



November 10, 2025

Public Procurement Review Board
501 North West Street, Suite 700
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Board Members:

The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services requests approval to issue contracts in fulfillment of a Request for Qualifications issued on September 4, 2025. Eighteen qualifications were submitted to MDRS, and the agency wishes to enter into contracts with Twelve of the respondents. No requests for reconsideration have been submitted. Therefore, I certify that no requests or potential requests for consideration are known to the agency or any agency employees.

The RFQ was issued for the purpose of contracting with qualified contractors to provide individualized pre-employment transition services throughout the State of Mississippi for students with disabilities who are served by MDRS as either VR eligible or potentially eligible students. This procurement is designed to meet the demands of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA), which requires that each state's public Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) system play a much larger role in addressing the transition from school to adult life. Under WIOA, MDRS, through its Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (OVRB), is required to provide extensive Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities. In order to meet these requirements, MDRS will be committing additional resources towards serving students with disabilities.

The purpose of this procurement is to provide MDRS with an additional mechanism to provide comprehensive and coordinated pre-employment transition services to assist students with disabilities with successful transitions from high school to post-secondary education and competitive integrated employment. If these contracts are not approved, the agency may be unable to meet federal standards for these services as required by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Samandra Murphy', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Samandra Murphy
MDRS Chief of Staff