



**COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION**

COURT ORDER NUMBER <#CourtOrderNumber#>

PAGE 1 OF 10

DATE: 5/6/2025

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION TO RENEW THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE
SYSTEM FOR EARLY NOTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED
EPIDEMICS SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN TARRANT COUNTY
AND INDUCTIVE HEALTH INFORMATICS, LLC**

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider the renewal of the Electronic Surveillance System for Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE) Service Agreement between Tarrant County and InductiveHealth Informatics, LLC (InductiveHealth).

BACKGROUND

The ESSENCE software allows for the collection and surveillance of real-time Emergency Department data and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses for early detection of public health condition concerns.

Through a commercial partnership between John Hopkins University/Applied Physics Laboratory, LLC (JHU/APL) and InductiveHealth, JHU/APL has designated InductiveHealth as the exclusive licensee of ESSENCE for industry-leading syndromic surveillance capabilities. A Sole Source letter has been provided by InductiveHealth and is attached.

On June 23, 2020, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #133094, approved an ESSENCE Software License Agreement between Tarrant County and JHU/APL for real-time disease surveillance.

On July 14, 2020, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #133228, approved an addendum to the ESSENCE Software License Agreement with JHU/APL to receive technical assistance from JHU/APL for the version upgrade of the application and configuration for real-time data ingestion from MedStar into ESSENCE for public health surveillance. The not-to-exceed cost was \$40,000.00.

On May 16, 2023, the Commissioners Court, through Order #140907, approved an ESSENCE Software License Agreement between Tarrant County and InductiveHealth to continue the use of ESSENCE services for the term of June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024 with two (2) optional twelve (12) month renewals. Service fees totaling \$135,000.00 were payable as follows: \$45,000.00 for FY 2023, payable upon a fully executed contract and \$90,000.00 for FY 2024, payable at the beginning of the fiscal period.

On June 4, 2024, the Commissioners Court, through Order #143248, approved an ESSENCE Software License Agreement between Tarrant County and InductiveHealth to continue the use of ESSENCE services through May 31, 2025. Service Fees in the amount of \$141,750.00 were payable as follows: \$47,250.00 for FY 2024

SUBMITTED BY	Public Health	PREPARED BY:	Gary Collins
		APPROVED BY:	Amanda Campbell



COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER: <#CourtOrderNumber#> DATE: 5/6/2025 PAGE 2 OF 10

payable upon a fully executed contract, and \$94,500.00 for FY 2025 payable at the beginning of the fiscal period.

With approval of this agreement, TCPH will continue to use the ESSENCE software to monitor emergency room data. The terms of the agreement are June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, with total service fees in the amount of \$113,400.00. Service fees will be paid as follows: \$37,800.00 for Fiscal Year 2025 and \$75,600.00 for Fiscal Year 2026, payable upon a fully executed contract and at the beginning of the fiscal period.

FISCAL IMPACT

All associated costs will be paid from F0081-2025 \$18,900.00 and F0081-2026 \$94,500.00.

Price Proposal: Option Year 2 - ESSENCE for Syndromic Surveillance, Anomaly Detection, and Alerting Software as a Service (SaaS)

Prepared For: Deep Shah, Supervisor Informatics, Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH), p. 817-321-4827, dashah@tarrantcountytx.gov

Proposal Valid Until: 90 days after Receipt

Period of Performance: 6/1/2025 – 5/31/2026

Price Proposal & Assumptions

Price Proposal

Service Description	Per Unit Cost	Unit	Months	Total Cost
ESSENCE Software as a Service (SaaS) Option Year 2 Payment 1 (6/1/2025 - 7/31/ 2025)	\$9,450	1	2	\$18,900.00
ESSENCE Software as a Service (SaaS) Option Year 2 Payment 2 (8/1/2025- 5/31/ 2026)	\$9,450	1	10	\$94,500.00
			Total Option Year 2 Fee:	\$113,400.00

Invoicing Assumptions

1. InductiveHealth shall submit to the client two invoices to reflect the 2025 and 2026 TCPH fiscal year calendar.
 - a. Invoice one shall be sent upon contract execution for all services to be performed in fiscal year 2025 (6/1/25-7/31/2025)
 - b. Invoice two shall be sent at the beginning of fiscal year 2026 for the remainder of services performed (8/1/2025-5/31/2026)
 - c. Invoices will be sent electronically, with fixed fees due at net 30 from invoice date.

Assumptions - General

1. Standard pricing provides for an annual fee escalation aligned to the US Federal Consumer Price Index as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics or 5% whichever is higher.
2. To support the long-term sustainment of the public health agency's ESSENCE instance, if program budgets are significantly impacted, InductiveHealth will collaborate with the public health agency to review and determine the scope and pricing for the ESSENCE SaaS solution beyond the period of performance defined within this proposal. InductiveHealth seeks a long-term relationship with the public health agency to deliver this solution and will make commercially reasonable efforts to revise solution pricing and scope to fit within the public health agency's long-term program budget.
3. InductiveHealth will make available to the Client the use of existing InductiveHealth intellectual property in performing this work, including processes, reusable artifacts, documentation, software, and configurations. Client use of such intellectual property is for the limited scope of utilizing the application and related services hereunder and does not convey any right or title to

any existing InductiveHealth intellectual property.

4. Orders hereunder shall be governed by the ESSENCE Service Agreement by and between InductiveHealth Informatics, LLC and Tarrant County dated May 16, 2023 .
5. InductiveHealth will manage any required electronic message processing utilizing industry-standard integration engines.
6. User accounts will include, as desired, Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) using soft token access through phone, smartphone push, and / or SMS Text.
7. Up to 120 authorized Client user accounts are included. User accounts are estimated based on the number of user accounts required as determined by the Client. "User accounts" are calculated monthly based on the number of active users at the end of each month. InductiveHealth reserves the right to invoice the Client for any user accounts more than the authorized total.
8. Up to 150 Reporting Facilities included. A Reporting Facility is defined based on a unique MSH-4 value contained in the ADT HL7 message. In the case of non-ADT messages, a Reporting Facility is defined by the physical, secure connection to the trading partner (e.g., poison control, laboratory sending laboratory results).
 - a. Any additional facility onboardings will be determined as time and material at the rate of \$225 per hour. Additionally, any exceptions will be determined at the sole discretion of InductiveHealth.
9. During the Period of Performance, InductiveHealth will onboard up to 5 new reporting facilities at the Client's request. A Reporting Facility is defined based on a unique MSH-4 value contained in the ADT HL7 message. In the case of non-ADT messages, a Reporting Facility is defined by the physical, secure connection to the trading partner (e.g., poison control, laboratory sending laboratory results).
 - a. Any additional facility onboardings will be determined as time and material at the rate of \$225 per hour. Additionally, any exceptions will be determined at the sole discretion of InductiveHealth.
 - b. InductiveHealth and the Client will work together to determine priority and timing of any needed onboardings. InductiveHealth reserves the right to stagger and/or schedule requested onboardings as needed to comply with available resources.
10. The total number of Reporting Facilities is calculated by querying the transactional database for all messages received electronically (regardless of the use of HL7, CSV, or other message specifications) and stratifying based on the Reporting Facility ID. InductiveHealth reserves the right to invoice the Client for any Reporting Facilities more than the authorized total.
11. Emergency Department and Urgent Care Syndromic messages are assumed to comply with the CDC HL7 Implementation Guides [<https://www.cdc.gov/nssp/technical-pubs-and-standards.html>] for syndromic surveillance for quality, completeness, and timeliness.
12. Onboarding of HL7 trading partners is dependent on the readiness of trading partners to onboard to the service and provide a compliant HL7 message based on CDC HL7 Implementation Guides [<https://www.cdc.gov/nssp/technical-pubs-and-standards.html>] for syndromic surveillance for quality, completeness, and timeliness.

13. Ongoing data processing assumes the public health agency can send all needed records to the InductiveHealth private cloud for data ingestion and processing.
14. ESSENCE is provided with standard of up to 1 TB of data stored, measured as the uncompressed size of the ESSENCE databases (including staging tables) at the end of the month. Assumes up to 10% annual growth in the amount of data stored. Any additional data storage as required is priced as noted above based on current data load of Client.
15. Includes JHU-APL ESSENCE License and related upgrades and enhancements released by JHU-APL during the period of performance.
16. Assumes a 12-month period of performance.
17. Assumes timely decision-making by the client and access to stakeholders to achieve delivery timelines. Timely decision-making is defined as one to five business days.
18. Assumes that the client will designate a single point of contact for InductiveHealth to coordinate any implementation activities and operations.
19. Assumes business workflows and functional requirements align with standard ESSENCE and CDC (NSSP) technical workflows and parameters.
20. Any customizations or support for customizations specific to the public health agency's instance will fall under additional pricing at \$225 per hour and may require separate contract with JHU/APL.
21. Standard data sources include ED/Urgent Care, Inpatient, Air Quality, Weather, Death, Reportable Conditions, School, EMS, Poison Control, OTC/NRDM, ASPR, Lab, JHU CSSE. Adding new standard data sources may have a one-time setup fee.
22. New non-standard data source development and integration beyond what is listed above may require separate estimation and costing – may require contracting with JHU/APL.

ESSENCE SaaS Statement of Work (Services)

Services furnished under the Agreement and pursuant to this statement of work will encompass the following:

1. Provide support services utilizing staff with detailed knowledge of Syndromic Surveillance, including knowledge of public health business processes, understanding of national public health reporting initiatives and how states can comply, and knowledge of other state public health programs and their surveillance systems.
2. Provide system performance tuning to ensure fast user interface, database, reports, and ETL performance.
3. Provide Tier 2 and Tier 3 Help Desk for addressing Syndromic Surveillance help requests Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (CT).

4. Conduct end-user and system administrator training on ESSENCE including advanced features such as alerting.
5. Support and maintain a Production and Staging/Testing hosting environment for ESSENCE and supporting sub-systems, utilizing computer hardware exceeding application minimum specifications, hosted in a Tier 3 data center with multiple internet backbone links.
6. Provide off-site daily system backups and a target disaster recovery time of 24–48-hour return-to-live to ensure less than one percent downtime for operations and availability.
7. System support services include software upgrades, hotfixes, and patch deployment.
8. Secure the system using FISMA-Moderate and HIPAA-compliant security controls, verified by independent security scanning and auditing. This includes 256-bit SSL connections, end-user authentication for logging into the system, data encryption, updated virus protection, and multi-factor authentication, among other security controls.
9. Provide business hour-based help desk access via Jira for technical and emergency support requests. Support staff for addressing Syndromic Surveillance help requests are available Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (CT).
10. Provide a Service Level Target (SLT) of 99.5 percent uptime for the Syndromic Surveillance Platform and supporting sub-systems.
11. Standard Maintenance Window is Friday from 10pm – 4 am EST/EDT. Any system or Application maintenance will occur during this window. InductiveHealth does not foresee this window being used every week.
12. Provide support for ESSENCE-related API integration.
13. Manage the configuration management and release control process for the Syndromic Surveillance and supporting systems via a defined and agreed-upon governance process.
14. Provide new feature releases for ESSENCE application (e.g., UX refresh).

Client-Specific Scope for ESSENCE Software as a Service (SaaS)

1. TCPH unified data feeds include EMS, ED, some Urgent Care, Weather, Air Quality, Poison Control Data, and Mortality. Based on the readiness of TCPH, other data feeds may be onboarded into its unified data feed for ESSENCE including but not limited to School Absenteeism, etc. Adding new data sources may have a one-time set up fee.
2. TCPH provides monitoring and maintenance of dataflow into unified feed.
3. TCPH will be responsible for reporting data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP).

4. Tier 1 application support will be managed by TCPH. Tier 1 support is defined as the management of existing ESSENCE users. InductiveHealth will create MFA accounts (i.e., DUO) and provision new users requiring API access.
5. Onboarding HL7 trading partners is dependent on the readiness and trading partners to onboard the service and provide a compliant HL7 message.

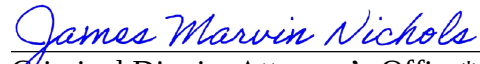
Execution of Agreement -This agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original copy of this agreement, and all of which, when taken together, shall be deemed to constitute one and the same agreement. The exchange of copies of this agreement and of signature pages by electronic transmission shall constitute effective execution and delivery of this agreement as to the parties and may be used in lieu of the original agreement for all purposes. Signatures of the parties transmitted or executed electronically shall be deemed to be their original signatures for any purpose whatsoever.

SIGNED AND EXECUTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

**COUNTY OF TARRANT
STATE OF TEXAS**

By: Separate Electronic Signature Page
Tim O'Hare
County Judge

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



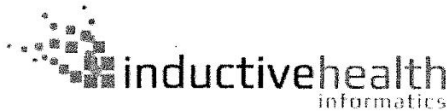
Criminal District Attorney's Office*

*By law, the Criminal District Attorney's Office may only approve contracts for its clients. We reviewed this document as to form from our client's legal perspective. Other parties may not rely on this approval. Instead, those parties should seek contract review from independent counsel.

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$_____

Auditor

Date: _____



February 22, 2023

InductiveHealth Informatics, LLC.
2870 Peachtree Rd NW #915-3304
Atlanta, GA 30305-2918
solutions@inductivehealth.com
www.inductivehealth.com

Rasneet Kumar
Informatics Manager
Tarrant County Public Health
E: RSKumar@tarrantcounty.com

RE: InductiveHealth Informatics - Sole Source Justification for Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) solution

Ms. Kumar,

This letter serves to provide details on the InductiveHealth Informatics, LLC. ("InductiveHealth") solution for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) application currently used by Tarrant County and the entire Texas Region 2-3 for syndromic surveillance, relative to sole source procurement under Texas Local Government Code, Section 262.024(a)(7)¹.

InductiveHealth is the exclusive licensee² of ESSENCE for industry-leading enhanced syndromic surveillance capabilities. Through InductiveHealth's commercial partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU APL)³, InductiveHealth is at the forefront of research, development, and enhancement of advanced syndromic surveillance. More than twenty-five (25) jurisdictions utilize ESSENCE to monitor and respond to public health events through anomaly detection. ESSENCE has proven critical to the COVID-19 response at the national and state/territory levels.

InductiveHealth's syndromic surveillance solution offering for ESSENCE prepares public health agencies to conduct patient matching and integration with public health technologies such as electronic disease surveillance systems (EDSS), immunization registries, contact tracing applications and more. The solution is designed to ingest HL7 data from hospital EMR systems and positions public health agencies for future integration of multiple data sources including mortality, climate and environmental, poison, substance use, and other important health data.

We look forward to the opportunity to serve Tarrant County and all of Texas Region 2-3 with this important capability.

Should you have any further questions or if we can provide any additional details, please let us know.

¹ Texas Local Government Code, Section 262.024(a)(7). Accessed via <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/LG/htm/LG.262.htm>

² <https://www.jhuapl.edu/PressRelease/210114-APL-ESSENCE-inductive-health-informatics-partnership>

³ Reference enclosed Attachment A - Notice of Transition of Operational and Maintenance Support Agreements for State and Local ESSENCE Instances



Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Maglione".

James Maglione
Director of Finance and Contracts
InductiveHealth Informatics, LLC.
714-390-1465
contracts@inductivehealth.com

Enclosures: Attachment A - Notice of Transition of Operational and Maintenance Support Agreements for State and Local ESSENCE Instances



**COMMISSIONERS COURT
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COURT ORDER NUMBER 145154
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Price Proposal: Option Year 2 - ESSENCE for Syndromic Surveillance, Anomaly Detection, and Alerting Software as a Service (SaaS)

Prepared For: Deep Shah, Supervisor Informatics, Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH), p. 817-321-4827, dashah@tarrantcountytx.gov

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Price Proposal & Assumptions

Price Proposal

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Client-Specific Scope for ESSENCE Software as a Service (SaaS)

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Execution of Agreement -This agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original copy of this agreement, and all of which, when taken together, shall be deemed to constitute one and the same agreement. The exchange of copies of this agreement and of signature pages by electronic transmission shall constitute effective execution and delivery of this agreement as to the parties and may be used in lieu of the original agreement for all purposes. Signatures of the parties transmitted or executed electronically shall be deemed to be their original signatures for any purpose whatsoever.

SIGNED AND EXECUTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

COUNTY OF TARRANT
STATE OF TEXAS

By: Separate Electronic Signature Page
Tim O'Hare
County Judge

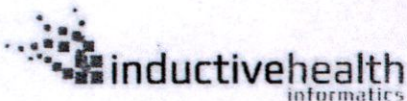
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

James Marvin Nichols
Criminal District Attorney's Office*

*By law, the Criminal District Attorney's Office may only approve contracts for its clients. We reviewed this document as to form from our client's legal perspective. Other parties may not rely on this approval. Instead, those parties should seek contract review from independent counsel.

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 18,900.00

Kimberly Buchanan Date: 5/8/25
Auditor



February 22, 2023

InductiveHealth Informatics, LLC.
2870 Peachtree Rd NW #915-3304
Atlanta, GA 30305-2918
solutions@inductivehealth.com
www.inductivehealth.com

Rasneet Kumar
Informatics Manager
Tarrant County Public Health
E: RSKumar@tarrantcounty.com

RE: InductiveHealth Informatics - Sole Source Justification for Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) solution

Ms. Kumar,

This letter serves to provide details on the InductiveHealth Informatics, LLC. ("InductiveHealth") solution for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) application currently used by Tarrant County and the entire Texas Region 2-3 for syndromic surveillance, relative to sole source procurement under Texas Local Government Code, Section 262.024(a)(7)¹.

InductiveHealth is the exclusive licensee² of ESSENCE for industry-leading enhanced syndromic surveillance capabilities. Through InductiveHealth's commercial partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU APL)³, InductiveHealth is at the forefront of research, development, and enhancement of advanced syndromic surveillance. More than twenty-five (25) jurisdictions utilize ESSENCE to monitor and respond to public health events through anomaly detection. ESSENCE has proven critical to the COVID-19 response at the national and state/territory levels.

InductiveHealth's syndromic surveillance solution offering for ESSENCE prepares public health agencies to conduct patient matching and integration with public health technologies such as electronic disease surveillance systems (EDSS), immunization registries, contact tracing applications and more. The solution is designed to ingest HL7 data from hospital EMR systems and positions public health agencies for future integration of multiple data sources including mortality, climate and environmental, poison, substance use, and other important health data.

We look forward to the opportunity to serve Tarrant County and all of Texas Region 2-3 with this important capability.

Should you have any further questions or if we can provide any additional details, please let us know.

¹ Texas Local Government Code, Section 262.024(a)(7). Accessed via <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/LG/htm/LG.262.htm>

² <https://www.jhuapl.edu/PressRelease/210114-APL-ESSENCE-inductive-health-informatics-partnership>

³ Reference enclosed Attachment A - Notice of Transition of Operational and Maintenance Support Agreements for State and Local ESSENCE Instances



Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Maglione".

James Maglione
Director of Finance and Contracts
InductiveHealth Informatics, LLC.
714-390-1465
contracts@inductivehealth.com

Enclosures: Attachment A - Notice of Transition of Operational and Maintenance Support Agreements for
State and Local ESSENCE Instances

Consideration to Renew the Electronic Surveillance System for Early Notification of
Community-Based Epidemics Service Agreement Between Tarrant County and Inductive Health
Informatics, LLC

SIGNED AND EXECUTED this 6 day of May, 2025.

**COUNTY OF TARRANT
STATE OF TEXAS**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim O'Hare", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim O'Hare
County Judge
5/13/2025