

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

To: Interested Parties

From: Craig P. Orgeron, CPM, Ph.D.

CC: ITS Project Number 48941

Date: May 27, 2025

Re: Sole Source Certification Number 4693 to provide a Stroke Registry for the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)

Contact Name: Matthew Livingston

Contact Phone Number: 601-432-8244

Contact E-mail Address: matthew.livingston@its.ms.gov

Sole Source Certification Award Details

Regarding Information Technology Services (ITS) Sole Source Certification Number 4693 for the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), please be advised that ITS intends to award the American Heart Association (AHA) as the sole source provider of a Stroke Registry through April 30, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$19,163.00. Please be advised that ITS will determine if additional enhancements, upgrades, or support within scope during the certification period and may increase the spending authority accordingly. Should American Heart Association change their name during this certification period, then ITS will determine if a recertification is necessary. For an explanation regarding Mississippi state law, policy and procedures for sole source procurements, refer to Attachment B: Sole Source Procurement Overview.

Sole Source Criteria

1. The product or services being purchased must perform a function for which no other product or source of services exist:

The Stroke Registry, Get With The Guidelines (GWTG), is a quality improvement initiative created by the American Heart Association (AHA) to improve the care of patients with cardiac diseases and stroke. GWTG is evidence-based and founded on the American Heart Association Guidelines for secondary prevention of cardiovascular diseases and is designed to help health care providers consistently treat patients in accordance with these accepted guidelines. GWTG collects patient level data on characteristics, diagnostic testing, treatments, adherence to quality measures, and in-hospital outcomes in patients hospitalized with stroke and transient ischemic attack (TIA), and allows data collection and sharing through links between MSDH and state hospitals for performance improvement.

2. The purchaser must be able to show specific business objectives that can be met only through the unique product or services:

The primary goal of the Stroke Registry program is to improve the quality of care and outcomes for patients hospitalized with stroke and TIA. GWTG helps achieve this goal in a variety of ways including supporting state hospitals and driving the creation of a regional stroke system. With the acquisition of the GWTG from AHA, MSDH will be able to coordinate with Mississippi hospitals exclusively using the same Stroke Registry, GWTG, for data collection in performance improvement for their respective individual hospitals.

3. The product or services must be available only from the manufacturer and not through resellers who could submit competitive pricing for the product or services:

The Stroke Registry, GWTG, is a sole source product, created, and sold exclusively by the American Heart Association. The Vendor's sole source certification letter is included as Attachment A.

Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date	05/27/25
Second Advertisement Date	06/03/25
Response Deadline From Objectors	06/10/25 at 3:00 P.M. Central Time
Notice of Award/No Award Posted	Not before 06/11/25

Project Details

The Mississippi State Department of Health made an initial request to purchase a Stroke Registry, Get With The Guidelines, provided by American Heart Association in 2022. With this acquisition MSDH joined other state hospitals already using the same Stroke Registry, GWTG. In May 2022, ITS, on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Health, advertised Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source No. 4447 for Stroke Registry. No objections were received; therefore, ITS certified the request as a sole source through April 30, 2025. MSDH's expenditure to date is \$18,602.00. MSDH seeks to renew Stroke Registry for three more years.

Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the GWTG Stroke Registry should not be certified as a sole source should provide information in the following format for the state to use in determining whether or not to proceed with awarding the Sole Source contract to American Heart Association.

Interested Party Information

- 1.1.1 Contact Name, Phone Number and email address
- 1.1.2 Company Website URL, if applicable
- 1.2 Objection to Sole Source Certification
 - 1.2.1 Interested parties must present specific objections to the Sole Source certification using the criteria listed above.

1.2.2 A statement regarding the Interested Party's capabilities as related to this Sole Source Certification Request.

1.3 Comments will be accepted at any time prior to Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time) to Matthew Livingston at matthew.livingston@its.ms.gov or at the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. Responses may be delivered by hand, via regular mail, overnight delivery, e-mail or by fax. Fax number is (601) 713-6380. ITS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF RESPONSES. It is solely the responsibility of the Interested Parties that responses reach ITS on time. Interested Parties may contact Matthew Livingston to verify the receipt of their Responses. Responses received after the deadline will be rejected.

1.4 Interested Party responses should include the following information:

<p>SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO Sole Source Certification No. 4693-48941 Accepted until June 10, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m., ATTENTION: Matthew Livingston</p>
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If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Matthew Livingston at 601-432-8244 or via email at matthew.livingston@its.ms.gov.

Attachment A: Vendor Correspondence

Attachment B: Sole Source Procurement Overview



May 9, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Get With The Guidelines® (GWTG) is a quality improvement initiative created by the American Heart Association (AHA) to improve the care of patients with cardiac diseases and stroke. This program supports the AHA mission to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. GWTG is evidence-based and founded on the American Heart Association Guidelines for secondary prevention of cardiovascular diseases and is designed to help health care providers consistently treat patients in accordance with these accepted guidelines.

The AHA's GWTG program is an online, interactive assessment and reporting system, operated on a technology platform provided by Outcome Sciences, LLC, an IQVIA subsidiary in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

This letter is to confirm GWTG is a sole source product, created, and sold exclusively by the AHA. There are no other agents or dealers authorized to represent ownership of this product without specific approval from the AHA.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at AHA.QI.Billing@heart.org.

Sincerely,

Mara Kogan

Mara Kogan
National Vice President, Business Operations
Quality, Outcomes Research & Analytics

National Center | 7272 Greenville Avenue | Dallas | Texas | 75231

Attachment B

The acquisition of information technology for all state agencies and institutions of higher learning (IHLs) is within the scope of the ITS law, found in Mississippi Code Section 25-53-1, et seq., and the policies and procedures established in accordance with this statute, found in the ITS Procurement Handbook posted on the ITS website (www.its.ms.gov).

ITS enabling legislation requires that information technology hardware, software and services be acquired in a manner that insures the maximum of competition among all manufacturers and suppliers of such equipment and services. Accordingly, ITS promotes full and open competition through the issuance of open specifications and the objective evaluation of Interested Party proposals to determine the lowest and best offering to meet an agency's or public university's business requirements. True competition protects the integrity and credibility of purchasing in the public sector and is essential in providing best value and adequate contractual protection for the purchasing entity. In certain limited situations, information technology acquisitions may be sole-sourced.

ITS utilizes the provisions of Public Purchasing Law for Sole Source and Emergency procurements of information technology. Mississippi Public Purchasing Law (Mississippi Code Section 31-7-13) specifies that noncompetitive items available from one source only be exempted from bid requirements (sole-sourced). ITS statute, in Section 25-53-5 (p), permits ITS to utilize provisions in Public Purchasing Law or regulations, when applicable.

Per Public Purchasing law, acquisitions must meet the following criteria to be authorized as sole source:

1. The product or services being purchased must perform a function for which no other product or source of services exists,
2. The purchaser must be able to show specific business objectives that can be met only through the unique product or services, AND
3. The product or services must be available only from the manufacturer and NOT through resellers who could submit competitive pricing for the product or services. The vendor's correspondence regarding this criterion for this project is included as Attachment A.

By policy as documented in the ITS Procurement Handbook, acquisitions of IT services must include the following information to be authorized as sole source:

1. An explanation about why the amount to be expended is reasonable, and
2. An explanation regarding the efforts by the purchaser to obtain the best possible price.

For state agencies, approval of all technology purchases with a lifecycle cost of \$5,000 or less, including sole source purchases, has been delegated to the agency. The ITS Procurement Limits Policies for Agencies (a section in the ITS Procurement Handbook) require a minimum of two competitive written bids or proposals for technology purchases with a lifecycle cost over \$5,000 but not over \$75,000 (not over \$25,000 for projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). Since, for single source items, the procuring agency will be unable to obtain two written bids, ITS must certify all sole source acquisitions of information technology with a lifecycle cost greater than \$5,000.

Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) or public universities have been delegated the authority to certify sole source procurements up to \$250,000 lifecycle cost under the ITS Procurement Limits Policies for IHLs (a section in the ITS Procurement Handbook). For the certification of sole source procurements delegated to the CIOs at public universities, the public university must follow ITS' Sole Source Procedure, including advertisement of the intent to award as sole source. Institutions certifying a sole source purchase must ensure the criteria listed above are met and documented in writing by the institution and the Interested Party prior to certifying a product or service as sole source. Sole source documentation must be reviewed and approved by the IHL's CIO for any sole-source certification above \$5,000. All sole source documentation should be retained in the public university's procurement file. Sole source requests above \$250,000 lifecycle cost require ITS approval.

Other than the delegations outlined above, all sole source technology procurements must be certified by ITS.

ITS thoroughly reviews Sole Source Certification Requests, determining if competing products and/or services exist. If so, ITS conducts a competitive procurement. If ITS' review confirms the sole source, then a Sole Source advertisement is issued, giving other Interested Parties an opportunity to identify competing products and/or services. Based upon the results of the Sole Source advertisement, ITS will either certify the request as a sole source or conduct a competitive procurement.