the applicable provisions described in **Attachment F** (HUD General Provisions), as well as applicable provisions set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.101. PRDOH shall review subcontracts as part of the compliance, monitoring, and oversight process performed by PRDOH or upon request.

B. Specific Requirements: All subcontracts must contain provisions specifying:

- i. That the work performed by the subcontractor be in accordance with the applicable terms of this Agreement between PRDOH and CONTRACTOR;
- ii. That nothing contained in such subcontract agreement shall impair the rights of PRDOH;
- iii. That nothing contained herein, or under this Agreement will create any contractual relation between the subcontractor and PRDOH;
- iv. That the subcontractor specifically agrees to be bound by the confidentiality provision regarding Personal Identifiable Information set forth in this Agreement;
- v. That CONTRACTOR will be responsible for ensuring all subcontract work is performed consistent with federal and state regulations and/or policies to be eligible for reimbursement of the approved work; and
- vi. All Federal flow down provisions are included in the subcontract agreement per Federal guidelines.

C. Monitoring: CONTRACTOR shall diligently monitor all subcontracted services. If CONTRACTOR discovers any areas of noncompliance, CONTRACTOR shall provide to PRDOH summarized written reports supported with documented evidence of corrective action.

D. Content: CONTRACTOR shall cause all the applicable provisions of this Agreement to be included in, and made a part of, any subcontract executed in the performance of this Agreement.

E. Notification: Within **three (3) business days** of its execution, the CONTRACTOR shall notify the Contract Administration Area of PRDOH CDBG-DR/MIT Legal Division and provide a copy of all subcontracts related to this Agreement and CDBG-DR/MIT funds, as well as any other subcontracts listed in **Attachment G** (Contractor Certification Requirement). The CONTRACTOR is in charge of obtaining all certifications from the subcontractors listed in Article XXIV of this Agreement that are required for technical, professional, or consulting services, as well as submitting them with the copy of the subcontract and adhering to all other requirements set forth in Circular Letter 1300-16-16 from the Puerto Rico Department of Treasury. Technical, professional, or consulting services that are employed to carry out the terms of this Agreement are referred to as subcontractors for the purposes of this article if they spend at least 25% of their time on it.

XXIV. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Given that the Agreement involves funds for which HUD is the oversight agency, the CONTRACTOR agrees to carry out its obligations under this Agreement in compliance with all the requirements described in **Attachment F** (HUD General Provisions), **Attachment G** (Contractor Certification Requirement) and following provisions:


A. Compliance with Executive Order No. 24: Pursuant to Executive Order No.24 of June 18, 1991, the CONTRACTOR certifies and guarantees that at the signing of this Agreement it has filed all the necessary and required income tax returns to the Government of Puerto Rico for the last **five (5) years**. The CONTRACTOR further certifies that it has complied and is current with the payment of any and all income taxes that are, or were due, to the Government of Puerto Rico. The CONTRACTOR expressly agrees that the conditions outlined throughout this Section are essential requirements of this Agreement; thus, should any one of these representations,

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warrants, and certifications be incorrect, inaccurate or misleading, in whole or in part, there shall be sufficient cause for PRDOH to render this Agreement null and void and the CONTRACTOR reimburse to PRDOH all money received under this Agreement. The CONTRACTOR shall hand out, to the satisfaction of the PRDOH and whenever requested by the PRDOH during the term of this Agreement, the necessary documentation to support its compliance of this clause. The CONTRACTOR will be given a specific amount of time by the PRDOH to produce said documents. During the term of this Agreement, the CONTRACTOR agrees to pay and/or to remain current with any repayment plan agreed to by the CONTRACTOR with the Government of Puerto Rico.

- B. Compliance with Executive Order 52:** Pursuant to Executive Order No. 52 of August 28, 1992, amending Executive Order No. 1991-24, the CONTRACTOR certifies and warrants that at the time of signing this Agreement, it has made all payments required for unemployment benefits, workmen's compensation and social security for chauffeurs, whichever is applicable, or that in lieu thereof, has subscribed a payment plan in connection with any such unpaid items and is in full compliance with the terms thereof. The CONTRACTOR expressly agrees that the conditions outlined throughout this Section are essential requirements of this Agreement; thus, should any one of these representations, warrants, and certifications be incorrect, inaccurate or misleading, in whole or in part, there shall be sufficient cause for PRDOH to render this Agreement null and void and the CONTRACTOR reimburse to PRDOH all money received under this Agreement. The CONTRACTOR accepts and acknowledges its responsibility for requiring and obtaining a similar warranty and certification from each and every CONTRACTOR and subcontractor whose service the CONTRACTOR has secured in connection with the services to be rendered under this Agreement and shall forward evidence to PRDOH as to its compliance with this requirement.
- C. Compliance with Circular Letter No. 1300-16-16 of the Puerto Rico Department of Treasury:** The CONTRACTOR accepts and acknowledges its responsibility of acquiring the certifications required in the Puerto Rico Department of Treasury Circular Letter No. 1300-16-16 issued on January 19, 2016. All certifications must be submitted during their term of validity, in accordance with applicable laws. Certifications expired or issued more than **sixty (60) calendar days** prior to the contract date will not be accepted. The last payment to be made under the contract will only be issued if the 'Debt Certifications' by the Puerto Rico Department of Treasury indicate that the CONTRACTOR has no debt with the Department of Treasury. The CONTRACTOR agrees to cancel any debt that cannot be clarified with the Department of the Treasury through a withholding made by PRDOH from the payments to which it is entitled to receive under the contract.
- D. Social Security and Income Tax Retentions:** The CONTRACTOR will be responsible for rendering and paying the Federal Social Security and Income Tax Contributions for any amount owed as a result of the income from this Agreement.
- E. Government of Puerto Rico Municipal Tax Collection Center (CRIM, for its Spanish acronym):** The CONTRACTOR certifies and guarantees that at the signing of this Agreement it has no current debt with regards to property taxes that may be registered with the Government of Puerto Rico's Municipal Tax Collection Center. The CONTRACTOR further certifies to be current with the payment of any and all property taxes that are or were due to the Government of Puerto Rico. The CONTRACTOR shall hand out, to the satisfaction of the PRDOH and whenever requested by the PRDOH during the term of this Agreement, the necessary documentation to support its compliance of this clause. The CONTRACTOR will deliver upon request any

documentation requested under this clause as per request of PRDOH. During the Term of this Agreement, the CONTRACTOR agrees to pay and/or to remain current with any repayment plan agreed to by the CONTRACTOR with the Government of Puerto Rico with regards to its property taxes.

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- F. **Income Tax Withholding:** The PRDOH shall retain the corresponding amount from all payments made to the CONTRACTOR, as required by the Puerto Rico Internal Revenue Code. The PRDOH will advance such withholdings to the Government of Puerto Rico's Treasury Department (known in Spanish as *Departamento de Hacienda del Gobierno de Puerto Rico*). The PRDOH will adjust such withholdings provided the CONTRACTOR produces satisfactory evidence of partial or total exemption from withholding.
- G. **Compliance with Act No. 45 of April 18, 1935, as amended, 11 LPRA § 1, et seq.:** The CONTRACTOR certifies and guarantees that at the signing of this Agreement has valid insurance issued by the State Insurance Fund Corporation (CFSE, for its Spanish Acronym), as established by Act No. 45, *supra*, known as the "Puerto Rico Workers' Accident Compensation Act".
- H. **Government of Puerto Rico's Agency for the Collection of Child Support (ASUME, for its Spanish acronym):** The CONTRACTOR certifies and guarantees that at the signing of this Agreement that the CONTRACTOR nor any of its Partners, if applicable, have any debt or outstanding debt collection legal procedures with regards to child support payments that may be registered with the Government of Puerto Rico's Child Support Administration. The CONTRACTOR hereby certifies that it is a limited liability company organized and existing in good standing under the laws of the Government of Puerto Rico. The CONTRACTOR shall present, to the satisfaction of PRDOH, the necessary documentation to substantiate the same. The CONTRACTOR will be given a specific amount of time by PRDOH to deliver said documents.
- I. **Compliance with Act No. 168-2000, as amended, 8 LPRA § 711, et seq.:** The CONTRACTOR is in full compliance with Act No. 168-2000, as amended, known as "Act for the Improvement of Elderly Support of Puerto Rico."
- J. **Compliance with Act No. 1-2012, as amended, 3 LPRA § 1854, et seq.:** The PRDOH and the CONTRACTOR hereby certify that in signing this Agreement they are in compliance with Act No. 1-2012, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Government Ethics Act of 2011", in connection with the possibility of a conflict of interest.
- K. **Clause of Governmental Ethics Certification of Absence of Conflict of Interests:** The CONTRACTOR certifies that: (1) No public servant of this executive agency has a pecuniary interest in this contract, purchase or commercial transaction. (2) No public servant of this executive agency has requested me or accepted from me, directly or indirectly, for him (her), for any member of his family unit or for any person, gifts, bonuses, favors, services, donations, loans or anything else of monetary value. (3) No public servant (s) requested or accepted any good of economic value, linked to this transaction, from any person of my entity as payment for performing the duties and responsibilities of their employment. (4) No public servant has requested from me, directly or indirectly, for him (her), for any member of her family unit, or for any other person, business or entity, some of economic value, including gifts, loans, promises, favors or services in exchange for the performance of said public servant is influenced in my favor or of my entity. (5) I have no kinship relationship, within the fourth degree

of consanguinity and second by affinity, with any public servant who has the power to influence and participate in the institutional decisions of this executive agency.

L. Ethics: CONTRACTOR also acknowledges receipt and agrees to obey the Anticorruption Code for the New Puerto Rico, Act No. 2-2018, as amended, 3 LPRA § 1881, *et seq.*, known in Spanish as "Código Anticorrupción para el Nuevo Puerto Rico".

M. Non-Conviction: The CONTRACTOR certifies that it has not been convicted nor accused of a felony or misdemeanor against the government, public faith and function, or that involves public property or funds, either federal or local in origin. Furthermore, CONTRACTOR also certifies that:

1. It has not been convicted, nor has pleaded guilty at a state or federal bar, in any jurisdiction of the United States of America, of crimes consisting of fraud, embezzlement or misappropriation of public funds, as stated in Act No. 2 of January 2, 2018, as amended, known as the Anti-Corruption Code for the New Puerto Rico, which prohibits the award of Offers or government contracts to those convicted of fraud, misappropriation of public fund.
2. It understands and accepts that any guilty plea or conviction for any of the crimes specified in Article 3 of said Act, will also result in the immediate cancellation of any contracts in force at the time of conviction, between the undersigned and whichever Government Agencies, Instrumentalities, Public Corporations, Municipalities and the Legislative or Judicial Branches.
3. It declares under oath the above mentioned in conformity with what is established as in Act No. 2 of January 2, 2018, as amended, known as the "Anti-Corruption Code for the New Puerto Rico", which prohibits awarding Offers for government contracts, to those convicted of fraud, embezzlement or misappropriation of public funds.
4. The CONTRACTOR represents and guarantees that none of its employees, officials or agents have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor as described in this sub-section. Moreover, the CONTRACTOR agrees to notify PRDOH should any employee, official, or agent is convicted of a felony or misdemeanor as described in this sub-section after the date of this Agreement. Said notice shall be made within **ten (10) business days** from the time of the conviction.

N. Other payments or compensation: The CONTRACTOR certifies that it does not receive payment or compensation for regular services rendered as an official or public employee to another government entity, agency, public corporation or municipality, and knows the ethical standards of his profession and assumes responsibility for his actions.

O. Consequences of Non-Compliance: The CONTRACTOR expressly agrees that the conditions outlined throughout this Section are essential requirements of this Agreement; thus, should any one of these representations, warrants, and certifications be incorrect, inaccurate or misleading, in whole or in part, there shall be sufficient cause for PRDOH to render this Agreement null and void and the CONTRACTOR reimburse to PRDOH all money received under this Agreement.

P. Non-Conflict of Interest Certification: The CONTRACTOR shall comply with **Attachment H** (Non-Conflict of Interest Certification), attached herein and made an integral part

of this Agreement, which outlines several situations that may reasonably be considered as conflicts of interest. The aforementioned certification aids PRDOH, in its role as grantee, to identify, evaluate, disclose, and manage apparent potential, or actual conflicts of interest related to CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT-funded projects, activities, and/or operations.



XXV. ACT NO. 18 OF OCTOBER 30, 1975, as amended, 2 L.P.R.A. §§ 97-98

The Parties to this Agreement agree that its effective date will be subject to the due registration and remittance to the Office of the Comptroller of Puerto Rico. No rendering or consideration subject matter of this Agreement will be required before its registration at the Office of the Comptroller of Puerto Rico pursuant to Act No. 18 of October 30, 1975, as amended. The CONTRACTOR will be responsible for ensuring that this Agreement has been registered before the rendering of services by requesting a copy of the registered Agreement with its proper number and date of registry. No services under this Agreement will continue to be delivered after its termination date unless at the expiration date, an amendment signed by both Parties and duly registered exists. No services performed in violation of this provision will be paid. The party violating this clause will be doing so without any legal authority, this action will be deemed as *ultra vires*.

XXVI. MEMORANDUM NO. 2021-003; CIRCULAR LETTER 001-2021 OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GOVERNOR (SECRETARÍA DE LA GOBERNACIÓN) & THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OFICINA DE GERENCIA Y PRESUPUESTO)

- A. Interagency Services Clause:** Both contracting Parties acknowledge and agree that services retained may be provided to any entity of the Executive Branch with which the contracting entity makes an interagency agreement or by direct provision of the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Governor (*Secretaría de la Gobernación*). These services will be performed under the same terms and conditions in terms of hours of work and compensation set forth in this Agreement. For purposes of this clause, the term "Executive Branch entity" includes all agencies of the Government of Puerto Rico, as well as public instrumentalities and public corporations and the Office of the Governor.
- B. Termination Clause:** The Chief of Staff (*Secretaría de la Gobernación*) of the Governor shall have the power to terminate this Agreement at any time.
- C. Contract Review Policy of the Financial Supervision and Administration Board for Puerto Rico:** The Parties acknowledge that the CONTRACTOR has submitted the certification entitled "Contractor Certification Requirement" required in accordance with the Contract Review Policy of the Financial Oversight and Management Board (**FOMB**) for Puerto Rico, effective as of November 6, 2017, as amended on October 30, 2020, signed by the Contractor's Executive Director (or another official with an equivalent position or authority to issue such certifications). A signed copy of the "Contractor's Certification Requirement" is included as **Attachment G** (Contractor Certification Requirement) to this contract.

XXVII. MEMORANDUM NO. 2021-029; CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 013-2021 OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GOVERNOR (SECRETARÍA DE LA GOBERNACIÓN) & THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OFICINA DE GERENCIA Y PRESUPUESTO):

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- A. The PRDOH certifies that the CONTRACTOR was selected as the provider of the services described in this Agreement, pursuant to Executive Order No. 2021-029.
 - B. The Parties certify that they acknowledge the provisions stated in Executive Order No. 2021-029 and CC 013-2021. Any failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Executive Order No. 2021-029 and CC 013-2021 will result in the termination of this Agreement.
 - C. The CONTRACTOR certifies that it has informed PRDOH of any current contractual relationship with any government entities of the Government of Puerto Rico. Accordingly, the CONTRACTOR certifies, as of the date hereof, that it is only in a governmental contractual relationship with PRDOH. The CONTRACTOR also certifies that said entities are all the entities of the Government of Puerto Rico with which they maintain a contractual relationship. In addition, the CONTRACTOR recognizes and accepts that omitting any information regarding any current contractual relationship with any governmental entity could result in the termination of this Agreement if so, required by PRDOH.
 - D. The CONTRACTOR certifies that it has informed PRDOH whether or not the entity is a public corporation whose shares are exchanged in a stock exchange properly regulated. In the event that the CONTRACTOR certifies that it is not a public corporation that exchanges shares in a stock change, the CONTRACTOR certifies it has completed the applicable certification as stated in CC-013-2021.


XXVIII. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW, REGULATIONS, & EXECUTIVE ORDERS

The CONTRACTOR acknowledges that HUD financial assistance will be used to fund the Agreement only. Also, the CONTRACTOR shall comply with all applicable Federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, and policies relating to CDBG-DR/MIT and CDBG Program services. This includes without limitation, applicable Federal Registers; 2 C.F.R. part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; 24 C.F.R. part 570 Community Development Block Grant; applicable waivers; Fair Housing Act, 24 C.F.R. Part 35, 24 C.F.R. Part 58, 24 C.F.R. Part 135; National Historic Preservation Act, and any other applicable state laws or regulations, including the requirements related to nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment; and Action Plan amendments and HUD's guidance on the funds. Also, the CONTRACTOR shall comply, without limitation, with those set forth in **Attachment F** (HUD General Provisions) and in compliance with all the requirements described in **Attachment G** (Contractor Certification Requirement).

XXIX. CDBG-DR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

In addition to what is established in this Agreement, the CONTRACTOR shall comply with all CDBG-DR/MIT program specific and general policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, the Contract and Subrecipient Agreement Manual, OS&H Guideline, MWBE Policy, Procurement Manual for the CDBG-DR/MIT Program, URA & ADP Guidelines, Cross Cutting Guidelines, AFWAM Policy, Section 3 Policy, Personally Identifiable Information, Confidentiality, and Nondisclosure Policy and Conflict of Interest and Standards of Conduct Policy, as found in the CDBG-DR/MIT Website (<https://recuperacion.pr.gov/welcome/index.html>), which are herein included and made an integral part of this Agreement, as they may be updated from time to time, and reporting requirements as established by the PRDOH.

XXX. SECTION 3 CLAUSE

 **A.** The work to be performed under this contract is subject to the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701u (Section 3). The purpose of Section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance or HUD-assisted projects covered by Section 3, shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly persons who are recipients of HUD assistance for housing.

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C. The CONTRACTOR agrees to send to each labor organization or representative of workers with which the CONTRACTOR has a collective bargaining agreement or other understanding, if any, a notice advising the labor organization or workers' representative of the CONTRACTOR'S commitments under this Section 3 clause, and will post copies of the notice in conspicuous places at the work site where both employees and applicants for training and employment positions can see the notice. The notice shall describe the Section 3 preference, shall set forth the minimum number and job titles subject to hire, availability of apprenticeship and training positions, the qualifications for each; the name and location of the person(s) taking applications for each of the positions; and the anticipated date the work shall begin.

D. The CONTRACTOR agrees to include this Section 3 clause in every subcontract subject to compliance with regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 75 and agrees to take appropriate action, as provided in an applicable provision of the subcontract or in this Section 3 clause, upon a finding that the subcontractor is in violation of the regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 75. The contractor will not subcontract with any subcontractor where the CONTRACTOR has notice or knowledge that the subcontractor has been found in violation of the regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 75.

E. The CONTRACTOR acknowledges that subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors are required to meet the employment, training, and contraction requirements of 24 CFR 75.19, regardless of whether Section 3 language is included in recipient or subrecipient agreements, program regulatory agreements, or contracts.

F. The CONTRACTOR will certify that any vacant employment positions, including training positions, that are filled (1) after the CONTRACTOR is selected but before the contract is executed, and (2) with persons other than those to whom the regulations of 24 C.F.R. part 75 require employment opportunities to be directed, were not filled to circumvent the CONTRACTOR'S obligations under 24 C.F.R. part 75.

G. Noncompliance with HUD's regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 75 may result in sanctions, termination of this contract for default, and debarment or suspension from future HUD-assisted contracts.

H. With respect to work performed in connection with Section 3 covered Indian housing assistance, section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (46 U.S.C. § 5307) also applies to the work to be performed under this contract. Section 7(b) requires that to the greatest extent feasible (i) preference and opportunities for training and employment shall be given to Indians, and (ii) preference in the award of contracts and subcontracts shall be given to Indian organizations and Indian-owned

Economic Enterprises. Parties to this contract that are subject to the provisions of Section 3 and section 7(b) agree to comply with Section 3 to the maximum extent feasible, but not in derogation of compliance with section 7(b).

I. The CONTRACTOR agrees to submit, and shall require its subcontractors to submit to them, quarterly reports to the PRDOH detailing the total number of labor hours worked on the Section 3 Project, the total number of labor hours worked by Section 3 Workers, and the total number of hours worked by Targeted Section 3 Workers, and any affirmative efforts made during the quarter to direct hiring efforts to low- and very low-income persons, particularly persons who are Section 3 Workers and Targeted Section 3 Workers.

XXXI. BYRD ANTI-LOBBYING AMENDMENT, 31 U.S.C. § 1352

The CONTRACTOR certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge, that:

- A. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- B. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Forms-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- C. The CONTRACTOR shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31, U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended by the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995). The CONTRACTOR acknowledges that any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure. The CONTRACTOR certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of each statement of its certification and disclosure, if any. In addition, the CONTRACTOR understands and agrees that the provisions of 31 U.S.C. § 3801 et seq., apply to this certification and disclosure, if any.

XXXII. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

- A. The CONTRACTOR will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin. The CONTRACTOR will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during

employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The CONTRACTOR agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

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- B. The CONTRACTOR will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the CONTRACTOR, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
 - C. When applicable, the CONTRACTOR will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided advising the said labor union or workers' representatives of the CONTRACTOR's commitments under this Section and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
 - D. The CONTRACTOR will comply with all provisions of Exec. Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Exec. Order No. 11375 of October 13, 1967, and as supplemented by the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the United States Secretary of Labor.
 - E. The CONTRACTOR will furnish all information and reports required by Exec. Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and by rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.
 - F. In the event of the CONTRACTOR's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this Agreement or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this Agreement may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the CONTRACTOR may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts or federally assisted construction contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Exec. Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and such other sanctions as may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Exec. Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.
 - G. The CONTRACTOR will include the portion of the sentence immediately preceding paragraph (A) and the provisions of paragraphs (A) through (F) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to Section 204 of Exec. Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The CONTRACTOR will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the administering agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, however, that in the event a CONTRACTOR becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the administering agency, the CONTRACTOR may

request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

XXXIII. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ACT

1) In the performance of this contract, the CONTRACTOR shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- designated items unless the product cannot be acquired:

- a. Competitively within a timeframe providing for compliance with the contract performance schedule;
- b. Meeting contract performance requirements; or
- c. At a reasonable price.

2) Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA- designated items, is available at EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines website, <https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>.

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3) CONTRACTOR must comply with section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The requirements of Section 6002 include:

- a. procuring only items designated in guidelines of the EPA at 40 C.F.R. part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or the value of the quantity acquired during the preceding fiscal year exceeded ten thousand dollars (\$10,000);
- b. procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and
- c. establishing an affirmative procurement program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.


XXXIV. DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

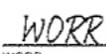
The CONTRACTOR should establish procedures and policies to promote a Drug-Free workplace. Further, the CONTRACTOR should notify all employees of its policy for maintaining a Drug-Free workplace, and the penalties that may be imposed for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace. Further, the CONTRACTOR shall notify the PRDOH if any of its employees are convicted of a criminal drug offense in the workplace no later than **ten (10) calendar days** after such conviction.

XXXV. SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT

- A. This Agreement is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 C.F.R. part 180 and 2 C.F.R. part 2424. As such, the CONTRACTOR is required to verify that none of the CONTRACTOR, its principals (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.995), or its affiliates (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.935).
- B. The CONTRACTOR must comply with 2 C.F.R. part 180, subpart C, and 2 C.F.R. part 2424, and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower-tier covered transaction it enters into.
- C. This certification is a material representation of fact relied upon by PRDOH. If it is later determined that the CONTRACTOR did not comply with 2 C.F.R. part 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. part 2424, in addition to remedies available to PRDOH, the

Federal Government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment.

-  D. The CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. part 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. part 2424, while this Agreement is valid. The CONTRACTOR further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower-tier covered transactions.

 **XXXVI. SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM) REGISTRATION**

The CONTRACTOR certifies that it is cleared and eligible for award of a contract and is not suspended, debarred, or on a HUD-imposed limited denial of participation. Subsequently, the CONTRACTOR must be registered in the System for Award Management (**SAM**) and shall maintain its registration active during contract performance and through final payment. The CONTRACTOR is responsible during performance and through final payment for the accuracy and completeness of the data within SAM. Failure to maintain registration in SAM may impact obligations and payments under this Agreement, including but not limited to, termination of this Agreement.

XXXVII. NO OBLIGATION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government is not a party to this Agreement and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, CONTRACTOR, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the Agreement.

XXXVIII. PROGRAM FRAUD & FALSE OR FRAUDULENT STATEMENTS OR RELATED ACTS

The CONTRACTOR acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chapter 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to the CONTRACTOR's actions pertaining to this Agreement.

XXXIX. BANKRUPTCY

In the event that CONTRACTOR files for bankruptcy protection, the Government of Puerto Rico and PRDOH may declare without notice this Agreement null and void or terminate this Agreement without notice.

XL. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement and all its attachments represent the entire and integrated agreement between PRDOH and the CONTRACTOR and supersede all prior negotiations, representations, agreements, and/or understandings of any kind. This Agreement may be amended only by a written document signed by both PRDOH and the CONTRACTOR.

XLI. MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT

Any modification of this Agreement or additional obligation assumed by either party in connection with this Agreement shall be binding only if written and signed by both Parties, and its authorized representatives. Those amendments shall make specific reference to this Agreement, comply with programmatic policies, procedures, and guidelines. Such amendments shall not invalidate this Agreement, nor relieve or release the Parties from their obligations under this Agreement.

However, PRDOH reserves the right to notify in writing to CONTRACTOR any applicable policies, procedures, regulations, requirements, guidelines, or change in law, whether existing or to be established, as well as changes and/or amendments thereof, and the notified policies, procedures, regulations, requirements, guidelines and laws shall be deemed incorporated by reference to this Agreement without the need of executing a separate written and signed amendment. Nevertheless, is complete obligation of the CONTRACTOR to keep itself updated with the programmatic policies, procedures, guidelines, and applicable and/or governing law.



XLII. BINDING EFFECT

This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of PRDOH and the CONTRACTOR, their successors and assigns.

The CONTRACTOR shall not assign this Agreement, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of PRDOH, and any attempted assignment not in accordance herewith shall be null and void and of no force or effect.

XLIII. ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS

The rights of each party hereunder are personal to that party and may not be assigned or otherwise transferred to any other person, contractor, corporation, or other entity without the prior, express, and written consent of the other party.

XLIV. NON-WAIVER

The failure or delay of either party to insist upon the performance of and/or the compliance with any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of such terms and conditions or the right to enforce compliance with such terms and conditions.

The Parties expressly agree that no amendment of the Agreement or Change of Order shall be understood as a contractual novation of the Agreement, unless both Parties agree to the contrary in writing. The foregoing provision shall be equally applicable in such other cases where an extension of the Agreement is executed.

XLV. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

In the event of an inconsistency in this Agreement or if a conflict occurs between this Agreement and any Attachment, Appendix, Exhibit, or Schedule, unless otherwise specifically stated in those documents, the order of precedence shall be: Federal laws, regulations, and policies applicable to this Agreement, this Contract and **Attachment F** (HUD General Provisions), **Attachment B** (Scope of Services), **Attachment D** (Performance Requirements), **Attachment C** (Compensation Schedule), and lastly, **Attachment A** (Proposal).

XLVI. GOVERNING LAW JURISDICTION

This Agreement shall be governed by, interpreted, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the Government of Puerto Rico and any applicable federal laws and regulations. The Parties further agree to assert any claims or causes of action that may arise out of this Agreement in the Puerto Rico Court of First Instance, Superior Court of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

XLVII. TIME OF ESSENCE CLAUSE

In this Agreement, unless otherwise specified, the calculation of days shall be conducted inclusively, with the first day being included and the last day being excluded. When referring to a period of 'X days', it shall be understood as a consecutive calendar day, unless is established otherwise.

If the last day of a period falls on weekend or legal holiday recognized in the jurisdiction of the Government of Puerto Rico, the period shall be extended to include the next business day. For purposes of computing deadlines or timeframes, a day shall be considered to commence at 12:00 a.m. and conclude at 11:59 p.m. local time at the location specified to execute the Agreement. In case of any ambiguity or dispute regarding the computation of days, the determination shall be made in accordance with the applicable laws of the jurisdiction of the Government of Puerto Rico.

Time shall be the essence in the performance of all obligations under this Agreement. Any deadlines, time frames, or dates specified herein must be strictly adhere to. Failure to meet any such deadlines shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement, entitling PRDOH and/or the Government of Puerto Rico to pursue all available remedies under law or equity.

XLVIII. CONSOLIDATIONS, MERGERS, CHANGE OF NAME, OR DISSOLUTIONS

A. Consolidation or Merger

In the event that the signing party (e.g. Subrecipient, Contractor, or Subcontractor) of the Agreement with the PRDOH moves for a consolidation or merger with another entity (private or public), by its discretion or otherwise, written notice of such decision or event shall be delivered to the PRDOH Legal Division at contractscdbgdr@vivienda.pr.gov at **least fifteen (15) business days prior to the effective date** of the consolidation or merger. The notice shall include, but not limited to, a description of: the expected effective date of the consolidation or merger; name of each of the constituent entities moving to consolidate or merge into the single resulting or surviving entity; the proposed name of the resulting entity (in case of a consolidation) or the name of the surviving entity (in case of a merger) if necessary; reference to the projected capacity of the resulting or surviving entity to comply with the terms, conditions, obligations, tasks, services, and performance goals or requirements included in the Agreement as well as its Exhibits or Attachments; and a brief summary of the proposed plan to achieve the transition of duties (Scope of Work or Scope of Services), tasks, and performance goals or requirements to the resulting or surviving entity.

Upon the consolidation or the merger becoming effective, and supporting evidence of such event is notified to PRDOH, execution of an Amendment to the Agreement may follow. The Amendment would include, but not limited to, modifications to the clauses that refer to the identity, personal circumstances, address, and any other information related to the signing party deemed relevant by PRDOH for the execution of the Amendment. Additionally, the CONTRACTOR must deliver documents requested to satisfy any reasonable requirement made by PRDOH. These requests aim to ensure the compliance with local and federal regulations, as applicable **No amendment to the Agreement will be necessary if the Subrecipient, Contractor, or Subcontractor becomes the surviving entity following a merger.**

Failure to comply with any of the before mentioned conditions, may result in the activation of the termination clauses provided in the Agreement.

B. Change of Name

In the event that the signing party (e.g. Subrecipient, Contractor, or Subcontractor) of the Agreement with the PRDOH initiates a change of name process, written notice of

such decision or event shall be delivered to the PRDOH Legal Division at contractscdbgdr@vivienda.pr.gov at **least fifteen (15) business days prior to the effective date of such event**. The notice shall include, but not limited to, a description of: the expected effective date of the change of name; the proposed name; inform of any change of address; and reference of any change in the capacity of the entity to comply with the terms, conditions, obligations, tasks, services, and performance goals or requirements included in the Agreement, as well as its Exhibits or Attachments.

Upon the change of name becoming effective, and supporting evidence of such event is notified to PRDOH, execution of an Amendment to the Agreement may follow. The Amendment would include, but not limited to, modifications to the clauses that refer to the identity, personal circumstances, address, and any other information related to the signing party deemed relevant by PRDOH for the execution of the Amendment. Additionally, the CONTRACTOR must deliver documents requested to satisfy any reasonable requirement made by PRDOH. These requests aim to ensure the compliance with local and federal regulations, as applicable.

Failure to comply with any of the before-mentioned conditions, may result in the activation of the termination clauses provided in the Agreement.

C. Dissolution

In the event that the signing party (e.g. Subrecipient, Contractor, or Subcontractor) of the Agreement with the PRDOH moves for dissolution of the entity, written notice of such decision or event shall be delivered to the PRDOH Legal Division at contractscdbgdr@vivienda.pr.gov at **least fifteen (15) business days prior to the effective date of such event**. The notice shall include, but not limited to, a description of the expected effective date of the dissolution; and contact information of one or more of its directors, officials or agents. Upon dissolution, becoming effective, and supporting evidence of such event is notified to PRDOH, termination of the Agreement will follow. Consequently, the signing party acknowledges and agrees to provide to the PRDOH, after termination of the Agreement, the assistance reasonably requested to facilitate the orderly transfer of responsibility for performance of the tasks or services to the PRDOH or a third party designated by the PRDOH. Moreover, all finished or unfinished records (files, data, work product) connected with this Agreement will be turned over to PRDOH following the Agreement termination.

XLIX. HEADINGS

The titles to the paragraphs of this Agreement are solely for reference purposes and the convenience of the Parties and shall not be used to explain, modify, simplify, or aid in the interpretation of the provisions of this Agreement.

L. FEDERAL FUNDING

The fulfillment of this Agreement is based on those funds being made available to the PRDOH as the lead administrative agency for Recovery. All expenditures under this Agreement must be made in accordance with this Agreement, the policies and procedures promulgated under the CDBG-DR/MIT Program, and any other applicable laws. Further, CONTRACTOR acknowledges that all funds are subject to recapture and repayment for non-compliance.

LI. RECAPTURE OF FUNDS

PRDOH may recapture payments it makes to CONTRACTOR that (i) exceed the maximum allowable rates; (ii) are not allowed under applicable laws, rules, or regulations; or (iii) are

otherwise inconsistent with this Agreement, including any unapproved expenditures. CONTRACTOR must refund such recaptured payments within **thirty (30) business days** after the PRDOH issues notice of recapture to CONTRACTOR.

LII. OVERPAYMENT

CONTRACTOR shall be liable to the PRDOH for any costs disallowed pursuant to financial and/or compliance audit(s) of funds received under this Agreement. CONTRACTOR shall reimburse such disallowed costs from funds other than those CONTRACTOR received under this Agreement.

LIII. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Agreement shall operate or would prospectively operate to invalidate the Agreement in whole or in part, then such provision only shall be deemed severed and the remainder of the Agreement shall remain operative and in full effect.

LIV. COUNTERPARTS

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of whom shall be deemed to be an original, however, all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. If the Agreement is not executed by the PRDOH within **thirty (30) calendar days** of execution by the other party, this Agreement shall be null and void.

LV.SURVIVAL OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The terms and conditions of this Agreement related to the following subjects shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement: interpretive provisions; consideration; warranties; general affirmations, federal assurances, federal and state certifications; CDBG-DR/MIT and state funding, recapture of CDBG-DR/MIT and/or state funds, overpayment of CDBG-DR/MIT and/or state funds; ownership and intellectual property, copyright; records retention methods and time requirements; inspection, monitoring and audit; confidentiality; public records; indemnification and liability; infringement of intellectual property rights; independent contractor relationship; compliance with laws; notices; choice of law and venue; severability; dispute resolution; consolidations, merger, change of name, and dissolution. Terms and conditions that, explicitly or by their nature, evidence the Parties' intent that they should survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement shall so survive.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties hereto execute this Agreement in the place and on the date first above written.


**PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING**


VIDAL NIEVES & BAUZÁ LLC

William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez
William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez (Aug 7, 2024 15:16 EDT)
William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary

Pedro J. Nieves Miranda
Pedro J. Nieves Miranda
Manager

COMPANY PROFILE

 Vidal, Nieves & Bauzá, LLC (VNB) is a corporate law firm with a special emphasis in civil, corporate, real estate, notarial, banking and finance, property, administrative, construction, commercial, infrastructure, loans, land use and development, environmental, energy, aerospace, agriculture, compliance and liability, due diligence, tax, transactional, and insurance law practices. The law firm was founded in 2016 by leading legal practitioners in Puerto Rico. It currently staffs three Senior Attorneys and two Associate Attorneys, one Junior Attorney and readily available Junior Attorney contractors when needed. The Firm's mission is to offer value-driven solutions developed to support our clients in meeting their strategic business goals and objectives in changing times, through a platform that addresses the needs of traditional and emerging businesses and industries, as well as other commercial operations and developments on the island.


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With over 90 years of collective experience, the Firm's founding members contribute their long-standing working relationships and credibility with key business and government stakeholders in Puerto Rico in the private and public sector and abroad. VNB is ready to provide legal consulting services for commercial transactions and construction developments in the administration of CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Programs in Puerto Rico and to address multiple regulatory and compliance matters faced in such highly regulated environments.

Our attorneys have decades of experience in complex real estate and debt transactions and financings with structured commercial and construction financing,

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including tax credits projects for social interest housing. Our attorneys also continuously assist clients with navigating the formal requirements under Puerto Rico Mortgage and Notarial Acts, and lead complex sales and acquisitions of real estate properties from raw land to commercial office buildings or manufacturing plants to residential developments representing both sellers and purchasers.

PH Our attorneys have successfully organized and qualified numerous business concerns in Puerto Rico, in areas such as:

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- insurance companies
 - insurance producers
 - international insurance
 - banks engaged in insurance sales
 - personal property leasing
 - financial intermediation companies
 - pharmacies
 - aerospace
 - agriculture
 - food distribution
 - renewable energy
 - drug distributors and wholesalers
 - clinical laboratories

VNB's professional qualifications and specialized experience has permitted the successful performance of the services provided to its clients with regards to projects of similar services and complexity. VNB has participated in projects with clients where we have assisted in the negotiation of contracts with government agencies for multiple multi-million dollar contracts, corporate organization, procurement, contract review and administrative processes, among others. For example, VNB was awarded a contract with the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (RFP CDBG-DR-RFP-2022-05) and is currently providing legal consulting services for commercial transactions and constructions developments in the administration of the CDBG-DR Program in Puerto Rico.

VNB has also acted as counsel to a leading residential solar, battery storage and system protection services company in the United States as an intervenor in the first ever Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority rate case administrative proceedings before the

Puerto Rico Energy Bureau. In addition, VNB has also assisted clients in distributed energy and utility scale energy projects, including renewal energy, financing, complex expedited permitting processes, and regulatory and compliance reporting.

Moreover, our members serve as counsel and actively participate in trade associations in areas of international insurance, banks engaged in insurance sales, and pharmaceutical companies. Firm members have additionally participated in major merger and acquisitions, and the due diligence, negotiation and execution of complex commercial loan facilities for both regulated and non-regulated companies operating in Puerto Rico. Among the businesses we have represented, are insurance companies and producers, hospitals, pharmaceutical, biomedical and medical devices companies, fuel retailers and wholesalers, agro-industrial operations, aerospace sector companies, financial institutions and lenders, private equity funds, manufacturing plants and utilities in general. Our members have also acted as lead real estate Puerto Rico counsel in the Public Private Partnership for the long term lease of the International airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the largest in the Caribbean region and the first airport under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Pilot Program, as well as directed Puerto Rico real estate matters in connection with the largest project to date for the production of solar energy in Puerto Rico.

VNB also counts with a broad range of readily available experienced and qualified legal contractors in specific areas or topics, and/or as required for particular projects demanding additional resources and/or on-site availability. Our offices are designed to adjust to client projects staffing demand. VNB's service platform and methodology provides for production software and hardware allowing for uninterrupted remote access, which provide us with flexible operational and billing capabilities to adjust to the flexibility required by our more than three hundred clients. Our technological platform allows to reduce administrative functions to a minimum, thus reducing staff overhead and costs.

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Staffing decisions are decided by the Members of VNB, primarily based on client needs and requests. VNB counts with an ample legal staff database of freelance and established legal practitioners from where to source and deploy in short-term (24 hours average), that possess the required knowledge, skills and abilities for a specific project during its lifetime, which enables VNB to adequately staff and scale each functional area to maintain agreed upon service levels throughout the lifetime of the project contract. Junior Attorneys are hired based on experience, needs and availability. VNB has the resources to expand its workforce as needed to maximize client satisfaction and attorney development within areas of interest. VNB also possesses centrally located offices in the San Patricio, Guaynabo area, and an IT infrastructure platform that allows for immediate workspace and system access, respectively. Training and development are continuous in nature, and performance management is conducted and discussed at least weekly during the members meeting. This project is expected to include a daily "huddle" meeting to monitor Key Performance Indicators, or KPIs.

VNB's professional qualifications and specialized experience has permitted the successful performance of the services provided to its clients with regards to projects of similar services and complexity. For example, VNB has participated in similar projects providing legal services with regards to real estate matters, and drafting and executing public deeds of cancellation of mortgages, deeds in lieu, and lost note processes before the court. VNB has also participated in projects with clients where we have assisted in the negotiation of contracts with government agencies for multiple multi-million dollar contracts, corporate organization, procurement, contract review and administrative processes, among others.

VNB has also acted as counsel to a leading residential solar, battery storage and system protection services company in the United States as an intervenor in the first ever Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority rate case administrative proceedings before the Puerto Rico Energy Bureau. In addition, VNB has also assisted clients in distributed

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energy and utility scale energy projects, including renewal energy, financing, complex expedited permitting processes, and regulatory and compliance reporting.

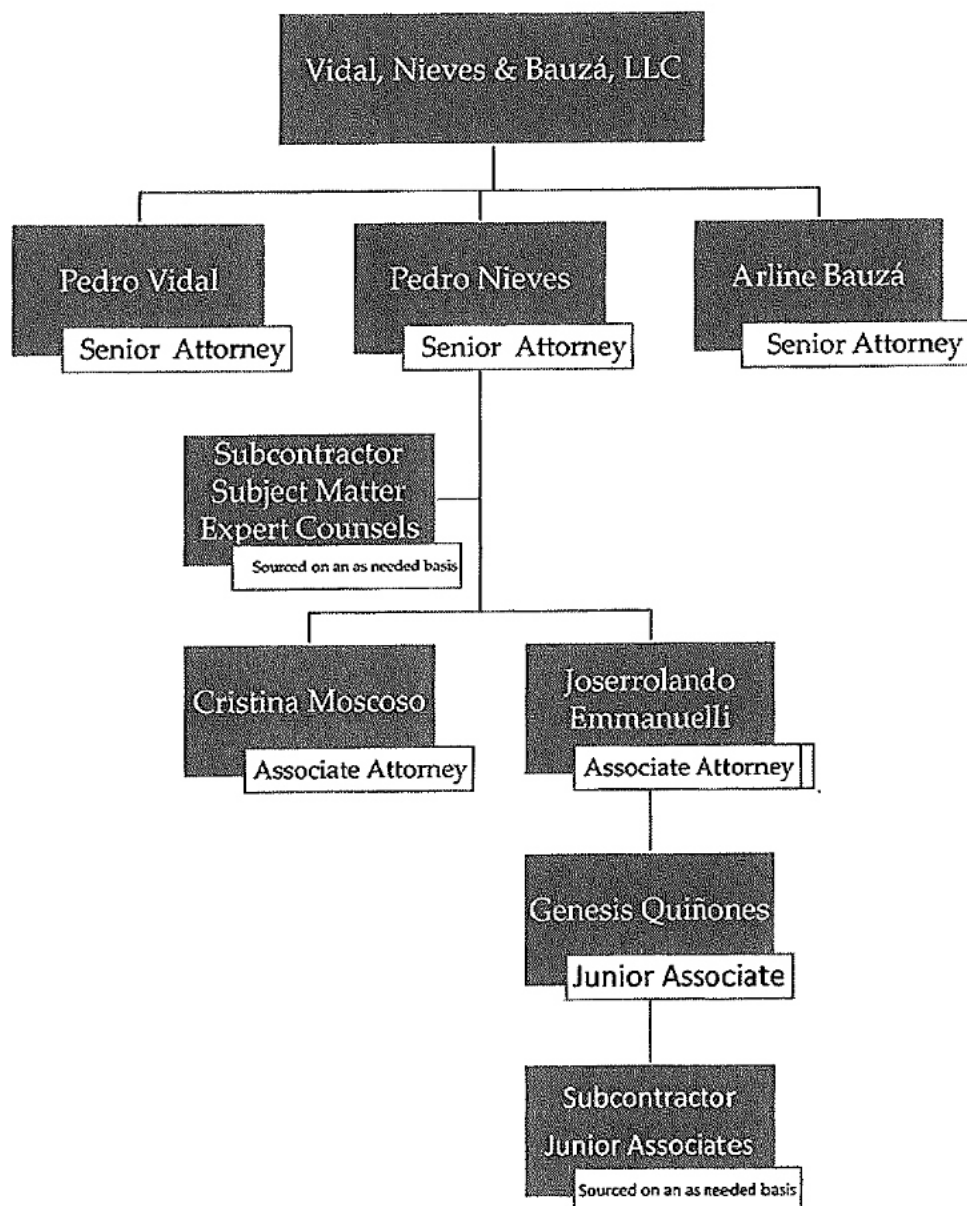
No particular challenges were presented before VNB in our engagements with such similar projects and consider that such projects were a success.



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ORGANIZATIONAL AND STAFFING CHART





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & STAFFING PLAN

STAFFING

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Vidal, Nieves & Bauzá, L.L.C (VNB) is a corporate law firm with a special emphasis in civil, corporate, **real estate**, notarial, banking and finance, property, administrative, **construction**, **commercial**, **infrastructure**, **loans**, **land use and development**, environmental, energy, aerospace, agriculture, compliance and liability, due diligence, tax, **transactional**, and insurance law practices. It currently staffs three Senior Attorneys and two Associate Attorneys, one Junior Attorney and readily available Junior Attorney contractors when needed. VNB also counts with a broad range of readily available experienced and qualified legal contractors in specific areas or topics, and/or as required for particular projects demanding additional resources and/or on-site availability. Our offices are designed to adjust to client projects staffing demand, ranging from individuals to complex juridical structures.


VNB's service platform and methodology provides for production software and hardware allowing for uninterrupted remote access, which provide us with operational and billing capabilities to adjust to the geographical and time zone flexibility required by our clients. Our technological platform allows to reduce administrative functions to a minimum, thus reducing staff overhead. VNB also counts with a broad range of readily available experienced and qualified legal contractors in specific areas or topics, and/or as required for particular projects demanding additional resources and/or on-site availability. Our offices are designed to adjust to client projects staffing demand and depending on specific projects we can quickly secure additional strategic office spaces throughout the Island. Our technological platform allows to reduce administrative functions to a minimum, thus reducing staff overhead and costs.

Staffing decisions are decided by the Members of VNB, primarily based on client needs and requests. VNB counts with an ample legal staff database of freelance and established legal practitioners from where to source and deploy in short-term (24 hours average) that possess the required knowledge, skills and abilities for a specific project during its lifetime, which enables VNB to adequately staff and scale each functional area to maintain agreed upon service levels throughout the lifetime of the project contract. Junior Attorneys are hired based on experience, needs and availability. VNB has the resources to expand its workforce as needed to maximize client satisfaction and attorney development within areas of interest.

VNB also possesses centrally located offices in the San Patricio, Guaynabo area, and an IT infrastructure platform that allows for immediate workspace and system access, respectively. Training and development are continuous in nature, and performance management is conducted and discussed at least weekly during the members meeting. This project is expected to include a daily "huddle" meeting to monitor Key Performance Indicators, or KPIs.

LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

As with all of our clients, VNB will be highly committed, involved and devoted for the duration of the project contract. VNB plans to provide the highest level of performance, effort and dedication in the review, drafting and execution of all required commercial and construction loan documents, public deeds, other notarial certifications and documents, memoranda of law related to commercial and construction loan closing legal documentation, and analysis of complex real estate transactions.



| <u>Key Personnel</u> | <u>Level of Commitment</u> | <u>On Island Resources (Y/N)</u> | <u>Bilingual (English/Spanish) (Y/N)</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Pedro J. Nieves Miranda | 100% | Y | Y |
| Arline V. Bauzá Figueroa | 100% | Y | Y |
| Pedro I. Vidal Cordero | 80%* | Y | Y |
| Cristina E. Moscoso D'Abate | 100% | Y | Y |
| Joserrolando Emmanuelli Colón | 100% | Y | Y |
| Genesis L. Quiñones Acevedo | 100% | Y | Y |


* Commitment levels below 100% will be adjusted as per client needs, project ramp up and timeline.

AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT

VNB counts with readily available Key Personnel, all currently residing in Puerto Rico, and experienced and qualified legal contractors in specific areas or topics, and/or as required for particular projects demanding additional resources. Upon demand of staffing needs for the project, VNB's legal professional contractors and additional resources may be sourced and deployed upon request to adequately backup Key Personnel attorneys in case of illness, turnover, or other loss of personnel.

WORKLOAD ACCOMODATION

The workload of the project contract will be accommodated by the Managing Member of VNB in charge of overseeing the operational planning of the project contract.



The Managing Member will also oversee the establishment, execution and evaluation of the services to be delegated to the Key Personnel based on the knowledge and experience of each attorney. The work performed under this project contract will be granted priority in accordance to the level of priority required at the time such service has been requested to VNB.



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PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION & WORK APPROACH

VNB proposes the following plan of action to successfully meet all requirements and goals of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Programs.

Project Implementation


VNB is ready to commence and implement the project contract work and services immediately upon the final selection announcement.


Availability




All Key Personnel included in the proposal reside in Puerto Rico, and thus are readily available to immediately begin work. During ramp-up, all Key Personnel named in this proposal will be available. As dictated by the project's needs, VNB's legal professional contractors and additional personnel may be sourced and deployed upon request to adequately backup Key Personnel attorneys in case of illness, turnover, or other personnel-related loss of capabilities, as approved by PRDOH. For tasks that require in-person attendance, VNB will provide qualified personnel, as needed, within the jurisdiction of the Government of Puerto Rico.



Accommodation & Allocation of Work


 The Managing Member will be responsible for the accommodation and supervision of the workload and services. The Managing Member will allocate the work among the Key Personnel in order to guarantee that all services listed in the Scope of Services of the RFP are performed, allowing for an efficient and effective provision of the legal services in connection with the commercial and real estate transactions and construction developments, while also improving the project cost savings. The Managing Member plans to manage all services by:

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- ✓ Provide specialized legal counsel and strategic guidance to senior and executive-level management in commercial and real estate transactions and construction developments.
 - ✓ Oversee the operational planning of the contract, establishment, execution, and evaluate the activities to be delegated to other attorneys.
 - ✓ Serve as the Point of Contact and liaison with PRDOH on operational matters.
 - ✓ Appear before local and/or federal, courts and/or administrative forums, in representation of PRDOH, if requested.
 - ✓ Oversee, review and supervise the work allocated to Associate Attorneys.
 - ✓ Perform review and analysis of complex real estate transactions.
 - ✓ Review drafts of master commercial loan and construction loan closing legal documentation.
 - ✓ Make recommendations of possible courses of action to be taken in connection with the analysis of complex real estate transactions necessary to complete loan closings.
 - ✓ Analysis and review of Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) search reports and similar documents pertaining to liens over personal property to be perfected as part of the commercial and construction loans transactions under the Program.

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- ✓ Provide legal counsel related to the Registry of Commercial Transactions documentation necessary to perfect liens over personal property pursuant to closing legal documents consistent with loan approval terms and conditions, Program Guidelines, and applicable Federal Laws, Rules, and Regulations.
 - ✓ Review and analyze contracts, agreements, and similar documents to ensure full compliance with loan approval terms and conditions, Program Guidelines, and applicable Federal Laws, Rules, and Regulations.
 - ✓ Answer requests for legal opinions, in writing and verbally.
 - ✓ Prepare written legal opinions at the request of the PRDOH.
 - ✓ Any other legal services, as needed and requested.

The Managing Member will ensure VNB's deliverables meet PRDOH's needs, and will enable the team (PRDOH and VNB, jointly) to work together to achieve common goals. VNB's local experience in managing complex transactions and ensuring compliance with local and federally regulated issues will serve PRDOH to achieve its goals in an efficient way. VNB will establish effective communication with PRDOH points of contacts, and the on-island availability and English and Spanish language capacities will ensure faster work-around times for deliverables.

VNB has high understanding of the implementation of the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Programs as it has participated in other similar projects. Not only does the Key Staff have the experience and ability in providing all the legal consulting services listed in the Scope of Services of the RFP, but they also have knowledge and experience in handling matters with government agencies relating to real estate, commercial transactions and construction developments and other required activities to complete all services listed in the Scope of Services of the RFP. In order to adequately and effectively complete all



required services as listed in the Scope of Service of the RFP, our Key Staff has the experience and ability to also perform and provide the following services:

- ✓ Prepare and draft documents, briefs, and memoranda of law related to commercial loan and construction loan closing legal documentation.
- ✓ Interpret and apply legislation, case law, and decisions.
- ✓ Direct information for legal research.
- ✓ Manage monthly status reports to PRDOH.
- ✓ Act as Notary Public for the commercial loan and construction loan closings.
- ✓ Supervise the work allocated to Junior Attorneys.
- ✓ Perform review and analysis of complex real estate transactions.
- ✓ Make recommendations of possible courses of action to be taken in connection with the analysis of complex real estate transactions necessary to complete loan closings.
- ✓ Draft master commercial loan and construction loan closing legal documentation.
- ✓ Analysis and review of Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) search reports and similar documents pertaining to liens over personal property to be perfected as part of the commercial and construction loans transactions under the Program.
- ✓ Provide legal counsel related to the Registry of Commercial Transactions documentation necessary to perfect liens over personal property pursuant to closing legal documents consistent with loan approval terms and conditions, Program Guidelines, and applicable Federal Laws, Rules, and Regulations.
- ✓ Provide legal counsel related to real estate properties' tax status at the Puerto Rico Municipal Revenue Collection Center (CRIM, for its Spanish language acronym).
- ✓ Make recommendations to solve any issues regarding real estate properties' tax status in the CRIM.




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- ✓ Provide legal counsel related to title search reports, title policies, and similar documents pertaining to liens to be perfected as part of the commercial and construction loans transactions under the Program.
 - ✓ Provide legal counsel related to the Registry of Property, deeds and related documents necessary to perfect mortgages and other liens in real property pursuant to closing legal documents.
 - ✓ Recommend alternatives under different legal scenarios in connection with the analysis and perfection of liens over real estate for transactions necessary to complete loan closings.
 - ✓ Serve as Notary Public for the commercial loan and construction loan closings, as requested by PRDOH.
 - ✓ Review and analyze contracts, agreements, and similar documents to ensure full compliance with loan approval terms and conditions, Program Guidelines, and applicable Federal Laws, Rules, and Regulations.
 - ✓ Assist in the drafting and/or provide legal counsel related to deeds or necessary instruments on real property owned by PRDOH or any other governmental agency based upon applicable laws and regulations.
 - ✓ Assist in the drafting and/or provide legal counsel related to necessary documents for registration of the real property in the Puerto Rico Property Registry.
 - ✓ Answers requests for legal opinions, in writing and verbally.
 - ✓ Review of required stamps to be adhered and cancelled on public deeds.
 - ✓ Review of required vouchers and fees for the presentation and recordation of documents before the Registry of the Property of Puerto Rico
 - ✓ Perform the presentation of documents before the Registry of the Property of Puerto Rico for their recordation.
 - ✓ Request and obtain title studies of real properties.

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- ✓ Request and obtain debt certifications from the Municipal Revenue Collection Center.
 - ✓ Any other legal services, as needed and requested.

Delivery Timeframes & Prioritization


The timeframes for the performance of the services will all depend on PRDOH's priorities, the specific service, and the complexity of such service. The work performed under this project contract will be prioritized at VNB in accordance with PRDOH's needs at the time such service is requested to VNB. All timeframes will be discussed with PRDOH to ensure that VNB meets expectations. Recognizing that the complexities of some tasks within the scope of work may not be homogenous, and the potential absence of key documentation or information, some timeframes may be subject to change depending on said complexities, and upon the specific request for such work to be delivered within a specific time period. These unique cases would be promptly assessed and notified to PRDOH to ensure compliance with the different program guidelines and timelines.

Staffing Needs

VNB is designed to adjust to your project's needs and staffing demand. VNB has an ample legal staff database comprised of freelance and established legal practitioners, including support staff such as law clerks, paralegals, and messengers, used to source and deploy in short-term (24 hours average) for specific tasks or throughout the span of the project. This staffing needs formula has enabled VNB to adequately serve its clients in the past, and will allow VNB to staff and scale each functional area to maintain agreed upon service levels throughout the lifetime of the project contract, at the established rates per position.

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Risks

VNB does not foresee any particular or material risks that could arise in the drafting of public deeds, aside from the typical challenges that arise during these tasks. In the event an unforeseen potential or material risk arises or is identified, VNB will diligently notify the corresponding PRDOH contact for immediate intervention, early mitigation and timely resolution of such risk.

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GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

SCOPE OF SERVICES
Request for Proposals
Legal Consulting Services
Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery
Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation
Puerto Rico Department of Housing
CDBG-DRMIT-RFP-2024-02

1. Introduction and Overview

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure Legal Consulting Services for Commercial Transactions and Construction Developments for the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Programs, under the current Action Plan and subsequent action plans, as well as for the future allocation of funds under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs. PRDOH seeks to select law firms and/or counselors at law to provide legal services to the Investment Portfolio for Growth (IPG) Program, across the Economic Development Programs, and other CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funded programs. A detailed description of CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Programs is included in the Action Plans approved by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A complete copy of the Action Plans is available at <https://cdbg-dr.pr.gov/en/action-plan/>.

IPG Program

The IPG Program will foster both mixed-use, community-based development, as well as major infrastructure improvements supporting economic revitalization for Puerto Rico. The objective of this program is to develop a series of projects across Puerto Rico that result in large-scale commercial or industrial development in a broad-ranging category of activities and that cover a wide variety of economic revitalization initiatives. Projects are encouraged to be developed through public-private partnerships in which CDBG-DR funds are used as leverage for private funds for economic development activities, in concert with governmental or non-governmental organization (NGO) efforts. This may include, but is not limited to the development and/or redevelopment of:

- Commercial developments such as retail facilities including, but not limited to: shopping centers or stores; hotels, shipping distribution centers, or office buildings; Industrial/manufacturing complexes such as factories or industrial parks; and public commercial spaces such as convention centers or parking garages.
- Mixed-use developments, whereby projects will support business opportunities and other economic development in support of housing.
- Infrastructure development to support large economic revitalization activities, including, but not limited to transportation facilities (new roads, street rehabilitation, sidewalk improvements, streetlights, parking facilities, streetscape improvements, etc.); and water, sewer, and drainage improvements directly supporting an economic revitalization activity.

All legal services should be addressed and coordinated with the PRDOH Legal Division and the Economic Development Program.

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The scope of services presented is based upon circumstances existing at the time the RFP is released. The PRDOH reserves the right to modify or delete the requirements and tasks listed and, if appropriate, add additional requirements and tasks prior to and during the term of the contemplated contract.

2. Staff Requirements, Roles and Responsibilities

The PRDOH is seeking law firms and/or counselors at law with experience and capabilities in commercial transactions and construction developments. This section details the Key Staff that the Selected Proposer(s) must retain in order to support PRDOH with the Legal Consulting Services in the administration of CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Programs. The Selected Proposer(s) will be directly responsible for ensuring the accuracy, timeliness, and completion of all tasks assigned under this contract by the Key Staff.

2.1. Staff Requirements

The Proposer(s) shall have or will secure, at its own expense, all personnel required to perform the services under the legal consulting services contract. Key Staff are resources that must be ready to begin working within two (2) weeks after the contemplated contract execution date and remain working throughout the term of the contract. Selected Proposer(s) must ensure that services that require a professional license are performed by licensed professionals with the proper qualifications, skills, and experience necessary to perform such services, according to applicable federal, state, and local rules and regulations.

No Key Staff may be assigned to the contract without the written consent of the PRDOH. Therefore, any efforts from Key Staff prior to PRDOH's written authorization cannot be invoiced and will not be reimbursed. The PRDOH reserves the right to request the removal of any staff not performing to PRDOH's expectations, Key Staff or other, or request revision to the Insurances Consulting Services staff organization.

2.1.1. Staff Experience and Qualifications

The Proposer(s) shall provide detailed information about the experience and qualifications of the entire staff to be assigned, including degrees, certifications, licenses, and years of relevant experience. The proposer(s) shall specifically identify resources currently employed who will serve as Key Staff. This includes the Proposer(s)' own staff and staff from any subcontractors to be used. The Proposer(s) should demonstrate that its staff (and/or subcontractor's staff) meet the desired requirements listed below and have the necessary experience and knowledge to successfully implement and perform the tasks and services. Table 1 presents requirements for Key Staff, Roles, and Responsibilities.

2.1.2. Organizational and Staffing Plan

The Proposer(s) shall submit to the PRDOH an initial organizational chart detailing the identified resources (whether employed by Proposer or a subcontractor) who shall perform any legal consulting service required by this scope of services. The Proposer's organizational chart, organization and staffing plan shall specifically include the required number of personnel, role, and responsibilities of each person on the project, name of the resource(s) or subcontractor(s), resume or professional information, their planned level of effort, their anticipated duration of involvement, and their on-site availability. If applicable, the Proposer should include a good standing certification from the higher-level court that each staff member is



admitted to and a valid Notary Bond. The Proposer should demonstrate their ability to adequately staff and scale each functional area to maintain the agreed-upon service levels throughout the life of the Program. The Proposer shall specifically identify people currently employed by the Proposer who will serve as Key Staff.

Proposer shall have one or more of the following key staff available for the assignment, depending on the areas of practice and its requirements:

Table 1. Key Staff Requirements, Roles, and Responsibilities¹

| Key Staff* | Requirements for the Position | Roles & Responsibilities of the Position |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Senior Attorney | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Must have ten (10) years of experience practicing law in local and/or federal forums, in commercial transactions and construction developments. + Must have five (5) years of proven experience with complex real estate transactions. + Must have five (5) years of proven experience in drafting master commercial loan and construction loan closing legal documentation pursuant to Puerto Rico laws, including but not limited to loan agreements, deeds, instruments, and documentation necessary to perfect liens over personal and commercial properties. + Must have five (5) years of proven experience in analysis of contracts, agreements, and similar documents to ensure full compliance with loan approval terms and conditions. + Experience in Government Services, Government Agencies, and governmental regulators. + Exceptional legal drafting skills. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Provide specialized legal counsel and strategic guidance to senior and executive-level management in commercial and real estate transactions and construction developments. + Oversees the operational planning of the contract, establishment, execution, and evaluates the activities to be delegated to other attorneys. + Serves as the Point of Contact (POC) and liaison with PRDOH on operational matters. + Appear before local and/or federal, courts and/or administrative forums, in the representation of PRDOH, if requested. |
| Associate Attorney | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Must have five (5) years of experience practicing law in local and/or federal forums depending on the area of practice. + Must have three (3) years of proven experience with complex real estate and commercial transactions. + Must have three (3) years of proven experience in drafting master commercial loan and construction loan closing legal documentation pursuant to Puerto Rico laws, including but not limited to loan agreements, deeds, instruments, and documentation necessary to perfect liens over personal and commercial properties. + Must have three (3) years of proven experience in analysis of contracts, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Prepares and drafts documents, briefs, and memoranda of law related to commercial loan and construction loan closing legal documentation. + Interprets and applies legislation, case law, and decisions. + Directs information for legal research. + Manages monthly status reports to PRDOH. |

¹ Table 1 represents the minimum requirements of Legal Consulting Services.

| Key Staff* | Requirements for the Position | Roles & Responsibilities of the Position |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>agreements, and similar documents to ensure full compliance with loan approval terms and conditions.</p> <p>+ Vast experience in applying written law.</p> <p>+ Exceptional legal drafting skills.</p> | |
|   | <p>Junior Attorney</p> <p>+ Must have one (1) year of experience practicing law in the local forums. Federal practice experience is a plus.</p> <p>+ Exceptional legal drafting skills.</p> | <p>+ Assists in the preparation and drafting of legal documents and memoranda.</p> <p>+ Responsible for legal research and knowledge of the decisions and statutes of the matter under review.</p> |

*** At least one of the Key Staff must be an Attorney at Law in good standing and authorized to practice law before the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico. At least one of the Key Staff named above must be a Puerto Rico Notary Public and in good standing with the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, with the possibility to be designated as Notary Public for the commercial loan and construction loan closings. In addition, the Notary Public must have a valid Notary Bond.**

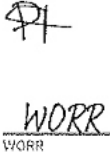
3. Legal Services Requirements

The Proposer(s) shall be able to provide legal services related to the IPG Program, the Economic Development Portfolio, CDBG-DR, and CDBG-MIT funded programs on an as-needed basis.

3.1. Services

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the services the Legal Counsel could be performing:

- Perform review and analysis of complex real estate transactions.
- Make recommendations of possible courses of action to be taken in connection with the analysis of complex real estate transactions necessary to complete loan closings.
- Draft master commercial loan and construction loan closing legal documentation.
- Analysis and review of Uniform Commercial Code (**UCC**) search reports and similar documents pertaining to liens over personal property to be perfected as part of the commercial and construction loans transactions under the Program.
- Provide legal counsel related to the Registry of Commercial Transactions documentation necessary to perfect liens over personal property pursuant to closing legal documents consistent with loan approval terms and conditions, Program Guidelines, and applicable Federal Laws, Rules, and Regulations.
- Provide legal counsel related to real estate properties' tax status at the Puerto Rico Internal Revenue Collections Center (**CRIM**, for its Spanish language acronym).
- Make recommendations to solve any issues regarding real estate properties' tax status in the CRIM.
- Provide legal counsel related to title search reports, title policies, and similar documents pertaining to liens to be perfected as part of the commercial and construction loans transactions under the Program.

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- Provide legal counsel related to the Registry of Property deeds and related documents necessary to perfect mortgage and other liens in real property pursuant to closing legal documents.
 - Recommend alternatives under different legal scenarios in connection with the analysis and perfection of liens over real estate for transactions necessary to complete loan closings.
 - Serve as Notary Public for the commercial loan and construction loan closings, as requested by PRDOH.
 - Review and analyze contracts, agreements, and similar documents to ensure full compliance with loan approval terms and conditions, Program Guidelines, and applicable Federal Laws, Rules, and Regulations.
 - Assist in the drafting and/or provide legal counsel related to deeds or necessary instruments on real property owned by PRDOH or any other governmental agency based upon the applicable laws and regulations.
 - Assist in the drafting and/or provide legal counsel related to necessary documents for registration of the real property in the Puerto Rico Property Registry.
 - Answers requests for legal opinions, in writing and verbally. Prepares written legal opinions at the request of the PRDOH.
 - Any other legal advice as needed.

3.2. Additional Services (Allowances)

The Selected Proposer may be required to perform additional related Legal Consulting Services for Commercial Transactions and Construction Developments for the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs portfolio as per PRDOH's request. When required, the Proposer must provide information and costs regarding the services and submit a Request for Authorization (RFA) for the approval of the PRDOH for use of the allowance prior execution of the work or expense.

Also, the Legal Consulting Services for Commercial Transactions and Construction Developments may require the Selected Proposer to sub-contract specialized services. In that event, the Selected Proposer must submit a list of the specialized services to be sub-contracted among those listed below. The information should include brief information about the services contained within, name of the resource or subcontractor, résumé or professional information and rate per hour or per task, as applicable.

Whenever a specialized service is used, the Selected Proposer will submit to the PRDOH an RFA, which includes the justification and costs for the services to be subcontracted or performed by the Selected Proposer. The costs for specialized services on as-needed basis, will be covered by the contract's allowance, once the RFA is approved by PRDOH. Since the costs for specialized services will be paid from an allowance, the Selected Proposer shall not include any amount for specialized services in its Cost Proposal in response to this RFP.

The following services/costs, but not limited to, are considered specialized (this is not an all-inclusive list):

- Stamps and vouchers
- Presentation of documents in "Registro de la Propiedad de Puerto Rico"

- Recording Fee
- Other services/costs as determined by PRDOH.

4. Deliverables

The Selected Proposer (s) shall perform certain services and tasks in order to support PRDOH in the execution of the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Programs and any other future allocations. At minimum, the key deliverables to be produced through these services shall include such items as:

- Timely addressing of Specific Legal Consulting Services as defined in **Section 3** of this document.
- Proposer(s) shall be prepared to submit detailed billing statements for all services billed. The cost of online legal research engines and any other software platform used by Proposer to provide the requested services cannot be transferred or billed to PRDOH.
- Proposer(s) shall also submit monthly reports including summaries of work performed on services with all necessary backup documentation.
- Finished services shall be delivered as instructed by PRDOH when they are assigned.
- Master commercial loan and construction loan drafts.
- Any other document, report, presentation, template, or "service as" may be required by the PRDOH.

5. SAM Registry

Proposers must be registered in the System for Award Management (**SAM**) at the time of the Proposal submission or initiate the registration process right after the Proposal submission. For more information about SAM go to <https://sam.gov/content/home>. Awards will only be issued to entities which are cleared and not ineligible for award of a contract due to suspension, debarment, or HUD imposed limited denial of participation.

6. PRDOH's Reservation of Rights

The PRDOH reserves the right, without limitations, to:

- (i) Reject any or all Proposals, to waive any informality in the RFP process, or to terminate the RFP process at any time, if deemed to be in its best interests.
- (ii) Reject and not consider any Proposal that does not meet the requirements of this RFP, including but not necessarily limited to incomplete proposals and/or proposals offering alternate or non-requested services.
- (iii) Cancel this solicitation and reissue the RFP or another version of it, if it deems that doing so is in the best interest of the Public Interest.
- (iv) PRDOH shall have no obligation to compensate any proposer for any costs incurred in responding to this RFP.
- (v) To reduce or increase estimated or actual quantities in whatever amount necessary without prejudice or liability to, if:
 - a. Funding is not available.
 - b. Legal restrictions are placed upon the expenditure of monies for this category.
 - c. PRDOH's requirements in good faith change after award of the contract.
- (vi) To require additional information from all Proposers to determine the level of responsibility.
- (vii) To contact any individuals, entities, or organizations that have had a business relationship with the Proposer, regardless of their inclusion in the reference section of the Proposal submittal.

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- (viii) To contract with one or more Selected Proposers for Legal Consulting Services as a result of the award or the cancellation of this RFP.
 - (ix) In the event any resulting contract is prematurely terminated due to nonperformance and/or withdrawal by the Contractor, PRDOH reserves the right to:
 - a. seek monetary restitution (to include but not limited to withholding of monies owed or the execution of the payment and performance bond) from the Contractor to cover costs for interim services and/or cover the difference of a higher cost (difference between terminated Contractor's rate and new company's rate) beginning the date of Contractor's termination through the contract expiration date.
 - (x) To amend the contract(s) of the Selected Proposer(s) to, among others, extend its original duration, as further explained in the RFP, or to extend the scale of its scope to include work under subsequent CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT action plans as related to the services requested herein, or to reduce the scale of its scope to decrease work as a consequence of underperformance or inexcusable delays related to the services requested herein.
 - (xi) To contract with one or more qualified as a result of the selection of the RFP or the cancellation of this RFP.
 - (xii) To negotiate any price from the awarded proposer(s) in response to a specific order under this solicitation.
 - (xiii) To modify the quantity of the listed items and/or services during the term of the contract in compliance with policies and procedures.
 - (xiv) To withdraw from the contracting process with a selected Proposer if the selected Proposer does not provide the required contract documents, including insurance requirements, within **ten (10) business days** of contract Award Notice.

The Proposer shall be responsible for completing the activities outlined in this Scope of Services. The Selected Proposer shall assist PRDOH by providing additional resources to accomplish assignments authorized by the PRDOH.

NOTE: FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS REGARDING STAFF QUALIFICATIONS OR PRIOR PROJECTS WILL RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE RESPONSE AND CANCELLATION OF ANY RESULTING PURCHASE ORDER OR CONTRACT IF DISCOVERED AFTER AWARD.

END OF SCOPE OF SERVICES



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Puerto Rico Department of Housing
Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery and Mitigation

ATTACHMENT C
COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

Request for Proposals

Legal Consulting Services for Commercial Transactions and Construction Developments

Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery

Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation

CDBG-DRMIT-RFP-2024-02

Vidal Nieves & Bauza, LLC: Total amount of **\$611,823.35**, for a contract for an initial period of two (2) years, with the option of extension for two (2) additional one (1) year terms. The Proposer will be compensated based on the compensation rates submitted for this RFP as identified in **Exhibit G Price Form**.

VNB Compensation Rates

| Position | Qty. of Resources | Rate per Hour | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Key Staff Positions | | | |
| Senior Attorney | 1 | \$223.00 | |
| Associate Attorney | 1 | \$188.00 | |
| Junior Attorney | 1 | \$138.00 | |
| Amount of Contract | | | \$461,823.35 |
| Total Allowance | | | \$150,000.00 |
| Total Amount of Contract | | | \$611,823.35 |

The Price Form notes will apply to all awarded contracts.

1. **Estimated Qty. of Resources:** Represents the estimated quantity of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) to be employed by each staff. Should not be interpreted as a cap on the allowed quantity of staff.
2. **Hourly Rates:** Include overhead, profit, royalties, reimbursement, travel, fringe benefits, taxes, as well as any other additional fees and administrative cost applicable to the services.
3. Services will be provided on an on-call basis by the contractor. Therefore, there could be months where the estimated monthly cost is an approximate of the amount stated in the estimate. The contract is expected to function as a not-to-exceed maximum amount from which services will be invoiced based on actual hours worked by each resource.
4. **Estimated Cost for each position:** Should not be interpreted as a cap on costs or hours that may be invoiced for a specific position.

5. Services will be provided according to the existing needs, in alignment with the Scope of Services and never exceeding the allowable funds.
6. The Contract is expected to function as a not-to-exceed contract, from which services will be invoiced based on actual quantity of services rendered by the vendor.
7. **Allowance:** This allowance is not to be considered overhead and profit fees.
8. PRDOH reserves the right to award one (1) or more Proposers.

END OF DOCUMENT

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ATTACHMENT D

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

LEGAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENTS

VIDAL NIEVES & BAUZÁ LLC

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Performance Requirements included in this document will apply to the **CONTRACTOR** and any subcontractor, according to the contract. All legal services described in this document will apply to the Investment Portfolio for Growth (**IPG**) Program, across the Economic Development Programs, and other CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funded programs on an as-needed basis.

I. Tasks Assignments

The interpretation of legal matters and compliance under the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Programs requires specialization in the field. Further, the IPG Program requires the drafting of loan closing legal documentation that addresses complex real estate, and commercial lending issues. Legal documentation that will be used in the IPG loan closings must adequately protect the Program's interests, including but not limited to the perfection of liens consistent with approved terms and conditions as well as the inclusion of all applicable HUD, CDBG-DR/MIT, federal and state compliance clauses. Also, the aforementioned IPG loan closing legal documentation will be based on the Award Notification letter to be issued to Awardees. Accordingly, the drafting of the Award Notification letter requires specialized legal knowledge that integrates commercial lending, real estate as well as HUD and CDBG-DR/MIT applicable regulations. The hiring of external law firms for the drafting of the Award Notification letter and the legal documentation that will be used in the IPG Program loan closings as well as certain consultations regarding complex real estate, permits, and commercial lending matters is imperative. The IPG funding awarding is based on a competitive case by case basis evaluation process. Hence, the information and communications received at every stage of the process is confidential. The **CONTRACTOR** shall take all measures and implement all controls that are necessary to maintain the information received at a confidential level and available only to the personnel directly working in every IPG Program case. The **CONTRACTOR** shall be bound by a strict code of ethics to preserve and protect both the established federal laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Programs.

The **CONTRACTOR** will be directly responsible for ensuring the accuracy, timeliness, and completion of all tasks assigned under this contract. PRDOH reserves the right to modify or delete the tasks listed and, if appropriate, add additional tasks prior to and during the term of the contract. PRDOH reserves the right to retain some of these tasks internally. The **CONTRACTOR** will have the expertise and capacity to provide informed legal counsel and take necessary timely actions to ensure appropriate deliverables in response to any

request for information, complaint, administrative action, or legal action from citizens, Federal agencies, or other interested parties directed to the PRDOH related to HUD, CDBG-DR, federal laws and regulations, as applicable to loans funded under the IPG Program.

The **CONTRACTOR** is expected to provide counsel and support related actions at the direction of PRDOH to support administrative and programmatic compliance, minimize administrative burdens, avoid legal vulnerabilities, and vigorously defend the position of PRDOH in any allegation of discrimination or other HUD, CDBG-DR/MIT, federal laws and regulations compliance violations. The **CONTRACTOR** will be responsible for the following:

- Provide counsel on the development, review, and implementation of administrative and programmatic documents to ensure compliance with HUD, CDBG-DR/MIT, and federal laws and regulations;
- Interface with PRDOH and/or IPG Program loan Awardees on matters as required and necessary on behalf of PRDOH, including but not limited to reviewing and responding to requests for information, reviewing and responding to inquiries and comments associated with the IPG loan approved terms and conditions outlined in the Award Notification letter and included within the IPG loan closing legal documents, preparing briefs, memorandums, analyzing data, and providing guidance on strategy to PRDOH;
- Advise PRDOH on appropriate recordkeeping and documentation of actions and communications to ensure a substantive and effective defense to any allegations of civil rights-related non-compliance.
- Prepare responses and related deliverables to any legal action taken by any entity against PRDOH regarding any IPG Program determination;
- Notify PRDOH in writing of any actual or potential conflict of interest within 24 hours of the moment the **CONTRACTOR** becomes aware.
- When providing closing or notarial services, take all necessary measures to ensure that no actual or apparent conflict of interest among the **CONTRACTOR's** staff arises (Chinese wall doctrine);
- Specific tasks include:
 - Perform review and analysis of complex real estate transactions.
 - Make recommendations of possible courses of action to be taken in connection with the analysis of complex real estate transactions necessary to complete loan closings.
 - Draft master commercial loan and construction loan closing legal documentation.

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- Analysis and review of Uniform Commercial Code (**UCC**) search reports and similar documents pertaining to liens over personal property to be perfected as part of the commercial and construction loan transactions under the Program.
- Provide legal counsel related to the Registry of Commercial Transactions documentation necessary to perfect liens over personal property pursuant to closing legal documents consistent with loan approval terms and conditions, Program Guidelines, and applicable Federal Laws, Rules, and Regulations.
- Provide legal counsel related to real estate properties' tax status at the Puerto Rico Internal Revenue Collections Center (**CRIM**, for its Spanish language acronym).
- Make recommendations to solve any issues regarding real estate properties' tax status in the CRIM.
- Provide legal counsel related to title search reports, title policies, and similar documents pertaining to liens to be perfected as part of the commercial and construction loan transactions under the Program.
- Provide legal counsel related to the Registry of Property deeds and related documents necessary to perfect mortgage and other liens in real property pursuant to closing legal documents.
- Recommend alternatives under different legal scenarios in connection with the analysis and perfection of liens over real estate for transactions necessary to complete loan closings.
- Serve as Notary Public for commercial loan and construction loan closings, as requested by PRDOH.
- Review and analysis of contracts, agreements, and similar documents to ensure full compliance with loan approval terms and conditions, Program Guidelines, and applicable Federal Laws, Rules, and Regulations.
- Assist in the drafting and/or provide legal counsel related to deeds or necessary instruments on real property owned by PRDOH or any other governmental agency based upon the applicable laws and regulations.
- Assist in the drafting and/or provide legal counsel related to necessary documents for registration of the real property in the Puerto Rico Property Registry.
- Answers requests for legal opinions, in writing and verbally. Prepares written legal opinions at the request of PRDOH.
- Any other legal advice, as needed.
- Take any other formal actions as directed by PRDOH.

Above all requirements, the contract will be based on specific task orders requested by PRDOH.

II. Staff Requirements

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The **CONTRACTOR** shall have or will secure, at its own expense, all personnel required to perform the services under this contract. The **CONTRACTOR** is expected to provide competent and fully qualified key staff and personnel that are authorized or permitted under federal, state, and local law to perform the Scope of Services (**Attachment B**) under this contract. PRDOH reserves the right to request the removal of any staff not performing to standard. No personnel may be added to the resulting contract without the written consent of the PRDOH.

III. Meetings

PRDOH may schedule periodic meetings with the **CONTRACTOR** to discuss task status, compliance with contract terms, and timely completion of the required tasks, among other matters. PRDOH may also require the presence (or attendance) of any **CONTRACTOR** or subcontractor official whenever deemed necessary, as well as the production of any relevant document or piece of information.

IV. Deliverables

At a minimum, the key deliverables to be produced through this contract shall include such items as:

- Timely addressing of Specific Legal Consulting Services as defined in Section I of this document.
- **CONTRACTOR** shall be prepared to submit detailed billing statements for all services billed. The cost of online legal research engines and any other software platform used by **CONTRACTOR** to provide the requested services cannot be transferred or billed to PRDOH.
- **CONTRACTOR** shall also submit monthly reports including summaries of work performed on services with all necessary backup documentation.
- Finished services shall be delivered as instructed by PRDOH when they are assigned.
- Master commercial loan and construction loan drafts.
- Any other document, report, presentation, template, or service as may be required by PRDOH.

END OF DOCUMENT



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The successful proposer, before the **Contract execution**, must submit to the **Puerto Rico Department of Housing (*PRDOH)** the hereafter mentioned certificates of insurance policies and/or bonds including all endorsements and agreements required under the special contractual conditions, in form satisfactory to ***PRDOH**, as provided in detail in this Insurance Requirements as per the following:

1. **(X) State Insurance Fund Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy**

In accordance with the Worker's Compensation Act No. 45, the successful bidder shall provide Worker's Compensation Insurance. The successful bidder shall furnish the ***PRDOH** the certificate from the State Insurance Fund Corporation (Spanish Acronym, CFSE).

2. **(X) Commercial General Liability (Special Form) and Contractors General Liability Coverage with LOC Classification that must include the following insurance limits and Coverages the CGL coverage must include Personal and Advertising Injury Coverage.**

| COVERAGE | LIMIT |
|---|----------------------------|
| I. Commercial General Liability: | |
| • Each Occurrence | \$2,000,000 |
| • General Aggregate | \$2,000,000 |
| • Products & Complete Operations | \$2,000,000 |
| • Personal Injury & Advertising | \$2,000,000 |
| • Fire Damage | \$100,000 (Any one Fire) |
| • Medical Expense | \$10,000 (Any one person) |
| II. Employer's Liability Stop Gap: | |
| • Bodily Injury by Accident Each Employee Each Accident | \$2,000,000 \$2,000,000 |



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| COVERAGE | LIMIT |
|--|-------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bodily Injury by Disease | \$2,000,000 |
| Each Employee | |
| Each Accident | \$2,000,000 |

3. (X) Comprehensive Automobile Liability Form including the following insurance coverages

| LIMIT |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Auto Liability - \$1,000,000Physical Damages - \$1,000,000Medical Payments - \$ 10,000 |
| The Commercial Auto cover must be applied to the following symbols: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Liability Coverage -1Physical Damages – 2 and 8Hired – Borrowed Auto – 8Non-Owned Auto Liability – 9 |

4. (X) Professional Liability &/or Errors & Omissions Policy

(X) *Professional Liability for Lawyers and any other professional services related to the contract must provide evidence of Professional Liability.*

(X) A. Risk, interest, location and limits

(X) A.1 Description of work to be done

(X) A.2 Limit:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| (X) each occurrence | \$2,000,000 |
| (X) Aggregate | \$2,000,000 |
| (X) Deductible | \$ 10,000 |

(X) A.3 Certification that the insurance contract has been given as surplus lines coverage under the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Insurance Code, when applicable.



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5. (X) Employment Practices Liability

Limit - \$2,000,000

6. (X) Cyber Liability

Limit - \$1,000,000

7. (X) Umbrella

Limit - \$2,000,000

8. (X) The policies to be obtained must contain the following endorsements including as additional insured the ***Puerto Rico Department of Housing (*PRDOH)***, ***U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)***, and the ***Government of Puerto Rico***.

- (X) a. Breach of warranty
- (X) b. Waiver and / or Release of Subrogation
- (X) c. Additional Insured Clause
- (X) d. Hold Harmless Agreement
- (X) e. 30 Days Cancellation Clause

A. IMPORTANT NOTICE TO INSURANCE AND SURETY COMPANIES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

All insurance companies and all guarantors who issue policies or bonds under our special contractual conditions are subject to:

1. Be authorized to do business within the ***Commonwealth of Puerto Rico*** and have the corresponding ***license issued by the Commissioner of Insurance***.
2. To be enjoying a good economic situation and classified under the Category of ***B+ by the AM Best Rating Guide***.



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3. Submit to the ***PRDOH** a written certification as evidence of full payment of premiums by the Contractor. Mention each risk coverage premium separately.
4. Avoid sub-contractual obligations of premium financing or any other kind, which may be detrimental to the public interest.
5. Avoid any request for cancellation by the contractor prior to the expiration date of the policy, without the consent of the Contract Division of the ***PRDOH**: Discuss any refund of unearned premium.
6. Follow all Federal Bail and Acceptance Insurance Regulations, when applicable.
7. Indicate in the appropriate place of all insurance policies and/or bonds, **the full description of the project, work or service to be rendered.**
8. Not to make any **Endorsement** to insurance policies and bonds issued under the special conditions mentioned above, unless approved by the Insurance Section of the ***PRDOH**. To ensure that all insurance policies or bonds are issued to comply with all of our special insurance conditions with respect to the period of coverage, type of risk coverage, as well as all limits, as specified,
9. Clarify any questions regarding insurance requirements by any means of communication with the Insurance Section of the ***PRDOH** under the Secretary for Legal Affairs.
10. The Contractor shall, throughout the performance of Work under the Contract and until the Final Acceptance of the Program, maintain current, and in effect all the required insurance, except the Builder's Risk, which shall terminate on the date of substantial completion.
11. Insurance coverage in the minimum limit amounts set forth herein shall not be construed to release the Contractor from liability in excess of such coverage limit. Contractor must give thirty (30) calendar days written notice to PRDOH before any policy coverage is change, canceled or not renewed and shall cause the insurance carrier to do the same.



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B. EVIDENCE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE OF EACH SUBCONTRACTOR TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER AS THE PRIME CONTRACTOR:

The successful **Proposer**, as the prime contractor, has the duty to require each of the subcontractors to maintain in force all insurance policies and/or bonds necessary to cover their individual participation in the risk or risks related to the subcontracted work or service to be rendered.

Therefore, prior to commencing work or receiving written notice to proceed with such work, the successful prime contractor has the responsibility to provide the ***PRDOH** with all the **certificates of insurance and/or bonds required** under the special conditions approved by the Insurance Section of the ***PRDOH**. All insurance policies shall remain in effect for the entire contractual period.

In case of any **change order** and/or amendment resulting in alteration of the original project completion date or total original cost, the prime contractor shall take the necessary steps to request the insurer to include such changes in all related insurance policies and/or bond and to submit evidence by appropriate endorsements with effective dates. Cancellations without consent are not accepted.

The ***PRDOH** reserves the right to stop any work or service under contract until the breach of these requirements has been remedied, so that any delay in the performance of the contract based on any breach of the insurance coverage requirements shall be deemed the sole responsibility of the Main Contractor.

C. CONFLICT OR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE TENDERING, PROCEDURE AND SPECIAL INSURANCE CONDITIONS AND BONDS

In the event of any conflict or difference in the description of coverage or amount or limits, etc., with respect to insurance requirements, the **"Special Conditions of Insurance and Bonds"** as set forth in this **Insurance Requirements** shall prevail over any other insurance specifications. ***PRDOH reserves the right to modify any Insurance Requirements at any time, in accordance with the Program's needs.**



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D. CERTIFICATE OF CONTRACT DIVISION

We hereby certify, to our best knowledge and understanding, that we have prepared the aforementioned "*Insurance and Bonds Special Conditions*" after a proper evaluation of the related risks, based on the information of the nature of the project and description submitted to us, as requested by the Contracting Program through a written application.

SERVICE TO PROVIDE

LEGAL CONSULTING SERVICES
COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENTS

March 1st, 2024
Date

Sonia Damaris Rodríguez
Sonia Damaris Rodríguez
Insurance Specialist
CDBG-DR Program



ATTACHMENT F

HUD GENERAL PROVISIONS

Given that the Contract involves funds for which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (**HUD**) is the oversight agency, the following terms and conditions may apply to this Contract. In addition, Contractor shall comply with the Federal Labor Standards Provisions set forth in Form HUD-4010, available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2490/hud-form-4010-federal-labor-standards-provisions/>.

These terms and conditions must be included in their entirety by the CONTRACTOR in all purchase orders or subcontracts that are directly related to the Agreement, even though some of the terms and conditions might not apply to a particular kind of purchase order or subcontract.

These general provisions may be updated from time to time. It is the sole responsibility of the CONTRACTOR to be aware of any changes hereto, to amend and implement such changes and to ensure subcontracts terms and conditions are modified as necessary, if any.

General Provisions:

1. PROVISIONS REQUIRED BY LAW DEEMED INSERTED

Each and every provision of law and clause required by law to be inserted in this Contract shall be deemed to be inserted herein and the Contract shall be read and enforced as though it were included herein, and if through mistake or otherwise any such provision is not inserted, or is not correctly inserted, then upon the application of either party, the Contract shall forthwith be physically amended to make such insertion or correction.

2. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

CONTRACTOR shall comply with all laws and regulations applicable to the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds appropriated by: the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018, and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements, 2017 (**Pub. L. 115-56**) approved on September 8, 2017, as amended; the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (**Pub. L. 115-123**) approved on February 9, 2018, as amended; the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019, (**Pub. L. 116-20**) approved on June 6, 2019, as amended; as well as including, but not limited to, the applicable Office of Management and Budget Circulars, which may impact the administration of funds and/or set forth certain cost principles, including if certain expenses are allowed.

3. BREACH OF CONTRACT TERMS

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The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) reserves its right to all administrative, contractual, or legal remedies, including but not limited to suspension or termination of this Contract, in instances where the CONTRACTOR or any of its subcontractors violate or breach any Contract term. If the CONTRACTOR or any of its subcontractors violate or breach any Contract term, they shall be subject to such sanctions and penalties as may be appropriate. The duties and obligations imposed by the Contract documents, and the rights and remedies available thereunder shall be in addition to and not a limitation of any duties, obligations, rights and remedies otherwise imposed or available by law.

4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The CONTRACTOR shall complete and submit all reports, in such form and according to such schedule, as may be required by PRDOH and/or the Government of Puerto Rico. The CONTRACTOR shall cooperate with all the PRDOH and/or the Government of Puerto Rico efforts to comply with HUD requirements and regulations pertaining to reporting, including but not limited to 24 C.F.R. §§ 85.40-41 (or 84.50-52, if applicable) and § 570.507, when applicable.

5. ACCESS TO RECORDS

The Government of Puerto Rico, the PRDOH, HUD, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have, at any time and from time to time during normal business hours, access to any work product, books, documents, papers, and records of the CONTRACTOR which are related to this Contract, for the purpose of inspection, audits, examinations, and making excerpts, copies and transcriptions.

6. MAINTENANCE/RETENTION OF RECORDS

All records (files, data, work product) connected with this Contract will be turned over to PRDOH following the Agreement termination to be maintained for the remainder of the grant and post grant closeout.

7. SMALL AND MINORITY FIRMS, WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND LABOR SURPLUS AREA FIRMS

The CONTRACTOR will take necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used in subcontracting when possible. Steps include, but are not limited to:

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- (i) Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
 - (ii) Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
 - (iii) Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority business, and women's business enterprises;
 - (iv) Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority business, and women's business enterprises; and
 - (v) Using the services and assistance of the Small Business Administration, and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.

Additionally, for contracts of **\$10,000 or more**, the CONTRACTOR shall file Form HUD 2516 (Contract and Subcontract Activity) with the PRDOH on a quarterly basis.

8. RIGHTS TO INVENTIONS MADE UNDER A CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT

Contracts or agreements for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work shall provide for the rights of the Federal Government and the recipient in any resulting invention in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Part 401, "Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements", and any implementing regulations issued by HUD.

9. TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

The Proposer will comply with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives Federal funds or other Federal financial assistance. Programs that receive Federal funds cannot distinguish among individuals on the basis of race, color or national origin, either directly or indirectly, in the types, quantity, quality or timelines of program services, aids or benefits that they provide or the manner in which they provide them. This prohibition applies to intentional discrimination as well as to procedures, criteria or methods of administration that appear neutral but have a discriminatory effect on individuals because of their race, color, or national origin. Policies and practices that have such an effect must be eliminated unless a recipient can show that they were necessary to achieve a legitimate nondiscriminatory objective.

10. SECTION 109 OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974

The CONTRACTOR shall comply with the provisions of Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. No person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied

the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this title. Section 109 further provides that discrimination on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 or with respect to an otherwise qualified handicapped individual as provided in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, is prohibited.

11. SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

PI- The CONTRACTOR shall comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794), as amended, and any applicable regulations.

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The CONTRACTOR agrees that no qualified individual with handicaps shall, solely on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance from HUD.

12. AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1975

The CONTRACTOR shall comply with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), as amended, and any applicable regulations. No person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination under, any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

13. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND INELIGIBILITY

The CONTRACTOR represents and warrants that it and its subcontractors are not debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs subject to 2 C.F.R. Part 2424.

14. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The CONTRACTOR shall notify the PRDOH as soon as possible if this Contract or any aspect related to the anticipated work under this Contract raises an actual or potential conflict of interest (as defined at 24 C.F.R. §578.95; 24 C.F.R. §570.489(g) and (h); and 24 C.F.R. §570.611, if applicable). The CONTRACTOR shall explain the actual or potential conflict in writing in sufficient detail so that the PRDOH is able to assess such actual or potential conflict. The CONTRACTOR shall provide the PRDOH any additional information necessary to fully assess and address such actual or potential conflict of interest. The CONTRACTOR shall accept any reasonable conflict mitigation strategy employed by the PRDOH, including but not limited to the use of an independent subcontractor(s) to perform the portion of work that gives rise to the actual or potential conflict.

15. SUBCONTRACTING

When subcontracting, the CONTRACTOR shall solicit for and contract with such subcontractors in a manner providing for fair competition. Some of the situations considered to be restrictive of competition include, but are not limited to:

- (i) Placing unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business;
- (ii) Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding;
- (iii) Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated Companies;
- (iv) Noncompetitive awards to consultants that are on retainer contracts,
- (v) Organizational conflicts of interest;
- (vi) Specifying only a brand name product instead of allowing an equal product to be offered and describing the performance of other relevant requirements of the procurement; and
- (vii) Any arbitrary action in the procurement process.

The CONTRACTOR represents to the PRDOH that all work shall be performed by personnel experienced in the appropriate and applicable profession and areas of expertise, taking into account the nature of the work to be performed under this Contract.

The CONTRACTOR will include these HUD General Provisions in every subcontract issued by it, so that such provisions will be binding upon each of its subcontractors as well as the requirement to flow down such terms to all lower-tiered subcontractors.

16. ASSIGNABILITY

The CONTRACTOR shall not assign any interest in this Agreement, and shall not transfer any interest in the same (whether by assignment or novation) without prior written approval of the PRDOH.

17. INDEMNIFICATION

The CONTRACTOR shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Government of Puerto Rico and PRDOH, its agents and employees, from and against any and all claims, actions, suits, charges, and judgments arising from or related to the negligence or willful misconduct of the CONTRACTOR in the performance of the services called for in this Contract.

18. COPELAND "ANTI-KICKBACK" ACT

(Applicable to all construction or repair contracts)

Salaries of personnel performing work under this Contract shall be paid unconditionally and not less often than once a month without payroll deduction or rebate on any account except only such payroll deductions as are mandatory by law or permitted by

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the applicable regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Copeland "Anti-Kickback Act" of June 13, 1934 (48 Stat. 948; 62 Stat. 740; 63 Stat. 108; Title 18 U.S.C. § 874; and Title 40 U.S.C. § 276c). The CONTRACTOR shall comply with all applicable "Anti-Kickback" regulations and shall insert appropriate provisions in all subcontracts covering work under this Agreement to ensure compliance by subcontractors with such regulations, and shall be responsible for the submission of affidavits required of subcontractors thereunder except as the Secretary of Labor may specifically provide for variations of or exemptions from the requirements thereof.

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19. CONTRACT WORK HOURS AND SAFETY STANDARDS ACT

(Applicable to construction contracts exceeding \$2,000 and contracts exceeding \$2,500 that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers)

The CONTRACTOR shall comply with Sections 103 and 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 3701-3708) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 C.F.R. Part 5).

All laborers and mechanics employed by CONTRACTORS or subcontractors shall receive overtime compensation in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, and the CONTRACTORS and subcontractors shall comply with all regulations issued pursuant to that act and with other applicable Federal laws and regulations pertaining to labor standards.

20. DAVIS-BACON ACT

(Applicable to construction contracts exceeding \$2,000 when required by Federal program legislation)

The CONTRACTOR shall comply with the Davis Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 3141, et seq.) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 C.F.R. Part 5).

All laborers and mechanics employed by CONTRACTORS or subcontractors, including employees of other governments, on construction work assisted under this Contract, and subject to the provisions of the federal acts and regulations listed in this paragraph, shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act.

On a semi-annual basis, the CONTRACTOR shall submit Form HUD 4710 (Semi-Annual labor Standards Enforcement Report) to PRDOH.

21. TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

(Applicable to contracts exceeding \$10,000)

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If, through any cause, the CONTRACTOR shall fail to fulfill in a timely and proper manner his or her obligations under this Contract, or if the CONTRACTOR shall violate any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this Contract, the PRDOH shall thereupon have the right to terminate this Contract by giving written notice to the CONTRACTOR of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least five (5) days before the effective date of such termination. In such event, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models, photographs, and reports prepared by the CONTRACTOR under this Agreement shall, at the option of the PRDOH, become the PRDOH's property and the CONTRACTOR shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any work satisfactorily completed hereunder. Notwithstanding the above, the CONTRACTOR shall not be relieved of liability to the Government of Puerto Rico and PRDOH for damages sustained by the Government of Puerto Rico and/or PRDOH by virtue of any breach of the Agreement by the CONTRACTOR, and the Government of Puerto Rico and/or PRDOH may withhold any payments to the CONTRACTOR for the purpose of set-off until such time as the exact amount of damages due to the Government of Puerto Rico and/or PRDOH from the CONTRACTOR is determined.

22. TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

(Applicable to contracts exceeding \$10,000)

The PRDOH may terminate this Contract at any time by giving at least ten (10) days' notice in writing to the CONTRACTOR. If the Contract is terminated by the PRDOH as provided herein, the CONTRACTOR will be paid for the time provided and expenses incurred up to the termination date.

23. SECTION 503 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

(Applicable to contracts exceeding \$10,000)

The CONTRACTOR shall comply with Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 793), as amended, and any applicable regulations.

Equal Opportunity for Workers with Disabilities:

- 1) The CONTRACTOR will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The CONTRACTOR agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment and otherwise treat qualified individuals with disabilities without discrimination based on their physical or mental disability in all employment practices, including the following:

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- (i) Recruitment, advertising, and job application procedures;
 - (ii) Hiring, upgrading, promotion, award of tenure, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, right of return from layoff and rehiring;
 - (iii) Rates of pay or any other form of compensation and changes in compensation;
 - (iv) Job assignments, job classifications, organizational structures, position descriptions, lines of progression, and seniority lists;
 - (v) Leaves of absence, sick leave, or any other leave;
 - (vi) Fringe benefits available by virtue of employment, whether or not administered by the CONTRACTOR;
 - (vii) Selection and financial support for training, including apprenticeship, professional meetings, conferences, and other related activities, and selection for leaves of absence to pursue training;
 - (viii) Activities sponsored by the CONTRACTOR including social or recreational programs; and
 - (ix) Any other term, condition, or privilege of employment.

- 2) The CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to the act.
- 3) In the event of the CONTRACTOR's noncompliance with the requirements of this clause, actions for noncompliance may be taken in accordance with the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to the act.
- 4) The CONTRACTOR agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices in a form to be prescribed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Federal Contract Compliance Programs, provided by or through the contracting officer. Such notices shall state the rights of applicants and employees as well as the CONTRACTOR'S obligation under the law to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified employees and applicants with disabilities. The CONTRACTOR must ensure that applicants and employees with disabilities are informed of the contents of the notice (e.g., the CONTRACTOR may have the notice read to a visually disabled individual, or may lower the posted notice so that it might be read by a person in a wheelchair).
- 5) The CONTRACTOR will notify each labor organization or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract understanding, that the CONTRACTOR is bound by the terms of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act

of 1973, as amended, and is committed to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment individuals with physical or mental disabilities.

- 6) The CONTRACTOR will include the provisions of this clause in every subcontract or purchase order in excess of \$10,000, unless exempted by the rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary issued pursuant to Section 503 of the act, as amended, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The CONTRACTOR will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Federal Contract Compliance Programs may direct to enforce such provisions, including action for noncompliance.

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24. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

(Applicable to construction contracts and subcontracts exceeding \$10,000)

The CONTRACTOR shall comply with Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by Executive Order 11375 of October 13, 1967, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations (41 C.F.R. chapter 60).

During the performance of this Agreement, the CONTRACTOR agrees as follows:

- 1) The CONTRACTOR shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The CONTRACTOR shall take affirmative action to ensure that applicants for employment are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship.
- 2) The CONTRACTOR shall post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by Contracting Officer setting forth the provisions of this non-discrimination clause. The CONTRACTOR shall state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- 3) The CONTRACTOR will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the CONTRACTOR, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

- 4) The CONTRACTOR will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he or she has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union or workers representative of the CONTRACTOR's commitments under Section 202 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
- 5) The CONTRACTOR will comply with all provisions of Exec. Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.
- 6) The CONTRACTOR will furnish all information and reports required by Exec. Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by the rules, regulations and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to books, records and accounts by the contracting agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations and orders.
- 7) In the event of the CONTRACTOR's non-compliance with the non-discrimination clause of this Agreement or with any of such rules, regulations or orders, this Agreement may be cancelled, terminated or suspended in whole or in part and the CONTRACTOR may be declared ineligible for further government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246 and such other sanctions as may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Exec. Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.
- 8) CONTRACTOR shall incorporate the provisions of 1 through 7 above in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations or orders of the Secretary of Labor so that such provisions shall be binding on such subcontractor. The CONTRACTOR will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the contracting agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for non-compliance, provided, however, that in the event the CONTRACTOR becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the contracting agency, the CONTRACTOR may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

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25. CERTIFICATION OF NONSEGREGATED FACILITIES

(Applicable to construction contracts exceeding \$10,000)

PH The CONTRACTOR certifies that it does not maintain or provide for its establishments, and that it does not permit employees to perform their services at any location, under its control, where segregated facilities are maintained. It certifies further that it will not maintain or provide for employees any segregated facilities at any of its establishments, and it will not permit employees to perform their services at any location under its control where segregated facilities are maintained. The CONTRACTOR agrees that a breach of this certification is a violation of the equal opportunity clause of this Agreement.

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As used in this certification, the term "segregated facilities" means any waiting rooms, work areas, rest rooms and wash rooms, restaurants and other eating areas, time clocks, locker rooms, and other storage or dressing areas, parking lots, drinking fountains, recreation or entertainment areas, transportation and housing facilities provided for employees which are segregated by explicit directive or are, in fact, segregated on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin because of habit, local custom, or any other reason.

The CONTRACTOR further agrees that (except where it has obtained for specific time periods) it will obtain identical certification from proposed subcontractors prior to the award of subcontracts exceeding \$10,000 which are not exempt from the provisions of the equal opportunity clause; that it will retain such certifications in its files; and that it will forward the preceding notice to such proposed subcontractors (except where proposed subcontractors have submitted identical certifications for specific time periods).

26. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH CLEAN AIR AND WATER ACTS

(Applicable to contracts exceeding \$100,000)

CLEAN AIR ACT

- 1)--The CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.
- 2)--The CONTRACTOR agrees to report each violation to the PRDOH and understands and agrees that the PRDOH will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the Government of Puerto Rico, HUD, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.

- 3)--The CONTRACTOR agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by HUD.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

- 1)--The CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1251, *et seq.*

- 2)--The CONTRACTOR agrees to report each violation to the PRDOH and understands and agrees that the PRDOH will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the Government of Puerto Rico, HUD, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.

- 3)--The CONTRACTOR agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by HUD.

The CONTRACTOR and all subcontractors shall comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 *et seq.*, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*, and the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect thereto, at 5 C.F.R. Part 919 Subpart E and 24 C.F.R. Part 58 as amended, Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1368) and Executive Order 11738.

In addition to the foregoing requirements, all nonexempt contractors and subcontractors shall furnish to the owner, the following:

- 1) A stipulation by the CONTRACTOR or subcontractors, that any facility to be utilized in the performance of any nonexempt contract or subcontract, is not listed on the Excluded Party Listing System pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 32 or on the List of Violating Facilities issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (**EPA**) pursuant to 24 C.F.R. Part 58, as amended.
- 2) Agreement by the CONTRACTOR to comply with all the requirements of Section 114 of the Clean Air Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 7414) and Section 308 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, (33 U.S.C. § 1318) relating to inspection, monitoring, entry, reports and information, as well as all other requirements specified

in said Section 114 and Section 308, and all regulations and guidelines issued thereunder.

- 3) A stipulation that as a condition for the award of the Agreement, prompt notice will be given of any notification received from the Director, Office of Federal Activities, EPA, indicating that a facility utilized, or to be utilized for the Agreement, is under consideration to be listed on the Excluded Party Listing System or the EPA List of Violating Facilities.
- 4) Agreement by the CONTRACTOR that he or she will include, or cause to be included, the criteria and requirements in paragraph (1) through (4) of this section in every nonexempt subcontract and requiring that the CONTRACTOR will take such action as the government may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions.

27. ANTI-LOBBYING (Applicable to contracts exceeding \$100,000)

By the execution of this Contract, the CONTRACTOR certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- 1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the CONTRACTOR, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- 2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the CONTRACTOR shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities", in accordance with its instructions.
- 3) The CONTRACTOR shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

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

28. BONDING REQUIREMENTS

(Applicable to construction and facility improvement contracts exceeding \$100,000)

The CONTRACTOR shall comply with Puerto Rico bonding requirements, unless they have not been approved by HUD, in which case the CONTRACTOR shall comply with the following minimum bonding requirements:

- 1) A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" shall consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of his or her bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.
- 2) A performance bond on the part of the CONTRACTOR for one hundred percent (100%) of the Agreement price. A "performance bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to secure the fulfillment of all the CONTRACTOR's obligations under such contract.
- 3) A payment bond on the part of the CONTRACTOR for one hundred percent (100%) of the Agreement price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by the law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

29. SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1968 (As required by applicable thresholds)

- 1) The work to be performed under this Agreement is subject to the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. § 1701u (**Section 3**). The purpose of Section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance or HUD-assisted projects covered by Section 3, shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly persons who are recipients of HUD assistance for housing.

- 2) The parties to this Agreement agree to comply with HUD's regulations in 24 C.F.R. Part 75 which implement Section 3. As evidenced by their execution of this Agreement, the parties to this Agreement certify that they are under no contractual or other impediment that would prevent them from complying with the Part 75 regulations.
- 3) The CONTRACTOR agrees to send to each labor organization or representative of workers with which the CONTRACTOR has a collective bargaining agreement or other understanding, if any, a notice advising the labor organization or workers' representative of the CONTRACTOR's commitments under this Section 3 clause, and will post copies of the notice in conspicuous places at the work site where both employees and applicants for training and employment positions can see the notice. The notice shall describe the Section 3 preference, shall set forth minimum number and job titles subject to hire, availability of apprenticeship and training positions, the qualifications for each; and the name and location of the person(s) taking applications for each of the positions; and the anticipated date the work shall begin.
- 4) The CONTRACTOR agrees to include this Section 3 clause in every subcontract subject to compliance with regulations in 24 C.F.R. Part 75, and agrees to take appropriate action, as provided in an applicable provision of the subcontract or in this Section 3 clause, upon a finding that the subcontractor is in violation of the regulations in 24 C.F.R. Part 75. The CONTRACTOR will not subcontract with any subcontractor where the CONTRACTOR has notice or knowledge that the subcontractor has been found in violation of the regulations in 24 C.F.R. Part 75.
- 5) The CONTRACTOR will certify that any vacant employment positions, including training positions, that are filled: (1) after the CONTRACTOR is selected but before the contract is executed, and (2) with persons other than those to whom the regulations of 24 C.F.R. Part 75 require employment opportunities to be directed, were not filled to circumvent the CONTRACTOR's obligations under 24 C.F.R. Part 75.
- 6) Noncompliance with HUD's regulations in 24 C.F.R. Part 75 may result in sanctions, termination of this Agreement for default, and debarment or suspension from future HUD assisted contracts.
- 7) With respect to work performed in connection with Section 3 covered Indian housing assistance, Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (46 U.S.C. § 5307) also applies to the work to be performed under this Agreement. Section 7(b) requires that to the greatest extent feasible: (i) preference and opportunities for training and employment shall be given to Indians, and (ii) preference in the award of contracts and subcontracts shall be given to Indian

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organizations and Indian-owned Economic Enterprises. Parties to this Agreement that are subject to the provisions of Section 3 and Section 7(b) agree to comply with Section 3 to the maximum extent feasible, but not in derogation of compliance with Section 7(b).

- 8) For contracts exceeding \$100,000, the CONTRACTOR shall submit Form HUD 60002 (Section 3 Summary Report) to PRDOH on a quarterly basis, notwithstanding the annual reporting requirement set forth in that form's instructions.

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30. FAIR HOUSING ACT

CONTRACTOR shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended. The act prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, the financing of housing or the provision of brokerage services against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status. The Equal Opportunity in Housing Act prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in the sale, rental, leasing or other disposition of residential property, or in the use or occupancy of housing assisted with Federal funds.

31. ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT

CONTRACTOR shall comply with mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency as contained in the Government of Puerto Rico's energy conservation plan, issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 *et seq.*).

32. HATCH ACT

CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with mandatory standards and policies relating to Hatch Act, Public Law 76-252, as amended.

The Hatch Act applies to political activities of certain state and local employees. As a Puerto Rico Department of Housing CONTRACTOR, you may do any of the following activities: be a candidate in nonpartisan elections; attend political meetings and conventions; contribute money; campaign in partisan elections; and hold office in political parties.

The CONTRACTOR may not do the following activities: be a candidate in partisan elections; use official influence to interfere in elections; coerce political contributions from subordinates in support of political parties or candidates. The office of special counsel operates a website that provides guidance concerning hatch act issues.

33. HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS

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All parties participating in this project agree to comply with Sections 107 and 103 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. Section 107 of the Act is applicable to construction work and provides that no laborer or mechanic shall be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions, which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to his or her health and safety as determined under construction, safety, and health standards promulgated by the Secretary of Labor. These requirements do not apply to the purchase of supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation.

34. PERSONNEL

The CONTRACTOR represents that it has, or will secure at its own expense, all personnel required in performing the services under this Agreement. Such personnel shall not be employees of, or have any contractual relationship with, the contracting party. All the services required hereunder will be performed by the CONTRACTOR or under its supervision, and all personnel engaged in the work shall be fully qualified and shall be authorized or permitted under State and local law to perform such services. No person who is serving sentence in a penal or correctional institution shall be employed on work under this Contract.

35. WITHHOLDING OF WAGES

If in the performance of this Agreement, there is any underpayment of wages by the CONTRACTOR or by any subcontractor thereunder, the PRDOH may withhold from the CONTRACTOR out of payment due to him or her an amount sufficient to pay to employees underpaid the difference between the wages required thereby to be paid and the wages actually paid such employees for the total number of hours worked. The amounts withheld may be disbursed by the PRDOH for and on account of the CONTRACTOR or subcontractor to the respective employees to whom they are due.

36. CLAIMS AND DISPUTES PERTAINING TO WAGE RATES

Claims and disputes pertaining to wage rates or to classifications of professional staff or technicians performing work under this Contract shall be promptly reported in writing by the CONTRACTOR to the PRDOH for the latter's decision, which shall be final with respect thereto.

37. DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF CERTAIN LABOR MATTERS

No person employed on the services covered by this Agreement shall be discharged or in any way discriminated against because he or she has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding or has testified or is about to testify in any

proceeding under or relating to the labor standards applicable hereunder to his or her employer.

38. INTEREST OF MEMBERS OF LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY AND OTHERS

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The CONTRACTOR agrees to establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using positions for a purpose that is or gives the appearance of being motivated by a desire for private gain for themselves or others, particularly those with whom they have a family, business, or other tie. The CONTRACTOR will be aware of and avoid any violation of the laws of this State which prohibit municipal officers and employees from having or owning any interest or share, individually or as agent or employee of any person or corporation, either directly or indirectly, in any contract made or let by the governing authorities of such municipality for the construction or doing of any public work, or for the sale or purchase of any materials, supplies or property of any description, or for any other purpose whatsoever, or in any subcontract arising therefrom or connected therewith, or to receive, either directly or indirectly, any portion or share of any money or other thing paid for the construction or doing of any public work, or for the sale or purchase of any property, or upon any other contract made by the governing authorities of the municipality, or subcontract arising therefore or connected therewith.

The CONTRACTOR will also be aware of and avoid any violation of the laws of this State which prescribe a criminal penalty for any public officer who has an interest in any contract passed by the board of which he or she is a member during the time he or she was a member and for one year thereafter.

39. INTEREST OF CERTAIN FEDERAL OFFICERS

No member of, or delegate to, the Congress of the United States and no Resident Commissioner shall be admitted any share or part of this Agreement or to any benefit to arise therefrom.

40. INTEREST OF CONTRACTOR

The CONTRACTOR agrees that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, in the above described project or any parcels therein or any other interest which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of the Work hereunder. The CONTRACTOR further agrees that no person having any such interest shall be employed in the performance of this Agreement.

41. POLITICAL ACTIVITY

The CONTRACTOR will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. § 1501 et seq.), which limits the political activity of employees.

42. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY

The CONTRACTOR agrees to abstain from using any funds related to this Agreement for inherently religious activities prohibited by 24 C.F.R. § 570.200(j), such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization.

43. FLOOD DISASTER PROTECTION ACT OF 1973

The CONTRACTOR will ensure that procedures and mechanisms are put into place to monitor compliance with all flood insurance requirements as found in the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, 24 C.F.R. § 570.605.

44. LEAD BASED PAINT

The CONTRACTOR must comply with the regulations regarding lead-based paint found at 24 C.F.R. Part 35 on LEAD-BASED PAINT POISONING PREVENTION IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES with regards to all housing units assisted using CDBG-DR funds.

45. VALUE ENGINEERING

(Applicable to construction contracts exceeding \$2,000 when required by Federal program legislation)

The CONTRACTOR must comply with the regulations regarding systematic and organized approach to analyze functions of systems, equipment, facilities, services, and materials to ensure they achieve their essential functions at the lowest cost consistent to life cycle in execution, reliability, quality, and safety, in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 200.318(g).

46. UNIFORM RELOCATION ASSISTANCE AND REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION POLICIES ACT (URA)

Every project funded in part or in full by Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds, and all activities related to that project, are subject to the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 4601 et seq., and section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, as amended (HCDA), 42 U.S.C. § 5304(d), except where waivers or alternative requirements have been provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The implementing regulations for URA are at 49 C.F.R. Part 24, and the regulations for section 104(d) are at 24 C.F.R. Part 42, subpart C. Additionally, HUD has established regulations specific to CDBG-funded housing activities at 24 C.F.R. § 570.606. PRDOH has also established the Uniform Relocation Assistance Guide & Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan (URA & ADP Guide) which provides guidance and requirements regarding URA compliance and minimizing displacement that are applicable to all CDBG-DR programs. The primary purpose of these laws and regulations is to provide uniform, fair, and

equitable treatment of persons whose real property is acquired or who are displaced in connection with federally funded projects.

When CDBG-DR funds are planned, intended, or used for any activity or phase of a project and the phases are interdependent, URA applies to that activity or project. This includes any property acquisition, even if CDBG-DR funds are not used to fund the purchase, if the contract to acquire property is executed with the intention of seeking CDBG-DR funds to complete the project or an interdependent phase of the project. Contractors are responsible for ensuring URA compliance throughout the design, proposal, and implementation of any project that includes real property acquisition or displacement of residential or business occupants.

47. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970 (OSH ACT)

The CONTRACTOR shall comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act) as supplemented by the Department of Labor regulations. This Act created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA sets and enforces protective standards of safety and health in the workplace. Under the OSH Act, employers have a responsibility to provide a safe workplace.

Employers must comply with the 29 CFR 1910 General Obligations Clause of the OSH Act. This clause requires employers to maintain their workplaces free from serious recognized hazards. This includes the adoption of safety and health guidelines and the subsequent training of the employer's workforce in these.

CONTRACTORS whose Scope of Work includes construction activities must comply with the General Clauses, and also with provisions of 29 CFR 1926 "Construction Health and Safety Regulations". It shall be a condition of any contract for construction, alteration and/or repair, including painting and decorating, that no contractor or subcontractor for any part of the contract work shall require any worker or mechanic employed in the performance of the contract to work in an environment or in unhealthy, hazardous or dangerous working conditions to their health or safety.

48. FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT (FFATA)

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (**FFATA**), as amended, was signed with the intent of reducing wasteful government spending and providing citizens with the ability to hold the government accountable for spending decisions. 2 C.F.R. § Part 170 outlines the requirements of recipients' in reporting information on subawards and executive total compensation under FFATA legislation. Any non-Federal

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entity that receives or administers Federal financial assistance in the form of grants, loans, loan guarantees, subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, assessed and voluntary contributions; and/or other financial assistance transactions that authorize the non-Federal entities' expenditure of Federal fund, is subject to these requirements. Prime contract awardees and prime grant awardees are required to report against subcontracts and subgrants awarded in the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS), the reporting tool for Federal prime awardees. This information reported will then be displayed on a public and searchable website: www.USASpending.gov.

49. PROCUREMENT

The Uniform Guidance procurement requirements (2 C.F.R. § Part 200, Subpart D) went into effect on July 1, 2018. These requirements are applicable to CDBG-DR funded projects, or as provided by 83 Federal Register 5844 VI A(1)(b)(2) permits a state grantee to elect to follow its own procurement policy. These policies and procedures ensure that Federal dollars are spent fairly and encourage open competition at the best level of service and price.

50. CHANGE ORDERS TO CONTRACTS

Change orders are issued when the initial agreed-upon pricing or work to be completed requires modification. First, the CONTRACTOR must complete a Change Order Request Form. This form and supporting documentation must be delivered to the PRDOH for review. Each change order must have a cost analysis. Once the Project Manager approves the change order, it is returned to the contractor for execution. Change orders are only invoiced on the final draw and categorized as "change orders." The amount listed on the invoice must match the previously approved amount and must be cost-reasonable. The PRDOH is responsible for verifying cost reasonableness. Verification documentation for cost reasonableness becomes an attachment to the change order.

51. LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

Executive Order No. 13166, signed on August 11, 2000, requires programs, subrecipients, contractors, subcontractors, and/or developers funded in whole or in part with CDBG-DR financial assistance to ensure fair and meaningful access to programs and services for families and individuals with Limited English Proficiency (**LEP**) and/or deaf/hard of hearing. Fair access is ensured through the implementation of a Language Assistance Plan (**LAP**), which includes non-English-based outreach, translation services of vital documents, free language assistance services, and staff training. Vital documents are defined as depending on the importance of the program, information, encounter, or service

involved, and the consequence to the LEP person if the information in question is not provided accurately or in a timely manner.

The Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Language Access Plan for all CDBG-DR/MIT Programs states that Subrecipient Agreements will include requirements for the provisions of LEP and Limited Spanish Proficient (**LSP**) resources by subrecipients for all public participatory activities, including marketing, outreach, applications, vital document translations as well as monitoring requirements. Subrecipients and contractors have to comply with the following LEP/LSP requirements:

- a. Provide Spanish translations for all outreach, marketing, application materials, and vital documents, and advertise the availability of language assistance services.
- b. Requirements will also be added for subrecipients, contractors, and other administering entities that interact with LEP/LSP individuals as part of the implementation of the CDBG-DR/MIT Programs to:
 - i. Develop and maintain operating procedures that address LEP/LSP assistance;
 - ii. Maintain inquiry and application logs that specify language of choice;
 - iii. Submit documentation to PRDOH supporting subrecipient efforts to further LEP access;
 - iv. Submit translated documentation to PRDOH for maintenance in PRDOH's project files; and
Require periodic monitoring by PRDOH for compliance with LEP/LSP requirements.

CDBG-DR/MIT subrecipients and contractors, as well as any other administering entities that interact with LEP/LSP individuals as part of the implementation of the programs, will be required to maintain inquiry and application logs that document the language preference of persons seeking to apply or participate in CDBG-DR/MIT funded activities.

52. PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

In accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.303, regarding internal controls of a non-Federal entity, a grantee must guarantee the protection of all Personally Identifiable Information (PII) obtained. The program will enact necessary measures to ensure PII of all applicants is safeguarded as to avoid release of private information. If a contractor or employee should experience any loss or potential loss of PII, the program shall be notified immediately of the breach or potential breach.

53. PROCUREMENT OF RECOVERED MATERIALS

A non-Federal entity that is a state agency or agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors must comply with section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (**EPA**) at 40 C.F.R. part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired during the preceding fiscal year exceeded \$10,000; procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and establishing an affirmative procurement program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.

END OF DOCUMENT

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ATTACHMENT G

CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

VIDAL, NIEVES & BAUZÁ LLC

I. **Contractor (or Subrecipient) Certification Requirement:**

1. The expected subcontractor(s) in connection with the contract¹ is (are) the following:

Vidal, Nieves & Bauza, LLC

Legal Consulting Services for Commercial Transactions and Construction Developments under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Programs and any future federal funds allocations.

The total amount for a contract for an initial period of two (2) years, with the option of extension for two (2) additional one (1) year terms is:

\$611,823.35

2. Neither the Contractor (or subrecipient) nor any of its owners², partners, directors, officials, or employees, has agreed to share or give a percentage of the contractor's (or subrecipient's) compensation under the contract³ to, or otherwise compensate, any third party, whether directly or indirectly, in connection with the procurement, negotiation, execution or performance of the contract.
3. To the best knowledge of the signatory (after due investigation), no person has unduly intervened in the procurement, negotiation, or execution of the contract, for its own benefit or that of a third person, in contravention of applicable law.
4. To the best knowledge of the signatory (after due investigation), no person has:
(i) offered, paid, or promised to pay money to; (ii) offered, given, or promised to give anything of value to; or (iii) otherwise influenced any public official or employee with the purpose of securing any advantages, privileges or favors for the benefit of such person in connection with the contract (such as the

¹ As used herein, the term "contract" is inclusive of any amendments, modifications, or extensions.

² For purposes of this Certification, a contractor's "owner" shall mean any person or entity with more than a ten percent (10%) ownership interest in the Contractor.

³ As used herein, the term "contract" is inclusive of any amendments, modifications, or extensions.

execution of a subcontract with the Contractor, beneficial treatment under the contract, or the written or unwritten promise of a gift, favor, or other monetary or non-monetary benefit).

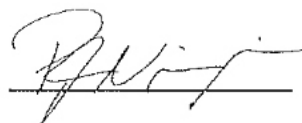
5. Neither the Contractor (or subrecipient), nor any of its owners, partners, directors, officials, or employees or, to the best of its knowledge (after due investigation), its representatives or sub-contractors, has required, directly or indirectly, from third persons to take any action with the purpose of influencing any public official or employee in connection with the procurement, negotiation, or execution of the contract, in contravention of applicable law.
6. In compliance with Executive Order No. 2021-029 and CC 013-2021, the Contractor certifies as of the date hereof, that it is in a contractual relationship with the following entities of the Government of Puerto Rico: **PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING**.⁴ The Contractor also certifies that said entities are all the entities of the Government of Puerto Rico with which they maintain a contractual relationship. In addition, the Contractor recognizes and accepts that omitting any information regarding any current contractual relationship with any governmental entity could result in the termination of this agreement if so, required by PRDOH.
7. Any incorrect, incomplete, or false statement made by the contractor's (or subrecipient's) representative as part of this certification shall cause the nullity of the proposed contract and the contractor (or subrecipient) must reimburse immediately to the Commonwealth any amounts, payments or benefits received from the Commonwealth under the proposed contract.

The above certifications shall be signed under penalty of perjury by the Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent highest rank officer) in the following form:

"I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is complete, true, and correct."

By: Pedro J. Nieves-Miranda

Position: Member-Manager

Signature: 

Date: June 25, 2024

⁴ The Contractor is required to disclose the names of the entities of the Government of Puerto Rico with whom it has contracts until the Agreement is signed.



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

ATTACHMENT H NON-CONFLICT OF INTEREST CERTIFICATION

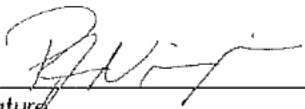
VIDAL, NIEVES & BAUZÁ LLC

The CONTRACTOR certifies that:

1. No public servant of this executive agency has a pecuniary interest in this contract, subrecipient agreement, purchase, or commercial transaction.
2. No public servant of this executive agency has requested me or accepted from me, directly or indirectly, for him (her), for any member of his family unit or for any person, gifts, bonuses, favors, services, donations, loans or anything else of monetary value.
3. No public servant (s) requested or accepted any good of economic value, linked to this transaction, from any person of my entity as payment for performing the duties and responsibilities of their employment.
4. No public servant has requested from me, directly or indirectly, for him (her), for any member of his or her family unit, or for any other person, business, or entity, something of economic value, including gifts, loans, promises, favors or services in exchange for the performance of said public servant is influenced in my favor or of my entity.
5. I have no kinship relationship, within the fourth degree of consanguinity and second by affinity, with any public servant who has the power to influence and participate in the institutional decisions of this executive agency.

The above certifications shall be signed under penalty of perjury by the Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent highest rank officer) in the following form:

"I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is complete, true, and correct."



Signature

June 25, 2024

Date

Pedro J. Nieves-Miranda

Printed Name

Member-Manager

Position