



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP  
<https://www.claconnect.com>

# Special Districts Master Services Agreement

Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority  
 8390 E. Crescent Pkwy., Ste.300, Greenwood Village, CO, 80111  
 MSA Date: October 15, 2023

This master service agreement (“MSA”) documents the terms, objectives, and the nature and limitations of the services CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (“CLA,” “we,” “us,” and “our”) will provide for Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority (“you,” “your,” “board of directors” or “the district”). The terms of this MSA will apply to the initial and each subsequent statement of work (“SOW”), unless the MSA is changed in a communication that you and CLA both sign or is terminated as permitted herein.

## **Scope of professional services**

CLA will provide services as described in one or more SOW that will reference this MSA. The SOW will describe the scope of professional services; the nature, limitations, and responsibilities related to the specific services CLA will provide; and the fees for such services.

If modifications or changes are required during CLA’s performance of requested services, or if you request that we perform any additional services, we will provide you with a separate SOW for your signature. Such SOW will advise you of the additional fee and time required for such services to facilitate a clear understanding of the services.

Our services cannot be relied upon to disclose errors, fraud, or noncompliance with laws and regulations. Except as described in the scope of professional services section of this MSA or any applicable SOW, we have no responsibility to identify and communicate deficiencies in your internal control as part of any services.

## **Board of director responsibilities**

The board of directors of the district acknowledge and understand that our role is to provide the services identified in one or more SOWs issued per this MSA and that the board of directors of the district has certain responsibilities that are fundamental to our undertaking to perform the identified services. The district may engage CLA to perform management functions to help the board of directors of the district to meet your responsibilities, but the board of directors of the district acknowledges its role in management of the district.

## **Responsibilities and limitations related to nonattest services**

For all nonattest services we may provide to you, you agree to oversee all management services; evaluate

the adequacy and results of the services; ensure that your data and records are complete; and accept responsibility for the results of the services. CLA and the district agree that the foregoing sentence is not intended and shall not be construed to be a limitation of liability for the benefit of CLA nor an exculpatory clause for the benefit of CLA. CLA is and will remain liable to the district for CLA's negligence and gross negligence in the work that it performs under this MSA or under any SOW.

### **Fees and terms**

See the applicable SOW for the fees for the services.

Work may be suspended if your account becomes 60 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagements will be deemed to have been completed even if we have not completed the services. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures permitted by this MSA through the date of termination.

Payments may be made utilizing checks, Bill.com, your online banking platform, CLA's electronic payment platform, or any other client initiated payment method approved by CLA. CLA's electronic online bill pay platform [claconnect.com/billpay](http://claconnect.com/billpay) accepts credit card and Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments. Instructions for making direct bank to bank wire transfers or ACH payments will be provided upon request.

### **Other Fees**

You also agree to compensate us for any time and expenses, including time and expenses of legal counsel, we may incur in responding to discovery requests or participating as a witness or otherwise in any legal, regulatory, or other proceedings that we are asked to respond to on your behalf.

### **Finance charges and collection expenses**

You agree that if any statement is not paid within 30 days from its billing date, the unpaid balance shall accrue interest at the monthly rate of one percent (1.00%), which is an annual percentage rate of 12%. In the event that any collection action is required to collect unpaid balances due us, reasonable attorney fees and expenses shall be recoverable if and as provided by Colorado law.

### **Limitation of remedies**

Each party agrees that in no event shall the other party be liable for any indirect, special, incidental, consequential, punitive or exemplary damages, or for loss of profits or loss of goodwill, costs, or attorney fees.

The exclusive remedy available to you shall be the right to pursue claims for actual damages related to CLA's acts or omissions in performance of our duties under the terms of this MSA or any SOW issued under this MSA.

### **Time limitation**

The nature of our services makes it difficult, with the passage of time, to gather and present evidence that fully and fairly establishes the facts underlying any dispute that may arise between you and any CLA party. Any legal or equitable action brought by the district to recover on a dispute shall be commenced within the applicable statute of limitations under Colorado state statutes and case law.

**CLA shall be authorized to the following cash access services:**

- Using any or a combination of the following methods and approval processes, we will pay your vendors and service providers based upon invoices that you have reviewed and approved:
  - Paper checks – we will prepare the checks for your approval and wet ink signature
  - Payments using Bill.com – we will only release payments after you have electronically approved and authorized such payments
  - ACH/Wire – we will use this method as needed/as requested, with your approval

We understand that you will designate one or more members of the board of directors to approve disbursements using the above methods.

- If applicable, access the entity credit card for purposes of purchasing products and services on your behalf up to a certain limit that will be discussed with you and documented separately
- Obtain administrator access to your bank accounts for purposes of performing the duties documented in our engagement letter identified above
- Take deposits to the bank that include cash
- If applicable, have access to cash-in-kind assets, such as coupons
- If applicable, initiate direct deposits or sign checks as part of the payroll processing function

**Board of Directors' responsibilities relevant to CLA's access to your cash**

All members of your board of directors are responsible for the processes below; however, we understand that you will designate one or more board of directors to review and give approvals for disbursements. All approvals must be documented in writing, either electronically or manually, then formally ratified in board meetings and documented in the meeting minutes.

- Approve all invoices and check payments
- Approve all new vendors and customers added to the accounting system
- Approve non-recurring wires to external parties
- Pre-approve for recurring wires, then board of directors will ratify approval
- Approve all new employees and all employee status changes prior to those employees or changes being added to the payroll system
- Approve all credit card statements prior to those expenses being processed in the accounting system and subsequently paid

- Approve (or delegate to the CLA controller if applicable) all customer and vendor credit memos and accounts receivable amounts written off
- Review and approve (or delegate to the CLA controller if applicable) all bank statements and affiliated monthly reconciliations

### **Other provisions**

Except as expressly permitted by the “Consent” section of this agreement, CLA shall not disclose any confidential, proprietary, or privileged information of the district or you to any person or party, unless the district or you authorizes us to do so, it is published or released by the district, it becomes publicly known or available other than through disclosure by us, or disclosure is required by law. This confidentiality provision does not prohibit us from disclosing your information to one or more of our affiliated companies in order to provide services that you have requested from us or from any such affiliated company. Any such affiliated company shall be subject to the same restrictions on the use and disclosure of your information as apply to us.

Pursuant to authority given by law or regulation, we may be requested to make certain workpapers available to a regulator for its regulatory oversight purposes. We will notify you of any such request, if permitted by law. Access to the requested workpapers will be provided to the regulator under the supervision of CLA personnel and at a location designated by our firm. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected workpapers to such regulator. The regulator may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

You acknowledge and agree that this agreement and the pricing structure and billing rates of CLA are sensitive information which you shall not furnish or otherwise disclose to any third party without the prior written consent of CLA or as required by the Colorado Open Records Act, Section 24-72-200.1 et seq., C.R.S. (“CORA”).

### **Insurance:**

CLA shall acquire and maintain in full force and effect, during the entire term of the MSA, the insurance coverages set forth in below in order to protect the district including its board of directors, and CLA from claims that arise out of or result from the operations under this MSA by the CLA or its affiliates or by anyone acting on their behalf or for which they may be liable. Failure to maintain the insurance policies shall be a material breach of this MSA and the district may request certificates of insurance reflecting the coverages outlined below.

- A. Workers’ Compensation Insurance
- B. Commercial General Liability Insurance
- C. Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance
- D. General Professional Liability
- E. Network Security (Cyber) Liability Insurance

#### **F. Excess/Umbrella Liability Coverage**

The relationship of CLA with the district shall be solely that of an independent contractor and nothing in this agreement shall be construed to create or imply any relationship of employment, agency, partnership, or any relationship other than an independent contractor.

If applicable, accounting standards and procedures will be suggested that are consistent with those normally utilized in a district of your size and nature. Internal controls may be recommended relating to the safeguarding of the district's assets. If fraud is initiated by your employees or other service providers, your insurance is responsible for covering any losses.

The district agrees that CLA will assume fiduciary responsibility on the district's behalf during the course of this agreement only if provided in SOWs issued under this MSA; and the parties, in entering into this MSA, do not intend to create an overarching fiduciary relationship.

CLA may, at times, utilize external web applications to receive and process information from our clients; however, it is not appropriate for you to upload protected health information using such applications. All protected health information contained in a document or file that you plan to transmit to us via a web application must be redacted by you to the maximum extent possible prior to uploading the document or file. In the event that you are unable to remove or obscure all protected health information, please contact us to discuss other potential options for transmitting the document or file.

#### **Annual Appropriation and Budget**

The district does not intend hereby to create a multiple-fiscal year direct or indirect debt or other financial obligation whatsoever. CLA expressly understands and agrees that the district's obligations under this MSA shall extend only to monies appropriated for the purposes of this MSA by the board of directors and shall not constitute a mandatory charge, requirement or liability in any ensuing fiscal year beyond the then-current fiscal year. No provision of this MSA shall be construed or interpreted as a delegation of governmental powers by the district, or as creating a multiple-fiscal year direct or indirect debt or other financial obligation whatsoever of the district or statutory debt limitation, including, without limitation, Article X, Section 20 or Article XI, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Colorado. No provision of this MSA shall be construed to pledge or to create a lien on any class or source of district funds. The district's obligations under this MSA exist subject to annual budgeting and appropriations, and shall remain subject to the same for the entire term of this MSA.

#### **Governmental Immunity**

Nothing in this MSA shall be construed to waive, limit, or otherwise modify, in whole or in part, any governmental immunity that may be available by law to the district, its respective officials, employees, contractors, or agents, or any other person acting on behalf of the district and, in particular, governmental immunity afforded or available to the district pursuant to the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, §§ 24-10-101, et seq., C.R.S.

#### **No Third-Party Beneficiaries**

It is expressly understood and agreed that enforcement of the terms and conditions of this MSA, and all rights of action relating to such enforcement, shall be strictly reserved to the Parties and nothing contained

in this MSA shall give or allow any such claim or right of action by any third party. It is the express intention of the Parties that any person other than Parties receiving services or benefits under this MSA shall be deemed to be an incidental beneficiary only.

### **Personal Identifying Information**

During the performance of this MSA, the district may disclose Personal Identifying Information to CLA. “Personal Identifying Information” means a social security number; a personal identification number; a password; a pass code; an official state or government-issued driver’s license or identification card number; a government passport number; biometric data, as defined in § 24-73-103(1)(a), C.R.S.; an employer, student, or military identification number; or a financial transaction device, as defined in § 18-5-701(3), C.R.S. In compliance with § 24-73-102, C.R.S., CLA agrees to implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices that are: (i) appropriate to the nature of the Personal Identifying Information disclosed to CLA; and (ii) reasonably designed to help protect the Personal Identifying Information from unauthorized access, use, modification, disclosure, or destruction.

**CLA agrees to report within twenty-four (24) hours to the district’s board of directors any Data Security Incidents that may result in the unauthorized disclosure of Personal Identifying Information. For the purposes of this MSA “Data Security Incident” is defined to mean any actual or reasonably suspected: (a) unauthorized use of, or unauthorized access to, CLA systems; (b) inability to access business and other proprietary information, data, or the CLA systems due to a malicious use, attack, or exploit of such business and other proprietary information or systems; (c) unauthorized access to, theft of, or loss of business and other proprietary information, or of storage devices that could reasonably contain such information; (d) unauthorized use of business and other proprietary information or data for purposes of actual or reasonably suspected theft, fraud, or identity theft; (e) unauthorized disclosure of business and other proprietary information or data.**

### **Consent to use financial information**

Annually, we assemble a variety of benchmarking analyses using data obtained through our client engagements. Some of this benchmarking information is published and released publicly. However, the information that we obtain is confidential, as required by the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct. Your acceptance of this MSA will serve as your consent to use of Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority information, excluding Personal Identifying Information, in these cost comparison, performance indicator, and/or benchmarking reports.

### **Technology**

CLA may, at times, use third-party software applications to perform services under this agreement. CLA can provide a copy of the application agreement at your request. You acknowledge the software vendor may have access to your data.

Colorado law requires special districts to maintain websites and further requires that certain documents which may be prepared by CLA to be uploaded to those websites. CLA specifically acknowledges and agrees that the district may upload to its website any documents prepared by CLA for the district and further, that those documents may be used in public meetings hosted by or to which the district is a party.

**Counterpart Execution**

This MSA may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**Electronic Signatures**

The parties consent to the use of electronic signatures pursuant to the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, Sections 24-71.3-101, et seq., Colorado Revised Statutes, as may be amended from time to time. The MSA, and any other documents requiring a signature hereunder, may be signed electronically by the parties in a manner acceptable to the district. The parties agree not to deny the legal effect or enforceability of the MSA solely because it is in electronic form or because an electronic record was used in its formation. The parties agree not to object to the admissibility of the MSA in the form of an electronic record, or a paper copy of an electronic document, or a paper copy of a document bearing an electronic signature, on the ground that it is an electronic record or electronic signature or that it is not in its original form or is not an original.

**MSA Modification**

The MSA may not be amended, altered, or otherwise changed except by a written agreement signed by authorized representatives of the parties.

**Termination of MSA**

Either party may terminate this MSA at any time by giving 30 days written notice to the other party. In that event, the provisions of this MSA shall continue to apply to all services rendered prior to termination.

**Agreement**

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this MSA accurately summarizes the significant terms of our relationship. This MSA, along with the applicable SOW(s), constitute the entire agreement regarding services to be performed and supersedes all prior agreements (whether oral or written), understandings, negotiations, and discussions between you and CLA. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our relationship as described in this MSA, please sign, date, and return.

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Carrie Bartow

Principal

719-284-7239

carrie.bartow@CLAconnect.com

**Response**

This MSA correctly sets forth the understanding of Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority and is accepted by:

**CLA**  
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

*Carrie Bartow*

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Carrie Bartow, Principal

**SIGNED** 11/2/2023, 11:52:36 AM MDT

**Client**  
Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority

SIGN:

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Jariah Walker, Executive Director

DATE: