



# Acquisition Plan (AP) Template

Revised March 2023

(MS Word Version, August 2023)

**Purpose:** This document provides the template for completing an Acquisition Plan (AP).

**References:** Federal Acquisition Regulation ([FAR](#)) [7.1](#)

**Requirements and Responsibilities:** Acquisition Planning is required for all acquisitions. "Acquisition planning", means the process by which the efforts of all personnel responsible for phases of the acquisition lifecycle are coordinated and integrated through a comprehensive plan for fulfilling the agency need in a timely manner and at a reasonable cost. It should include information from the approved Acquisition Strategy (AS) detailing plans for managing the execution of the contract. The final approved AP must address the following as required by statute ([41 USC 253\(a\)](#)) as implemented through [FAR 7.102](#) to promote and provide for:

- (1) Acquisition of commercial or non-developmental items, to the maximum extent practicable ([41 U.S.C. 3307](#)), see guidance in [FAR 12](#) and the definition of commercial item in [FAR 2.101](#);
- (2) Full and open competition (see [FAR 6](#)) or to obtain competition to the maximum extent practicable, with due regard to the nature of the supplies or services to be acquired ([41 U.S.C. 3306\(a\) \(1\)](#));
- (3) Selection of appropriate contract type in accordance with [FAR 16](#); and
- (4) Appropriate consideration of the use of pre-existing contracts, including interagency and intra-agency contracts, to fulfill the requirement (See [FAR 8.002](#) through [FAR 8.004](#), [FAR 17.5](#)).

In accordance with [FAR 7.101](#), the acquisition planner is responsible for developing and executing an AP. Within HHS, the primary acquisition planner is the Program/Project Manager (P/PM). The AP should incorporate applicable portions of the approved AS. It is incumbent upon the P/PM to coordinate the plan with all those who have a responsibility for the development, management, or administration of any phase of the acquisition lifecycle and may include members of the Integrated Program Team (IPT). The IPT may include individuals with technical expertise based on the nature of the requirement and may include, but is not limited to, technical specialists in budget/finance, acquisitions, information technology, security, logistics and legal.

The Contracting Officer supports the P/PM by providing input and advising the P/PM on contracting strategy, appropriate contract type selection, and other contractual business matters. The Small Business Specialist (SBS) advises on small business considerations that may potentially impact the contracting strategy.

The AP must address all the technical, business, management, and other significant considerations that will control the acquisition. Ensure that the basic details supporting Program/Project impacts, for the areas identified in the approved AS, are included in the AP being submitted. The specific content of plans will vary, depending on the nature, circumstances, and stage of the acquisition.

For sections of this AP template that do not apply to the requirement, please indicate "Not Applicable (N/A)" and explain why, where necessary. The length and detail of an AP depends on the complexity of each individual acquisition. The AP shall be completed for all sections that apply to the acquisition.

**Please do not include this page of instructions or the Additional Guidance beginning on page 18 of this document, in the final document or contract file.**

## Acquisition Plan (AP) Template

Acquisition Title	
Program/Project Title	
OPDIV/Division	
Acquisition Year	
Associated Acquisition Strategy (AS) Number (Approved Acquisition Strategy attached.)	
Program/Project Manager (P/PM) Name	
P/PM Phone Number	
P/PM Email Address	

**Key:** *Blue text* will take you to further guidance within the document. *Orange text* will take you to *Acquisition.gov*.

**(a) Acquisition Background and Objectives - FAR 7.105(a)**

**(1) Statement of Need – FAR 7.105(a)(1)**

Introduce the plan by a brief statement of need. Summarize the technical and contractual history of the acquisition. Discuss feasible acquisition alternatives, the impact of prior acquisitions on those alternatives, and any related in-house effort.

**Technical and Contractual History**

**i.** Provide a brief factual summary of the history of the requirement, including any legislative history. Discuss the scientific/technical/contractual history of the requirement and provide relevant prior acquisition information.

**Acquisition Alternatives**

**ii.** Discuss acquisition alternatives considered and the impact of prior acquisitions as they relate to the alternatives considered.

**Acquisition Alternatives – Department Considerations**

**iii.** Are there any Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) agency-wide IDIQ contracts or other acquisition alternatives that can meet the needs of this requirement? If the requirement is for a service contract, describe the strategies for implementing performance-based acquisition methods or provide the rationale for not using these methods [see [FAR 37.102](#) ([Public Law 106-398, section 821](#)); [FAR 7.105](#); and [FAR 37.6](#)].

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**(2) Applicable Conditions – [FAR 7.105\(a\)\(2\)](#): State all significant conditions affecting the acquisition such as:**

**Compatibility**

**i.** Discuss any compatibility requirements with future or existing systems/programs/projects.

**Constraints**

**ii.** Discuss any known cost, schedule, capability, or performance constraints. If such conditions exist, discuss the steps that will be taken to promote competition and socio-economic goals.

**(3) Cost - [FAR 7.105\(a\)\(3\)](#): Set forth the established cost goals for the acquisition and the rationale supporting them, and discuss related cost concepts to be employed, including, the following items:**

Make sure the Independent Government Cost Estimate is attached and explain what the total estimated cost of this procurement inclusive of all options is.

**Life-cycle cost**

*i.* Discuss how life-cycle cost will be considered. If it is not used, explain why. If appropriate, discuss the cost model used to develop life-cycle-cost estimates.

**Design-to-cost**

*ii.* Describe the design-to-cost objective(s) and underlying assumptions, including the rationale for quantity, learning-curve, and economic adjustment factors. Describe how objectives are to be applied, tracked, and enforced. Indicate specific related solicitation and contractual requirements to be imposed.

**Application of should-cost**

*iii.* Describe the application of should-cost analysis to the acquisition (see [FAR 15.407-4](#)).

**(4) Capability or Performance - [FAR 7.105\(a\)\(4\)](#)**

Specify the required capabilities or performance characteristics of the supplies or performance standards of the services being acquired and state how they are related to the need.

**(5) Delivery or Performance-Period Requirements - [FAR7.105\(a\)\(5\)](#)**

Describe the basis for establishing delivery or performance-period requirements (see [FAR 11.4](#)). Explain and provide reasons for any urgency if it results in concurrency of development and production or constitutes justification for not providing for full and open competition. Provide the period of performance for this procurement, including all option periods.

**(6) Trade-Offs - FAR 7.105(a)(6)**

Discuss the expected consequences of trade-offs among the various cost, capability or performance, and schedule goals that reflects the changing needs and priorities of the program. **Note:** This section should not discuss trade-offs in relation to source selection.

**(7) Risks - FAR 7.105(a)(7)**

Discuss technical, cost, and schedule risks and describe what efforts are planned or underway to reduce risk and the consequences of failure to achieve goals. If concurrency of development and production is planned, discuss its effects on cost and schedule risks.

**Organizational Conflict of Interest**

Review and discuss FAR 9.5-Organizational and Consultant Conflicts of Interest for roles and responsibilities concerning potential Conflicts of Interest as it pertains to the procurement. Explain mitigation strategies to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

**(8) Acquisition Streamlining - FAR7.105(a)(8)**

Discuss plans and procedures to encourage industry participation by using draft solicitations, pre-solicitation conferences, and other means of stimulating industry involvement during design and development in recommending the most appropriate application and tailoring of contract requirements. Select and tailor only the necessary and cost-effective requirements and state the timeframe for identifying which of those specifications and standards, originally provided for guidance only, shall become mandatory.

**(b) Plan of Action - FAR 7.105(b)**

**(1) Sources - FAR 7.105(b)(1)**

*i.* Indicate the prospective sources of supplies or services that can meet the need.

<p><b>ii.</b> Consider required sources of supplies or services (see <a href="#">FAR 8</a>) and sources identifiable through databases including the Government-wide database of contracts and other procurement instruments intended for use by multiple agencies available at <a href="http://www.contractdirectory.gov/contractdirectory">www.contractdirectory.gov/contractdirectory</a>.</p>
<p><b>iii.</b> Include consideration of small business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, small disadvantaged business, and women-owned small business concerns as required by <a href="#">FAR 19</a>.</p>
<p><b>iv.</b> Consider the impact of any consolidating and/or bundling that might affect small businesses participation in the acquisition (see <a href="#">FAR 7.107</a>) (<a href="#">15 U.S.C. 644(e)</a> and <a href="#">15 U.S.C. 657q</a>) (<a href="#">PGI 307.104-70 (b)</a>). In accordance with <a href="#">FAR 7.105(b)(1)</a>, when the proposed acquisition strategy involves bundling, identify the incumbent contractors and contracts affected by the bundling (see <a href="#">FAR 7.107</a> Additional requirements for acquisitions involving consolidation, bundling, or substantial bundling.)</p>
<p><b>v.</b> Address the extent and results of the market research and indicate their impact on the various elements of the plan (see <a href="#">FAR 10</a>).</p>

**(2) [Competition](#) - [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(2\)](#)**

<p><b>i.</b> Describe how competition will be sought, promoted, and sustained throughout the course of the acquisition. If full and open competition is not contemplated, cite the authority in <a href="#">FAR 6.302</a>, discuss the basis for the application of that authority, identify the source(s), and discuss the rationale and basis why full and open competition cannot be obtained.</p>
<p><b>ii.</b> Identify the major components or subsystems. Discuss component breakout plans relative to these major components or subsystems. Describe how competition will be sought, promoted, and sustained for these components or subsystems.</p>

**iii.** Describe how competition will be sought, promoted, and sustained for spares and repair parts. Identify the key logistic milestones, such as technical data delivery schedules and acquisition method coding conferences that affect competition.

**iv.** When effective subcontract competition is both feasible and desirable, describe how such subcontract competition will be sought, promoted, and sustained throughout the course of the acquisition. Identify any known barriers to increasing subcontract competition and address potential strategies to overcome them.

**(3) Contract Type Selection - FAR 7.105(b)(3)**

Discuss the rationale for the selection of contract type. For other than firm-fixed-price contracts, see FAR 16.103(d) for additional documentation guidance. Acquisition personnel shall document the acquisition plan with findings that detail the particular facts and circumstances, (e.g., complexity of the requirements, uncertain duration of the work, contractor's technical capability and financial responsibility, or adequacy of the contractor's accounting system), and associated reasoning essential to support the contract type selection. The contracting officer shall ensure that requirements and technical personnel provide the necessary documentation to support the contract type selection.

**(4) Source Selection Procedures - FAR 7.105(b)(4)**

Discuss the source selection procedures for the acquisition, including the timing for submission and evaluation of proposals, and the relationship of evaluation factors to the attainment of the acquisition objectives (see FAR 15.3). A solicitation in which green products or services may be supplied or used (i.e., within the scope of FAR 23.1, *Sustainable Acquisition Policy*) shall include a separate evaluation factor for sustainability. The factor may be in the form of a technical evaluation criterion or a mandatory qualification criterion, as appropriate. When an EVMS is required (see FAR 34.202(a)) and a pre-award Integrated Baseline Review (IBR) is contemplated, the acquisition plan must discuss:

**i.** How the pre-award IBR will be considered in the source selection decision.

**ii.** How it will be conducted in the source selection process (see FAR 15.306).

**iii.** Whether offerors will be directly compensated for the costs of participating in a pre-award IBR.

**(5) Acquisition Considerations - FAR7.105(b)(5)**

**i.** For each contract contemplated, discuss use of multiyear contracting, options, or other special contracting methods (see FAR 17); any special clauses, special solicitation provisions, or FAR deviations required (see FAR 1.4); whether sealed bidding or negotiation will be used and why; whether equipment will be acquired by lease or purchase (see FAR 7.4) and why; and any other contracting considerations. Provide rationale if a performance-based acquisition will not be used or if a performance-based acquisition for services is contemplated on other than a firm-fixed-price basis (see FAR 37.102(a), 16.103(d), and FAR 16.505(a)(3)).

**ii.** For each order contemplated, discuss-

(A) For information technology acquisitions, how the capital planning and investment control requirements of 40 U.S.C. 11312 and OMB Circular A-130 will be met (see FAR 7.103(v) and FAR 39); and (B) Why this action benefits the Government, such as when-

- (1) The agency can accomplish its mission more efficiently and effectively (e.g., take advantage of the servicing agency's specialized expertise; or gain access to contractors with needed expertise); or
- (2) Ordering through an indefinite delivery contract facilitates access to small business concerns, including small disadvantaged business concerns, 8(a) contractors, women-owned small business concerns, HUBZone small business concerns, veteran-owned small business concerns, or service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns.

**iii.** For information technology acquisitions using Internet Protocol, discuss whether the requirements documents include the Internet Protocol compliance requirements specified in FAR 11.002(g) or a waiver of these requirements has been granted by the agency's Chief Information Officer.

**iii.a.** Does Section 508 apply to this procurement? Will this procurement involve the acquisition of Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) products or services subject to Section 508? Will this procurement involve the production of audiovisual materials, publications, or public affairs services?

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**



<p><b>iv.</b> For each contract (and order) contemplated, discuss the strategy to transition to firm-fixed-price contracts to the maximum extent practicable. During the requirements development stage, consider structuring the contract requirements, <i>i.e.</i>, line items, in a manner that will permit some, if not all, of the requirements to be awarded on a firm-fixed-price basis, either in the current contract, future option years, or follow-on contracts. This will facilitate an easier transition to a firm-fixed-price contract, because a cost history will be developed for a recurring definitive requirement.</p>

**(6) Budgeting and Funding - FAR 7.105(b)(6)**

<p>Include budget estimates, explain how they were derived, and discuss the schedule for obtaining adequate funds at the time they are required (see <u>FAR 32.7</u>). <b><i>A completed IGCE must accompany this AP.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>i.</b> Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE) Date of Completion</p>	
<p><b>ii.</b> Provide a brief explanation how the attached IGCE was developed.</p>	
<p><b>iii.</b> Discuss the schedule for obtaining both adequate funds and the right type of funds at the time they are required. If all necessary funds are not currently available, discuss the schedule for obtaining the additional funds. Provide detailed information on the funding amounts by providing data such as appropriation account, fiscal year, line item, and project name. If funding is from multiple projects, provide a complete listing of each source.</p>	

**(7) Product or Service Descriptions – FAR 7.105(b)(7)**

<p>Explain the choice of product or service description types (including performance-based acquisition descriptions) to be used in the acquisition.</p>

**(8) Priorities, Allocations, and Allotments - FAR 7.105(b)(8)**

<p>When urgency of the requirement dictates a particularly short delivery or performance schedule, certain priorities may apply. If so, specify the method for obtaining and using priorities, allocations, and allotments, and the reasons for them (see <u>FAR 11.6</u>).</p>

**(9) Contractor versus Government Performance Consideration - FAR 7.105(b)(9)**

Address the consideration given to [OMB Circular No. A-76](#) (see [FAR 7.3](#)).

**(10) Inherently Governmental Functions - FAR 7.105(b)(10)**

Address the consideration given to [FAR 7.5](#).

**(11) Management Information Requirements – FAR 7.105(b)(11)**

Discuss, as appropriate, what management system will be used by the Government to monitor the contractor's effort. If an Earned Value Management System (EVMS) is to be used, discuss the methodology the Government will employ to analyze and use the earned value data to assess and monitor contract performance. In addition, discuss how the offeror's/contractor's EVMS will be verified for compliance with the Electronic Industries Alliance Standard 748 (EIA-748), Earned Value Management Systems, and the timing and conduct of integrated baseline reviews (whether prior to or post award). (See [FAR 34.202](#).)

**(12) Make or Buy - FAR 7.105(b)(12)**

Discuss any consideration given to make-or-buy programs (see [FAR 15.407-2](#)).

**(13) Test and Evaluation - FAR 7.105(b)(13)**

To the extent applicable, describe the test program of the contractor and the Government. Describe the test program for each major phase of a major system acquisition. If concurrency is planned, discuss the extent of testing to be accomplished and any testing milestones that will be met before production release.

**(14) Logistics Considerations - FAR 7.105(b)(14) – Describe:**

**i.** The assumptions determining contractor or agency support, both initially and over the life of the acquisition, including consideration of contractor or agency maintenance and servicing (see [FAR 7.3](#)); support for contracts to be performed in a designated operational area or supporting a diplomatic or consular mission (see [FAR 25.301-3](#)); and distribution of commercial items;

**ii.** The reliability, maintainability, and quality assurance requirements, including any planned use of warranties (see [FAR 46](#));

**iii.** The requirements for contractor data (including repurchase data) and data rights, their estimated cost, and the use to be made of the data (see [FAR 27](#)); and

**iv.** Standardization concepts, including the necessity to designate, in accordance with agency procedures, technical equipment as “standard” so that future purchases of the equipment can be made from the same manufacturing source.

**(15) Government-Furnished Property - FAR 7.105(b)(15)**

Indicate any Government property to be furnished to contractors, and discuss any associated considerations, such as its availability or the schedule for its acquisition (see [FAR 45.102](#)).

**(16) Government-Furnished Information - FAR 7.105(b) (16)**

Discuss any Government information, such as manuals, drawings, and test data, to be provided to prospective offerors and contractors. Indicate which information that requires additional controls to monitor access and distribution (e.g., technical specifications, maps, building designs, schedules, etc.), as determined by the agency, is to be posted via the enhanced controls of the Government wide Point of Entry (GPE) (see FAR 5.102(a)).

**(17) Environmental and Energy Conservation Objectives - FAR 7.105(b)(17)**

Discuss all acquisition of products containing recovered and/or biopreferred materials, including the special requirements for printing and writing paper, applicable environmental and energy conservation objectives associated with the acquisition (see FAR 23), the applicability of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (see 40 CFR 1502), the proposed resolution of environmental issues, and any environmentally-related requirements to be included in solicitations and contracts (see FAR 11.002 and FAR 11.303).

If applicable, provide a rationale for not buying Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-designated recycled content and environmentally preferable and energy-efficient products and services in the Acquisition Plan (AP).

**(18) Security Considerations - FAR 7.105(b)(18)**

**i.** For acquisitions dealing with classified matters, discuss how adequate security will be established, maintained, and monitored (see FAR 4.4).

**ii.** For information technology acquisitions, discuss how agency information security requirements will be met.

**iii.** For acquisitions requiring routine contractor physical access to a Federally-controlled facility and/or routine access to a Federally-controlled information system, discuss how agency requirements for personal identity verification of contractors will be met (see FAR 4.13).

**iv.** For acquisitions that may require Federal contract information to reside in or transit through contractor information systems, discuss compliance with [FAR 4.19](#).

**(19) [Contract Administration](#) - [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(19\)](#)**

Describe how the contract will be administered. In contracts for services, include how inspection and acceptance corresponding to the work statement's performance criteria will be enforced. In contracts for supplies or service contracts that include supplies, address whether higher-level quality standards are necessary ([FAR 46.202](#)) and whether the supplies to be acquired are critical items ([FAR 46.101](#)).

**(20) Other Considerations - [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(20\)](#) - Discuss, as applicable:**

**i.** Standardization concepts;

**ii.** The industrial readiness program;

**iii.** The Defense Production Act;

**iv.** The Occupational Safety and Health Act;

**v.** Support Anti-terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act of 2002 (SAFETY Act) (see [FAR 50.2](#));

**vi.** Foreign sales implications;

**vii.** Special requirements for contracts to be performed in a designated operational area or supporting a diplomatic or consular mission;

**viii.** Any other matters germane to the plan not covered elsewhere.

**(21) Milestones for the Procurement Cycle - FAR 7.105(b)(21)**

Address the following steps and any others as appropriate:

Procurement Milestone	N/A	Target Date	Revised Date	Completion Date
Acquisition Plan Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Statement of Work	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Specifications	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Data Requirements: Information Security Certification Checklist Completed (Appendix A of <a href="#">HHS Security and Privacy Language for Information and Information Technology Procurements, Version 2.0</a> dated June 26, 2017.)	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Completion of acquisition-package preparation	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Purchase request	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Justification and approval for other than full and open competition where applicable and/or any required D&F approval	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Issuance of synopsis	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Issuance of solicitation	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Evaluation of proposal, audits, and field reports	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Beginning and completion of negotiations	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Contract preparation, review, and clearance	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Contract Award	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Please indicate any additional milestones below:</b>				
	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	<input type="checkbox"/>			

***(22) Identification of Participants in Acquisition Plan Preparation - FAR7.105(b)(22)***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email Address</b>

## **Reviews and Approvals of the Acquisition Plan (Required)**

### **Budget Officer/Funds Certifying Official's Certification**

Please select one statement below.

- ☐ I hereby certify that (a) this requirement represents a bona fide need of the fiscal year or years for which the appropriation was made and complies with the Anti-Deficiency Act; and (b) funds are committed for the entire performance period of this acquisition.
- ☐ I hereby certify that (a) this requirement represents a bona fide need of the fiscal year or years for which the appropriation was made and complies with the Anti-Deficiency Act; and (b) funds are committed for the base period or first increment of performance of this acquisition.
- ☐ This acquisition will use the multi-year contracting procedures authorized in FAR 17.1 and HHSAR 317.1. I hereby certify that: (a) this requirement represents a bona fide need in the fiscal year or years for which the appropriation was made and complies with the Anti-Deficiency Act; and (b) funds are committed for the first year of performance plus the estimated amount of the full cancellation ceiling.
- ☐ Funds are not currently committed for this acquisition.

Name & Title \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill in with N/A for reviews and approvals that are not required due to the value of the Acquisition. (or your OPDIV policy)*

<b>OPDIV Approvals:</b>			
<b>Official</b>	<b>Name &amp; Title</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
Program/Project Manager (P/PM)			
Business Owner (Requiring Activity/COR)			
For OPDIV (if necessary)			
For OPDIV (if necessary)			
Head of the Sponsoring Program Office(if applicable)			
Contracting Officer			
Contracting Officer Supervisor			
For OPDIV (if necessary)			
OPDIV Policy Review (if applicable)			



Officials	Name & Title	Signature	Date
OPDIV Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)			
OPDIV Chief Information Officer (CIO) (if applicable)			
OPDIV Competition Advocate (if applicable)			
Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA)			
<b>Department Approvals:</b>			
Official	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Office of the General Counsel (Legal) (if applicable)			
HHS Competition Advocate (if applicable)			
HHS Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)			
HHS Chief Information Officer (CIO) (if IT related)			
HHS Senior Procurement Executive (SPE)			

**AP Submission Instructions:** Per FAR 7.102(a) and HHS policy, a written AP is required for all acquisitions above the simplified acquisition threshold. This AP Template shall be used for all acquisitions with an estimated value (inclusive of options) greater than the threshold requiring Senior Procurement Executive (SPE) approval, or if the Program/Project (P/P) is designated as a Special Interest and/or High-Risk P/P subject to HHS Acquisition Strategy Review Board (ASRB) oversight. For all acquisitions that require SPE review and approval, the AP must be submitted via the Acquisition Document Review (ADR) Portal. It is important to note that you must have an ADR Portal User Account in order to submit your AP via the ADR Portal. Please email [Acquisition\\_Policy@hhs.gov](mailto:Acquisition_Policy@hhs.gov) for additional assistance and/or support.

ADR Portal: <https://asfr.hhs.gov/OGAPA/DA/WorkforceDevelopment/oawsi/default.aspx>

For all acquisitions not requiring SPE review and approval and are equal to or greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, including task orders under Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts (FAR 7.105), OPDIVs may use this AP Template or their own template which must meet, at a minimum, the AP content requirements outlined in the FAR 7.105 and HHSAR 307.105.

## Additional Guidance

### **(a) Acquisition Background and Objectives - FAR 7.105(a)**

#### **(1) Statement of Need - FAR 7.105(a)(1)**

Briefly describe the purpose of and need for the proposed requirement as defined in the approved AS. Start this section with a short, clear, and concise statement of goals, objectives, and outcomes for this procurement; making sure to support all the details mentioned.

The Statement of Need should include the following:

a. <b>Applicable Conditions:</b> State all significant conditions affecting the acquisition, including requirements for compatibility with existing or future systems/programs; and any known cost, schedule, and capability/performance constraints.
b. <b>Cost:</b> State the established cost goals for the acquisition and the rationale supporting them. Discuss related cost concepts to be employed including as appropriate, <i>life-cycle cost</i> , <i>design-to-cost</i> , and <i>application of should-cost</i> .
c. <b>Capability or Performance:</b> Highlight the required capabilities/performance characteristics of the supplies or the performance standards of the services being acquired and state how they relate to the need.
d. <b>Delivery or Performance-Period Requirements:</b> Describe the basis for establishing delivery or performance-period requirements. Explain and provide reasons for any urgency if it results in concurrency of development and production or constitutes justification for not providing for full and open competition.
e. <b>Trade-offs:</b> Discuss the expected consequences of the trade-offs among the various cost, capability or performance, and schedule goals.
f. <b>Risks:</b> Discuss technical, cost, and schedule risks and describe what efforts are planned or underway to reduce risk and the consequences of failure to achieve goals. If concurrency of development and production is planned, discuss its effects on cost and schedule risks.
g. <b>Acquisition Streamlining:</b> If specifically designated by the requiring agency as a program subject to acquisition streamlining, discuss plans and procedures to: encourage industry participation by using draft solicitations, presolicitation conferences, and other means of stimulating industry involvement during design and development in recommending the most appropriate application and tailoring of contract requirements; select and tailor only the necessary and cost-effective requirements; and state the timeframe for identifying which of those specifications and standards, originally provided for guidance only, shall become mandatory.

#### **i. Technical and Contractual History**

Discuss the scientific/technical context of the requirement and provide relevant acquisition information, including names previous/incumbent contractor(s), periods of performance, contract numbers, and performance problems.

- a. Technical History – Past history of the requirement such as existing stage of the hardware/software/technology.
- b. Contractual History – Chronological listing of past procurements. For each procurement, provide a brief summary as well as fill in the specific information listed.
  - Include names of previous/incumbent contractor(s), periods of performance, contract numbers, and performance problems.
  - Describe the considerations for use of either Statement of Work (SOW) ([HHS PGI 307.7108](#)), Statement of Objectives (SOO) ([FAR 37.602](#)), Performance Work Statement (PWS) ([FAR 37.602](#)).
  - When necessary for adequate description, a picture, drawing, diagram, or other graphic representation.

#### **ii. Acquisition Alternatives**

Describe the impact if prior acquisitions affect the feasible alternative. This should include any existing internal or Government-wide contracts that satisfy the same or similar needs, results of the market research conducted ([FAR 10](#)) that substantiate the need for the alternative chosen, and the potential for using Category Management and HHS Smarter Buying Program ([HHSAR 312.1](#) and [HHS PGI 307.104-7](#)) to leverage Federal or HHS' Strategic Sourcing Vehicles, such as: the National Institutes of Health, Technology Assessment and Acquisition Center (NITAAC), the Government Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs); Indefinite-Delivery/Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ) contracts; Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA).

(2) Applicable Conditions - FAR 7.105(a)(2)

ii. Constraints

Discuss any factors that might limit or impact the cost, schedule, capability, or performance of the requirement (e.g., congressional mandates, time constraints, and technology changes). If such conditions exist, discuss steps that will be taken to promote competition and socio-economic goals, strategies to mitigate the constraint(s), and details on any related contingency plans.

(3) Cost - FAR 7.105(a)(3)

*Use of the Acquisition Gateway Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE) tool is recommended:*

<https://hallways.cap.gsa.gov/app/#/igce>.

Provide rationale for how the IGCE was developed, explain costs anticipated to increase/decrease over the program/project lifecycle, and describe how cost concerns will be mitigated. Discuss the specific cost techniques or concepts that may be employed.

**Note:** If the procurement, inclusive of all options, has a value equal to or greater than \$20,000,000, please refer to [HHSAR 334 Earned Value Management System](#).

- |  |
|--|
| i. <b>Life Cycle-Cost</b> –This technique considers not just the cost of the item being acquired, but the cost of the item over its life. For example, if purchasing a piece of office equipment such as a copier, Lifecycle costing could consider the cost of operation, including parts, supplies, maintenance, <i>etc.</i> , in addition to the initial outlay for the piece of equipment. Discuss the costs that will increase/decrease over the program/project lifecycle.   |
| ii. <b>Design-to- Cost</b> –This technique is employed to try to achieve a balance between lifecycle cost, acceptable performance, and schedule. An example of when design-to-cost might be used is in development of a prototype before full production. Because the highest percentage of product costs are committed based on decisions made during concept development and design, it is imperative that costs be monitored during key decision points.  |
| iii. <b>Application of Should-Cost</b> - This complex process is often appropriate for a major system acquisition ( <a href="#">FAR 34</a> ). A Should-Cost Evaluation is a special form of cost-analysis that reviews the economy and efficiency of the contractor's existing work force, methods, or materials. Should-cost reviews are conducted by a multi-functional team that looks at contracting, contract administration, pricing, audit, and engineering issues to identify short and long-term improvements to reduce the cost of performance and to put the Government in a better position to develop a realistic objective for negotiation. Should-cost techniques can be applied to both a P/P as a whole or to overhead costs. This complex process is often appropriate for a major system acquisition. |

(4) Capability or Performance - FAR 7.105(a)(4)

Explain why these capabilities may require use of commercial products or services, if applicable (see [FAR 12](#)).

(5) Delivery or Performance-Period Requirements - FAR 7.105(a)(5)

Specify the period of performance required for total procurement and, if applicable, the estimated duration of each phase for this procurement. Describe the rationale for establishing the delivery or performance schedule (see [FAR 11.4](#)). For supplies and services, describe all factors considered including; urgency of need, industry practices, market conditions, transportation time, production time, capabilities of small business concerns, etc., that are expected to impact delivery/performance requirements.(see [FAR 11.402 \(a\)](#))

For construction programs/projects, describe all factors considered including; nature and complexity of the project, construction seasons, required completion date, availability of materials and equipment, capacity of the contractor to perform, etc. that are expected to impact delivery/performance requirements (see [FAR 11.402 \(b\)](#)). Indicate whether the requirement is for construction management services or involves the acquisition of construction manager-at-risk services. Construction manager- at-risk is a delivery method that entails a commitment by the construction manager to deliver a project within a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP).

Discuss the Government's requirement in terms of delivery or performance-period ([FAR 11.4](#)). The delivery or performance schedule must be realistic and meet the needs of the Government; however, it should not be unnecessarily short or difficult to attain, as such actions restrict competition, result in higher prices, and are inconsistent with small business policies. In establishing delivery schedules, the following factors should be taken into consideration: urgent needs, industry practices,

market conditions, production time, small business capabilities, and the time needed for the Government to fulfill its obligations such as furnishing Government property/information or inspections. Also, explain how performance will be monitored.

**(6) Trade-Offs – FAR 7.105(a)(6)**

For IT investments, include or reference the applicable portion of the alternatives analysis section of the required [HHS Enterprise Performance Life Cycle \(EPLC\) business case](#). For major construction/facilities capital investments, include or reference the applicable portion of the current HHS business case, reviewed and approved by an appropriate governance structure, and the supporting acquisition strategy along with the supporting AS.

The Business Case is a documented, structured proposal for business improvement that is prepared to facilitate a selection decision for a proposed investment or project by organizational decision makers. The Business Case describes the reasons and justification for the investment or project in terms of business process performance, needs and/or problems, and expected benefits. It identifies the high-level requirements that are to be satisfied, an analysis of proposed alternative solutions (with reasons for rejecting or carrying forward each option), assumptions, constraints, a risk-adjusted cost-benefit analysis, and preliminary acquisition strategy. It should identify why a business capability is necessary and what business benefits can be expected by implementing this project. Avoid identifying a specific product or vendor as the solution. The background information provided should be at a level of detail sufficient to familiarize senior managers with the history, issues and customer service opportunities that can be realized through improvements to business processes with the potential support of IT. This background information must not offer or predetermine any specific automated solution, tool, or product.

Ensure that agency planners on information technology acquisitions comply with the capital planning and investment control requirements in [40 U.S.C. 11312](#) and [OMB Circular A-130](#). ([FAR 7.103\(v\)](#))

Ensuring that agency planners on information technology acquisitions comply with the information technology security requirements in the Federal Information Security Management Act ([44 U.S.C. 3544](#)), OMB's implementing policies including Appendix III of [OMB Circular A-130](#), and guidance and standards from the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. ([FAR 7.103\(w\)](#))

Additional information technology policy and guidance:

- [Enterprise Performance Life Cycle Framework - OVERVIEW DOCUMENT](#)
- [HHS Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act \(FITARA\) Implementation-Revised HHS IT Governance Framework](#)
- [HHS Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act \(FITARA\) HHS Implementation Plan, September 2015](#)
- [Memorandum: HHS Cloud Computing and Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program Guidance](#)
- [HHS Policy for Software Asset Management \(SAM\)](#)
- [HHS Policy for Capital Planning and Investment Control \(CPIC\), September 2016](#)
- [HHS Policy for IT Enterprise Performance Lifecycle \(EPLC\), October 6, 2008](#)
- [HHS Rules of Behavior for the Use of HHS Information and IT Resources Policy](#)
- [IT Policies & Standards](#)
- [Leadership For IT Security & Privacy Across HHS](#)
- FAQs Federal Information Security Management Act ([44 U.S.C. 3544](#)), OMB's implementing policies including Appendix III of [OMB Circular A-130](#), and guidance and standards from the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- [OCIO Federal IT Acquisition Reform Act Approval Guidance](#)
- [Vendor Management Office Information Technology Acquisition Review Processes](#)

**(7) Risks – FAR 7.105(a)(7)**

i. Discuss methods for assessing, monitoring, and controlling issues to mitigate, manage and/or minimize any technical, cost, and schedule risks identified that may affect the ability of program to accomplish and meet the program/project objectives for a successful outcome. Discuss major areas of technical risk and address any other risks including strategic market, legal, human capital, and change management risk. For each risk identified, explain the proposed mitigation effort(s). For IT investments, provide the [HHS Enterprise Performance Life Cycle \(EPLC\) Risk Management Plan](#). Ensure that the Risk Management Plan accurately establishes that the security and privacy requirements have been identified and planned for. For

major construction/facilities capital investments, include or reference the applicable portion of the current HHS Business Case.

Examples of technical risks may include, but are not limited to, the exposure to natural or human-induced hazards, animal colony outbreaks of disease, etc. Examples of schedule risks may include, but are not limited to, the schedule being optimistic instead of realistic, the product or effort required being larger than estimated, etc. Cost risks may include, but are not limited to, supplies, facilities, tools, or acquisitions costing more than estimated; the scale or scope of a P/P increasing, causing increased costs, etc.

Risk response strategies include:

1. Avoidance – To avoid a risk, requirements may be changed.
2. Transference – A risk that can be transferred by other actions is an acceptable option only when the overall risk to the Government is lowered by doing so.
3. Mitigation – A risk can be mitigated by handling the unwanted outcome in an acceptable way.
4. Acceptance – Some risks may be appropriately accepted through recognition and control.

Ensuring that contracting officers consult the Disaster Response Registry Search via [sam.gov](https://sam.gov), as a part of acquisition planning for debris removal, distribution of supplies, reconstruction, and other disaster or emergency relief activities inside the United States and outlying areas. (See [FAR 26.205](#)).

- *A program or project can be designated as "High Risk" by the OPDIV Leadership or the HHS Acquisition Strategy Review Board (ASRB) if it meets one or more of the following criteria: 1) has one or more risks with a high probability of occurring and significant associated consequences; and, 2) the program or initiative has been designated as "High Risk" by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO).*
- *A program or project can be designated as "Special Interest" by their OPDIV Leadership or the ASRB if it meets one or more of the following criteria: 1) high technical complexity; 2) Congressional interest; 3) requires a large commitment of resources; 4) the P/P is critical to achievement of a capability or set of capabilities; 5) the P/P is part of a system of systems; 6) the P/P affects more than one Division across HHS; and, 7) the P/P is led by a P/PM who is not FAC-P/PM certified within one year of appointment as the P/PM, 8) as designated by the Office of the Secretary.*

## **ii. Organizational Conflict of Interest**

Review [FAR 9.5](#) – Organizational and Consultant Conflicts of Interest for roles and responsibilities concerning potential Conflicts of Interest. The P/PM and the CO must collaborate to assess and, if necessary, mitigate the potential organizational conflict of interests. The CO should obtain the advice of counsel and the assistance of appropriate technical specialists in evaluating potential conflicts and in developing any necessary solicitation provisions and contract clauses.

## **(8) Acquisition Streamlining – [FAR 7.105\(a\)\(8\)](#)**

Discuss planned actions that will be taken to streamline the acquisition including, but not limited to, conducting outreach efforts to stimulate industry involvement, using draft solicitations, Statements of Work (SOWs), Performance Work Statements (PWSs), or Statements of Objectives (SOOs) for industry comment, and limiting the size of proposals. Discuss the possible use of reverse auctions or exchanges with industry described at [FAR 15.201](#) and [FAR 15.202](#).

## **(b) Plan of Action - [FAR 7.105\(b\)](#)**

### **(1) Sources - [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(1\)](#)**

- i.** List the prospective source(s) of supplies or services to meet the need.
- ii.** Discuss the potential applicability of required Government sources, existing HHS and government wide strategic sources, Category Management, Best-in-Class contracting vehicles, and sources identified via market research.
- iii.** Describe the consideration of small business as required by [FAR 19](#). Ensure consultation with the HHS Small Business Specialist (SBS). At a minimum, address compliance with HHS Federal Procurement Forecasting requirements ([HHS Procurement Forecast Data Repository \(PFDR\)](#)), planned set-aside(s), and document consideration of small business, veteran-owned business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, small disadvantaged business, and women-owned small business concerns ([FAR 19](#)).



*iv.* In accordance with [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(1\)](#), when the proposed AS involves consolidation or bundling, identify the incumbent contractors and contracts affected by the bundling's. List the prospective source(s) of supplies or services to meet the need identifying opportunities utilizing Category Management and the HHS Smarter Buying Program methods ([HHSAR 312.1](#) and [HHS PGI 307.104-72](#)). Discuss the potential applicability of required Government sources, existing HHS and Government wide contracting vehicles, and sources identified via market research, including small business considerations. Address compliance with Federal and HHS acquisition regulations. Include the results and impact of market research on the acquisition.

**(2) [Competition - FAR 7.105\(b\)\(2\)](#) and [FAR 7.102](#)**

For a proposed non-competitive acquisition, attach a Justification and Approval (J&A) following FAR, HHSAR and PGI guidance in Parts 6, 8, and 16 whichever apply.

**(3) [Contract Type Selection- FAR 7.105\(b\)\(3\)](#)**

In accordance with [FAR 7.102](#), the AP should promote and provide details, which support the selection of an appropriate contract type in accordance with [FAR 16](#). Explain why an existing contract vehicle cannot be used.

Firm-fixed-price contracts are preferred, if considering any other contract type, include details to justify the type of contract chosen providing details of the selected contract type and an explanation as to why a Firm Fixed Price (FFP) contract cannot be used. For example, if you choose a Cost Plus - Award Fee contract an Award Fee plan is required. The Award Fee plan must identify how the award-fee evaluation criteria are linked to acquisition objectives which shall be defined in terms of cost, schedule, and technical performance. Award fee contracts also require preparation and approval of a Determination & Finding (D&F) Memorandum. Many other types of contract also require a D&F (see [FAR 16](#) and [HHSAR 316](#) for details).

As a collaborative effort among the team members, the P/PM and the acquisition personnel must document in the AP the facts and circumstances, (e.g., complexity of the requirements, uncertain duration of the work, contractor's technical capability, and financial responsibility or adequacy of the contractor's accounting system) and associated reasoning essential to support the contract type selection. The CO must ensure that requirements and technical personnel provide the necessary documentation to support the contract type selection. Provide details on the following, if applicable:

- Review and consider existing intra-agency and interagency contracts vehicles to determine if existing vehicles can meet the Government's needs prior to issuing a new contract;
- Document the rationale to issue a new or use an existing vehicle ([FAR 17.5](#));
- FFP is the preferred contract type if a new contract vehicle is required; and,
- Other than FFP.

**(4) [Sources Selection Procedures- FAR 7.105\(b\)\(4\)](#)**

Reference the Source Selection Plan which will provide specific details on the Source Selection Procedures for the anticipated procurement. Discussions and documentation under this section does not satisfy the requirement to construct and document a detailed source selection plan which is a separate inclusion in the contract file. A solicitation in which green products or services may be supplied or used (i.e., within the scope of [FAR 23.1](#), Sustainable Acquisition Policy) shall include a separate evaluation factor for sustainability. The factor may be in the form of a technical evaluation criterion or a mandatory qualification criterion, as appropriate.

The method of evaluation and relative importance of the sustainability criterion shall be agreed to by the Contracting Officer, Program/Project Manager, and the [HHS OPDIV/STAFFDIV Green Procurement Manager](#). Refer to [HHSAR Part 323](#) for additional guidance. For a design-build source selection see [FAR Part 36](#) for additional guidance, provide the proposed Phase I and Phase II evaluation criteria.

Sources Selection Procedures- FAR 7.105(b)(4) Reference the Source Selection Plan which will provide specific details on the Source Selection Procedures for the anticipated procurement. An IBR normally should be conducted as a post-award activity. A pre-award IBR may be conducted if the following items are addressed -

- (1) The acquisition plan contains documentation that demonstrates the need and rationale for a pre-award IBR, including an assessment of the impact on the source selection schedule and the expected benefits;

- (2) The source selection plan and solicitation specifically addresses how the results of a pre-award IBR will be used during source selection, including any weight to be given to it in source evaluation; and
- (3) Specific arrangements are made, and budget authority is provided, to compensate all offerors who prepare for or participate in a pre-award IBR; and the solicitation informs prospective offerors of the means for and conditions of such compensation.

**(5) Acquisition Considerations– FAR 7.105(b)(5)**

i. This section should describe the basic contracting decisions made with respect to the acquisition. These include:

- Special contracting methods to be employed – multi-year contracting, options, etc.
- Any special clauses or provisions which may be required.
- Any FAR deviations that may be needed.
- Whether Sealed Bidding or Negotiated procurement was chosen and why.
- If acquiring equipment, the decision to acquire by lease or purchase and why.
- A discussion of performance-based contracting and rationale if not used.
- If the requirement is for public accommodations, commercial facilities, conferences, or meetings. (see [HHSAR 311](#))
- Rationale behind using another agency either through consolidation of requirements for a new acquisition or use of their existing procurement vehicles. Discussion should include the impact on the various socio-economic P/Ps and sources.
- For information technology requirements, how compliance with capital planning and investment control requirements of [OMB A-130](#) and [40 U.S.C. 11312](#) were assured.
- For requirements for the design, development, or operation of a system of records on individuals assure compliance with the policies and procedures that apply pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 ( [5 U.S.C.552a](#) ), [OMB Circular No.A-130](#) including Personally Identifiable Information (PII), and the Freedom of Information Act ( [5 U.S.C.552](#) , as amended). (see [FAR 24](#), [HHSAR 324](#) and [PGI 324](#))
- For acquisitions of foreign supplies, services, construction materials, and contracts performed outside the United States, consideration has been given to the applicability of the Buy American Act ([41 U.S.C. chapter 83](#)) and the Trade Agreements Act. (see [FAR 25](#), and [PGI 325](#))
- Encouraging agency planners to consider the use of a project labor agreement (see [FAR 22.5](#)).
- Ensuring that contracting officers consult the Disaster Response Registry via <https://www.sam.gov>, Search Records, Advanced Search, Disaster Response Registry Search as a part of acquisition planning for debris removal, distribution of supplies, reconstruction, and other disaster or emergency relief activities inside the United States and outlying areas. (See [FAR 26.205](#)).

Discussion/documentation under this section does not satisfy requirements for individual J&A.

Discuss Determinations and Findings (D&F), or other approvals, waivers, or exemptions required under the FAR.

**iii.** Does Section 508 apply to this procurement (please consult the [HHS Section 508 website](#) for further guidance and send HHS Section 508 questions to: [508helpdesk@hhs.gov](mailto:508helpdesk@hhs.gov))? If "Yes," the Statement of Work (SOW)/Performance Work Statement (PWS)/Statement of Objectives (SOO) must include a list of applicable Section 508 accessibility standards from the United States Access Board (36 CFR Part 1194). Include appropriate documentation and justification for Section 508 exceptions, if applicable. Will this procurement involve the acquisition of Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) products or services subject to Section 508? If "Yes," please specify the technical evaluation factors that will be used to evaluate the products or services offered. Discuss how Section 508 requirements and standards will be used in evaluation criteria and the development of materials if applicable. Will this procurement involve the production of audiovisual materials, publications, or public affairs services? If "Yes", please briefly describe the approach that will be used to make all files Section 508 compliant. Files may include, but are not limited to: captioning, audio descriptions, videos, tables, graphics/pictures, registration forms, presentations (both audio and video) or other types of proprietary format files (e.g., Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf), Microsoft Office PowerPoint (.ppt), and Microsoft Excel (.xls)). Verify that Applicable Section 508 standards are identified and planned for and that the vulnerability and impact of being non-compliant with Section 508 has been included in the overall risk management planning.

Ensuring that acquisition planners specify needs and develop plans, drawings, work statements, specifications, or other product descriptions that address Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards (see 36 CFR part 1194) in

proposed acquisitions (see [FAR 11.002\(e\)](#)) and that these standards are included in requirements planning, as appropriate (see subpart [FAR 39.2](#), [HHSAR 339](#) and [PGI 339](#)).

**(6) Budgeting and Funding– [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(6\)](#)**

*ii.* Briefly provide an explanation as to how the IGCE was developed and the methodology used for estimating cost. Include the source of the data used and the rationale used to formulate the IGCE. If the SOW, SOO or PWS identifies subtasks, the IGCE should include corresponding costs for each subtask. All travel rates utilized in the IGCE should be consistent with those specified in the [Federal Travel Regulations](#).

*iii.* Provide current funding data for each appropriation.

**(7) Product or Service Descriptions– [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(7\)](#)**

[FAR 7.102](#) requires promoting and providing for acquisition of commercial or non-development items, to the maximum extent practicable, see guidance in [FAR 12](#) and the definition of commercial item in [FAR 2.101](#). The AP shall provide details supporting the procurement of existing commercial or non-developmental items or services. If not, then develop a justification requesting approval from the SPE to procure a noncommercial item or service.

Ensuring that agency planners include use of the metric system of measurement in proposed acquisitions in accordance with [15 U.S.C.205b](#) (see [FAR 11.002\(b\)](#) and agency metric plans and guidelines). [FAR 11.002\(b\)](#) The Metric Conversion Act of 1975, as amended by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 ([15 U.S.C.205a](#), *et seq.*), designates the metric system of measurement as the preferred system of weights and measures for United States trade and commerce, and it requires that each agency use the metric system of measurement in its acquisitions, except to the extent that such use is impracticable or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to United States firms. Requiring activities are responsible for establishing guidance implementing this policy in formulating their requirements for acquisitions.

**(8) Priorities, Allocations, and Allotments– [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(8\)](#)**

Specify the method(s) for obtaining and using priorities, allocations, and allotments. Explain the rationale for using these priority methods and identify information for preferential or priority rating when applicable.

**(9) Contractor versus Government Performance– [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(9\)](#)**

Address the consideration given to [OMB Circulator No. A-76](#) (see [FAR 7.3](#)) and HHS Service Acquisition Initiative (SAI) guidance. Agencies are required by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76, dated May 29, 2003, to classify all activities performed by Government personnel as either commercial or inherently governmental functions. OMB Circular A-76 requires that commercial activities should be subject to the forces of competition through either a streamlined or standard competition between the Government and industry. If the work for this acquisition was previously performed by government employees, this section should address consideration given to OMB Circular A-76. (See [FAR 7.3](#))

**(10) Inherently Governmental Functions– [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(10\)](#)**

Discuss consideration of inherently governmental functions, as detailed in [FAR 7.5](#). An inherently governmental activity is an activity that is so intimately related to the public interest as to require performance by Government personnel. These activities involve the exercise of substantial discretion in applying Government authority and/or in making decisions for the Government. Inherently governmental activities normally fall into two categories: the exercise of sovereign Government authority or the establishment of procedures and processes related to the oversight of monetary transactions or entitlements. Review the [Office of Federal Procurement Policy Letter 11-01](#) for further information regarding inherently governmental functions.

**(11) Management Information Requirements– [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(11\)](#)**

Explain the checks, balances, and separation of duties that will be used to monitor the contractor's performance. Examples might include use of performance monitoring techniques such as use of computer programs like Microsoft Project, PERT or Gantt charts, regularly scheduled meetings, key milestone reviews, etc. If an earned value management system (EVMS) is to be used, discuss the methodology the Government will employ to analyze and use the earned value data to assess and monitor contract performance.

**(12) Make or Buy– [FAR 7.105\(b\)\(12\)](#)**

“Make or Buy programs” means that part of the contractor's written plan for a contract identifies those major items to be produced or work efforts to be performed in the prime contractor's facilities, and those to be subcontracted. (see [FAR 15.407-2](#))



**(13) Test and Evaluation– FAR 7.105(b)(13)**

Any special test procedures of the contract should be addressed such as prototype development, dual development, millstone testing, and special inspections, etc.

**(14) No additional guidance.**

**(15) Government–Furnished Property – FAR 7.105(b)(15)**

In this section, identify any Government property to be furnished to contractors, also known as Government-Furnished Property (GFP), and discuss any associated considerations such as availability or the schedule for its acquisition (see FAR 45.102). The section should also address how furnishing the property is in the Government’s best interest and the overall benefit to the Government significantly outweighs the increased cost of administration including ultimate property disposal, discuss how furnishing the property does not substantially increase the risk to the Government, and why the Government requirements cannot otherwise be met. Other issues that may be addressed include:

- Any schedule for providing the property;
- The condition of the property;
- Whether use of the GFP is optional or required;
- Any plans for ensuring appropriate control and accountability for GFP; and,
- Issues related to ultimate disposal of the property (e.g., hazardous content, appropriate disposition, protection of sensitive data, etc.).

Ensure that any GFP including materials, facilities, equipment, and information that are to be provided under the contract are clearly identified in the AP. Consult the OPDIV Property Management Officer, as appropriate, to ensure that the proposed acquisition meets HHS personal property requirements for cannibalization, accountability, sensitivity, reporting, reutilization, and disposal.

**(16) Government-Furnished Information– FAR 7.105(b)(16)**

Describe how this data will be provided during the competitive process, such as through individual copies to offerors, providing data on the agency web site, or by establishing a reading library. Discuss the schedule and means for providing the information to the successful contractor after award and the impact that any delays by the Government in providing the data might have upon contract performance.

**(17) Environmental and Energy Conservation Objectives – FAR 7.105(b)(17)**

Ensure provisions identified in FAR 7.103 (p) (1), (2), (3) and (4) have been considered. If applicable, discuss how acquisition will meet requirements outlined in HHSAR Part 323, Environment, Energy, and Water Efficiency, Renewable energy Technologies, Occupational Safety, and Drug-Free Workplace Acquisition, to verify if the acquisition is subject to the requirements.

Discuss acquisition of products containing recovered and/or **biopreferred** materials, including the special requirements for printing and writing paper. Review the requirements of FAR 23, Environmental, Energy, and Water Sufficiency, Renewable Energy Technologies, Occupational Safety, and Drug-Free Workplace. Describe how the anticipated procurement will consider the purchase and use of green products and services to the maximum extent practicable, to include **biopreferred** products, recycled content products, water- efficient, energy-efficient, Energy Star®, products with the lowest watt stand-by power, environmentally preferable products, alternative fuels, hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles, non-ozone depleting substances, renewable energy; and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) designated items.

Discuss the impact of any environmental or energy conservation efforts associated with the acquisition, including use of recovered materials and preference for environmentally preferable products and services. If hazardous or toxic materials might be involved or a bio-product of the contract performance, indicate actions which may be taken to mitigate potential environmental damage. If the contract performance requires an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (see 40 CFR 1502) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), then provide the details of this requirement in solicitation and contracts (see FAR 11.002 and FAR 11.303).

If applicable, provide a rationale for not buying Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-designated recycled content and environmentally preferable and energy-efficient products and services in the Acquisition Plan (AP).

(18) No additional guidance.

(19) **Contract Administration – FAR 7.105(b)(19)**

Discuss if a post-award conference is planned or desired. Also, discuss special requirements of the contract such as quality control procedures, inspection, and acceptance criteria. In accordance with [FAR 1.602-2](#), for all contracts and orders for services other than those that are firm-fixed price, a COR must be designated and authorized by the Contracting Officer after nomination by the requirements official to administer the contract. A COR may be designated for firm-fixed price contracts and orders as appropriate. In accordance with [PGI 301.602-4](#), the Contracting Officer shall ensure that a COR candidate is currently certified under HHS' FAC-COR program before designating authority to that individual to act as a COR. Even if an individual is FAC-COR-certified, a candidate becomes a COR only when a Contracting Officer provides in writing the authorities the individual may exercise for a specified contract or order including inspection and performance of the contract. Authority for such designation's rests solely with the Contracting Officer. The Contracting Officer shall retain in the contract or order file the individual's active FAC-COR certificate. In the event the designated COR is unable to act due to any reason, pursuant to [FAR 1.602-2\(d\)\(7\)\(iv\)](#), the Contracting Officer must designate an alternate COR. The authority designated to a COR is non-delegable. If all or part of the administrative functions will be delegated, they should be set forth in this section. Please note, the Contracting Officer is not precluded from retaining and executing the COR duties as appropriate.

(20) No additional guidance.

(21) **Milestones for the Procurement Cycle - FAR 7.105(b)(21)**

The Acquisition Milestone Plan should be realistic and consistent with the requirements of the proposed acquisition. The acquisition milestones specified in the table below are examples which may be tailored to each unique acquisition. The P/PM, CS, and CO must sign the schedule where provided. The CO/CS must update and revise the schedule, as necessary, to track progress of the acquisition and maintain the schedule as part of the contract file. The review and approval of the signatories of the AP must mutually agree to any revisions to the milestone dates that will impact meeting the scheduled award.

As a collaborative effort among the team members, the P/PM and CO will identify each significant event from acquisition initiation through the end of the contract action (pre- and post-award). The same milestones may not be present in every acquisition P/P. Tailor the milestones to the specifics of each procurement.

A certifying official is the official within an agency or organization that is responsible for verifying that payments made by the federal government are legal, proper, and correct.