

Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

167-92

Mississippi State University anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):

Fourteen one-year subscriptions to the ScreenU Alcohol online screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment system developed and distributed by the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery at the Ohio State University. ScreenU utilizes a brief screening process that is designed to identify students along the continuum of use from misuse to dependency. Students who indicate no misuse of alcohol, marijuana, or prescription drugs receive positive reinforcement of their choices. If the online screening indicates problematic use, the tool will provide students with feedback specific to their behavior and risk level. Students answer open-ended questions based on motivational interviewing principles and it is designed to encourage students to consider the impact their choices have on their life and how important, confident, and ready they are to change their behavior. Based on their responses, students receive recommendations to reduce their risk and campus and community resources that can support behavior change. (Retrieved from: <https://screenu.org/about/how-does-it-work/>) Members of the Mississippi Coalition or Partners in Prevention will receive the one-year subscription.

2. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s), how is it unique from all other options, and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

ScreenU Alcohol provides a unique screening for alcohol misuse and abuse that can be accessed using any mobile electronic device. ScreenU is based on the research SBIRT method of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment. SBIRT is typically utilized in a face-to-face setting but with limited resources and growing student populations, ScreenU provides a mobile version connecting students to their school's unique resources (i.e. Counseling Services, Health Center, Academic Advising, etc.) to aid students with their unique needs regarding substance use. Mississippi State University is a current member of the HECAOD utilizing ScreenU as a means of screening and secondary prevention of substance misuse and abuse. ScreenU provides current data on substance use among college students. By allowing all Mississippi universities and colleges to take part in ScreenU, statewide alcohol use on college campuses will be assessed in real time. While other online screening

options may be available, no other provider of online screenings is specifically targeting college campuses with the research-based SBIRT model, campus-specific resources, and the programming support the Higher Ed Center offers. (Retrieved from <https://screenu.org/about/what-is-screenu/>)

3. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery at the Ohio State University is the nationally recognized expert on collegiate alcohol and drug misuse, prevention, and recovery. HECAOD developed ScreenU to address limited resources on college campuses to support students through research-based screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment. It provides support for the implementation of ScreenU on campuses. The Higher Ed Center works to contribute to student success nationally by achieving a measurable reduction in alcohol and drug misuse on America's campuses and promoting recovery efforts.

4. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:

The cost of a one-year subscription to ScreenU Alcohol is \$1,000. However, because of the volume of membership subscriptions the MCPP provides, HECAOD has agreed to offer an annual subscription to each of the 14 MCPP schools for a grand total of \$10,000, or \$700 per subscription.

5. Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:

The MSU Department of Health Promotion and Wellness has worked with multiple companies providing screening tools for substance use on college campuses. ScreenU is the first of its kind to offer a mobile-friendly screening instrument customized to the needs of the student and the resources available on our campus. In addition to the novelty of ScreenU, it is provided and supported by the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery at the Ohio State University. The HECAOD is the National Center for collegiate alcohol and drug research and programming ensuring the system utilizes best practices and is affordable for widest possible implementation. While other websites may offer screenings that incorporate motivational interviewing questions to illicit change, ScreenU is the only system that provides access to the results of screenings conducted on our campus. This information can be used to inform campaigns and target programming.

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodity listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Don Buffum, CPPO
Director of Procurement & Contracts
dbuffum@procurement.msstate.edu

Subject Line must read “Sole Source Objection”

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSU will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If MSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then MSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MSU will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.