

ATTACHMENT A
Proposal Cover Sheet

The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services is seeking qualifications from qualified contractors to provide Comprehensive training events for MDRS clients.

Qualifications are to be submitted as listed below, on or before 12:00 PM CST, Thursday, July 10, 2025.

PLEASE MARK YOUR ENVELOPE:

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Attention: Lee Shirley, Director of Contracts
1281 Highway 51 North
Madison, Mississippi 39110
Request for Qualifications for Comprehensive Training Events for MDRS Clients
No. 3120003152
Opening Date: 12:00 PM CST, Thursday, July 10, 2025
SEALED PROPOSAL PACKAGE – DO NOT OPEN

Company Name: Ramona Williams, sole proprietor

Address: 5130 Shirwood Drive

City/State/Zip: Jackson, MS 39211

Telephone: 901-812-1840

Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: rwilliamsjmg@aol.com or atoneblue51@icloud.com

Printed Name of Authorized Signer: Ramona Williams

Signature and Date: 
Ramona S. Williams July 9, 2025

ATTACHMENT B

Authorization and Acknowledgements

By signing below, the Company Representative certifies that he/she has authority to bind the company, and further acknowledges on behalf of the company:

1. That he/she has thoroughly read and understands this Request for Qualifications, RFQ 3120003152 and the attachments herein;
2. That the company meets all requirements and acknowledges all certifications contained in this Request for Qualifications, RFQ 3120003152, and the attachments herein;
3. That the company agrees to all provisions of this Request for Qualifications, RFQ 3120003152, and the attachments herein;
4. That the company can and will meet all required laws, regulations, and/or procedures related to confidentiality and represents that its workers are licensed, certified, and possess the requisite credentials to perform the transition services; and
5. That the company has, or will secure, at its own expense, applicable personnel who shall be qualified to perform the duties required to be performed under this Request for Qualifications.
6. That the company understands that should an amendment to this RFQ be issued, it will be posted on the MDRS website (www.mdrs.ms.gov) in a manner that all proposers will be able to view. Proposers shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to the solicitation by signing and returning the amendment with the proposal, by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on this form. The acknowledgment must be received by MDRS by the time and at the place specified for receipt of proposal. It is the company's sole responsibility to monitor the website for amendments to the RFQ.

Company Name: Ramona Williams, sole proprietor



Ramona S. Williams

July 9, 2025

Signature and Date: _____

Name and Title: Ramona Williams, sole proprietor

ATTACHMENT C

Certifications and Assurances

I/We make the following certifications and assurances as a required element of the offer to which it is attached, of the understanding that the truthfulness of the facts affirmed here and the continued compliance with these requirements are conditions precedent to the award or continuation of the related contract(s) by circling the applicable word or words in each paragraph below:

1. Representation Regarding Contingent Fees.

Contractor represents that it [**HAS or HAS NOT**] retained a person to solicit or secure a state contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except as disclosed in Contractor's proposal.

2. Representation Regarding Gratuities.

The Respondent or Contractor represents that it [**HAS or HAS NOT**] violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 6-204 (Gratuities) of the Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations.

3. Certification of Independent Price Determination.

The Respondent certifies that the prices submitted in response to the solicitation [**HAVE or HAVE NOT**] been arrived at independently and without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other respondent or competitor relating to those prices, the intention to submit a proposal, or the methods or factors used to calculate price.

4. Prospective Contractor's Representation Regarding Contingent Fees.

The Prospective Contractor represents as a part of such Contractor's proposal that such Contractor [**HAS or HAS NOT**] retained any person or agency on a percentage, commission, or other contingent arrangement to secure this contract.

Company Name: Ramona Williams, sole proprietor


Ramona S. Williams

July 9, 2025

Signature and Date: _____

Name and Title: Ramona Williams, sole proprietor

Note: Please be sure to circle the applicable word or words provided above. Failure to circle the applicable word or words and/or to sign the proposal form may result in the proposal being rejected as nonresponsive. Modifications or additions to any portion of this proposal document may be cause for rejection of the proposal.

EXHIBIT D

Statement of Qualifications

[REDACTED] has over 15 years of experience providing transition services to students with disabilities and providing training events to consumers who are students within the guidelines of this procurement. [REDACTED] will collaborate with MDRS Vocational Rehabilitation/Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind Counselors and the local school districts to provide outreach about the event. MDRS Vocational Rehabilitation/ Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind Counselors will provide [REDACTED] with the Referral for Contracted Pre-ETS Services Form (MDRS-VR-100) for students who meet the definition of a student with a disability and whom the counselor has determined require this service(s). Only students for whom [REDACTED] has received an MDRS-VR-100 Referral for Contracted Pre-ETS Services Form may participate in the event.

[REDACTED] will work with the local school district(s) to arrange transportation for the clients to the five-hour training event site. [REDACTED] shall recruit businesses to establish hands-on mock workstations at the event that reflect the actual work environment and tasks of each participating business. A diverse selection of businesses, representing various work environments in the local economy, will be invited to participate. The [REDACTED] shall also ensure that at least one designated individual (such as a peer mentor, staff member, teacher, or volunteer) is assigned to each student group.

[REDACTED] will provide Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) consist of five separate categories: Job Exploration Counseling. Support students to learn about career pathways, in-demand industries and occupations, the labor market and explore their career

interests that fit within the interests, skills and abilities; Work-Based Learning Experiences. Support students to further explore the world of work and various occupations and career pathways and provide students with opportunities to practice and improve their workplace skills. Work-Based Learning Experiences may include opportunities that are after school or outside the traditional school setting. These experiences must be provided in an integrated setting to the maximum extent possible; Counseling on Post Secondary Education and Training Opportunities. Support students to develop awareness of the range of postsecondary educational and occupational training opportunities and emphasize a career pathways approach; Workplace Readiness Training. Help students prepare for adult life and develop commonly expected skills employers seek from most employees. Develop independent living and work readiness skills in consideration of the unique needs of each student; Instruction in Self-Advocacy. Support students' development of effective communication and decision-making skills and emphasize self-determination. Provide self-advocacy instruction based on the unique needs of the student(s);

_____ shall be responsible for securing a suitable event venue that provides sufficient space, accessibility, and parking to accommodate all planned activities. In addition,

_____ will procure all necessary equipment and supplies required for the event.

_____ has specified the geographic area(s) (Desoto, Hinds, and Harrison Counties) in which services can be provided, as well as the number of events (3) she is prepared to deliver.

_____ will collaborate with the MDRS Office of Communications to coordinate event publicity across social media, newspapers, television, and other platforms. All promotional materials must feature co-branding to represent both MDRS and the vendor. Additionally, all media and promotional content must receive MDRS approval from the Director of the Office of

Communications and the Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation before publication.

_____ shall be responsible for covering all travel-related expenses (e.g., lodging, mileage) incurred by businesses or speakers participating in the event.

_____ will provide a detailed schedule of the event prior to the event. In addition, _____ must provide a completed Pre-ETS Provision Form (MDRS-VR-61) for each program participant to the VR/VRB Counselor(s) in their area. _____ will provide pre-event training for students and schools as needed and conduct post-event follow-up interviews with participating businesses, schools, and attending students. These interviews will gather feedback on successful aspects and areas for improvement to enhance future events.

_____ shall provide the MDRS State Office Staff with an invoice for Pre-ETS provided to the student.

ATTACHMENT D

COMPANY QUESTIONNAIRE

[REDACTED] has been a dedicated provider of educational, workforce development, and workforce readiness services for over 15 years. With a background as an educator and a leader in the nonprofit sector, specifically with Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, she has consistently sought to educate and empower youth. Her efforts have focused on:

- **Job Readiness Strategies:** Equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary to enter and succeed in the workforce.
- **Character Development:** Promoting personal growth and ethical behavior among youth.
- **Financial Literacy:** Teaching essential financial skills to help students manage their finances effectively.
- **Workforce Development:** Preparing students for various career paths and helping them navigate the job market.

Through her extensive experience and commitment to youth empowerment, Ramona Williams has made a significant impact on the lives of many students, helping them achieve their educational and career goals.

No corporate expansion will be needed to handle this service.

PLAN OF ACTION

Plan of Action/Methodology

Objective: To provide students, including those with disabilities, with hands-on experience and exposure to various career pathways through job extravaganzas in Desoto, Hinds, and Harrison counties.

1. Establishing Rapport:

- **Target Audience:** Middle and high school students in Desoto, Hinds, and Harrison counties, as well as surrounding schools.
- **Approach:** Conduct outreach activities such as school visits, informational sessions, and workshops to build relationships with students and educators.

2. Soliciting and Recruiting Area Professionals:

- **Target Professionals:** Police officers, firefighters, information technologists, healthcare professionals, energy/utilities professionals, truck drivers/transportation logistics professionals, educators, lawyers, business owners/entrepreneurs.
- **Recruitment Strategy:**
 - Reach out to local businesses, professional associations, and community organizations.
 - Utilize social media and local media outlets to publicize the event and attract volunteers.
 - Offer incentives such as recognition, networking opportunities, and community service credits.

3. Setting Up Work Stations/Simulations:

- **Objective:** Provide youth with hands-on experience and insights into various career pathways.
- **Implementation:**
 - Collaborate with recruited professionals to design interactive workstations and simulations that reflect real-world tasks and environments.
 - Ensure each workstation is accessible and inclusive for students with disabilities.
 - Provide necessary materials and equipment for each station.

4. Inviting Students with Disabilities and Their Parents:

- **Outreach:** Send invitations to students with disabilities and their parents through schools, special education programs, and community organizations.
- **Accessibility:** Ensure the event venue is fully accessible and provide accommodations as needed (e.g., sign language interpreters, assistive technology).

5. Community Involvement:

- **Meals and Gift Bags:** Solicit donations from local businesses and community members to provide meals and gift bags/trinkets for the youth.
- **Volunteer Support:** Engage community volunteers to assist with event logistics, setup, and coordination.

6. Event Execution:

- **Schedule:** Plan a detailed schedule for the event, including setup, registration, opening remarks, workstation rotations, meal breaks, and closing activities.
- **Safety and Supervision:** Ensure adequate supervision and safety measures are in place for all participants.
- **Feedback Collection:** Conduct post-event surveys and interviews with students, parents, and professionals to gather feedback and identify areas for improvement.

7. Follow-Up:

- **Post-Event Communication:** Send thank-you notes to all participants, volunteers, and sponsors.
- **Evaluation:** Analyze feedback and outcomes to assess the success of the event and plan for future improvements.
- **Reporting:** Provide a comprehensive report to MDRS and other stakeholders detailing the event's impact and achievements.

ATTACHMENT D

Company Questionnaire (Page 2 of 3)

If additional space is needed, please attach supplemental pages as necessary to completely answer

2. Service Location

- ☒ If services are to be provided at a site other than firm's principal place of business (the address given in Attachment A), please specify the place of performance. ☐

Landers Center, 4560 Venture Dr., Southhaven, MS 38671

Jackson Convention Center, 105 E. Pascagoula St., Jackson, MS 39201

USM Gulf Park Campus, 730 East Beach Boulevard, Long Beach, MS 39560

3. Personnel

- ☐ Attach resumes' of all those who will be involved in the delivery of service (from principals to field technicians) that include their experience in this area of service delivery as well as a list of all principals. Additionally, please provide copies of all applicable permits, professional certifications and/or licenses from the applicable certifying authority, and a list of all principals. ☐

Company Name: Ramona Williams, sole proprietor

Resume' of

Ramona Seabron Williams
5130 Shirlwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
(601) 812-1840 (Cell)
[rwilliamsjmg@aol.com\(email\)](mailto:rwilliamsjmg@aol.com(email))

Proven administrator with 20+ years of experience to include nonprofit management, performance auditing, and grantsmanship

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW, Jackson, MS
Juris Doctorate, May, 2007

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, Jackson, MS
Master of Arts, Public Policy and Administration, August, 1995

TOUGALOO COLLEGE, Tougaloo, MS
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, May, 1989

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Attorney MSB# 103147
Computer Literate: WordPerfect, Microsoft Office, Lotus, Fox Pro
Licensed Teacher, December 1998, License # 155877

WORK EXPERIENCE

Executive Director
Nov. 1, 2011-Dec. 5, 2023

Jobs for MS Graduates, Inc.
6055 Ridgewood Rd
Jackson, MS 39211

Duties: Nonprofit management, fundraising, board development, personnel administration, fiscal management of a multimillion dollar budget, relationship building with stakeholders, strategic planning, reporting of performance, regulatory compliance

Performance Auditor

MS Office of the State Auditor
P.O. Box 956, Jackson, MS 39201

April, 2008 to Oct. 31, 2011

DUTIES: Supervisory and professional work in performance auditing, performing a wide variety of activities that require a high level of intuition, logic, analytical ability, technical knowledge, and communication skills. This position is responsible for applying auditing, business, management, and social science research methods to evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of public programs. I plan, conduct, and report on performance audits and studies of state and local government programs and proficiencies. I serve as auditor-in-charge of moderately complex and/or technically demanding performance audits and studies.

Owner

R W Enterprises
5130 Shirwood Dr.
Jackson, MS 392211

January 18, 2004-2011

DUTIES: All aspects of running a business (organizing, facilitating, marketing, maintaining financial records, etc), researching grant funding opportunities, writing grant proposals, conducting training workshops

Grants Coordinator

Jackson Fire Department

Supervisor: Raymond McNulty, Fire Chief

555 South West St.

(601) 960-1392

Jackson, MS 39201

February, 2000 to January 16, 2004

DUTIES: Grants development, researched funding opportunities, program development, grants management, and proposal writing: Procured over \$600,000 in grant funds for the department in two years

Secondary Social Studies Teacher

Hinds Agricultural High School

Supervisor: Carl Palmer

Hwy 18, South

(601) 885-7083

Utica, MS

August, 1998, - February, 2000

DUTIES: Classroom management, pupil evaluation, test construction, teaching, lesson plan preparation

Administrative Analyst

Jackson Fire Department

Supervisor: Joseph Graham, Fire Chief

555 South West St.

(601) 960-1392

Jackson, MS 39201

March, 1992, to July, 1998

DUTIES: Performed a wide variety of confidential and complex administrative, research, and analytical support duties for the administrator of the Jackson Fire Department to include report writing, budget preparation, drafting procedures, receiving and responding to complaints from the general public, and serving as the liaison between the Fire Department and the media

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Mother of 2 daughters

GRANDMOTHER

Hobbies: Reading, creative writing, and sports

REFERENCES

Dr. D. Pickett

Pastor

(601) 668-2805

Marie Harris

Program Manager

(601) 594-6463

Evelyn Edwards

Friend

(601) 594-5064

PEARL EPPS, PH.D.

3440 Timber Creek Drive * Byram, MS 39272 * 601-456-1525 * eppstraininggroup@gmail.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

Owner

September, 2018 - Presently

Epps Training and Consultant Group, LLC

3440 Timber Creek Drive

Byram, MS 39272

Duties:

Manage all operational aspects of Epps Training and Consultant Group, a multifaceted service provider focused on education, workforce development, and professional training. Lead statewide initiatives that educate and empower youth to succeed academically and professionally. Provide grant writing services and support educators in achieving teacher licensure. Possess extensive experience in researching, developing, and producing a broad range of training manuals, instructional materials, and reports.

Program Manager

September 2012 – August 2019

Jobs for Mississippi Graduates

6055 Ridgewood Road

Jackson, MS 39211

Duties:

Provided professional and supervisory oversight in program evaluation, applying advanced analytical skills, sound judgment, and technical expertise across a wide range of initiatives. Utilized programmatic auditing, business management principles, and social science research methods to assess program efficiency, effectiveness, and overall impact. Planned, led, and reported on performance audits and evaluations related to grants and operational proficiencies. Managed program audits, oversaw grant and project implementation, conducted evaluation analyses, and supported program development. Demonstrated proficiency in human resources management and office administration.

Teacher/Job Specialist

September 2006 – September 2012

Hazlehurst High School

Jobs for Mississippi Graduates

101 South Haley

Hazlehurst, MS 39083

Duties:

Guided students in developing the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed career choices and succeed in the workforce. Facilitated hands-on learning experiences and career readiness initiatives. Collaborated with students to write and secure a grant for the renovation of Hazlehurst High School, demonstrating effective teamwork, grant writing, and project planning skills.

Project Manager

September, 2001 to June, 2006

Madison County Schools

Velma Jackson Magnet High
Camden, MS

Duties:

Directed an in-school internship program for high school students, providing real-world career exposure and skill development opportunities. Identified and partnered with local businesses and organizations to support internship placements. Supervised and mentored students throughout their internship experience, ensuring accountability and professional growth.

Postmaster

July, 1994 to April, 2001

U. S. Postal Service**Duties:**

U.S. Postal Service – Tchula, MS

Dates of Service: [1994 - 2000]

Managed operations of a Level 15 post office, overseeing all administrative functions, staff supervision, and daily mail collection and distribution. Ensured compliance with federal postal regulations and service standards. Provided leadership and direction to postal employees, fostering a high-performance, customer-focused environment.

Officer-in-Charge

Various Locations: Gallman, MS; Georgetown, MS; Port Gibson, MS; Bolton, MS

October 1986 – July 1994

Appointed to lead post offices across multiple locations during transitional periods. Maintained operational continuity, supervised staff, managed customer service operations, and ensured timely mail delivery and logistical coordination.

Customer Service Representative

U.S. Postal Service – Canton, MS

Delivered high-quality customer service, assisting patrons with postal products, services, and inquiries. Handled transactions, resolved service issues, and supported daily branch operations to ensure customer satisfaction.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Ph.D., Educational Administration and Supervision, May 2010,

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Master of Public Policy and Administration, May 1985

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
Bachelor of Arts – Political Science, August 1975

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATION

Educator
Class AAAA Licensed Teacher
Computer Literate: WordPerfect, Microsoft Office

REFERENCES

Loria Brown Gorden, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Honors College
P. O. Box 17350
Jackson, MS 39217
loria.c.brown@jsums.edu
Office: (601) 979-2107
© (601) 212-6676

Laverne Gentry, Ph. D.
College Professor (Retired)
320 Concord Drive
Clinton, MS 39056
gentryspa@aol.com
(601) 613-8977

Diane Whitcomb, Retired
Finance Director
Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, Inc.
(601) 214-8487 (o)
(601) 968-5146 (o)
Diane.Whitcomb@BMHCC.org

RENITA MARTIN

👤 Profile

Transformational leader building scalable cultural enterprises that generate measurable ROI while advancing social equity. Award-winning CEO and content strategist with 28+ years of proven success turning creative vision into sustainable revenue streams. As founding executive of a national arts organization, I've built a thriving ecosystem that transforms underrepresented talent into economic powerhouses—creating jobs, capturing markets, and delivering content that reshapes industries. My unique positioning at the intersection of media production, workforce development, and cultural preservation creates untapped opportunities for investors and partners seeking triple-bottom-line returns.

Details

3477031198
rmartin@rhythmvisions.com

Links

LinkedIn

Skills

Strategic Leadership

Content Production & Distribution

Workforce Development

Partnership Development

Revenue Generation

Brand Strategy

Multi-Platform Media Production

Equity-Centered Business Development

Microsoft Office Suite (Advanced)

Adobe Premiere Pro (Expert)

Pro Tools (Advanced)

Logic Pro (Advanced)

Full-Cycle Production Management

📅 Employment History

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & FOUNDER at Rhythm Visions Production Company

June 1996 — Present

- Revenue Diversification: Developed multiple income streams through strategic partnerships, content licensing, and workforce development programs, achieving 300%+ growth trajectory
- Market Expansion: Scaled operations from local to national reach, establishing key partnerships with Fortune 500 companies and major cultural institutions
- Talent Pipeline Innovation: Created award-winning workforce development programs that placed 200+ underrepresented artists in high-paying creative roles, generating \$2 million in participant wage increases
- Content Portfolio: Produced 200+ recording and broadcast projects featuring emerging artists, resulting in industry recognition and measurable audience engagement metrics
- Strategic Partnerships: Forged revenue-generating alliances with businesses and organizations, creating \$4.6 million in collaborative funding and shared resource opportunities

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & CONTENT STRATEGIST at Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

June 2018 — Present

Lead high-impact internal communications strategy for 13,000+ employee transit system with \$2.5B annual budget

- Audience Engagement: Increased employee podcast listenership by 400% through compelling content strategy and professional production standards
- Content ROI: Developed cost-effective content creation process that reduced external production costs by 60% while improving quality metrics

PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE at Cherry Lane Theater

September 2001 — August 2013

- Content Pipeline: Developed multiple scripts for production at historic venue, contributing to theater's reputation for innovative programming
- Audience Development: Created works that attracted diverse audiences, supporting theater's mission and revenue goals
- Cultural Preservation: Contributed to 100+ year legacy of America's oldest Off-Broadway theater through original artistic contributions

🎓 Education

MFA, American University, Washington

MFA, Brandeis University School for the Arts, Waltham

BA, Boston University, Boston

ATTACHMENT D

Company Questionnaire (Page 3 of 3)

If additional space is needed, please attach supplemental pages as necessary to completely answer

4. References

- ☒ Give at least three (3) references for contracts of similar size and scope, including at least two (2) references for current contracts or those awarded during the past three (3) years. Include the name of the organization, the length of the contract, a brief summary of the work, and the name and telephone number of a responsible contact person. ☐

Dr. Dwayne Pickett, 601-668-2805	Royalty Ag Camp 2025
Evelyn Edwards, 601-594-5064	Summer Camp 2025
Renita Martin, 347-703-1198	STREAM Camp 2025

Company Name: Ramona Williams, sole proprietor

**AMENDMENT #1
TO THE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING EVENTS FOR MDRS CLIENTS
RFQ #3120003152**

- Q1: Will Entrepreneurship classes be considered a Pre Employment Transition Service?
- A1: Self-employment/entrepreneurship would fall under Job Exploration Counseling.
- Q2: Is this RFQ for "Job Extravaganza" type events only or does it include other Pre ETS activities?
- A2: This RFQ is limited to the provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) activities conducted specifically at Job Extravaganza events. While the activities completed at these events are considered Pre-ETS, this RFQ does not include or authorize the provision of other Pre-ETS activities outside the scope of the Job Extravaganza events as outlined in the RFQ.
- Q3: Will there be a separate RFP or RFQ for Pre ETS?
- A3: Yes
- Q4: How long should the "breakout sessions" be?
- A4: The "breakout sessions" should be no shorter than 30 minutes each. Services provided during these sessions are billed in units, where one unit equals one hour and a half unit equals 30 minutes. All Pre-ETS activities conducted during these breakout sessions must be clearly documented using the Pre-ETS Provision Form MDRS-VR-61.
- Q5: Is Military an option to highlight for counseling on Post Secondary Education and Training Opportunities?
- A5: No, the military is not an option to highlight during counseling on Post-Secondary Education and Training Opportunities; however, this type of counseling falls under the Pre-ETS category of Job Exploration Counseling. Discussing military careers helps students understand the diverse roles and opportunities available within the military.

Q10: If a student has a referral for Pre-ETS, will they need a second referral to attend a JE?
"Services provided without a completed Referral for Contracted Pre-ETS Services Form (MDRS-VR-100) will not be paid by MDRS-OVR/OVRB."

A10: No, but the referral must include all Pre-ETS activities that will be provided at the Job Extravaganza event and the chosen provider must be on the referral. If not, the referral would need to be amended prior to the student attending the event.

Q11: Are fingerprints required for a designated individual (peer mentor, staff member, teacher, or volunteer) who is assigned to each student group during an event? If yes, please clarify why.

A11: Since these individuals—whether peer mentors, staff, teachers, or volunteers—will be providing services to students with disabilities, Mississippi law requires that all school staff undergo fingerprinting. Accordingly, we will adhere to this standard to ensure student safety and comply with state regulations:

1. Fingerprint Requirement Under Mississippi Law

- o Per **Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-17**, school districts must require criminal background checks and fingerprinting for any individual—licensed or nonlicensed—who works in a school setting.
- o Charter schools and any contracted education service providers are similarly covered under **Miss. Code Ann. § 37-28-49**

2. Volunteers and Staff Working with Students

- o **24 Miss. Code R. § 1-9.1.3** mandates fingerprinting for all employees and volunteers working with children, disqualifying individuals with criminal histories that raise safety concerns.

We will require fingerprinting for every designated individual assigned to student groups during these events. This aligns with Mississippi's statutory and regulatory requirements and demonstrates our commitment to prioritizing the safety and well-being of students with disabilities.

Q12: For the individuals providing services to the students (not the contractor) does each person have to have a Bachelor's degree to work with the kids.

A12: No, individuals providing services to students at these events are not required to have a Bachelor's degree. However, to ensure consistency with state standards and maintain the quality and safety of services delivered to students with disabilities, all individuals providing such services must meet the minimum qualifications for assistant teachers as outlined by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Acceptable qualifications for assistant teachers working with students include:

- o An Associate's degree or higher; or

Could you clarify which structure is correct, or if the Exhibit B language is outdated?

A17: The chart on page 4, Section 2.1 is the correct rate. The Exhibit B language is outdated.

Respondents shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to the solicitation by signing and returning the amendment with the response. The acknowledgment must be received by MDRS by the submission deadline.

Company Name: Ramon Williams

Signature and Date: Ramon Williams

Name and Title: Ramon Williams, sole proprietor