Internal Control Structure Questionnaire (ICSQ) for Cost Reimbursement Contracts

Form 9007CR October 2008

Subcontractor :		DFPS Contract #: 297929		<u>)1 </u>	
Curre	nt Contract Period:	Contract Manager:	Jodi New	ton	
Please	refer to instructions at the end of this questionnaire.				
SEC	STION I: FINANCIAL POSITION section should be answered about your organization as a	a whole.)			
1.	Please describe the accounting system in place (i.e., a	accrual, cash, or modit	fied accrual)		
2.	Do you complete yearly financial statements (e.g., Bal Statement, Other)?	ance Sheet, Income		□Yes □No	
	If yes, please list the name of the person responsible in financial statements below and attach copy of your more mark it ATTACHMENT# I-2.				
	Person responsible for annual financial statements:				
	If no, please provide any manual or automated information "current" financial position (i.e., assets versus liabilities your latest income tax forms, etc.) and mark it ATTAC	s, a copy of Schedule			
3.	Are your accounting and financial system operations "an independent auditor (CPA, State Public Accountar Note that this is not referring to compliance monitoring Managers.	nt, Office of State Audi	tor)?	☐Yes ☐No	
	If yes, how often and who audits your records?				
	Also, if yes, please provide a copy of your most currer agency and mark it ATTACHMENT #I-3 .	nt "audit" performed of	your		
4.	Does your organization certify that there are no contin or litigation that could affect your organization's financ of the contract (e.g., outstanding audit exceptions or p	ial position during the	life cycle	☐Yes ☐No	
	If no, please explain.				
5.	Does your organization stay current with payment of it	s liabilities, loans, taxe	es, etc.?	☐Yes ☐No	
	If no, please explain, and include any defaults on loan covenants in loan agreements in the past year.	s or violations of restri	cting		
6.	Is your organization able to obtain credit when needed	1?		☐Yes ☐No	
	If no, please explain any difficulty your organization had previous year.	as had in obtaining cre	dit in the		

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7.	Has your organization been audited by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the past two years?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If your organization has been audited by the IRS within the past two years, have all discrepancies cited in the audit been resolved?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If no, please describe the discrepancies <u>or</u> impact of the audit on your financial position.	
SEC	TION II: INTERNAL CONTROLS	
(This	GENERAL/ACCOUNTING CONTROLS section should be answered about your organization as a whole. When a question mention ing to all of your contracts with DFPS and with any other state agencies, as well as any gradient or all of your contracts with DFPS and with any other state agencies.	
1.	Do you have more than one contract with DFPS?	☐Yes ☐No
	If yes, please attach a list of all of your DFPS contracts, including type of service, contract number, dollar amount of contract, contract payment method (e.g., cost reimbursement or fee for service), and name and telephone number of DFPS contact person for each contract. Mark this list ATTACHMENT #II-1 .	
2.	Do you have contracts with other Texas state agencies (e.g., Texas Youth Commission, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, Texas Education Agency, etc.)?	☐Yes ☐No
	If yes, please attach a list of all your contracts with other state agencies, including the state agency name, type of service provided under the contract, dollar amount, and name and telephone number of state agency contact person for the contract. Mark this list ATTACHMENT #II-2.	
3.	Do you maintain contract files for each of your DFPS contracts?	☐Yes ☐No
	If yes, do the contract files contain:	
	a. The approved contract with all attachments?	☐Yes ☐No
	b. Copies of contract amendments?	☐Yes ☐No
	c. Billing documents?	☐Yes ☐No
	d. Related correspondence?	☐Yes ☐No
	e. Copies of subcontracts?	☐Yes ☐No
4.	a. Are all expenditures that are reported and/or billed as DFPS costs reconciled with your general ledger?	☐Yes ☐No
	If no, please provide a written explanation below as to why such expenditures are not reconciled to your general ledger.	
	b. Is the general ledger kept up-to-date and balanced at least monthly? If not monthly, please specify frequency.	☐Yes ☐No
	c. Are financial statements reviewed by Executive Management? If no, please explain.	☐Yes ☐No

5.	Do you maintain a separate general ledger account for:	
	a. Deposits for each contract's funds?	. res lo
	b. Disbursement of each contract's funds?	res o
	Please provide a copy of your chart of accounts, along with an explanation of how your accounting system identifies contract revenues and expenditures separately for each contract. Mark it ATTACHMENT #II-5 .	
6.	Are billings submitted within the time frame specified in the DFPS contract?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
7.	How do you allocate shared costs between contracts and/or programs?	
	Please attach a detailed explanation, and mark it ATTACHMENT #II-7.	
8.	Are costs and expenditures under budgetary control for both total contract budget and by budget category?	res No N/A
9.	Do you authorize separate individuals to:	
	a. Sign checks? Indicate name(s) and title(s)	☐Yes ☐No
	b. Approve purchase orders and vouchers? Indicate name(s) and title(s)	Yes No
	c. Prepare checks? Indicate name(s) and title(s)	☐Yes ☐No
	d. Record accounting transactions? Indicate name(s) and title(s)	☐Yes ☐No
	e. Reconcile bank accounts to internal check registers? Indicate name(s) and title(s)	☐Yes ☐No
	f. Maintain an inventory? Indicate name(s) and title(s)	☐Yes ☐No
10.	Is your accounting system automated? If no, skip to Question #18.	☐Yes ☐No
11.	Who has access to the accounting system? Specify name(s) and title(s) below:	
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

12.	Please specify the name(s) and title(s) below for the individuals responsible for updating deleting accounting information: Updating:	
	Changing:	
	Deleting:	
13.	How is the accounting system secured and/or protected? Please explain.	
14.	Explain below the process (initiation, review, approval, etc.) for making updates, change year end adjustments to the accounting system.	es, deletions, and
15.	Are there controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are not lost, duplicated, or added before and after data entry and editing?	☐Yes ☐No
16.	Are there controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions with errors are rejected from further processing (e.g., prevented from updating the files/database)?	☐Yes ☐No
17.	Is the data entered into the accounting system verified? If yes, please specify whom (name and title) is/are responsible for verifying the data, and how the verification is done.	□Yes □No
18.	a. Do purchase orders/requisitions require specific approvals from authorized individuals in the requesting department?b. What additional internal controls and approvals are in place within the organization to ensure payments made are valid and authorized?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
19.	Are all checks pre-numbered and accounted for? If no, please explain.	☐Yes ☐No
20.	Is there any additional review or special approval required for checks exceeding a specific dollar amount? If yes, please specify the dollar limits, name(s) and title(s) of responsible staff below.	☐Yes ☐No
21.	Are voided checks marked "VOID" to prevent reuse? If no, please explain.	☐Yes ☐No

22.	Are voided checks kept with canceled checks?	☐Yes ☐No
	If no, please explain	
23.	Are unused checks adequately safeguarded and in the custody of a person who does not manually sign checks, control the use of facsimile signature plates or operate the facsimile signature machine? Indicate name and title of person below who has custody of unused checks.	☐Yes ☐No
24.	If a check -signing machine is used, are the facsimile signature plates properly safeguarded? If no, please explain below.	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
25.	Is the person receiving cash prohibited from signing checks, reconciling bank accounts, and accessing other accounting records?	☐Yes ☐No
	Indicate name and title below of person receiving cash.	
26.	Is the drafting of checks to "CASH" prohibited?	☐Yes ☐No
	If no, please explain	
27.	Is the practice of signing blank checks prohibited?	☐Yes ☐No
	If no, please explain.	
28.	Are all disbursements approved prior to payment?	☐Yes ☐No
	If no, please explain.	
29.	Are all disbursements (excluding petty cash) made by check?	☐Yes ☐No
	If no, what other means do you use to make disbursements.	
	Is a check register (disbursement journal) used to record disbursements and maintain balances?	☐Yes ☐No
	If no, how are disbursements and balances tracked?	
30.	Are purchase orders/requisitions controlled in such a way that they can all be accounted for (e.g., by sequential pre-numbering, by entry in a register, etc.)?	Yes No N/A
	If yes, please attach an explanation and mark it ATTACHMENT #II-30.	

31.	Are supporting documents (invoices, receipts, approvals, receiving reports, canceled checks, etc.) maintained with each disbursement and/or clearly referenced for easy location and retrieval? Please comment on where and how supporting records are kept and filed (e.g., filed by check number, month of payment, etc).	∏Yes ∏No
32.	Do supporting documents accompany checks for the check signer's signature?	☐Yes ☐No
33.	Are supporting documents marked when paid to prevent reuse or duplication of payment?	☐Yes ☐No
34.	Are invoices marked to identify allocation of payment?	☐Yes ☐No
35.	For your DFPS contracts, do you have procedures to identify costs and expenditures not allowable under federal and/or state regulations?	☐Yes ☐No
	If so, please attach an explanation of your system for identifying unallowable costs/expenditures and mark it ATTACHMENT #II-35 .	
36.	Are all bank accounts reconciled monthly? If not, how often?	☐Yes ☐No
37.	If bank account balances (including Certificates of Deposit) are in excess of FDIC coverage, has the bank pledged securities?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
38.	Do you have a fidelity bond (of at least \$10,000) on employees in appropriate positions (e.g., employees handling cash, employees responsible for equipment inventory)? Indicate name(s) and title(s) of employees covered.	☐Yes ☐No
39.	Do you maintain commercial general liability insurance coverage (with a minimum coverage per occurrence of \$300,000, and a minimum aggregate coverage of \$600,000)?	☐Yes ☐ No ☐N/A
40.	Is insurance coverage (fire, theft, flood) maintained at amounts sufficient to cover the value of all the assets (building, equipment, personal property)?	☐Yes ☐No
II. B.	PERSONNEL	
41.	Do you have on file authorizations covering rates of pay, withholding and deductions for each employee?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If no, please explain.	
42.	Do any employees work overtime?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If yes, please attach a copy of your overtime policy and mark it ATTACHMENT#II-42.	
43.	Do you have written job descriptions with set salary levels for each employee?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If no, please explain	

44.	Does your policy require individual daily time and attendance records for personnel (part-time, full-time, and/or in-kind volunteers) delivering services under your DFPS contract(s)? If no, please explain.	□Yes □No □N/A
	If yes, do the time and attendance records contain the following:	
	a. Employee's name?	☐Yes ☐No
	b. Position/title?	☐Yes ☐No
	c. Total daily hours worked?	☐Yes ☐No
	d. Daily hours charged directly to each contract?	☐Yes ☐No
	e. Employee's signature and/or supervisor's signature?	☐Yes ☐No
45.	a. Are you current with your payroll taxes?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	 b. Do you pay taxes directly? If no, please explain and indicate name of withholding agent. 	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
		
46.	Do you have written personnel policies?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If yes, are they distributed to all employees?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	Do your personnel policies include:	
	a. Hiring policies?b. Performance evaluations?	Yes No
	c. Termination policies?	Yes No
	d. Vacation and/or other authorized absences?	☐Yes ☐No ☐Yes ☐No
	e. Possible conflict of interest?	Yes No
	f. Nepotism policies?	Yes No
	g. Related-party policies?	Yes □No
47.	Does the amount of salary being paid to each employee agree with the approved budget?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	b. If only a portion of any employee's salary is charged to DFPS (i.e., allocated) is that portion supported by an allowable and equitable allocation method?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If yes, please explain allocation method(s) used.	

II. C.	TRAVEL	
48.	Are expenditures for travel substantiated by travel vouchers, travel logs and/or other supporting documentation?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If yes, do travel vouchers/logs contain the following information:	
	a. Name of employee?	☐Yes ☐No
	b. Travel destination (to and from)	☐Yes ☐No
	c. Private car mileage? (to and from destination for each trip)	☐Yes ☐No
	d. Date and time of departure and return? e. Purpose of trip?	∐Yes ∐No
	f. Signature of employee?	∐Yes ∐No ∏Yes ∏No
	g. Approval of supervisor?	∐Yes ∐No ∏Yes ∏No
49.	Are travel expenditures billed to DFPS at or below the prescribed State reimbursement rates?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If no, please explain	
50.	Is out-of-state travel for DFPS projects approved by the DFPS contract manager?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	EQUIPMENT Ir agency as a whole does not purchase equipment with federal funds, skip to Section II E	and mark here □N/A)
51.	Has equipment been directly purchased with DFPS funds?	☐Yes ☐No
52.	Please specify the level of capitalization used by your organization, and provide the definition of what your organization classifies as equipment. Dollar Amount: Definition of Equipment:	
53.	For any equipment items costing more than the level of capitalization stated above in #52 and billed to DFPS, did you obtain written approval from your DFPS contract manager?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
54.	For any equipment items costing \$5,000 or more and billed to DFPS, did you obtain written approval from your DFPS contract manager?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
55.	Were all of the equipment items purchased and billed to DFPS included in your DFPS budget?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If no, please list the equipment below, and include total acquisition cost.	
56.	For equipment that was directly purchased and billed to DFPS, but not detailed in the budget, was prior written approval obtained from your DFPS contract manager?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
57.		
	Are all equipment items, purchased with DFPS funds, tagged for the purpose of internal tracking and inventorying?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A

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58.	Do you conduct a physical inventory of capital equipment acquired with federal funds?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If yes, how often?	
59.	Are inventory records maintained to include: the description of the item, the serial number, funding source, the acquisition cost, the acquisition date and the inventory number? Attach a copy of your inventory records for equipment purchases made with DFPS funds and mark it ATTACHMENT #II-59.	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
60		Dv. Dv. Dv.
60.	Has any equipment purchased in whole or in part with DFPS funds been disposed of?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A ☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If yes, was the DFPS contract manager's approval obtained?	
61.	a. Is equipment purchased with DFPS funds being used by employees paid with DFPS funds?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If no, please explain	
	b. Is equipment purchased with DFPS funds being used as outlined in the contract?If no, please explain	Yes No N/A
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II. E.	SUBCONTRACTORS	
62.	 a. Do you subcontract DFPS contracted services? (If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.) 	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
62.	(If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
63.	(If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.)b. If yes, what percentage of the work required by your contract do you estimate will	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A ☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	(If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.)b. If yes, what percentage of the work required by your contract do you estimate will be subcontracted?	
	 (If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.) b. If yes, what percentage of the work required by your contract do you estimate will be subcontracted? Do you maintain written contracts with all your subcontractors? 	□Yes □No □N/A
63.	(If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.) b. If yes, what percentage of the work required by your contract do you estimate will be subcontracted? Do you maintain written contracts with all your subcontractors? If no, please explain. Within your organization, who is responsible for reviewing and approving subcontracts, Provide name(s) and title(s) below.	□Yes □No □N/A
63.	 (If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.) b. If yes, what percentage of the work required by your contract do you estimate will be subcontracted? Do you maintain written contracts with all your subcontractors? If no, please explain. Within your organization, who is responsible for reviewing and approving subcontracts, 	□Yes □No □N/A
63.	(If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.) b. If yes, what percentage of the work required by your contract do you estimate will be subcontracted? Do you maintain written contracts with all your subcontractors? If no, please explain. Within your organization, who is responsible for reviewing and approving subcontracts, Provide name(s) and title(s) below. Does each subcontract agreement include:	□Yes □No □N/A prior to execution?
63.	(If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.) b. If yes, what percentage of the work required by your contract do you estimate will be subcontracted? Do you maintain written contracts with all your subcontractors? If no, please explain. Within your organization, who is responsible for reviewing and approving subcontracts, Provide name(s) and title(s) below. Does each subcontract agreement include: a. All parties to the contract? b. Scope of work? c. When services are to be performed?	□Yes □No □N/A prior to execution? □Yes □No □N/A □Yes □No □N/A □Yes □No □N/A
63.	(If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.) b. If yes, what percentage of the work required by your contract do you estimate will be subcontracted? Do you maintain written contracts with all your subcontractors? If no, please explain. Within your organization, who is responsible for reviewing and approving subcontracts, Provide name(s) and title(s) below. Does each subcontract agreement include: a. All parties to the contract? b. Scope of work? c. When services are to be performed? d. Rate of pay?	□Yes □No □N/A prior to execution? □Yes □No □N/A □Yes □No □N/A □Yes □No □N/A □Yes □No □N/A
63.	(If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.) b. If yes, what percentage of the work required by your contract do you estimate will be subcontracted? Do you maintain written contracts with all your subcontractors? If no, please explain. Within your organization, who is responsible for reviewing and approving subcontracts, Provide name(s) and title(s) below. Does each subcontract agreement include: a. All parties to the contract? b. Scope of work? c. When services are to be performed? d. Rate of pay? e. Measurable method of payment?	prior to execution? Yes
63.	(If your agency as a whole does not utilize subcontractors, mark N/A and skip to Section II F.) b. If yes, what percentage of the work required by your contract do you estimate will be subcontracted? Do you maintain written contracts with all your subcontractors? If no, please explain. Within your organization, who is responsible for reviewing and approving subcontracts, Provide name(s) and title(s) below. Does each subcontract agreement include: a. All parties to the contract? b. Scope of work? c. When services are to be performed? d. Rate of pay?	□Yes □No □N/A prior to execution? □Yes □No □N/A □Yes □No □N/A □Yes □No □N/A □Yes □No □N/A

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66.	Do all your subcontracts for services under your DFPS contract(s) (e.g., direct services to clients) either include the terms required by your DFPS contract or reference the required terms? If no, please explain. Please attach a copy of your subcontract agreement and mark it ATTACHMENT	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	#II-66.	
67.	Do you have procedures in place to monitor that services under your DFPS contract(s) are being delivered and paid by subcontractors as required by your DFPS contract(s)?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	If yes, please attach a copy of your service monitoring procedures and mark it ATTACHMENT #II-67 .	
68.	a. Do you competitively procure your subcontractors?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	b. If you subcontract with related parties, are the contracts procured fairly?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	c. If you have any DFPS contracts for \$100,000 or more, do you make a good faith effort to subcontract with Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBS)?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
	In no or n/a, please explain.	
	Please attach an explanation of your subcontractor procurement policies and procedures and mark it ATTACHMENT #II-68 .	
69.	Have all subcontracts for services under your DFPS contract (e.g., direct services to clients) been approved by your DFPS contract manager?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
II. F.	RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS	
70.	List name and position of any employee of your corporation who is also a principal stockholder, owning 5% or more stock or who has a controlling interest.	□N/A
busin	e following questions relate to "doing business" with someone. "Doing bus less activities such as purchasing (e.g., a building, a computer, a vehicle, etc ding, a computer, a vehicle, etc.), and/or providing a service (e.g., legal servi services, banking services, etc.), even if the purchase/lease/service is provi	c.), leasing (e.g., a ices, accounting
71.	List any members of your Board of Directors with whom you are "doing business". (Provide name and their position on the Board.)	□n/A
		I

72.	List anyone with whom you are "doing business" who is related, by blood or marriage, to a member of your Board of Directors. (Provide name and their relationship.)	□n/A
73.	List anyone with whom you are "doing business" who is a principal stockholder of your organization. (Provide name and specify the related-party transaction.)	□N/A
74.	List anyone with whom you are "doing business" who is related, by blood or marriage, to a principal stockholder. (Provide name and specify related-party transaction.)	□N/A
75.	List any building and/or property leased from any related party (i.e., a member of your Board of Directors, a principal stockholder, or anyone related, by blood or marriage, to a principal stockholder or Board of Directors. (Include name of related party and specify relationship.)	□N/A
	If there are items listed above, please include a copy of the lease for each item and mark them ATTACHMENT #II-75 .	
The	following questions relate to "conflict of interest." Key employees (e.g., ex president, chief executive officer, administrator, etc.) exert a degree of	
76.	List any key employees with whom you are "doing business". (Provide name and position of employee.)	□N/A
77.	List anyone with whom you are "doing business" who is related, by blood or marriage, to any key employee. (Provide name, identify key employee, and specify business activity.)	□N/A
78.	List any building and/or property leased from a key employee. (Include name and position of employee.)	□N/A
	If there are items listed above, please include a copy of the lease for each item and mark them ATTACHMENT #II-78 .	

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79.	Do you maintain independent appraisals of market value or market rental rates for property resulting from related-party transactions?	☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
80.	List any key employees related, by blood or marriage, to a member of your Board of Directors. (Provide name and position of key employee, specify relationship to member of Board of Directors and specify Board position of Board member.)	□N/A
81.	List any key employees related, by blood or marriage, to anyone related, by blood or marriage, to a member of your Board of Directors. (Provide name and position of key employee, specify relationship to member of Board of Directors and specify Board position of Board member.)	□n/a
82.	List any key employees related by blood or marriage to a principal stockholder or to anyone related by blood or marriage to a principal stockholder. (Provide name of key employee and their position, and specify relationship.)	□n/A
83.	List any employees related by blood or marriage to a key employee or to anyone related by blood or marriage to a key employee. (Provide name and position of employees and specify the relationship.)	□N/A
	CERTIFICATION	
Signed	I by an individual legally responsible for the conduct of the contractor.	
	EBY CERTIFY, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THAT THE INFORMATION IN IS TRUE, CORRECT AND COMPLETE.	I REPORTED
	Signature	ate
	Printed/Typed Name	itle

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Internal Control Structure Questionnaire (ICSQ) for Cost Reimbursement Contracts

Instructions for Submitting

A current "up- to-date" Internal Control Structure Questionnaire is required to be submitted with each new proposal to contract with the Agency, DFPS. If you have never submitted a previous ICSQ, you will need to complete the attached ICSQ.

However, if you have other contracts/proposals with DFPS, you are only required to submit one ICSQ for those contracts that share or abide by same controls. Therefore, if you have submitted an ICSQ with a different proposal (within the past year), and same control structure applies to this contract, you may submit a "copy" of that ICSQ as long as it is current and applicable to this contract, and covers all sections on this ICSQ. If not all sections are covered, you will need to complete the applicable sections on this ICSQ and submit this ICSQ along with the "copy" of the previously submitted ICSQ.

No two-sided copies will be accepted. No pamphlets or books will be accepted. Responses must be typed or printed. Any response that requires an attachment should reference the attachment number in the response and the attachment must be clearly numbered.

Instructions for Completing

Every agency, organization, university, and/or other business entity should have internal controls in place. Internal controls basically ensure that assets (such as cash and equipment) are safeguarded, that expenditure transactions (such as purchases) are authorized, and that financial data are accurately recorded. Another way of saying this is that a system of internal controls assures that assets that belong to the business are received when tendered, are protected while in the custody of the business, and are used only for authorized business purposes.

A system of internal controls is not designed primarily to detect errors but rather to reduce the opportunity for errors or dishonesty to occur. In an effective system of internal controls, no one person should carry out all phases of a business transaction from beginning to end. For example, if one person were permitted to order supplies, receive the supplies, write a check to pay for the supplies, and record the transaction in the accounting records, there would be no protection against either fraud or errors.

Internal controls consist of the policies and procedures that a business develops and implements to minimize risk. To determine if a business has internal controls, numerous questions can be asked regarding the business' processes/procedures for handling cash receipts, cash disbursements, physical inventory, and file maintenance, etc. In addition, the ICSQ has questions that are specific to state and federal regulations/guidelines.

A system of internal controls frequently may be improved by physical safeguards (acting as compensatory controls). Computers help to improve the efficiency and accuracy of record keeping functions. Cash registers, safes, and prenumbered business forms are very helpful in safeguarding cash and establishing responsibility for it. Any system of internal controls must be supervised with care if it is to function effectively.

The cost of a system of internal controls must be balanced against the benefit to be derived in preventing errors and losses.

The ICSQ has been divided into several sections, covering the below purposes as follows:

SECTION I: FINANCIAL POSITION (This section is self-explanatory.)

SECTION II: INTERNAL CONTROLS

This section mainly addresses Internal Controls as described below:

II. A. GENERAL/ACCOUNTING CONTROLS

The general section basically addresses file maintenance and the contractor's responsibility to meet contract terms and/or state/federal regulations.

Accounting controls are concerned with the safeguarding of assets (cash and fixed assets) and the reliability of financial records. The objective sought in the control of cash receipts is to assure that all cash that is receivable by the

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business is collected and recorded without loss. The system of controlling cash payments should be designed to ensure that no unauthorized payments are made. Control is accomplished by division of responsibility to achieve independent verification of cash transactions without duplication of effort.

Number 3:

An element of a good file maintenance process is a systematic filing approach for the numerous documents that flow through a business. A systematic filing approach decreases the risk of losing documents, having documents that pertain to the same issues placed in several locations, and not knowing what changes have occurred related to similar issues. Therefore, a business should have contract files that include the information enumerated in Number 3.

Number 4:

All costs that are reported and/or billed as DFPS costs should be reconciled with the general ledger (the book or file that contains all or groups of the organization's accounts).

Number 5:

400 600

The accounting system used must adequately identify the receipt and expenditures of funds separately for each contract and/or source of funds. Direct costs for each contract must be clearly identified by the accounting system (consider: How are travel expenses recorded when traveling for the DFPS contract?).

Separate general ledger account numbers for revenues and expenses incurred under the contract should be evident. For example:

400 - 699 401 402 403	DFPS revenue - DFPS Guardianship Services DFPS revenue - STAR contract DFPS revenue - DFPS Parenting Training
700 - 999 700 - 709 700 701 702	Expenses Salaries Salaries - DFPS Guardianship Services Salaries - STAR contract Salaries - DFPS Parenting Training
810 - 819 811 812 813	Supplies Consumable Supplies - DFPS Guardianship Services Consumable Supplies - DFPS Parenting Training Consumable Supplies - Star Contract

Support and Davanua Assounts

Number 7:

Costs should be allocated in accordance with relative benefits or other equitable relationship.

Number 8:

Total expenditures for DFPS contracts must be monitored against the total contract budget (Form 2030). For example there must be a system for monitoring the expenditures for salaries against the contract budget category for salaries.

Numbers 11-17:

These questions should only be answered if the accounting system is automated.

Number 18:

This is good business practice. Authorized individuals for departments should be required to approve purchases made on behalf of their department.

Number 19:

This helps to control disbursements of checks.

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Numbers 31:

If the supporting documents are not maintained with each disbursement, the supporting documents should be numbered, clearly referenced, and filed for easy retrieval. Work papers are necessary to provide documentation during monitoring visits and/or audits.

Numbers 32-33:

These procedures are good business practices and aid in accurate record keeping, since it is easier to remember what happened last month rather than what happened months ago.

Number 34

This is extremely important if an invoice is allocated to more than one funding source.

Number 35:

Contractors should know how to access or obtain copies of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) and applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars.

Number 38:

This is a contract term. A fidelity bond is also known as dishonesty bonding under a commercial crime policy, employee crime insurance policy, or business services bonding. A copy of the proof of insurance may be requested for your contract file since this is a contract term.

"Appropriate positions" would include, at a minimum, employees who handle cash (including petty cash), employees with check-signing authority, employees authorized to transfer bank funds, and employees responsible for equipment inventory. Often, the policy will be a blanket policy, covering all employees

Numbers 39-40:

Generally the contract requires commercial general liability coverage with a \$300,000 minimum for each occurrence limit and \$600,000 aggregate minimum limit, see contract for specifics. This question may not be applicable to governmental entities, since most are self-insured.

This is good business practice. If assets were purchased with DFPS funds, the federal regulations require that adequate insurance coverage be maintained. Fire, flood and theft insurance should be of an amount to cover the value of the type of asset being insured (building, equipment, personal property). The historical values of the assets are shown in the general ledger assets accounts (and on a balance sheet).

II. B. PERSONNEL

Businesses should have written personnel policies available to all employees. The policies need to be consistently applied. These written personnel policies should include the business' policies concerning benefits. Questions to be asked: Do all employees have the same fringe benefits? Do some employees have more benefits than others? Are the benefits consistent with the personnel policies?

Number 44:

OMB Circular A-122, Attachment B, Paragraph 7, subparagraph "m" (revised June 1, 1998) and OMB Circular A-87, Attachment B, Paragraph 11, subparagraph "h" (revised August 29, 1997) address documentation necessary to support salaries and wages. These circulars further state that the allocation of direct service delivery staff salaries between programs and/or contracts must be documented.

II. C. TRAVEL (Travel Costs Paid with DFPS Funds)

Number 48:

Supporting documentation would be receipts required for parking fees, hotels, taxis, and airfare.

Number 49:

Travel must be in conformance with the state travel requirements and rates for lodging, meals, and personal vehicle mileage. Limitations for out-of-state meals and hotels can be obtained by telephoning the Texas Comptroller's Office

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in Austin at 512/475-0966.A free copy of the Comptroller's Travel Allowance Guide (TAG) can be obtained by telephoning the Texas Comptroller's Office in Austin at 512/475-0966 or on the Internet:

http://window.state.tx.us/comptrol/san/fm.notices.date.html/fm02/fm02-09b.html

Number 50:

The approval must be in writing and maintained with the travel voucher/travel log. The budget narrative should also have included a reference to out-of-state travel costs.

II. D. EQUIPMENT

Numbers 51-61:

Equipment is defined in 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 74 and the Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars.

Equipment purchased through the contract is subject to an equitable claim by the state (DFPS).

The disposition of all equipment purchased with federal funds must be made according to appropriate regulations and departmental policies, as per OMB Circular A-110, Section 33 (G). No disposition should take place without prior notification to DFPS contract management.

Question #58 is a federal requirement that a physical inventory be taken at least once every two years for equipment acquired with federal funds.

II. E. SUBCONTRACTORS

Number 62:

This section must be completed if use of subcontractors is indicated on the current Form 2046 (Certification regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion for Covered Contracts) on file.

Number 64:

These individuals should be qualified and or trained and hold an appropriate position that allows decision making at the level required as per the contractor's purchasing policy.

Number 66:

Any subcontract for direct services must either state or include all the terms and conditions of the prime contract for subcontractors.

Number 67:

Contractor oversight should be sufficient to ensure that subcontractors consistently provide quality services by measuring performance against well-documented expectations. The subcontract monitoring procedures review process will check for sound monitoring practices and sound business practices. The monitoring function should focus on the outcomes of services provided with an appropriate emphasis on contract monitoring in proportion to the amount/extent of the contracted services. Procedures would adequately describe who is responsible for monitoring, how often monitoring would occur, the monitoring process to include follow-up that requires corrective action as a result of monitoring reviews, and clearly defined termination procedures. Information provided in #65.b., c., f., & g. should be included in these procedures. Good business practice would include an ongoing system for checking the background/credentials of potential and existing contractors and that funds are spent appropriately.

Number 68:

Procurement policies and procedures should reflect a system in which the best subcontractor is fairly and objectively selected. Procedures should clearly identify which method of contractor selection is utilized for the different types of procurements (thresholds for competitive bidding, negotiation with individual). (OMB Circular A-110, Sections 40-48.)

The contractor selection process would include established criteria to evaluate potential contractors, ranking method, and the consideration of past performance factors.

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DFPS is committed to encouraging participation and increased opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses, including non-profit businesses that cannot be certified by the General Services Commission as a HUB. DFPS requires contractors who have contracts with DFPS of \$100,000 or more to do the same.

A good faith effort requires that contractors maintain documentation in purchase and contract files of their efforts to utilize HUBs. When HUB bidders are not solicited or selected, documentation should clearly state the reason. Contractors who have contracts with DFPS of \$100,000 or more are required to have a HUB Subcontracting Plan that documents either:

- a) That contractor does not plan to subcontract any components of the DFPS contract, or
- b) That contractor does plan to subcontract and includes at minimum the contractor's written policy/procedures for subcontracting and contractor's methods for soliciting and selecting subcontractors.

Number 69:

This item addresses the contract term, which requires that subcontracts for services delivered under the contract be approved by the Department. Services refer to all services required to be delivered under the contract. The completion of a Subcontractor Documentation Form is required for all subcontractors.

II. F. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Numbers 70-83:

This section deals with doing business with related parties. A related party is a person or organization related to the contracted provider entity by blood/marriage, common ownership, or any association, which permits either entity to exert power or influence (control), either directly or indirectly, over the other. Two or more individuals or organizations constitute related parties whenever they are affiliated or associated in a manner that entails some degree of legal control or practical influence of one over the other. This affiliation or association may be based on common ownership, past or present mutual interests in healthcare or other types of enterprises, or family ties. In determining whether a related party relationship exists with the contracted provider, the tests of common ownership and control are applied separately. Control exists where an individual or organization has power, directly or indirectly, significantly to influence or direct the actions or policies of an organization or institution. If the elements of common ownership or control are not present in both organizations, the organizations are deemed not to be related to each other. The existence of an immediate family relationship will create an irrefutable presumption of relatedness through control or attribution of ownership or equity interests where the significance tests are met. The following persons are considered immediate family: (1) husband and wife; (2) natural parent, child and sibling; (3) adopted child and adoptive parent; (4) stepparent, stepchild, stepsister, and stepbrother; (5) father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, son-in-law, sister-inlaw, and daughter-in-law; (6) grandparent and grandchild; (7) uncles and aunts by blood or marriage; (8) nephew and nieces by blood or marriage; and (9) first cousins.

Related party transactions include the purchase/lease of facilities, services, equipment, or supplies from the contracted provider's central office or related organization(s). The allowable cost in a related-party transaction will be examined to determine their reasonableness, meaning that such cost must not exceed the price of comparable services, facilities, equipment or supplies if they were to be purchased from a non-related vendor on the open market.