

Office of the Illinois State Treasurer  
Michael W. Frerichs

Sole Source Procurement Notice

Second Amendment to the Secure Choice Program Manager Agreement

Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC

June 15, 2023

**I. Introduction**

The Office of the Illinois State Treasurer (the “Treasurer”) is issuing this Sole Source Procurement Notice pursuant to Section 1400.2025 of the Treasurer’s Procurement Rules (the “Rules”), 44 ILAC 1400.2025(e).

The Treasurer entered into a contract on December 18, 2017, with Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC (“Ascensus”) following a public request for proposals seeking a program manager that could provide all of the necessary services to run and operate the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program (“Secure Choice”). Following a sole source notice published on May 16, 2020, the contract was amended on June 11, 2020. Due to the anticipated trigger of an early transition provision in the contract, the Treasurer and Ascensus have negotiated in good faith to modify the Services and restructure Secure Choice.

**II. Chief Procurement Officer**

The Chief Procurement Office who will perform this Sole Source Procurement is:

Mr. Christopher M. Flynn  
Chief Procurement Officer  
Illinois State Treasurer's Office  
One East Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
Phone: (217) 208-2001  
E-mail Address: [cflynn@illinoistreasurer.gov](mailto:cflynn@illinoistreasurer.gov)

**III. Name of Proposed Sole Source Vendor**

Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC  
95 Wells Avenue, Suite 160  
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

**IV. Brief Description of What Vendor Will Do or Provide**

This amendment adjusts the fee structure and provides additional compensation resulting from the early termination provision that would otherwise be triggered imminently. This amendment also updates the Services to enhance call center capabilities and address the change in fee structure, which will allow the program to continue being managed by Ascensus.

**V. Contract Price**

This replaces the compensation entirely, so that beginning in State fiscal year 2024 (which begins July 1, 2023) and continuing for each fiscal year thereafter, the Treasurer will pay Contractor a \$1,000,000 annual lump sum to assist with costs and operational expenses for Secure Choice for that respective fiscal year (“Program Manager Compensation”).

**VI. Reason Why Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC is Determined to be the Sole Economically Feasible Source**

This is appropriate under Section 1400.2025 of the Treasurer’s Procurement Rules, 44 ILAC 1400.2025(b), particularly subsections (1) and (12), and 44 ILAC 1400.2025(c). Compatibility of service is a paramount consideration because Ascensus provides the relevant services; it would create large inefficiencies to attempt to find and utilize another program manner to provide these services, and any such transition could take more than a year. In addition, this is a change to an existing contract germane to the original contract and is required under the terms of the original contract. The change provided for in this amendment to the original contract can only be accomplished by the contract holder, Ascensus, which is currently providing the services.