COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES
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Commission’s goal is to assist its Contractors and Grantees (collectively referred to as “Contractor”), in successfully achieving and sustaining identified outcomes for children, families, and communities in Los Angeles County. As a steward of public funds, Commission is also responsible for ensuring that Contractor complies with applicable regulations, policies and contractual requirements. Contractor shall adhere to requirements listed in the Grant Agreement or Contract (collectively referred to as “Contract”), whichever is applicable.

The purpose of the Compliance Guidelines is to provide an overview of Commission’s expectations regarding contract compliance, as well as the steps that Commission will take to prevent or address non-compliance. By providing these guidelines and expectations, Commission hopes to proactively identify issues that may impede or delay the progress of a program, project or other deliverables.

For purposes of these Compliance Guidelines, “contract compliance” shall mean being in accordance with all of the terms and conditions of the Contract. Further, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, (a) the words “shall” or “will” are mandatory, and “may” is permissive; (b) “or” is not exclusive; and (c) “includes” and “including” are not limiting.

I. METHODS USED TO ASSESS CONTRACTOR’S COMPLIANCE

Commission staff may use any, all or a combination of the following methods to monitor contract compliance:

A. Review of Required Documents

   Contractor shall submit required documents, including those requiring signatures and those listed in Section I.G. below, as requested by Commission, in a timely manner. Contractor shall provide revised or updated documents according to the Commission’s specifications, if any, and as needed throughout the course of the Contract period, some of which may require Commission’s approval.

B. Review of Completed Products and Deliverables and Provision of Services

   The Contract’s Performance Matrix/Scope of Work often requires the submission of products or deliverables or the provision of services within a specified timeline. Contractor shall adhere to the timelines and specifications as outlined in the Performance Matrix/Scope of Work. If Contractor is unable to submit deliverables or products, or provide services, within the specifications and timelines set forth in the Performance Matrix/Scope of Work, Contractor shall immediately provide Commission staff with written notification. Upon receipt of Contractor’s notification of delay, Commission staff will determine the extent to which Contractor has achieved the program or project detailed in the Performance Matrix/Scope of Work and review the quality and quantity of products and deliverables submitted or services provided.

C. Meetings and Conference Calls

   Commission staff may require meetings and conference calls with Contractor in order to monitor Contractor’s progress in implementing Contractor’s program or project in accordance with the Performance Matrix/Scope of Work or discuss a particular issue, product, deliverable, service or evaluation. Commission staff may require in person meetings with Contractor at Commission’s office.
D. **Site visits**

Commission staff may conduct site visits in order to monitor Contractor’s progress in implementing Contractor’s program or project and assess the degree to which a program or project is being implemented in accordance with the Contract and its incorporated exhibits (e.g., Performance Matrix, Statement of Work, Scope of Work). During a site visit, staff may: (1) review and discuss Contractor’s implementation of program or project activities; (2) interview program or project staff and participants; (3) review supporting documentation regarding program or project functions (e.g., data collection methods, documentation of program activities); (4) review financial documents related to the Contract; and (5) review applicable supporting documents to ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws applicable to the program or project (e.g., HIPAA compliance, IRB Compliance, Human Subjects Compliance).

E. **Emails and Other Written Communications**

Commission staff may monitor Contractor’s progress in implementing Contractor’s program or project and assess the degree to which a program or project is being implemented in accordance with the Contract and its incorporated exhibits (e.g., Performance Matrix, Statement of Work, Scope of Work) through emails and other forms of written communications.

F. **Corrective Action Plan**

If required by Commission staff, Contractor shall develop a written Corrective Action Plan, subject to Commission staff’s review and approval. Commission staff may provide technical assistance in the development of a Corrective Action Plan when deemed appropriate by Commission staff. Corrective Action Plans shall specify actions to be taken by Contractor to correct any non-compliance as described in Section II below and shall include deadlines for completion of each corrective action. Commission staff may monitor Contractor’s progress on completing each corrective action by using a variety of methods, including reports, meetings or site visits, as needed. Commission staff may require a Corrective Action Plan prior to placing Contractor in a non-compliant status.

G. **Document Review**

1. **Contract Exhibits and Required Documents**

   Contract documents shall be subject to review by Commission staff, including the following:

   - **Progress Reports**: Some Contracts require contractors to submit progress reports. Reporting timeframes vary. Contracts may require the submission of reports on a monthly, quarterly or semi-annual basis, as directed by Commission. Progress reports shall summarize Contractor’s progress in the implementation of a program or project, or the submission of deliverables. Additionally, reports shall describe how measurable goals and objectives have been accomplished during the program or project year in accordance with the Contract’s Performance Matrix/Scope of Work. If required under a Contract, Contractor shall submit progress reports to Commission on the due dates set forth in the Performance Matrix/Scope of Work.
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- **Invoices:** Contractor shall submit invoices to Commission no later than the last business day of each month, unless otherwise provided in the Contract or approved in writing by Commission.

- **Subcontracts or other legally binding forms of agreements:** If Commission consents to Contractor’s use of subcontractor(s), Contractor shall submit required documents to Commission in accordance with the Contract’s requirements if required by the designated Commission staff.

- **Insurance:** Contractor shall provide proof of insurance to Commission and maintain insurance at their own expense during the Contract term. Contractor’s insurance coverage shall meet the minimum coverage standards required under the Contract.

Contractors shall submit the following required documents to Commission for review by Commission staff prior to the Contract’s effective date and as requested by Commission staff during the Contract term:

- Documents Describing Involvement in Litigation or Contract Compliance Difficulties (signed by authorized signatory)
- Child Care Center License (if applicable)
- By Laws (if applicable)
- Articles of Incorporation (if applicable)
- List of Current Board of Directors (if applicable)
- Signature Authorization Form and supporting documentation
- IRS Account Determination Letter (submitted by all charitable non-profit organizations)
- State and Federal Identification Numbers (submitted by schools districts, public entities, universities, etc.)
- Independent Agency-wide Financial Audit for the prior year with the report of independent auditors, including single source audits (if applicable)
- W-9
- Business License (if applicable)
- Other documents as requested by Commission staff

2. *Written Deliverables*

If applicable, Contractor shall submit other written deliverables (e.g., reports, memos, surveys) in accordance with the Contract’s Performance Matrix/Scope of Work. Deliverables will be reviewed and approved by Commission staff, or, in some cases, a Quality Assurance review conducted by Commission, as specified in the Contract.

Unless Contractor obtains prior approval from Commission staff to delay the submission of a deliverable, Contractor’s significant delay in submitting a deliverable (beyond 30 calendar days) is grounds for non-compliance.
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Based upon Commission staff’s findings from any, all or a combination of the contract compliance monitoring methods above, Commission may:

- Modify the Contract’s Performance Matrix/Scope of Work (Exhibit A);
- Request a Corrective Action Plan, as described in Section I.F.;
- Place Contractor in non-compliant status; or
- Terminate the Contract.

II. CONTRACTOR’S PLACEMENT IN NON-COMPLIANT STATUS

Commission shall deem Contractor non-compliant due to any of the following Contractor’s failure to: 1) comply with the Contract’s terms and provisions; or 2) effectively implement and manage the Commission-funded program or project; or 3) submit a product or deliverable or provide a service, as described in the Contract’s Performance Matrix/Scope of Work.

Contractor’s placement in non-compliant status may impact Commission’s current and future funding considerations with Contractor.

Commission staff is responsible for Contractor’s placement in and removal from non-compliant status in accordance with these Compliance Guidelines. Commission staff will inform Contractor in writing of Contractor’s placement in non-compliant status and the reasons for staff’s determination of non-compliance. Commission staff and Contractor shall timely address Contractor’s non-compliance in a constructive and collaborative manner to avoid further Commission action as set forth in Section IV of these Compliance Guidelines.

Commission staff may place Contractor in non-compliant status as a result of, but not limited to, any of the following:

- Contractor makes modifications to the approved Budget or Performance Matrix/Scope of Work without submitting a request for Performance Matrix/Scope of Work or Budget Modification and without prior written approval from Commission staff (e.g., eliminating significant components of the funded program, project or deliverable, adding or eliminating key staff positions that are critical to the program or project).
- Contractor, without adequate justification, fails to demonstrate adequate progress in the implementation of the program or project objectives or submission of deliverables (e.g., not meeting deadlines, not submitting deliverables on time, not notifying Commission of delays).
- Contractor fails to comply with Commission’s fiscal requirements as stated in the Contract (e.g., substandard or inadequate accounting procedures).
- Contractor fails to submit required documents within the timelines specified in the Contract.
- Contractor, without adequate justification, fails to implement key evaluation activities or components (e.g., hiring an evaluator, collection and submission of participant and outcome data).
- Contractor fails to disclose information or situations (e.g., entity structure changes, entity financial changes) that may impact the implementation of the program or project or the submission of deliverables.
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- Contractor fails to disclose a conflict of interest, as such interests are described in the Contract.
- Contractor fails to complete Corrective Action Plans in a timely manner.
- Contractor fabricates or falsifies documents.
- Contractor fails to comply with applicable local, state and federal laws or regulations.
- Contractor misuses or mismanages funds.
- Contractor uses Commission funds to supplant funds from other sources.

III. PROCEDURES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Commission staff will inform Contractor in writing of Contractor’s placement in non-compliant status, and the reasons for staff’s determination of non-compliance.

Commission staff may take one of more of the following actions: (1) impose sanctions in accordance with Section IV below, including termination of the Contract; (2) require that Contractor develop or revise a Corrective Action Plan in accordance with Section I.F. above; or (3) revise the Performance Matrix/Scope of Work of the Contract.

IV. SANCTIONS

Commission may impose sanctions at any time or if Contractor is placed in non-compliant status. Sanctions may include the following:

- Withholding of payment or suspending work until Contractor makes corrective actions.
- Disallowing or reducing allowed expenses or disallowing expenses for activities that are not in alignment with the Contract.
- Non-renewal of the Contract.
- Suspension or termination of Contract.
- Debarment from future funding by Commission for a specified period of time starting from the effective date of termination.
- Recovery of Contract funds.

Commission’s termination or non-compliant status of the Contract may influence Commission’s future funding considerations for Contractor. Commission may defund or refuse to re-fund Contractor or decrease the Contract award for Contractor’s failure to perform or meet compliance requirements. Commission may terminate or suspend the Contract, without providing Contractor with an opportunity to make corrective actions, for Contractor’s actions or behavior that put the integrity of the program or project at risk, including, client, child and staff endangerment, inappropriate and reckless staff behavior, contract non-compliance, fraud or embezzlement, health code violations or any other significant legal or regulatory violation.

Commission may terminate the Contract pursuant to Section XXII of the Contract or Section 30 of the Grant Agreement.