

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

**REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
BLINDNESS LEARNING COMMUNITY**

August 14, 2017

Daniel B. Frye, Executive Director
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

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I. Purpose and Intent

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) is issuing this Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) from supported employment provider agencies (individually referred to as a Provider Agency and collectively referred to as Provider Agencies) to participate in a Blindness Learning Community (BLC) that focuses on building capacity of staff at Provider Agencies of supported employment services to more effectively serve individuals with the most significant disabilities, including youth ages 14 to 24, who are blind, vision-impaired or deaf-blind, who also have additional disabilities such as intellectual or developmental disabilities. The BLC will provide targeted training and coaching on evidence-based, non-visual methods of instruction for individuals with low or no vision. In addition, it will be an opportunity for staff from CBVI to interact with staff of Provider Agencies to build a community of practice that focuses on developing intervention strategies that serve individuals with multiple disabilities, including intellectual and developmental disabilities. The goal is to improve employment outcomes for this population. Participation in the BLC is voluntary, but all provider agencies that meet the eligibility criteria are encouraged to participate. This will be the first cohort of the BLC, and the agency will explore future cohorts based on response to this initial RLI.

CBVI has procured the services of The Center on Sensory and Complex Disabilities at The College of New Jersey (CSCD) to facilitate this learning community. CSCD is a leader in providing professional interventions on meeting the needs of individuals with the most significant challenges to their development, education, and inclusion in their communities, including within competitive, integrated employment. This BLC is designed to build capacity for the provision of supported employment services that are tailored for individuals who are blind, vision-impaired, or deaf-blind and have additional disabilities that require on-going supports to be successful in maintaining employment.

Each Provider Agency of the BLC will be required to have identified staff to commit to attend all three, full-day sessions, as well as the three half-day follow-up sessions. The number of staff required to attend the sessions will be based on the volume of responses to this RLI, (i.e., if there is a high volume of responses to this RLI, Provider Agencies may be limited to no more than three staff members at each session of the BLC). The training model employs a “train-the-trainer” construct in order to prepare a cadre of staff at each Provider Agency with the knowledge and tools to share with other staff at the Provider Agency.

The three half-day follow-up sessions will occur once a month for three consecutive months in order to elicit feedback from members of the BLC cohort on the implementation of the alternative, non-visual techniques with CBVI consumers. It will also be an opportunity to share information with fellow BLC members regarding challenges and successes connected with service provision, including opportunities to interact with Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors employed at CBVI to develop solutions that facilitate a collective impact for this service population. In addition, time

will be allotted for one-on-one coaching to promote further refinement of alternative techniques for training individuals with no or low vision. The long range goal of the project is to create a community of practice that will evolve into a dynamic learning environment that will allow for continuous improvement of service provision to create high-quality employment outcomes for CBVI's consumers who require supported employment services in order to be successful in the competitive, integrated labor market.

A one-time grant of up to \$7,500 will be awarded to each Provider Agency selected to participate in the BLC in order to help offset costs related to expenses and the time commitments of their staff while participating in BLC activities. Any staff time costs and administrative expenses exceeding the one-time grant will be the responsibility of the Provider Agencies. CBVI will fund the training and professional development within the BLC, including, consultation, one-on-one coaching and arranging meeting places.

The following summarizes the RLI schedule:

August 14, 2017	Notice of RLI
September 1, 2017	Deadline for submission of Letters of Interest (no later than 4:00 p.m.)
September 22, 2017	Preliminary award notification
September 29, 2017	Appeal deadline
October 6, 2017	Final award notification
November 2017	BLC Kick-Off Meeting

II. Background

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA), is the enabling federal legislation reauthorizing the nation's Workforce Development system. Title IV of WIOA (the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended) authorizes the public vocational rehabilitation system, which funds and governs the various state vocational rehabilitation programs. These programs are designed to assess, plan, develop, and provide vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities, consistent with their unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice so that they may prepare for and engage in competitive, integrated employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

The passage of WIOA and subsequent issuance of regulations has brought about changes to the public vocational rehabilitation system. A new section has been added to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 511, which places additional

restrictions on sub-minimum wage work for individuals with disabilities, especially youth with disabilities, i.e., those under the age of 24. Therefore, CBVI has implemented new programs to be in compliance with the Section 511 regulations. CBVI has dedicated one staff person to serve as an Extended Employment Specialist to provide services mandated under Section 511. These services include counseling & guidance services, as well as information & referral services, to all individuals who are blind, vision-impaired, and deaf-blind who are employed at sub-minimum wage jobs at community rehabilitation providers. These discrete set of services are provided by a qualified vocational rehabilitation counselor on a one-on-one basis with the goal of providing an avenue for workers to explore receiving vocational rehabilitation services from CBVI to achieve employment with competitive wages, in integrated settings in their communities.

In addition, WIOA has defined employment outcomes as only those jobs that meet the definition of “competitive, integrated employment”, which means full or part-time work at minimum wage or higher, with wages and benefits similar to those without disabilities performing the same work and fully integrated with co-workers without disabilities. WIOA also delineates that supported employment outcomes are considered integrated, competitive employment under the WIOA definition of an acceptable employment outcome. In addition, customized employment is now included within the broader definition of supported employment. Public vocational rehabilitation agencies are also mandated by WIOA to reserve 50% of their Supported Employment funds (Title VI funds with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) to serve youth with the most significant disabilities (i.e. individuals between the ages of 14 to 24 years old).

Therefore, CBVI is engaged in processes to develop various strategies to build the capacity of its cadre of professional staff that serve as Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and also professional staff that provide supported and customized employment services via the numerous provider agencies in New Jersey. CBVI’s leadership team anticipates that referrals to provider agencies for supported and customized employment services will see significant increases in the near future.

III. Target Population to Be Served

The BLC is focused on individuals with the most significant disabilities, including youth ages 14 to 24, who are blind, vision-impaired or deaf-blind, who also have additional disabilities such as intellectual or developmental disabilities. These individuals have also been identified by their Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors as needing supported and/or customized employment services in order to achieve competitive, integrated employment outcomes, and as requiring natural supports at the workplace and ongoing long-term follow along services from Provider Agencies in order to maintain employment in the community.

IV. Scope of Training

CBVI, in collaboration with CSCD at TCNJ, has developed a comprehensive training curriculum that will serve as the core of the BLC. Below is a summary of the three full-day training sessions:

Day 1:

- Review of Provider Agencies' training needs to effectively serve target populations.
- Discussion of ways to improve working relationships between CBVI and Provider Agency staff.
- Discussion of developing collaborative strategies that will have a collective impact in facilitating more high quality employment outcomes for target populations.
- Information sharing/overview of training

Day 2:

- Dispelling misperceptions about blindness and low vision.
- Non-visual training techniques and instructional strategies.
- Travel techniques and strategies
- Assistive Technology for blind and low vision computer users

Day 3:

- Discovery method/person centered planning
- Business engagement strategies
- Collective Impact: How do we work together as a team for better outcomes?
- Needs Assessment: What are your technical assistance needs?
- Improving communication and reporting with CBVI staff

V. Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for this RLI, the Provider Agency must satisfy the following requirements:

- The Provider Agency must have all outstanding Plans of Correction (PoC) for deficiencies submitted to CBVI for approval prior to submission.
- The Provider Agency must be fiscally viable based upon an assessment of the Provider Agency's audited financial statements. If a Provider Agency is determined, in CBVI's sole discretion, to be insolvent or to present insolvency within the twelve (12) months after the Provider Agency's submission, CBVI will deem the submission ineligible for contract award.
- The Provider Agency must not appear on the State of New Jersey Consolidated Debarment Report at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/revenue/debarment/debarsearch.shtml> or be suspended or debarred by any other State or Federal entity from receiving funds.

- The Provider Agency shall not employ a member of the Board of Directors in a consultant capacity.
- The Provider Agency must be an approved vendor of Supported Employment Services by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS).
- The Provider Agency must be an approved provider of Long Term Follow Along (LTFA) services by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).
- The Provider Agency must be capable of serving three or more counties in New Jersey.
- The Provider Agency leadership must identify willingness and capacity to be a part of the BLC, including the participation of a leadership staff person on Day 1 of the first full-day training session.
- The Provider Agency must agree to:
 - Work collaboratively with the Technical Assistance Contractor, CSCD for the duration of the project;
 - Assign staff to participate in the BLC, and work with the Technical Assistance Contractor and CBVI staff;
 - Participate in technical assistance activities such as instruction, training sessions, follow-up sessions, and instructional conference calls;
 - Assign a minimum of three (3) Provider Agency staff to the BLC with the authority and the agency support to train other staff at the Provider Agency using the “train-the trainer” model of implementation;
 - Allow agency staff time and resources to participate in onsite trainings facilitated by the Technical Assistance Contractor and/or CBVI staff on topics relevant to the BLC;
 - Participate fully in sharing successes and challenges implementing the newly acquired skills and techniques to create feedback for future learning community sessions; and
 - Attend the BLC Kick-Off Meeting (anticipated to be scheduled for November 2017).

VI. General Contracting Information

Provider Agencies must currently meet or be able to meet the terms and conditions of the Department of Human Services (DHS) contracting rules and regulations as set forth in the Standard Language Document (SLD), the Contract Reimbursement Manual (CRM), and the Contract Policy and Information Manual (CPIM).

These documents are available on the DHS website at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ocpm/home/resources/manuals/index.html>

Provider Agencies are required to comply with the Affirmative Action Requirements of Public Law 1975, c. 124 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) and the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 (P.L. 101-336).

Budgets should be reasonable and reflect the scope of responsibilities in order to accomplish the goals of this project.

All Provider Agencies will be notified in writing of CBVI's intent to award a contract. All letters of interest are considered public information and will be made available for a defined period after announcement of the contract awards and prior to final award, as well as through the State Open Public Records Act process at the conclusion of the RLI process.

In accordance with DHS Policy P1.12 available on the web at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ocpm/home/resources/manuals/index.html programs awarded pursuant to this RLI will be separately clustered until the CBVI determines, in its sole discretion, that the program is stable in terms of service provision, expenditures, and applicable revenue generation.

Should service provision be delayed through no fault of the Provider Agency, funding continuation will be considered on a case-by-case basis based upon the circumstances creating the delay. In no case shall the CBVI continue funding when service commencement commitments are not met, and in no case shall funding be provided for a period of non-service provision in excess of three (3) months. In the event that the timeframe will be longer than three (3) months, CBVI must be notified so the circumstances resulting in the anticipated delay may be reviewed and addressed. Should services not be rendered, funds provided pursuant to this RLI shall be returned to CBVI.

The bidder must comply with all rules and regulations for any CBVI program element of service proposed by the bidder. These regulations can be accessed at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/rulefees/regs/>

VII. Required Content

Provider Agencies must include the following in the Letters of Interest:

1. Provide a letter from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Executive Director (ED) stating the administrative commitment of the agency to the BLC.
2. Explain the Provider Agency's readiness to serve consumers from CBVI.
3. List the staff anticipated to be included in the BLC as well as other key persons who may be part of the BLC. Explain each staff member's proposed role in the BLC.
4. Describe strategies the Provider Agency has used in previous initiatives and anticipates using in this initiative to develop and sustain skill acquisition and sharing of information with other staff of the organization.
5. Submit budget for proposed use of funds.

VIII. Submission Instructions

CBVI assumes no responsibility and bears no liability for costs incurred by the Provider Agency in the preparation and submittal of a Letter of Interest. Letters of Interest must be no longer than four (4) pages and be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on September 1, 2017. It is preferred that letters be submitted as an email attachment sent to Christine Cooper (christine.cooper@dhs.state.nj.us).

For U.S. Postal Service

delivery: Christine Cooper
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
153 Halsey Street, 6th Floor
PO Box 47017
Newark, NJ 07101

OR

For private delivery vendor such as UPS or FedEx:

Christine Cooper
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
153 Halsey Street, 6th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102-2807

The Provider Agency may mail or hand-deliver its submission, however, CBVI is not responsible for items mailed but not received by the submission deadline. Provider Agencies should note that U.S. Postal Service two-day priority mail delivery to the post office box listed above may result in the Provider Agency's submission not arriving timely and, therefore, being deemed ineligible for participation in the BLC. The Provider Agency will not be notified that its submission has been received. CBVI will not accept facsimile transmission of submissions.

IX. Review of Letters of Interest

There will be a review process for all timely submitted Letters of Interest which materially comply with the content requirements in this RLI. CBVI will convene a review committee of public employees to conduct a review of each Letter of Interest accepted for review.

The CBVI intends to notify all Provider Agencies of preliminary award decisions no later than September 22, 2017.

X. Appeal of Award Decisions

An appeal of any decision may be made only by a respondent to this RLI. All appeals must be made in writing and received by CBVI at the address below no later than five business days after the Provider Agencies are notified of the preliminary award decisions. The written request must clearly set forth the basis for the appeal.

Appeal correspondence should be addressed to:

Mr. Daniel B. Frye, Executive Director
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
153 Halsey Street, 6th Floor
PO Box 47017
Newark, NJ 07101

Please note that all costs incurred in connection with appeals of CBVI decisions are considered unallowable cost for the purpose of CBVI contract funding.

Award(s) will not be considered final until all timely appeals have been reviewed and final decisions rendered.

Attachment A – Letter of Interest Cover Sheet

_____ Date Received

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Letter of Interest Cover Sheet

Name of RLI: Blindness Learning Community RLI

Incorporated Name of Bidder: _____

Type: Public _____ Profit _____ Non-Profit _____ Hospital-Based _____

Federal ID Number: _____ Charities Reg. Number (if applicable) _____

Address of Bidder: _____

Chief Executive Officer Name and Title: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email Address: _____

Contact Person Name and Title: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email Address: _____

Total dollar amount requested: _____ Fiscal Year End: _____

Funding Period: From _____ to _____

Total number of unduplicated consumers to be served: _____

County in which services are to be provided: _____

Brief description of services by program name and level of service to be provided:

Authorization: Chief Executive Officer (printed name): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Attachment B – Addendum to RFP for Social Service and Training Contracts

STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

ADDENDUM TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AND TRAINING CONTRACTS

Executive Order No. 189 establishes the expected standard of responsibility for all parties that enter into a contract with the State of New Jersey. All such parties must meet a standard of responsibility that assures the State and its citizens that such parties will compete and perform honestly in their dealings with the State and avoid conflicts of interest.

As used in this document, "provider agency" or "provider" means any person, firm, corporation, or other entity or representative or employee thereof that offers or proposes to provide goods or services to or performs any contract for the Department of Human Services.

In compliance with Paragraph 3 of Executive Order No. 189, no provider agency shall pay, offer to pay, or agree to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity, or other thing of value of any kind to any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee, as defined by N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13b and e, in the Department of the Treasury or any other agency with which such provider agency transacts or offers or proposes to transact business, or to any member of the immediate family, as defined by N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13i, of any such officer or employee, or any partnership, firm, or corporation with which they are employed or associated, or in which such officer or employee has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13g.

The solicitation of any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity or other thing of value by any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee from any provider agency shall be reported in writing forthwith by the provider agency to the Attorney General and the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards.

No provider agency may, directly or indirectly, undertake any private business, commercial or entrepreneurial relationship with, whether or not pursuant to employment, contract or other agreement, express or implied, or sell any interest in such provider agency to, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee having any duties or responsibilities in connection with the purchase, acquisition or sale of any property or services by or to any State agency or any instrumentality thereof, or with any person, firm or entity with which he is employed or associated or in which he has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13g. Any relationships subject to this provision shall be reported in writing forthwith to the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards, which may grant a waiver of this restriction upon application of the State officer or employee or special State officer or employee upon a finding that the present or proposed relationship does not present the potential, actuality or appearance of a conflict of interest.

No provider agency shall influence, or attempt to influence or cause to be influenced, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee in his official capacity in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of said officer or employee.

No provider agency shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee to use, or attempt to use, his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for the provider agency or any other person.

The provisions cited above shall not be construed to prohibit a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee from receiving gifts from or contracting with provider agencies under the same terms and conditions as are offered or made available to members of the general public subject to any guidelines the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards may promulgate.

Attachment C – Statement of Assurances

Department of Human Services Statement of Assurances

As the duly authorized Chief Executive Officer/Administrator, I am aware that submission to the Department of Human Services of the accompanying application constitutes the creation of a public document that may be made available upon request at the completion of the RFP process. This may include the application, budget, and list of applicants (bidder's list). In addition, I certify that the applicant:

- Has legal authority to apply for the funds made available under the requirements of the RFP, and has the institutional, managerial and financial capacity (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal/State share of project costs, as appropriate) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
- Will give the New Jersey Department of Human Services, or its authorized representatives, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Will give proper notice to the independent auditor that DHS will rely upon the fiscal year end audit report to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the contract.
- Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain. This means that the applicant did not have any involvement in the preparation of the RFI, including development of specifications, requirements, statement of works, or the evaluation of the RFI applications/bids.
- Will comply with all federal and State statutes and regulations relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: 1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352; 34 CFR Part 100) which prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin; 2) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR Part 104), which prohibits discrimination based on handicaps and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.; 3) Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101 et. seq.; 45 CFR part 90), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; 4) P.L. 2975, Chapter 127, of the State of New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et. seq.) and associated executive orders pertaining to affirmative action and non-discrimination on public contracts; 5) federal Equal Employment Opportunities Act; and 6) Affirmative Action Requirements of PL 1975 c. 127 (NJAC 17:27).
- Will comply with all applicable federal and State laws and regulations.

- Will comply with the Davis-Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. 276a-276a-5 (29 CFR 5.5) and the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.27 et seq. and all regulations pertaining thereto.
- Is in compliance, for all contracts in excess of \$100,000, with the Byrd Anti-Lobbying amendment, incorporated at Title 31 U.S.C. 1352. This certification extends to all lower tier subcontracts as well.
- Has included a statement of explanation regarding any and all involvement in any litigation, criminal or civil.
- Has signed the certification in compliance with federal Executive Orders 12549 and 12689 and State Executive Order 34 and is not presently debarred, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded. The applicant will have signed certifications on file for all subcontracted funds.
- Understands that this provider agency is an independent, private employer with all the rights and obligations of such, and is not a political subdivision of the Department of Human Services.
- Understands that unresolved monies owed the Department and/or the State of New Jersey may preclude the receipt of this award.

Applicant Organization

Signature: CEO or equivalent

Date

Typed Name and Title

6/97

Attachment D - Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Lower Tier Covered Transactions

READ THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE SIGNING THIS CERTIFICATION. THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CERTIFICATION.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Lower Tier Covered Transactions

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by an Federal department or agency.
2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Signature

Date

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 29 CFR Part 98, Section 98.510.

**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary
Exclusion
Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of facts upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to whom this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or had become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meaning set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Programs.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.