**Attachment 1 – MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS AFFIRMATION**

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| Bidders must affirm that they meet the stated Mandatory Requirements (Yes / No Affirmation). In addition, please include Supporting Documentation that evidences Bidder ability to meet the Mandatory Requirements in the table directly or below table.  |
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| **Firm Mandatory Requirements** | **Affirmation** | **Supporting Documentation** |
|  | **Yes / No** | **Please detail how the qualification is met** |
| Qualification 1 |
| Candidate firms must be registered with the SEC as an Investment Advisor for at least five (5) years as of March 31, 2025 or be exempt from registering with the SEC due to your status as a “bank” as defined under Section 202(a)(11)(a) of the U.S. Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (“Advisers Act”). |   |   |
| Qualification 2 |
| Candidate firms must have a minimum of $200 million under management in Below Investment Grade and CLO mandates as of March 31, 2025. |   |   |
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| Qualification 3 |
| Lead portfolio manager or lead team members for the proposed strategy must have at least ten (10) years of direct experience managing Below Investment Grade and/or CLO portfolios at the candidate firm or prior firms. |   |   |
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| Qualification 4 |
| Candidate firms must have a minimum of five (5) years of verifiable GIPS-compliant performance history managing the proposed product for institutional clients, including adherence to all mandate descriptions outlined in the RFP. |   |   |
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| Qualification 5 |
| Candidate firms must submit their monthly and quarterly product composite returns and quarterly portfolio characteristics since inception through March 31, 2025 to NYSIF’s and Mercer’s designated product database via eVestment Alliance, which can be located on the web at: www.evestment.com. If the database is not fully populated, your firm’s response will be considered incomplete. Please be sure to not leave fields blank. Respond as 0, none, or N/A only when necessary. You will not be contacted to fill in missing fields. Use additional comment fields provided to make qualifying notes as applicable. If your firm does not already utilize the eVestment Alliance database, you can participate by sending an email with your contact information to: data@evestment.com. All eVestment Alliance data must be as of March 31, 2025 and must be entered by RFP due date outlined in the RFP calendar. NYSIF and Mercer staff reserve the right to request more recent returns and portfolio information from candidates subsequent to receiving solicitation responses.* 1. Data must be gross of fees.
	2. A composite managed on a total return basis is preferred
	3. Composite must be actively managed (i.e. NYSIF is not seeking an index product).
	4. The composite performance history submitted to eVestment Alliance must be actual results (not simulated nor back-tested).
	5. The product must adhere with the mandate requirements outlined in the RFP.
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