

**CONTRACT FOR
RECRUITING AND STAFFING SERVICES BETWEEN
FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
AND
INSTANTSERVE LLC**

This Contract for Recruiting and Staffing Services, 0290-2024 (Contract) is entered into by and between the FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (Florida Housing), a public corporation and a public body corporate and politic, with headquarters located at 227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000, Tallahassee, FL 32301, and INSTANTSERVE LLC (Contractor), located at 175 Strafford Avenue, Suite One #907, Wayne, PA 19087. Upon execution by both parties, this Contract shall become effective as of the date the last party signs (Effective Date).

RECITALS

- A. The Contractor represents that it is fully qualified and possesses the requisite skills, knowledge, qualifications and experience to provide Recruiting and Staffing Services identified herein and offers to perform those services described in Exhibit A, Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2024-02 attached hereto and incorporated herein.
- B. Florida Housing has a need for such services and does hereby accept the offer of the Contractor upon the terms and conditions outlined in this Contract.
- C. Florida Housing has the authority pursuant to Florida law to direct disbursement of funds for compensation to the Contractor under the terms and provisions of this Contract.

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, for valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

A. RECITALS

The Recitals set out above are true and correct and are incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement.

B. ATTACHMENTS

This Contract has the following attachments, which are incorporated herein:

Exhibit A, RFQ 2024-02

C. ENGAGEMENT OF THE CONTRACTOR

The Contractor agrees to provide Recruiting and Staffing Services in accordance with the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth. The Contractor agrees to perform the services set forth in Exhibit A, and as otherwise stated in this Contract. The Contractor understands and agrees that all services under this Contract are to be performed solely by the Contractor, and may not be subcontracted or assigned without the prior written approval and consent of Florida Housing.

D. TERM OF CONTRACT

The initial term of this Contract shall be for three years from the Effective Date. If the parties mutually agree in writing, the Contract may be renewed once for an additional three-year period. Renewals are at the discretion of Florida Housing, and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations by Florida Housing.

E. MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT

Either party may request a modification of the provisions of this Contract. Modifications that are mutually agreed upon shall be valid only when reduced to writing and signed by the parties.

F. INVOICES

The Contractor shall submit an invoice to the program contact person in Section K, Administration of Contract, after the selected candidate's first 90 days of working for Florida Housing. Payment of an undisputed invoice shall be made within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 30 days after receipt of the invoice. If the Contractor is found to be in non-compliance with Florida laws, federal laws, Florida Housing rules or Florida Housing policies governing its duties hereunder, or fails to perform its duties hereunder, any compensation received in connection with this Contract shall be subject to forfeiture to Florida Housing.

G. FEES

The Contractor shall be compensated 15% of the selected candidate's first year base salary.

H. LIABILITY: INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR; COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

1. Florida Housing shall not be deemed to have assumed any liability for the acts, omissions, or negligence of the Contractor, its agents, its servants, or employees, and the Contractor specifically accepts responsibility for its acts, omissions or negligence and for the acts, omissions or negligence of its agents, servants or employees, and shall defend and hold Florida Housing harmless from and against the claims of any party arising out of or claimed to arise out of any such acts, omissions,

or negligence.

2. This Contract is executed on behalf of Florida Housing by the signatory only in his or her designated capacity as representative and on behalf of Florida Housing. Such individual shall neither have nor incur any individual or personal responsibility or liability under this Contract as a result of such execution.

3. Nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver of sovereign immunity by Florida Housing; it being the intent to reserve all such rights and immunities to the fullest extent of the law.

4. The Contractor, together with its agents, suppliers, subcontractors, officers, and employees shall have and always retain under this Contract the legal status of an independent contractor, and in no manner shall they be deemed employees of Florida Housing or deemed to be entitled to any benefits associated with such employment. During the term of this Contract, the Contractor shall maintain at its sole expense those benefits to which its employees would otherwise be entitled to by law. The Contractor remains responsible for all applicable federal, state, and local taxes, and all FICA and Medicare contributions.

5. The Contractor shall comply with all laws, rules, codes, ordinances, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business, including those of federal, state and local agencies having jurisdiction and authority. In addition, and by way of non-exhaustive example, the Contractor shall comply with Florida Housing policies while on Florida Housing premises and in the conduct of its business with Florida Housing personnel.

6. The Contractor specifically accepts responsibility for payment of all taxes, assessments, or contributions that may be required to be paid to any unit of government as a result of the payments being paid to or by the Contractor, if any, in conjunction with the services rendered pursuant to this Contract. At no time shall the Contractor make any commitments for or incur any charges or expenses for, or in the name of, Florida Housing.

7. The Contractor shall not be relieved of liability to Florida Housing for damages sustained by Florida Housing by virtue of any termination or breach of this Contract by the Contractor.

1. DEFAULT AND REMEDIES

1. If any of the events listed in subparagraph 2. of this section occur, all obligations on the part of Florida Housing to continue doing business with the Contractor or assign any future transaction to the Contractor shall, if Florida Housing so elects, terminate and Florida Housing may, at its option, exercise any of its remedies set forth herein, or as otherwise provided by law. However, Florida Housing may continue doing business with the Contractor as a participant after the happening of any

event listed in subparagraph 2. of this section without waiving the right to exercise such remedies, without constituting a course of dealing, and without becoming liable to include the Contractor in the transaction or any future transaction.

2. The Events of Default shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. If any report, information or representation provided by the Contractor in this Contract is inaccurate, false or misleading in any respect;
 - b. If any warranty or representation made by the Contractor in this Contract or any other outstanding agreement with Florida Housing is deemed by Florida Housing to be inaccurate, false or misleading in any respect;
 - c. If the Contractor fails to keep, observe, or perform any of the terms or covenants contained in this Contract, or is unable or unwilling to meet its obligations as defined in this Contract;
 - d. If, in the sole discretion of Florida Housing, the Contractor has failed to perform or complete any of the services identified in the attachments;
 - e. If the Contractor has not complied with all Florida laws, federal laws, Florida Housing rules or Florida Housing policies applicable to the work;
 - f. If the Contractor has discriminated on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or any other legally protected status in performing any service identified in the attachments;
 - g. If the Contractor does not comply with the terms and conditions set forth in Section 420.512(5), Fla. Stat.;
 - h. If the Contractor commits fraud in the performance of its obligations under this Contract; or
 - i. If the Contractor refuses to permit public access to any document, paper, letter, computer files, or other material subject to disclosure under Florida's Public Records Law.

Upon the occurrence of any Event of Default listed in subparagraph 2. above, Florida Housing will provide written notice of the Default detailing the grounds that constitute the Event of Default (Notice of Default), delivered by courier service or electronic mail to the address set forth in Section K, Administration of Contract, herein.

3. Upon the occurrence of any Event of Default listed in subparagraph 2. above, Florida Housing may provide the Contractor a reasonable period of time to cure the Event of Default (Cure Period). If Florida Housing provides a Cure Period, Florida Housing will notify the Contractor of the length of the Cure Period in the Notice of

Default.

4. If Florida Housing provides a Cure Period and if the Contractor is unable or unwilling to cure the Event of Default within the Cure Period, Florida Housing may exercise any remedy permitted by law. The pursuit of any one of the following remedies shall not preclude Florida Housing from pursuing any other remedies contained herein or otherwise provided at law or in equity. The remedies include, but are not limited to the following:

a. Florida Housing may terminate the Contract on the tenth (10th) day after the Contractor receives the Notice of Default or upon the conclusion of any applicable Cure Period, whichever is later;

b. Florida Housing may commence an appropriate legal or equitable action to enforce performance of the terms and conditions of this Contract;

c. Florida Housing may exercise any corrective or remedial actions including, but not limited to, requesting additional information from the Contractor to determine the reasons for or the extent of non-compliance or lack of performance, issuing a written warning to advise that more serious measures may be taken if the situation is not corrected, advising the Contractor to suspend, discontinue or refrain from incurring fees or costs for any activities in question or requiring the Contractor to reimburse Florida Housing for the amount of costs incurred; or

d. Florida Housing may exercise any other rights or remedies that may be otherwise available under law.

J. TERMINATION; REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE

1. Florida Housing may terminate the contract, without cause, at any time upon 10 days' written notice delivered by courier service or electronic mail to the Contractor at the address set forth in Section K, Administration of Contract, herein.

2. The Contractor may terminate this Contract, without cause, at any time upon 90 days' written notice delivered by courier service or electronic mail to Florida Housing at the physical or electronic address, as applicable, set forth in Section K, Administration of Contract, herein. The Contractor shall be responsible for all costs arising from the resignation of the Contractor and the costs associated with the appointment of and transition to a successor Contractor.

3. The Contractor guarantees replacement, at no further cost, of the placed candidate if termination should occur within 90 days of start date due to lack of satisfactory performance or because he/she leaves for personal reasons, excluding placed candidates who leave due to changes made by Florida Housing that substantially alter the position for which they were hired, e.g., employee's supervisor leaves, duties

are substantially changed, position is relocated or restructured. Contractor will be given an opportunity to refill the position.

4. If the replacement candidate is also terminated by Florida Housing within 90 days of start date due to lack of satisfactory performance or leaves for personal reasons, Florida Housing shall be entitled to a refund of 50% of the total amount paid to the Contractor under this Contract for that specific position as a financial consequence.

K. ADMINISTRATION OF CONTRACT

1. Florida Housing's contract administrator for this Contract is:

Contract Administrator
Florida Housing Finance Corporation
227 North Bronough St., Suite 5000
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1329
Phone: 850.488.4197
E-mail: Contract.Admin@floridahousing.org

2. The Florida Housing program contact for this Contract is:

Cynthia Moran
Managing Director of Operations
Florida Housing Finance Corporation
227 North Bronough St., Suite 5000
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1329
Phone: 850.488.4197
E-mail: Cynthia.Moran@floridahousing.org
or the designated successor.

3. The Contractor's contract administrator for this Contract is:

Simratpal K. Khela
President
InstantServe LLC
175 Strafford Avenue, Suite One #907
Wayne, PA 19087
Office: 267.369.1433 x.8007
E-mail: simrat.k@iserveworld.com
or the designated successor.

4. All written approvals referenced in this Contract shall be obtained from the parties' contract administrator or their respective designees.

5. All notices shall be given to the parties' contract administrator.

L. PUBLIC RECORDS; CONFIDENTIALITY; COPYRIGHT, PATENT, TRADEMARK; FILES

1. Public Records

Files Subject to Florida's Public Records Law: Any file, report, record, document, paper, letter, or other material received, generated, maintained or sent by the Contractor in connection with this Contract is subject to the provisions of Section 119.01-.15, Fla. Stat., as may be amended from time to time (Florida's Public Records Law). The Contractor represents and acknowledges that it has read and understands Florida's Public Records Law and agrees to comply with Florida's Public Records Law.

Pursuant to Section 119.0701(2)(b), Fla. Stat., the Contractor will be required to comply with public records laws, specifically to:

a. Keep and maintain public records required by the public agency to perform the service.

b. Upon request from the public agency's custodian of public records, provide the public agency with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in this chapter or as otherwise provided by law.

c. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the contract term and following completion of the contract if the contractor does not transfer the records to the public agency.

d. Upon completion of the contract, transfer, at no cost, to the public agency all public records in possession of the contractor upon termination of the contract or keep and maintain public records required by the public agency to perform the service. If the contractor transfers all public records to the public agency upon completion of the contract, the contractor shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the contractor keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the contract, the contractor shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the public agency, upon request from the public agency's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the public agency.

Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, the provisions and requirements of this paragraph shall only apply if and when the Contractor is acting on behalf of Florida Housing.

If the Contractor has questions regarding the application of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, to the Contractor's duty to provide public records relating to this contract, contact the Corporation Clerk at:

**Corporation Clerk
227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1329
Phone: 850.488.4197
E-mail: Corporation.Clerk@floridahousing.org**

2. Confidentiality

a. If the Contractor asserts that any information or materials intended to be delivered or provided under this Contract constitute a trade secret, or are otherwise confidential or exempt from the public records disclosure requirements of Florida's Public Records Law, such assertion must be made in writing to Florida Housing's Contracts Administrator upon submitting them to Florida Housing.

b. It is the Contractor's obligation and responsibility to maintain the secrecy of trade secrets and the confidentiality of other confidential information by adequately marking such materials as confidential or exempt before forwarding such information or materials to Florida Housing. It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to defend the confidentiality of such materials, if necessary.

c. In the case of work product furnished to Florida Housing pursuant to this Contract that is confidential, the Contractor will treat such materials as confidential and will not reveal or discuss such materials or any other information learned as a result of this Contract with any other person or entity, except as authorized or directed by Florida Housing.

d. Working papers, copies, internal documents, procedures, methods and related materials considered confidential and/or proprietary shall be treated as confidential and/or proprietary and shall not be revealed or discussed with any other person or entity, except as authorized or directed by Florida Housing. All such records and materials will remain the property of Florida Housing.

e. If the Contractor is required to disclose or publish the existence or terms of transactions under this Contract pursuant to Florida's Public Records Law, then the Contractor shall notify Florida Housing in writing of such disclosure within two (2) days after receipt of the Public Records request.

3. Copyright, Patent and Trademark

a. If the Contractor brings to the performance of this Contract a pre-existing copyright, patent or trademark, the Contractor shall retain all rights and entitlements to that pre-existing copyright, patent or trademark unless the Contract provides otherwise.

b. If any discovery or invention arises or is developed in the course of or as a direct result of work or services performed under this Contract, the Contractor shall refer the discovery or invention to Florida Housing for a determination whether patent protection will be sought in the name of Florida Housing. Any and all patent rights accruing under or in connection with the performance of this Contract are hereby reserved to Florida Housing. In the event that any books, manuals, films, or other copyrightable material are produced, the Contractor shall notify Florida Housing in writing. Any and all copyrights or trademarks created by or in direct connection with the performance under this Contract are hereby reserved to Florida Housing.

c. All subcontracts or other arrangements entered into, by the Contractor, with prior written approval and consent of Florida Housing, for the purpose of developing or procuring copyrightable materials (e.g. audiovisuals, computer programs, software, publications, curricula, research materials or training materials, etc.) shall specifically reference and reserve Florida Housing's exclusive rights to use and exploit copyrights and licenses to the extent permitted by copyright law and Florida Statutes.

4. Files

a. Contents of the Files: The Contractor shall maintain files containing documentation to verify all compensation to the Contractor in connection with this Contract, as well as reports, records, documents, papers, letters, computer files, or other material received, generated, maintained or filed by the Contractor in connection with this Contract. The Contractor shall also keep files, records, computer files, and reports that reflect any compensation it receives or will receive in connection with this Contract.

b. Retaining the Files: The Contractor shall maintain these files for five years after the fiscal year in which the files become inactive, except that, if any litigation, claim or audit is commenced with respect to the transactions documented by such files before the end of the aforementioned five-year period and extends beyond the expiration of the five-year period, these files will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the files have been resolved.

c. Access to the Files: Upon reasonable notice, the Contractor and its employees shall allow Florida Housing or its agent(s) access to its files during

normal business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, provided such day is not a holiday.

d. Return of the Files: In the event this Contract is terminated, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, computer files, correspondence, and other products prepared by or for the Contractor under this Contract shall be submitted to Florida Housing within 15 days of such termination at the expense of the Contractor.

M. PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII); SECURITY

1. If the Contractor or any of its subcontractors may or will create, receive, store or transmit PII under the terms of this Contract, the Contractor shall provide for the security of such PII, in a form acceptable to Florida Housing, without limitation, non-disclosure, use of appropriate technology, security practices, computer access security, data access security, data storage encryption, data transmission encryption, security inspections and audits. The Contractor shall take full responsibility for the security of all data in its possession or in the possession of its subcontractors, and shall hold Florida Housing harmless for any damages or liabilities resulting from the unauthorized disclosure of loss thereof.

2. If the Contractor or any of its subcontractors may or will create, receive, store or transmit PII under the terms of this Contract, the Contractor shall provide Florida Housing with insurance information for stand-alone cyber liability coverage, including the limits available and retention levels. If the Contractor does not carry stand-alone cyber liability coverage, the Contractor agrees to indemnify costs related to notification, legal fees, judgments, settlements, forensic experts, public relations efforts, and loss of any business income related to this Contract.

3. The Contractor agrees to maintain written policies and procedures for PII and/or data classification. This plan must include disciplinary processes for employees that violate these guidelines.

4. The Contractor agrees to maintain reasonable network security at all times that, at a minimum, includes a network firewall.

5. The Contractor agrees to protect and maintain the security of data with protection security measures that include maintaining secure environments that are patched and up-to-date with all appropriate security updates as designated by a relevant authority (e.g. Microsoft notifications, Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) database, etc.) The Contractor agrees that PII shall be appropriately destroyed based on the format stored upon the expiration of any applicable retention schedules.

6. The Contractor agrees that any and all transmission or exchange of system application data with Florida Housing and/or any other parties shall take place via secure Advanced Encryption Standards (AES), e.g., HTTPS, FTPS, SFTP or equivalent

means. All data stored as a part of backup and recovery processes shall be encrypted, using AES.

7. If the Contractor reasonably suspects that a cybersecurity event or breach of security has occurred, they must notify Florida Housing's Contract Administrator within 48 hours.

8. In the event of a breach of PII or other sensitive data, the Contractor must abide by provisions set forth in section 501.171, Fla. Stat. Additionally, the Contractor must immediately notify Florida Housing in writing of the breach and any actions taken in response to such a breach. As the information becomes available the statement must include, at a minimum, the date(s) and number of records affected by unauthorized access, distribution, use, modification, or disclosure of PII; the Contractor's corrective action plan; and the timelines associated with the corrective action plan.

N. OTHER PROVISIONS

1. This Contract shall be construed under the laws of the State of Florida, and venue for any actions arising out of this Contract shall lie in Leon County.

2. No waiver by Florida Housing of any right or remedy granted hereunder or failure to insist on strict performance by the Contractor shall affect or extend or act as a waiver of any other right or remedy of Florida Housing hereunder, or affect the subsequent exercise of the same right or remedy by Florida Housing for any further or subsequent default by the Contractor. A waiver or release with reference to any one event shall not be construed as continuing or as constituting a course of dealing.

3. Any power of approval or disapproval granted to Florida Housing under the terms of this Contract shall survive the terms and life of this Contract as a whole.

4. The Contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, any one of which may be taken as an original.

5. The Contractor understands and agrees to cooperate with any audits conducted in accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 20.055(5), Fla. Stat.

6. The Contractor understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of Section 448.095, Fla. Stat.

7. The Contractor attests, under penalty of perjury, that it does not meet any of the criteria in Section 287.138(2)(a) – (c), Fla. Stat.

8. The Contractor will represent Florida Housing as an equal opportunity employer and will consider applicants for all positions without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. To the extent allowable by law,

Candidate and client confidential information will not be disclosed unless the parties mutually agree.

O. LOBBYING PROHIBITION

No funds compensation or other resources received in connection with this Contract may be used directly or indirectly to influence legislation or any other official action by the Florida or Federal Legislature or any state or Federal agency. The Contractor further acknowledges that it has not retained the services of any lobbyist or consultant to assist in the procurement and negotiation of this Contract.

P. LEGAL AUTHORIZATION

The Contractor certifies with respect to this Contract that it possesses the legal authority to enter into this Contract and that, if applicable, its governing body has authorized, by resolution or otherwise, the execution and acceptance of this Contract with all covenants and assurances contained herein. The Contractor also certifies that the undersigned possesses the authority to legally execute and bind the Contractor to the terms of this Contract.

Q. PUBLIC ENTITY CRIME

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

Any contract in violation of this provision shall be null and void.

R. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Section 420.503(34), Fla. Stat., states:

“Prohibited business solicitation communication” means a private written or verbal communication between a member, officer, or covered employee of the corporation and a service provider regarding the merits of the service provider and whether the corporation should retain the services of the service provider. The term does not include:

(a) A verbal communication made on the record during a public meeting;

(b) A written communication provided to each member and officer of the corporation and made part of the record at a public meeting;

(c) A written proposal or statement of qualifications submitted to the corporation in response to a corporation advertisement seeking proposals or statements of qualifications as part of a competitive selection process.

(d) A verbal or written communication related to the contractual responsibilities of a service provider who was selected to provide services or who was included in a pool of service providers eligible to provide services as a result of a competitive selection process, so long as the communication does not relate to solicitation of business.

(e) A verbal or written communication related to a proposed method of financing or proposed projects, so long as the communication does not relate to solicitation of business.

2. By executing this contract, the Contractor certifies that it shall comply with, and is currently in compliance with, Section 420.512(5), Fla. Stat., as amended.

3. In addition to the conflict of interest rules imposed by the Florida Statutes, should the Contractor become aware of any actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or should any such actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest come into being subsequent to the effective date of this Contract and prior to the conclusion of the Contract, the Contractor will provide an e-mail notification to Florida Housing's Contract Administrator within 10 working days. If Florida Housing, in its sole discretion, finds the Contractor to be in non-compliance with this provision, without prior written consent from Florida Housing's Executive Director, any compensation received in connection with this Contract shall be subject to forfeiture to Florida Housing and all obligations on the part of Florida Housing to continue doing business with the Contractor or assign any future transaction to the Contractor shall, if Florida Housing so elects, terminate.

S. ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

The parties agree that this Contract (and any attachments, exhibits, and amendments) may be executed and delivered by electronic signatures and that the signatures appearing on this Contract are the same as handwritten signatures for the purposes of validity, enforceability, and admissibility. Each executed counterpart shall be deemed an original, and all such counterparts shall constitute one and the same document. As used herein, the term "electronic signatures" shall have the meaning in Section 668.50, Fla. Stat.

T. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Contract, including any and all attachments, embodies the entire agreement of the parties. There are no other provisions, terms, conditions, or obligations between the parties. This Contract supersedes all previous oral or written communications, representations, or agreements on this subject not incorporated herein.

U. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Contract is in conflict with any applicable statute or rule, or is otherwise unenforceable, then such provision shall be deemed null and void to the extent of such conflict or unenforceability, and shall be deemed severable, but shall not invalidate any other provision of this Contract.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Contract Number 0290-2024, each through a duly authorized representative, effective on the Effective Date.

INSTANTSERVE, LLC.

By: Simratpal K. Khela 

Name/Title: President

Date: April 15, 2024

FEIN: 81-1087691

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

By: 

Name/Title: Angeliki G. Sellers, CFO

Date: 4/15/2024

EXHIBIT A

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) 2024-02

RECRUITING AND STAFFING SERVICES

for

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

January 16, 2024

SECTION ONE INTRODUCTION

Florida Housing Finance Corporation (“Florida Housing”) is soliciting competitive, sealed responses from qualified firms to provide recruiting and staffing services in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Request for Qualifications (RFQ), and any other term and condition in any contract subsequently awarded. Respondents will be selected and determined through Florida Housing’s review of each response, considering the factors identified in this RFQ. Florida Housing expects to select one or more Respondents that propose to provide all of the services specified in this RFQ.

SECTION TWO DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this document, the following terms will be defined as follows:

“Board”	The Board of Directors of Florida Housing Finance Corporation.
“Committee”	The review committee composed only of employees of Florida Housing that is established pursuant to Rule 67-49.007, Fla. Admin. Code.
“Contractor”	A person or entity providing the professional services described in Section Four of this RFQ.
“Days”	Calendar days, unless otherwise specified.
“Effective Date”	The date the last party signs the contract that is awarded as a result of this RFQ.
“Florida Housing”	Florida Housing Finance Corporation, a public corporation and public body corporate and politic created by Section 420.504, Fla. Stat.
“Respondent”	Any person or entity who has the capability in all respects to perform fully the requirements contained in this RFQ, and submits a response to this RFQ.
“Response”	The written submission by a Respondent to this RFQ.
“RFQ”	This RFQ, including all exhibits referenced in this document and all other documents incorporated by reference.

“Website”

The Florida Housing Finance Corporation website, the URL of which is www.floridahousing.org.

SECTION THREE PROCEDURES AND PROVISIONS

A. Respondents will submit their Response to:

<https://www.floridahousing.org/legal/procurements/RFQ-2024-02-document-upload>

Florida Housing must receive the entire Response on or before 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on February 14, 2024, as Responses will be opened at that time. Any Responses received after the deadline will be considered non-responsive. One complete copy of the response in PDF format is preferred, unless specified otherwise in Section Six below, and the file name ought to contain a reference to both the solicitation number (RFQ 2024-02) and the name of the Respondent. Please note that the site will ask for the Respondent's contact information and the solicitation number prior to being able to upload the Response. Florida Housing will not accept a mailed or faxed Response.

B. This RFQ does not commit Florida Housing to award a contract to any Respondent or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or mailing of a Response.

C. All services under the contract awarded are to be performed solely by the Contractor, unless subcontracted or assigned with the prior written approval and consent of Florida Housing.

D. Florida Housing reserves the right to:

1. Waive minor deficiencies and informalities;
2. Accept or reject any or all Responses received as a result of this RFQ;
3. Obtain information concerning any or all Respondents from any source;
4. Request an oral interview before the Board from any or all Respondents;
5. Select for contract negotiation or for award a Response other than (or in addition to) that with the highest score in order to serve the best interests of Florida Housing and the public; and
6. Negotiate with the successful Respondent with respect to any additional terms or conditions of the contract.

E. Any interested party may submit any question regarding this RFQ in writing via e-mail to the Contract Administrator at Contract.Admin@floridahousing.org. All

questions must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on January 31, 2024. Phone calls will not be accepted. Florida Housing expects to respond to all questions in writing by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on February 7, 2024. Florida Housing will post a copy of all questions received and the corresponding answers on Florida Housing's website at:

<http://www.floridahousing.org/legal/procurements/request-for-qualifications>.

Only written responses or statements from the Contract Administrator that are posted on our website will bind Florida Housing. No other means of communication, whether oral or written, may be construed as an official response or statement from Florida Housing.

F. Between the release of the solicitation and the end of the 72-hour period following the posting of the notice of intended award, respondents to this solicitation or persons acting on their behalf may not contact any member of Florida Housing's Board of Directors or any Florida Housing employee concerning any aspect of this solicitation, except in writing to the Contract Administrator. Violation of this provision may be grounds for rejecting a response.

G. Any person who wishes to protest the specifications of this RFQ must file a protest in compliance with Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat., and Rule Chapter 28-110, Fla. Admin. Code. Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat., will constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 120, Fla. Stat.

H. The term of the contract will be for three years, subject to satisfactory performance at the sole discretion of Florida Housing. If the parties mutually agree in writing, the contract may be renewed for a period of up to three years.

I. Florida Housing is not required to use the services of any selected Contractor or to assign any work to such provider, and may terminate the contract with any selected Contractor without cause and without penalty.

J. Pursuant to Rule 67-49.004, Fla. Admin. Code, Florida Housing may modify the terms of the RFQ at any point prior to the due date for Responses. A notice of such modification will be posted on Florida Housing's Website. Any Respondent will have at least seven days from the date of the posting of the notice of the modification to submit or modify its Response.

K. The terms of this RFQ, and any modifications thereto, will be incorporated into any contract offered as a result of this RFQ. Failure of a successful Respondent to accept these obligations in the final contract may result in cancellation of the award.

SECTION FOUR SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. Background

Florida Housing is a public corporation, and a public body corporate and politic created by Section 420.504, Fla. Stat. As a financial institution, it is the state's housing finance agency (HFA) and administers federal and state resources, to provide low-interest financing and down payment assistance to homebuyers, and to finance the development and preservation of affordable homeowner and rental housing.

In recent years, Florida Housing has experienced challenges with recruiting top candidates for open positions within the organization. The ideal Respondent will have experience placing professionals with backgrounds in advocacy, banking, communications, construction management, finance, Florida law, information technology, legislative affairs, procurement, and/or public policy in public sector positions.

B. Services to be Provided by the Contractor

In the event that multiple contracts are awarded under this RFQ, Florida Housing will only engage one Contractor per position at a time. If none of the proposed candidates are successful, Florida Housing will engage a different Contractor under contract.

The Contractor will be expected to:

1. Within two business days of the initial request, schedule a time to meet with Florida Housing's human resources and pertinent management staff to understand the requirements for the needed position. This will include qualifications such as professional credentials, personal characteristics, or other job-specific information deemed relevant to the search. This will also include a discussion of the unit's culture, work structure and position-specific needs. Specific time frames for the recruitment process will be addressed at this meeting; however, Contractors should expect that the position will need to be filled as soon as possible.
2. Market each open position in multiple ways, including, but not limited to online advertising, email advertising and direct candidate sourcing.
3. Identify a minimum of three qualified candidates for each request. If the Contractor cannot identify the minimum number of candidates, they must notify Florida Housing as soon as possible and provide detail of the specific challenges being faced.

4. Ensure that each qualified candidate meets the minimum position requirements; is willing to work within the salary rates provided; and is willing to relocate to the Tallahassee, Florida area, if necessary.

5. Provide a resume and cover letter from the Contractor introducing the qualified candidate. Senior-level positions may require additional documentation regarding the candidate's professional history.

6. Conduct reference checks for top candidates using forms and questions provided by Florida Housing.

7. Respond to any requests for information from Florida Housing e.g., status updates on the recruitment process or document requests within one business day.

C. Services to be Provided by Florida Housing

At the initial meeting, Florida Housing will provide the Contractor with relevant position data to include job description (including responsibilities, title, reporting relationships, experience requirements, requirements, certifications, education requirements, salary range, and timing). Florida Housing shall also ensure that the Company has sufficient information to share with candidates to assist with making informed decisions and will conduct criminal history checks for top candidates.

SECTION FIVE CERTIFICATION

Do not reproduce the language of Section Five in the Response. By inclusion and execution of the statement provided in Section Six of this RFQ, each Respondent certifies that:

A. The Respondent submits this Response without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any person or entity submitting a separate Response for the same services. However, any agreement with a person or entity with whom the Response is jointly filed and such joint filing is made clear on the face of the Response will be an exception so long as the Response is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud.

B. Any material submitted in response to this RFQ is a public record pursuant to Chapter 119, Fla. Stat., and subject to examination upon request, but only after Florida Housing provides a notice of decision pursuant to Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat., or within 30 days after the Response is opened, whichever is earlier.

C. The Respondent, if awarded a contract under this RFQ, will comply with Section 420.512(5), Fla. Stat. For the purpose of Section 420.512(5), Fla. Stat., "Prohibited Business Solicitation Communications" is defined by Section 420.503(34), Fla. Stat.

D. The Respondent further affirms it is in compliance with Section 420.512(5)(c),

Fla. Stat.

E. The Respondent is in compliance with Section 287.133(2)(a), Fla. Stat.

F. The Respondent is in compliance with Section 448.095, Fla. Stat.

G. The Respondent understands and agrees to cooperate with any audits conducted in accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 20.055(5), Fla. Stat.

H. The Respondent attests, under penalty of perjury, that it does not meet any of the criteria in Section 287.138(2)(a) – (c), Fla. Stat.

I. Pursuant to Section 119.0701(2)(b), Fla. Stat., the Respondent, if awarded a contract under this RFQ, will be required to comply with public records laws, specifically to:

a. Keep and maintain public records required by Florida Housing to perform the service.

b. Upon request from Florida Housing's custodian of public records, provide Florida Housing with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in this chapter or as otherwise provided by law.

c. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the contract term and following completion of the contract if the contractor does not transfer the records to Florida Housing.

d. Upon completion of the contract, transfer, at no cost, to Florida Housing all public records in possession of the contractor or keep and maintain public records required by Florida Housing to perform the service. If the contractor transfers all public records to Florida Housing upon completion of the contract, the contractor shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the contractor keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the contract, the contractor shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to Florida Housing, upon request from Florida Housing's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with Florida Housing's information technology systems.

If the Contractor has questions regarding the application of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, to the Contractor's duty to provide public records relating to this contract, contact the Corporation Clerk at:

Corporation Clerk
227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1329
Phone: 850.488.4197
E-mail: Corporation.Clerk@floridahousing.org

Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, the provisions and requirements of this paragraph will only apply if and when the Contractor is acting on behalf of Florida Housing.

J. The Respondent acknowledges that if awarded a contract it will be prohibited from engaging in activities in connection with services related to Florida Housing transactions that produce direct or indirect financial gain for the Respondent other than for the compensation agreed upon in the contract that results from this RFQ, unless that Respondent has Florida Housing's written consent after Florida Housing has been fully informed of such activities in writing.

K. The Respondent acknowledges that if awarded a contract it will be prohibited from engaging in any actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest. Should any such actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest come into being subsequent to the effective date of the contract and prior to the conclusion of the contract, the Respondent will provide written notification (Notice of Conflict of Interest) to Florida Housing's Contract Administrator within 10 working days for review by Florida Housing's Executive Director in consultation with the Ethics Officer. If the Respondent is found to be in non-compliance with this provision, any compensation received in connection with this contract will be subject to forfeiture to Florida Housing.

L. The Respondent, in submitting this Response, acknowledges and agrees that the terms and conditions of this RFQ, as well as any modifications thereto, will be incorporated into any contract offered as a result of this RFQ.

M. CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE REPEATED IN THE RESPONDENT'S RESPONSE AND SIGNED BY AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO BIND THE RESPONDENT. THIS IS A MANDATORY ITEM. FAILURE TO INCLUDE THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT BEARING AN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE, EXACTLY AS STATED AND WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CAVEAT LANGUAGE, WILL RESULT IN REJECTION OF THE RESPONSE.

"I agree to abide by all conditions of RFQ 2024-02 and certify that all information provided in this Response is true and correct, that I am authorized to sign this Response as the Respondent and that I am in compliance with all requirements of the RFQ, including but not limited to, the certification requirements stated in Section Five of this RFQ."



Authorized Signature (Original)

Simratpal K. Khela (President)

Print Name and Title

SECTION SIX INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN RESPONSE

In providing the following information, restate each item and sub-item (with its letter and number), limit your Response to one attachment. Responses to the items must be included immediately after the restated items without any reference to any appendix.

A. COVER LETTER

Each proposal must be accompanied by a cover letter that contains a general statement of the purpose of submission and includes the following information.

1. The name, job title, address, office and cellular telephone numbers, and e-mail address of a primary contact person, who will be responsible for day-to-day contact with Florida Housing, and any backup personnel who would be accessible if the primary contact cannot be reached.
2. Legal business status (individual, partnership, corporation, etc.), address, and telephone number of the Respondent.

B. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Provide evidence that the Respondent is qualified to do business in the State of Florida.
2. Describe the Respondent's presence in Florida, and ability to be accessible to Florida Housing staff, availability for meetings, conferences, consultation, etc.
3. Describe the Respondent's ability to provide the services requested in Section Four of this RFQ immediately upon award of a contract.
4. Provide a statement of any other qualifications or services, which the Respondent considers to be significant, innovative or otherwise relevant to Florida Housing.

C. EXPERIENCE AND RESOURCES

1. Provide an overview of the Respondent's firm, to include a brief history, how many years the company has been in business, and the number of public sector clients that the company currently has. If the Respondent tracks which field e.g., legal,

financial, information technology, etc., clients are in, provide a breakdown of clients for each applicable field.

2. Provide resumes and note any pertinent qualifications and/or certifications for any key individuals who would work with Florida Housing if awarded a contract under this solicitation.

3. Detail the information that the Respondent maintains for each candidate, e.g., work samples, reference letters, previous employment verification, etc.

4. Provide the candidate retention rates for the first year of employment. If the Respondent maintains data on retention rates past the first year, provide retention rates for up to a total of five years after placement. If the Respondent tracks which field e.g., legal, financial, information technology, etc., candidates are placed in, provide a breakdown for each applicable field.

5. List any litigation that the Respondent has been involved in during the past two years for services similar to those outlined in this RFQ.

D. COMMUNICATION PLAN AND MARKETING STRATEGIES

1. Detail the Respondent's proposed communication plan to be used to keep Florida Housing informed about each recruitment process.

2. Describe the Respondent's marketing strategies. If there are different strategies for entry level, mid-level, and senior level positions, provide detail for each level.

E. LEGAL ISSUES

List any litigation that the Respondent has been involved with during the past two years for services similar to those outlined in this RFQ.

F. FEE

1. Florida Housing anticipates compensating the awarded Contractor with a fee that is equal to a certain percentage of the hired candidate(s) first-year salary, not including benefits. In Table 1 below, provide the proposed percentage to be assessed in connection with the services described in Section Four of this RFQ.

TABLE 1	
Fee	
Percentage of Candidate(s) First-Year Salary	%

2. Define the payment terms and structure of the above percentage. Florida Housing presumes a graduated payment structure and terms based on retention over an agreed period of time, to be stated in this Response, and the terms and structure of reimbursement to Florida Housing if a candidate fails in the performance of the required tasks and is maintained in another position within Florida Housing, leaves the employ of Florida Housing prior to an agreed-upon term, or is released by Florida Housing within an agreed-upon period of time.

FINAL FEE WILL BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION.

G. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

If the Respondent has implemented a drug-free workplace program, the Respondent must submit the following certification indicating that it meets all of the requirements of Section 287.087, Fla. Stat.:

I hereby certify on behalf of the Respondent, under the terms of RFQ 2024-02, that the Respondent has implemented a drug-free workplace program pursuant to Section 287.087, Fla. Stat.

Authorized Signature: _____
Print Name: _____
Print Title: _____

H. MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

If the Respondent is a minority business enterprise as defined in Section 288.703, Fla. Stat., the Respondent must submit the following certification:

I hereby certify on behalf of the Respondent, under the terms of RFQ 2024-02, that the Respondent is a "minority business enterprise" as defined in Section 288.703(3), Fla. Stat.

Authorized Signature: _____
Print Name: _____
Print Title: _____

I. CERTIFICATION (Mandatory Item)

FAILURE TO INCLUDE THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT LOCATED IN SECTION FIVE OF THIS RFQ BEARING AN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE WILL RESULT IN REJECTION OF THE RESPONSE.

SECTION SEVEN EVALUATION PROCESS

The individual Committee members will independently evaluate the Responses by reviewing the answers to each of the items identified in Section Six of this RFQ and assigning points up to the maximum points allowed for each item. The points available for items in Section Six are to be evaluated are as follows:

<u>Item Reference</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>
B. General Information	5
C. Experience and Resources	25
D. Communication Plan and Marketing Strategies	20
F. Fee	10
 Total Points Available	 60

For the Fee proposal, the Respondent with the lowest proposed total percentage of candidate salary will receive the maximum allowable points (XX points). The remaining respondents will receive a percentage of the maximum points, rounded to the nearest whole number, based on the following formula:

$\frac{\text{Lowest Proposed Percentage}}{\text{Current Respondent's Proposed Percentage}}$	=	%	x	10	=	Total Points Awarded for that "Fee" (Rounded to the nearest whole number)
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In the event of a tie, Florida Housing will give preference in the award process to the Response certifying a drug-free workplace has been implemented in accordance with Section 287.087, Fla. Stat. If a tie continues to exist, Florida Housing will give preference to minority business enterprises as defined in Section 288.703, Fla. Stat.

The Committee will conduct one or more public meetings during which members will discuss their evaluations and develop a recommendation or series of recommendations to the Board. The Committee's recommendation will be based on the cumulative scoring and information gathered from the non-scored items. The Board may use the Responses, the Committee's scoring, the non-scored items in the Responses, any other information or recommendation provided by the Committee or staff, and any other information the Board deems relevant in its selection of Respondents to whom to award a contract. ¹

¹ Pursuant to s. 287.05701 Fla. Stat., Florida Housing may not request documentation of or consider a vendor's social, political, or ideological interest when determining if the vendor is a responsible vendor. Additionally, Florida Housing may not give preference to a vendor based on the vendor's social, political, or ideological interests.

SECTION EIGHT AWARD PROCESS

Florida Housing will provide notice of its decision, or intended decision, for this RFQ on Florida Housing's Website the next business day after the applicable Board vote. After posting, an unsuccessful applicant may file a notice of protest and a formal written protest in accordance with Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat. Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat. or failure to post the bond or other security required by law within the time allowed for filing a bond will constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 120, Fla. Stat.