**EXHIBIT 2**

**BACKGROUND**

**Solicitation 8300001172**

The Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS) Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) is guided, in part, by three principle goals to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities lead healthier, more independent and productive lives to the fullest extent possible; exercise their rights as citizens of their communities, state and country; and promote the integrity and well-being of their families.

*1. Empower and support Oklahomans with developmental disabilities to live independently and work in competitive integrated employment within their communities*

*2. Advocate for the elimination of the DD Waiting List while providing services to Oklahomans and their families*

*3. Improve the well-being and independence of individuals receiving home- and community-based services*

The goals provide a path forward to DDS' True North and hundreds of community service agencies around the state providing direct care and employment services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

DDS administers programs tailored to meet each individual’s needs and include:

* Medicaid Home and Community-based (HCBS) waiver services
* Family Support Assistance Payments
* State-funded group homes, employment, assisted living, respite voucher and guardianship services

In SFY 2020:

Over 8,100 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, ranging in age from infants to over age 80, were served by one or more programs administered by DDS.

5,306 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities received HCBS through Medicaid waiver programs.

64% of adults served by DDS were employed in jobs in their communities – one of the highest percentages in the nation.

1,164 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities received state-funded residential or employment services. Including, 182 individuals served in state funded group home with 31 providers delivering care.

1,449 individuals younger than age 18 received Family Support Assistance Payments.

*Improve the well-being and independence of individuals receiving home- and community-based services*

DDS, through an Interagency Agreement with the State's Medicaid agency, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA), operates four waivers for individuals with intellectual disabilities or a related condition. The waivers provide services and payment for services not otherwise covered through Oklahoma's SoonerCare (Medicaid) program. Waiver services, when used in conjunction with SoonerCare, and other generic services and natural supports provide for the health and developmental needs of individuals who otherwise would not be able to live in a home and community-based setting. The waivers are operated on a statewide basis.

Case management services for the waivers are provided by employees of DDS located throughout the state to ensure timely services, including assessing for needs and developing a plan of care in coordination with the Personal Support Team. Case managers also monitor implementation of the plan of care for each individual.

To understand the scope of users for an IT platform through this RFP, DDS provides the following:

* At the end of SFY20, 5,222 individuals were receiving waiver services.  Of these individuals, 3,509 received services provided through the Community and Homeward Bound waivers, while 1,713 children and adults resided in their own home or a family home with In-Home Supports. Over 4,000 individuals received services to support their employment.
* There are approximately 500-550 users of the current case management system internal to DDS or OKDHS. In addition to internal users, there is a need for the 100 plus provider agencies of direct care supports and vocational supports, including all of their employees, as well as service recipients, family members/advocates and providers of other ancillary services to access the IT platform through this RFP.  DDS is looking for an unlimited number of licenses for these users.

DDS manages four HCBS waiver programs:

1. In-Home Supports waiver for adults
2. In-Home Supports waiver for children
3. Community waiver;
4. Homeward Bound waiver

Individuals receiving HCBS live in their own homes, family homes, shared living homes or group homes. Services were provided by 630 different private contract providers including:

* Residential and vocational service agencies
* Nurses
* Dentists
* Occupational therapists
* Physical therapists
* Speech therapists
* Psychologists
* Durable medical equipment suppliers
* Pharmacies
* Architectural modifications
* Assistive technology
* Family training

Total Number of Individuals Receiving HCBS Waiver Services by State Fiscal Year:

2015 5,610

2016 5,560

2017 5,390

2018 5,239

2019 5,242

2020 5,222

Fifty five percent of individuals receiving HCBS live in a residential setting. Individuals may also receive one or more of the following services:

* 64% of individuals receive Employment Services
* 95% of individuals receive Transportation Services
* 66% of individuals receive Habilitation Training Specialists Services

Advocate for the elimination of the DD Waiting List while providing services to Oklahomans and their families

DDS maintains a waiting list for HCBS. During the last three state fiscal years, the state legislature appropriated funding to serve individuals on the list. In SFY 2020, DDS was able to begin serving 161 people who had been waiting for services since 2007. Because of some foundational work in SFY 2020, DDS is poised to offer a more proactive approach to engage families on the waiting list by assessing for needs and providing resource linkages to meet the needs until waiver services are available. DDS continues to work with stakeholders, advocates, self-advocates and families to serve those on the waiting list.

\*Number of Persons Waiting For Home and Community-Based Services:

2015 7,137

2016 7,405

2017 7,560

2018 7,673

2019 5,569

2020 5,711

\* DDS does not verify eligibility for HCBS until funding is available.

In accordance with Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) 317:40-1-1, initiation of waiver services occurs in chronological order from the waiver request for services list based on the date of receipt of a request for services. The person must have critical support needs that can be met by the appropriate waiver or other service alternative. Exceptions to the chronological requirement may be made when an emergency exists, per OAC 317:40-1-1.

Currently, DDS manages the waiting list through techniques that primarily rely on DDS staff support, in adding and updating applicant information for over 5,500 individuals. Management of the waitlist will be transition to a third-party service provided through a separate RFP.

Individuals on the waiting list are eligible for and often receive services from other programs while they are waiting.

* At least one individual lives in each of the 77 counties, with 2,387 residing in Oklahoma and Tulsa County.
* Individuals range in age from infants to over 80 years
  + 2,348 are younger than age 18
  + 578 are age 19 to 21
  + 2,548 are age 22 to 55
  + 578 are age 19 to 21
* 4,486 reside in their own or family home
* 2,600 have been on the waiting list for over eight years
* 3,986 are enrolled in SoonerCare
* 1,815receive SNAP food benefits
* 728 receive the Family Support Assistance Payment
* 548 participate in state-funded services
* 103 receive State Plan Personal Care
* 133 receive Adult Day Services through OKDHS Aging Services

State-Funded Services

A number of Oklahomans with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not Medicaid-eligible for various reasons. For these individuals, there are a limited amount of services funded entirely with state dollars. These services include: sheltered workshop and community-integrated employment services, group home services, and adult day services.

In SFY 2020, 1,164 individuals received state funded services from over 60 providers.

Family Support Assistance Payments

DDS offers Family Support Assistance Payments to families who are caring for children younger than age of 18 with developmental disabilities at home. The payment is $250 per month for the first eligible child up to a maximum of $400 per month, depending on the number of eligible children. These payments are provided to families with annual gross incomes that do not exceed $45,000 per year and are funded from the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) grant.

1,449 children were enrolled for FSAP representing 1,364 families.

*Empower and support Oklahomans with developmental disabilities to live independently and work in competitive integrated employment within their communities*

While 64% of adults served by DDS are employed in jobs in their communities – one of the highest percentages in the nation – possibly no greater challenge has been realized until the Coronovirus pandemic. With over 4,000 individuals receiving residential and employment services, DDS and provider agencies established real-time, robust communication opportunities to ensure safety and well-being of those jointly served.