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Accelerating Federal Health Modernization: Low/No Code Strategies for Faster, Compliant Delivery

Deliver Faster, Govern Smarter: Low/No Code Solutions for Agile Modernization at HHS.

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Executive Summary

In the current landscape of federal digital modernization, Low/No Code platforms offer a compelling solution for accelerating application delivery within the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). As the agency confronts evolving public health demands, budget constraints, and an increasingly complex regulatory environment, the ability to deploy secure, scalable solutions rapidly is no longer optional—it is essential. This white paper outlines how Low/No Code technologies close a critical mission execution gap by empowering domain experts to co-develop applications while ensuring compliance, security, and operational continuity.

For capture managers, the value proposition is direct: Low/No Code solutions offer a strategic advantage in proposal development by enabling faster proof-of-concept creation, reduced technical debt, and measurable time-to-value. Unlike traditional custom development, these platforms lower the barrier to entry for innovation while mitigating risks tied to schedule overruns or shifting requirements. In a procurement environment where differentiation and cost realism determine award outcomes, Low/No Code capabilities provide a win theme rooted in agility, responsiveness, and resource optimization.

Implementation is inherently low risk. These platforms integrate with existing enterprise architecture, support FedRAMP-compliant hosting, and allow for incremental delivery models that align with HHS acquisition timelines. This modularity ensures that budget cycles and phased funding releases are respected without sacrificing functionality or compliance posture. Moreover, Low/No Code environments reduce reliance on niche development skill sets, which addresses labor shortages in federal IT and ensures long-term sustainability. **Financial payoff.** *Five-year TCO (§ 6.3) saves \$ 17.5 M NPV, delivers 27 % IRR, and pays back in < 20 months; IRR stays above 20 % even if adoption lags or platform fees rise 15 %.* **Risk posture.** *A formal risk register (§ 6.5) budgets \$ 0.6 M and a 23-day buffer, driving all residual risks to Low/Medium.* **Governance proof.** *VAULTIS-aligned KPIs (≥ 90 % catalog coverage, < 5 s lineage, 100 % ABAC pass-rate) are tracked with fully ATO'd tools (see Appendix D).*

Looking ahead, the strategic use of Low/No Code within HHS supports a broader transformation agenda. Whether enabling case management for public health initiatives, automating grant workflows, or modernizing legacy interfaces, these platforms offer scalable and cost-effective modernization pathways that align with both programmatic outcomes and CIO mandates.

Capture managers seeking to position their teams for upcoming HHS opportunities are encouraged to explore teaming discussions or technical pilot engagements. With an

experienced integrator or solution partner, Low/No Code implementation can deliver immediate proof points and establish past performance that resonates with evaluators. Now is the time to invest in capability demonstrations and proposal-ready architectures that show the value of modern delivery approaches.

Current Landscape: The Urgent Need for Agility Amidst Talent Shortages and Complex Mandates

The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) continues to accelerate its digital transformation initiatives, driven by a growing need to modernize systems, enhance citizen services, and improve operational resilience. In this evolving landscape, Low/No Code platforms have emerged as a strategic enabler of faster, more flexible application delivery. However, adoption remains uneven due to regulatory constraints, procurement complexities, and gaps in technical alignment with enterprise architectures.

Several federal mandates are shaping HHS's digital modernization priorities. Executive Order 14028 on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity has emphasized the importance of secure software development practices and continuous monitoring—factors that must now be embedded into even the most user-friendly platforms. While Low/No Code tools offer rapid deployment, their alignment with Zero Trust principles and software bill of materials (SBOM) requirements is increasingly scrutinized during acquisition. Similarly, the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) framework influences vendor readiness, particularly when solutions handle controlled unclassified information (CUI). These compliance imperatives require Low/No Code platforms to provide governance, auditing, and secure integration capabilities out of the box.

Within HHS, initiatives such as RelImagine HHS and the HHS IT Strategic Plan 2023–2026 reflect a growing openness to platform-based development. Procurement activity has begun to reflect this shift, with emerging solicitations referencing low-code enablement for grants management, case processing, and workflow automation. However, capture managers must remain attuned to the nuances of these opportunities. Many are not explicitly labeled as “Low/No Code,” but instead reference functionality that aligns with these platforms—drag-and-drop form builders, workflow orchestration, API connectivity, and rapid prototyping.

Despite the promise, key solution gaps remain. Legacy integration continues to be a barrier, particularly where mainframe systems or proprietary data standards dominate. Many Low/No Code tools struggle to accommodate complex rules engines or provide sufficient performance under high-volume transactions. Additionally, workforce adoption

and change management represent overlooked risks. End users often require extensive support, governance guardrails, and role-based access configurations that are not always turnkey in commercial offerings.

For capture strategy, these dynamics demand a tailored approach. Proposals that merely name-drop Low/No Code capabilities will not resonate unless they address enterprise fit, mission continuity, and long-term governance. Capture teams must also differentiate between platforms that are FedRAMP authorized, CMMC-aligned, and validated through prior government implementations.

In summary, while HHS is increasingly receptive to Low/No Code solutions, successful capture efforts must translate these capabilities into measurable outcomes—cost avoidance, delivery acceleration, and improved stakeholder engagement.

Understanding the policy drivers, procurement patterns, and platform limitations is essential to crafting a compliant, compelling offer. Now more than ever, positioning Low/No Code as a secure, sustainable, and adaptable solution requires both technical fluency and a mission-driven narrative.

Mission-Critical Challenge: Eradicating Rigid Development

Cycles and Mounting Delivery Backlogs

The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) faces mounting pressure to deliver services efficiently, securely, and with agility. However, the current ecosystem of legacy systems, manual workflows, and siloed data infrastructure hampers the agency's ability to respond to dynamic public health missions, legislative directives, and evolving citizen needs. At the core of this challenge is the protracted time and cost associated with traditional software development and modernization efforts—often requiring multi-year investments, specialized talent, and rigid waterfall planning cycles.

In mission areas such as public health surveillance, grants management, eligibility verification, and emergency response coordination, HHS programs routinely encounter delays in rolling out new capabilities due to outdated development paradigms. These delays result in lost opportunities to respond to crises, inefficient allocation of resources, and diminished trust among stakeholders. For example, adjusting a legacy case management system to comply with a new statutory reporting requirement can take months, delaying compliance and risking audit findings or penalties.

Compounding the issue is a workforce gap in federal IT. As retirements rise and competition for skilled developers intensifies, HHS struggles to sustain the labor pool needed to maintain and modernize complex systems. Additionally, siloed program

offices often lack the technical agility to prototype and refine digital tools that meet their evolving operational needs. This results in repeated vendor dependence, minimal user-driven iteration, and suboptimal alignment with mission outcomes.

Low/No Code platforms offer a pathway to mitigate these challenges, but adoption is hindered by unresolved limitations. Many commercial offerings lack the governance features necessary to operate in a federal environment—such as fine-grained access control, built-in security telemetry, and traceable audit logs. There is also a perception risk: acquisition officials may question the scalability or compliance posture of these platforms without clear proof points.

From a capture perspective, this creates a dual challenge. RFPs often outline high-level functional outcomes—like “automated workflow integration” or “interagency data exchange”—without specifying how they might be achieved through Low/No Code tools. This leaves room for differentiation, but also demands precise alignment with procurement language, mission context, and operational risk mitigation.

In short, HHS’s modernization momentum is constrained by outdated delivery methods, workforce shortages, and rigid technology stacks. Addressing these pain points with compliant, secure, and user-driven Low/No Code solutions represents a mission-critical opportunity to transform how public health programs deliver value.

Proposed Solution: A FedRAMP-Ready Platform for Secure, Collaborative Rapid Application Building

The proposed solution leverages Low/No Code platforms to accelerate digital modernization within the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) while maintaining alignment with federal security, quality, and operational standards. This approach empowers both technical and non-technical personnel to collaboratively build, deploy, and maintain applications that support key health and human services missions. By reducing reliance on custom development cycles and hard-to-source programming talent, the solution shortens delivery timelines, lowers total lifecycle costs, and mitigates mission risk.

Compliance-Driven Foundation: Aligned with ISO and FedRAMP Standards

The selected Low/No Code platforms are pre-vetted for federal use, designed with compliance at their core. At the process level, they support ISO 9001:2015 quality management principles by enabling structured workflows, version control, audit logging, and automated testing. For security, platforms are aligned with ISO/IEC 27001:2022,

offering configurable access controls, encryption at rest and in transit, and built-in support for vulnerability management. These features ensure adherence to both internal agency policies and external compliance requirements.

Many leading Low/No Code platforms are hosted in FedRAMP-authorized environments, including AWS GovCloud or Microsoft Azure Government. This facilitates authority to operate (ATO) issuance and eases integration with existing enterprise infrastructures, reducing friction during deployment and long-term operation. The solution also supports integration with identity and access management systems such as HHS AMS and ICAM-compliant frameworks, further streamlining implementation.

Technical Differentiators and Integration Advantages

What distinguishes this Low/No Code solution is its adaptability and extensibility. The platform includes:

- **Visual Workflow Designers** for rapid iteration and functional prototyping
- **Pre-built Connectors and API Gateways** for seamless integration with legacy systems, such as grants.gov, HHS Protect, and CMS data environments
- **Role-Based Access Controls and Policy Enforcement** to ensure mission-specific governance
- **Built-in SBOM and audit trail capabilities** to support Executive Order 14028 compliance
- **Integrated DevSecOps support** allowing code extensions where required, all within a controlled and governed development space

These features provide program teams with the agility to create, test, and deploy mission tools with minimal reliance on backlogged development teams or external integrators.

Readiness Level and Deployment Maturity

The platform and solution architecture are considered Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 8–9, having been deployed in multiple civilian agencies, including pilots in HHS subcomponents such as NIH and HRSA. These deployments validate the platform’s maturity, integration capability, and suitability for high-impact use cases in public health, case management, and grant automation.

Proposal Value: Risk Reduction, Speed, and Differentiation

For capture teams, this solution enhances proposal competitiveness through several key value propositions:

- **Low Implementation Risk:** Proven deployments and pre-certified compliance environments de-risk delivery and accelerate contract mobilization.
- **Rapid Deployment:** Templates, reusable components, and modular integration kits allow functional MVPs within weeks—ideal for phased funding models or time-sensitive program needs.
- **Compliance Advantage:** ISO-aligned processes, FedRAMP-ready infrastructure, and EO 14028 adherence enable clear alignment with government mandates and evaluation criteria.
- **Cost and Resource Efficiency:** Reducing the need for niche development teams lowers cost and increases sustainability in a constrained labor market.

This solution transforms how HHS builds digital services—moving from static, siloed development to a modern, composable architecture that keeps pace with evolving missions. Capture managers are encouraged to highlight these technical and operational advantages in teaming conversations and proposal narratives, leveraging the Low/No Code solution to deliver measurable, mission-ready outcomes.

Capture-Focused Benefits: Showcasing Functional MVPs in Weeks to Prove Delivery Certainty

In the highly competitive landscape of federal health IT procurement, Low/No Code platforms offer a strategic edge for capture teams pursuing opportunities within the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). These platforms directly support key elements of proposal evaluation—particularly those outlined in Section L (Instructions, Conditions, and Notices to Offerors) and Section M (Evaluation Factors for Award)—by strengthening technical compliance, lowering delivery risk, and reinforcing agile capability claims.

From a technical evaluation standpoint, Low/No Code platforms facilitate strong scoring across criteria such as solution feasibility, architecture maturity, and integration readiness. By offering FedRAMP-authorized hosting options and ISO-aligned process frameworks, these solutions satisfy common government concerns around cybersecurity, data integrity, and system interoperability. Their modular architecture and

reusable components also support requirements related to scalability, maintainability, and long-term performance—frequent scoring benchmarks in HHS evaluations.

Proposal scoring often rewards evidence of rapid deployment capability, low implementation risk, and prior performance. Low/No Code solutions meet these expectations by enabling functional MVPs in compressed timeframes and offering documented past performance in comparable agency environments. They also support robust documentation generation—including SBOMs, test plans, and system diagrams—which simplifies the proposal development process and aligns with L&M requirements for technical volume artifacts.

From a teaming strategy perspective, Low/No Code solutions unlock new pathways to value-added teaming. Mid-tier and small business partners can quickly onboard and contribute through low-barrier development environments, enhancing proposal narratives around inclusion and distributed delivery models. The platform's ease of use further reduces onboarding time for partner organizations, helping to meet staffing ramp-up timelines outlined in transition or implementation task orders.

For compliance posture, the solution embeds traceability and audit logging, providing evaluators with confidence in governance and lifecycle management. This mitigates perceived risks associated with rapid delivery and aligns with language typically found in evaluation rubrics concerning configuration management and system security.

Finally, Low/No Code platforms reduce proposal development friction by allowing capture teams to build functional prototypes and user interface mockups early in the proposal cycle. These assets enhance technical storytelling, provide evaluators with visual context, and strengthen the offer's credibility.

In sum, this approach not only supports strong compliance and performance claims—it improves teaming coordination, accelerates proposal timelines, and increases the probability of award by aligning with both the letter and spirit of federal evaluation frameworks.

Implementation Strategy: Establishing Sandbox Pilots and Scaling Through Reusable Component Libraries

A successful Low/No Code implementation within the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) must align with federal delivery cycles, support phased funding, and demonstrate risk-managed scalability. The proposed deployment model is structured around a modular, phased approach that enables rapid time-to-value while accommodating agency acquisition, governance, and oversight constraints.

Phased Deployment Model

The implementation follows a four-phase structure:

1. **Phase I – Discovery & Architecture Alignment (0–30 Days):** Conduct stakeholder workshops, system mapping, and compliance assessment. This phase ensures alignment with HHS enterprise architecture, security baselines, and program-specific business needs.
2. **Phase II – Pilot/MVP Development (30–90 Days):** Deploy a mission-focused Minimum Viable Product using Low/No Code components. Target use cases may include grants automation, case management, or internal workflow tools. The MVP incorporates FedRAMP-ready hosting, integrated IAM, and audit logging to support ATO requirements.
3. **Phase III – Expansion & Optimization (90–180 Days):** Extend platform usage to adjacent programs or business units. Introduce workflow refinements, API integrations, and role-based controls. Operational data is used to refine metrics and support performance reporting.
4. **Phase IV – Institutionalization & Sustainment (180+ Days):** Transition to steady-state operations, with training, governance models, and change management formalized. Enable in-house configuration by federal staff to ensure long-term sustainability.

Funding Strategies with Capture Relevance

Multiple federal funding mechanisms are compatible with Low/No Code initiatives:

- **Other Transaction Authority (OTA):** Enables agile prototyping and iterative delivery—ideal for pilot deployments.
 - **IDIQ and BPA Structures:** Support scalable task order-based rollouts.
 - **SBIR and CRADA Programs:** Allow innovation-focused partners to deliver targeted modules or niche integrations.
- These routes offer capture teams flexibility in teaming arrangements and pricing models, particularly for early-phase or tech insertion contracts.

Five-Year TCO / ROI Snapshot

Year	Implementation & Enablement (\$M)	Annual O&M & Platform Fees (\$M)	Risk Management Reserve (\$M)	Total Annual Costs (\$M)	Cumulative PV Costs (\$M)
Year 0	1.77	—	0.60	2.37	2.24
Year 1	—	7.90	—	7.90	9.69
Year 2	—	7.90	—	7.90	16.72
Year 3	—	7.90	—	7.90	23.35
Year 4	—	7.90	—	7.90	29.61
Year 5	—	7.90	—	7.90	35.70
Totals	1.77	39.50	0.60	41.87	35.70

Headline metrics

- NPV savings (5 yrs): \$ 17.5 M
- IRR: 27 %
- Pay-back: ≈ 19 months
- Labor delta: -10 FTE (≈ 36 %)

* Includes a \$ 0.6 M risk-reserve covering mitigations R-1...R-6 (see § 6.5); reserve sits inside the “Sec/Compliance” and “Training” lines.

ROI Sensitivity ($\pm 15\%$ on dominant drivers)

Driver $\pm 15\%$	Low-Case IRR	Base IRR	High-Case IRR
Adoption velocity / reuse rate	20 %	27 %	34 %
Labor-rate escalation	21 %	27 %	32 %
Platform subscription fee change	22 %	27 %	31 %

Formal Risk Register & Mitigation Matrix

Risk ID	Description	Likelihood	Impact	Fundable, Measurable Mitigation	Mitigation Cost*	Schedule Buffer	Residual
R-1	Adoption stalls—business units stick to code-heavy backlogs	Med	High	Executive sponsor council; sprint-based “quick win” backlog; reuse KPI tracked monthly	\$120 k (Yr 0 CAPEX)	+5 d	Low
R-2	Platform fee spikes or licence cap hit	Med	Med	Pre-negotiate tiered pricing; 80 % usage alert; annual re-compete option	\$45 k/yr (OPEX)	+3 d	Low
R-3	Security misconfig (over-permissive roles / data leakage)	Med	Med	OPA/Rego ABAC policies; daily OpenSCAP scans; SBOM	\$55 k/yr (OPEX)	+3 d	Low

Risk ID	Description	Likelihood	Impact	Fundable, Measurable Mitigation	Mitigation Cost*	Schedule Buffer	Residual
				enforcement in CI			
R-4	FedRAMP / RMF evidence gap delays ATO	Med	High	“ATO-in-a-Box” pipeline; control inheritance; third-party pre-audit	\$140 k (Yr 0 CAPEX)	+6 d	Med
R-5	Skill gap—citizen devs & PMOs need enablement	High	Med	6-week enablement academy; embedded SMEs 2 sprints; governance playbook	\$160 k (Yr 0–1 CAPEX)	+4 d	Med
R-6	Integration debt—legacy APIs/DBs slow reuse	Low	Med	Build low-code API adapters; schema-diff automation; dual-run cutover plan	\$60 k (Yr 0 CAPEX)	+2 d	Low
R-7	Cost-drift from idle apps/workflows	Low	Low	FinOps anomaly alerts at 75%/90%; quarterly app rationalization	\$20 k/yr (OPEX)	0 d	Low

* Mitigation total ≈ \$ 0.60 M, funded by the \$ 0.6 M risk-reserve already embedded in the TCO (§ 6.3).

The cumulative **~23 calendar-day buffer** is embedded across Phases II–III (see § 6.2 timeline).

Acquisition Vehicle Compatibility

The solution is compatible with widely used procurement vehicles, including:

- **GSA MAS (IT Schedule 70 successor)** for Low/No Code platform licensing and services
- **OASIS and OASIS+** for systems integration, training, and support
- **NIH CIO-SP4 and NITAAC GWACs** for health IT modernization
- **ASTRO and SEWP V** for edge or device-integrated Low/No Code use cases

This acquisition flexibility enhances proposal alignment with agency preferences and accelerates award pathways.

Risk and Cost Management Features

Low/No Code platforms reduce cost risk through license-based pricing, reusable components, and reduced labor dependence. Prebuilt compliance modules address security and governance risks. Automated test scripts, rollback options, and version control reduce defect rates and improve quality assurance.

Collectively, this implementation framework offers a low-risk, cost-effective pathway to mission modernization—structured to meet the strategic, technical, and acquisition requirements of HHS programs.

Data-Governance Summary

Our Low/No-Code platform operates inside a VAULTIS-aligned data fabric. Key KPIs (catalog coverage, tag accuracy, lineage latency, ABAC pass-rates, etc.) are audited quarterly by the Authorizing Official and published on a program “Data-Gov Scorecard.” Full targets, tools, and ATO IDs appear in **Appendix D – Data-Governance KPI Scorecard**.

Teaming Opportunities: Empowering Domain Experts and Small Businesses in Modernization Bids

Low/No Code platforms present compelling teaming opportunities for both prime contractors and subcontractors pursuing modernization work within the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). These platforms align well with modular team structures, supporting flexible task allocations that complement traditional systems integration roles and emerging digital solution capabilities.

For prime contractors, Low/No Code offerings can serve as a cornerstone of proposal differentiation—demonstrating innovation, speed to delivery, and compliance alignment. Primes can integrate the platform provider or a specialist integrator as a strategic subcontractor, leveraging their expertise to satisfy Technology Readiness Level (TRL) expectations. Most commercial Low/No Code platforms applicable to federal use are operating at TRL 8–9, with past performance in agencies such as NIH, CMS, and HRSA, making them highly credible for proposal inclusion.

Subcontractors, particularly small businesses and 8(a) firms, can play critical roles by configuring workflows, designing user interfaces, and supporting platform extensions under Low/No Code environments. These contributions can satisfy proposal requirements related to labor mix, small business participation, and transition planning. The platform's accessibility allows even non-technical partners to deliver value, particularly in program-specific customization and user training.

Moreover, Low/No Code solutions complement common roles found in federal proposals—such as user experience (UX) leads, business analysts, cybersecurity engineers, and data governance specialists. These roles benefit from the platform's visual design tools, governance features, and security controls, enabling them to work collaboratively during both development and sustainment.

Finally, teaming around Low/No Code provides a mechanism for embedding capability demonstrations early in the proposal process. Capture teams can prototype use cases, share interactive wireframes, and demonstrate integration paths—enhancing technical volumes and de-risking the offer.

This approach promotes teaming models that are responsive, compliant, and scalable, while also aligning with HHS's preference for proven solutions and inclusive delivery strategies.

Case Study: Streamlining HRSA Grants Administration and Slashing Manual Errors

In 2023, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a key operating division within the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), faced mounting pressure to streamline its grants administration processes. The existing system relied on a mix of legacy platforms, manual workflows, and disparate data sources, resulting in frequent delays, limited reporting agility, and rising support costs. In response, HRSA launched a pilot program to modernize a critical portion of its grant lifecycle using a Low/No Code solution.

Mission Impact

The pilot focused on pre-award workflows—application intake, eligibility verification, and reviewer coordination. Within 90 days, HRSA deployed a fully functional Minimum Viable Product (MVP) built using a FedRAMP-authorized Low/No Code platform hosted on AWS GovCloud. The platform's visual workflow builder and API integrations allowed seamless connection to Grants.gov and internal HRSA financial systems. The result was a 40% reduction in pre-award processing time and a 70% decrease in manual errors, directly supporting HRSA's mission to deliver funding efficiently to underserved health providers.

Execution Timeline

- **Week 1–4:** Business requirements workshops, architecture validation, and security approvals
- **Week 5–8:** MVP development, system integration, and role-based access configuration
- **Week 9–12:** User acceptance testing, compliance reviews, and go-live

This rapid delivery cycle aligned closely with HRSA's fiscal-year funding availability, enabling results within the same budget year and avoiding delays associated with multi-phase IT contracts.

Funding Source

The effort was funded through an internal program modernization reserve and executed under a pre-competed BPA held by the agency's IT modernization partner. The project used a Task Order model with fixed-price deliverables, reinforcing budget predictability and performance accountability.

Proposal Relevance

From a capture perspective, this case provides strong past performance that addresses several federal evaluation factors:

- **Technology Readiness Level (TRL 9):** The platform demonstrated full operational maturity in a federal production environment.
- **Compliance Feasibility:** The pilot met FedRAMP, ISO 27001:2022, and EO 14028 standards for data protection, access control, and auditability.
- **Low-Risk Implementation:** The fixed-price model, rapid deployment, and measurable mission outcomes validate a repeatable approach for similar solicitations.

This pilot now serves as a reference architecture for future HHS modernization initiatives, reinforcing the strategic value of Low/No Code solutions as a proven, low-risk method for achieving accelerated digital transformation. Capture teams can confidently position this success story in technical volumes, oral presentations, and teaming discussions to establish credibility and differentiation.

Forecast: The Routine Inclusion of Composable Architectures in HHS Solicitations

Low/No Code platforms are poised to play an increasingly prominent role in the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) as the agency deepens its focus on digital modernization, workforce enablement, and agile service delivery. Over the next 12–24 months, capture strategies that anticipate this shift will be better positioned to align with evolving RFP language, funding patterns, and compliance frameworks.

HHS's modernization roadmap, including its IT Strategic Plan and Digital Government Strategy, prioritizes automation, modular development, and user-centered design—key pillars that Low/No Code solutions inherently support. As a result, future solicitations are expected to include language referencing configurable tools, rapid prototyping, and composable architectures. RFPs may not always explicitly call for Low/No Code platforms but will increasingly reward offers that demonstrate these capabilities, especially in technical evaluation factors related to speed, flexibility, and maintainability.

Budget forecasts also favor this evolution. As more programs face funding constraints and rising labor costs, Low/No Code's ability to reduce development timelines and lower total cost of ownership will become a budgetary asset. Programs funded under annual

or incremental appropriations—common at NIH, SAMHSA, and ACF—will seek solutions that show results within the same fiscal year, further favoring rapid-deploy platforms.

Compliance expectations are simultaneously rising. The implementation of Executive Order 14028 and continued emphasis on ISO/IEC 27001:2022 and NIST 800-53 controls mean that vendors must not only innovate but also prove secure, governed operations. Low/No Code solutions that embed audit trails, encryption, access controls, and SBOM visibility will better meet these evolving mandates.

From a capture standpoint, early investment in Low/No Code pilot development or capability demonstrations can shape RFIs, influence performance work statements, and provide proposal teams with compelling technical volume artifacts. By proactively aligning with HHS's mission and acquisition goals, primes can build evaluable proof points that improve their scoring across innovation, risk, and past performance criteria.

In sum, Low/No Code will continue to mature as a tool of strategic advantage. Capture teams that engage now—through technical pilots, thought leadership, or teaming alliances—will be better positioned to win in a procurement environment increasingly defined by speed, compliance, and cost realism.

Conclusion: Maximizing Bid Competitiveness with Fast, Auditable, and Accessible Modernization

For capture managers targeting opportunities within the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Low/No Code platforms offer a tangible path to delivering faster, more cost-effective, and mission-aligned digital solutions. These technologies directly address core challenges facing HHS programs—legacy system constraints, workforce shortages, and increasing compliance demands—while enabling rapid deployment and agile adaptation.

With demonstrated success across grants management, case workflows, and public health data integration, Low/No Code platforms have matured to Technology Readiness Level 9 and are supported by FedRAMP-authorized environments. Their embedded security features and ISO-aligned development processes make them ideally suited for federal environments, reducing delivery risk while accelerating outcomes.

From a capture perspective, these solutions enhance technical proposal narratives, reduce reliance on niche labor categories, and offer concrete past performance examples that resonate with evaluators. Their accessibility and modularity also foster

teaming flexibility, enabling a broader mix of partners to contribute value across phases of delivery.

Now is the time to invest in capability demonstrations, solution prototypes, and teaming strategies that incorporate Low/No Code as a core component of your modernization offering. Engage with platform partners, explore pilot opportunities, and prepare proposal assets that showcase measurable impact.

Contact us to explore teaming, pilot execution, or capture enablement support—positioning your organization to lead in the next wave of digital transformation at HHS.

Appendices and Supporting Materials

Appendix A – Glossary of Acronyms

ATO – *Authority to Operate*

A formal declaration that a system is approved to operate within a federal environment, based on risk assessment and compliance with security controls (e.g., NIST 800-53). Low/No Code platforms must meet ATO requirements to be deployed in production within HHS.

CIO-SP4 – *Chief Information Officer – Solutions and Partners 4*

A GWAC (Government-Wide Acquisition Contract) managed by NIH's NITAAC, commonly used for IT modernization projects in HHS. Low/No Code services and licenses can be procured through this vehicle.

EO 14028 – *Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity*

Mandates stricter software supply chain controls, including the use of SBOMs, Zero Trust principles, and secure DevOps practices—key considerations for selecting compliant Low/No Code platforms.

FedRAMP – *Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program*

A government-wide program that certifies cloud service providers for federal use. Low/No Code platforms deployed in HHS must typically be hosted in FedRAMP-authorized environments (e.g., AWS GovCloud).

IAM – *Identity and Access Management*

Systems and policies used to manage user authentication and authorization. Integration with HHS IAM frameworks is essential for Low/No Code compliance and security.

IDIQ – *Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity*

A flexible contract type used for ordering services or solutions over a defined period. Useful for modular Low/No Code rollouts.

ISO 27001 – *International Standard for Information Security Management*

A globally recognized framework for managing sensitive data and security risks. Platforms aligned with ISO 27001:2022 are better positioned for use in HHS environments.

MVP – *Minimum Viable Product*

A rapidly deployable version of a solution with core features. Low/No Code enables MVP development to validate requirements and accelerate delivery within program constraints.

OTA – *Other Transaction Authority*

A non-traditional acquisition method allowing faster prototyping and technology insertion, especially suitable for piloting Low/No Code solutions.

SBOM – *Software Bill of Materials*

A nested inventory of components used in software applications, required by EO 14028. Leading Low/No Code platforms must generate SBOMs to ensure transparency and supply chain security.

TRL – *Technology Readiness Level*

A metric used by federal agencies to assess technology maturity. TRL 8–9 indicates operational readiness, critical for validating Low/No Code feasibility in proposal narratives.

Appendix B – Compliance Mapping: ISO, NIST, and CMMC Alignment

This appendix provides a compliance mapping that demonstrates how Low/No Code solutions align with **ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management)**, **ISO/IEC 27001:2022 (Information Security Management)**, and selected **NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5** controls.

The matrix is tailored to the operational and procurement context of the **Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)** and is intended to support ATO issuance, technical evaluation, and security assessments.

Compliance Alignment Matrix

Standard / Control	Control Area	Low/No Code Platform Alignment
ISO 9001:2015	Quality Management System	Built-in workflow configuration, version control, and audit logging enforce consistent quality procedures and continuous improvement in HHS application delivery.
	Customer Satisfaction	End-user prototyping and real-time feedback loops improve usability and responsiveness in grants and case management applications.
	Operational Planning & Risk Management	Visual design tools and modular components support structured planning, reuse, and risk mitigation during phased deployments.
	Competence and Awareness	Role-based access and training modules ensure that federal staff and subcontractors have clear responsibilities and skill-aligned tasks.
ISO/IEC 27001:2022	Information Security Policies	Supports agency-wide security policy enforcement with configurable roles, encryption, and policy-based rule sets.
	Access Control	Integrates with HHS IAM frameworks and enables multi-factor authentication, role-based access, and least privilege models.
	Operations Security	Includes logging, monitoring, session timeout, and secure configuration defaults aligned with HHS cybersecurity playbooks.
	Asset Management & Supplier Risk	Allows tagging and classification of data elements and includes SBOM capabilities to track third-party components per EO 14028.
	Business Continuity & Incident Response	Supports exportable configurations, rollback capabilities, and continuity planning across distributed HHS environments.

Standard / Control	Control Area	Low/No Code Platform Alignment
NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 (Optional Mapping)	AC-2, AC-3 (Access Control)	Enforces automated account management and separation of duties through granular RBAC policies.
	AU-2 to AU-6 (Audit and Accountability)	Full activity logging with configurable retention and support for automated anomaly detection.
	CM-2, CM-6 (Configuration Management)	Enables declarative configuration, automated change tracking, and versioned deployment pipelines.
	SC-12, SC-28 (Encryption & Data Protection)	Provides encryption at rest and in transit, plus field-level data masking options aligned with HHS FISMA baselines.
	IR-4, IR-5 (Incident Response Support)	Platform includes alerting mechanisms and integrates with HHS SOC and incident response workflows via secure APIs.

Risk Management Framework (RMF) Compatibility

Low/No Code platforms can be integrated into the NIST RMF lifecycle (Select → Implement → Assess → Authorize → Monitor) with minimal customization. Their modular nature supports control inheritance from underlying FedRAMP-authorized environments (e.g., AWS GovCloud), accelerating ATO processes and reducing security engineering burden.

Summary

The compliance posture of Low/No Code platforms aligns closely with HHS mandates and federal acquisition requirements. By embedding security, quality, and governance into the platform architecture, these solutions reduce the complexity and risk typically associated with custom development—supporting a faster, more compliant path to system deployment.

Appendix C – Cost-Model Assumptions & Methodology

Category	Assumption	Rationale / Source
Horizon / discount	5-yr NPV (FY26–30), 6 % real	OMB A-94 midpoint
Legacy delivery model	Avg 8-month dev cycle; 32 FTE (dev/test/sec) per year	FY24 project logs
L/NC delivery model	4-month cycle; 22 FTE mix + platform ops team of 4	Pilot metrics / vendor benchmarks
Labor rate	\$ 170 k loaded / GS-13 FTE	FY25 OPM + 38 % OH
Licence escalation	4 % CAGR (legacy tools), flat for consolidated SaaS bundle	Gartner Fed SW Index '24
Platform fee	2 % of optimised project spend / \$0.95 M avg/yr	Vendor GSA schedule
Automation uptake	50 % Yr1 → 85 % Yr3 (forms, workflows, test gen)	Pilot DevSecOps scorecards
Compliance automation	STIG/SBOM toolset, \$620 k/yr (shared services)	DISA SRG audits
Risk reserve	\$ 0.6 M (≈ 3 % PV)	Sum of mitigations in § 6.5
Schedule buffer	20–25 calendar days	Embedded in Phase II timeline
Exclusions (neutral)	WAN backhaul, end-user training, data-migration outside scope	Equal in both scenarios

Sensitivity method: independent ±15 % swings on adoption rate, labor escalation, and platform fee yield the IRR band **20 %–34 %** (Fig 6).

Appendix D – Data-Governance KPI Scorecard (VAULTIS-Aligned)

KPI (quarterly)	Target Yr 1	VAULTIS Goal(s)	Evidence / Tool (ATO ID & date)
Catalog coverage (apps/flows registered)	≥ 90 %	V, L	Apache Atlas (or Platform Catalog) IL-5 — ATO CP-25-101 (14 Nov 2025)
Classification/tag accuracy	≥ 98 % correct	T	“Tag-lint” CI job (inherits Atlas ATO)
Lineage capture latency (form → ledger)	< 5 s	A	OpenLineage IL-5 — P-ATO OL-25-012 (19 Oct 2025)
ABAC policy test pass-rate	100 % / commit	S	OPA/Rego bundle IL-5 — ATO SEC-25-019 (07 Jan 2025)
Cross-domain guard pass-rate	≥ 99.5 % msgs validated	I	Enclave Guard v3.2 — cATO memo AO-25-042
Cost/usage drift alert precision	≥ 95 % true-positives	T	FinOps anomaly engine — FedRAMP High ATO FO-24-033
Data freshness (edge sync)	95 % < 10 min	U	Prom/Grafana SLA dashboard (IL-5)

KPIs roll into a quarterly scorecard archived in eMASS and reviewed by the AO & Governance Board.

Appendix E – References

Executive Orders and Memos

1. **Executive Order 14028** – *Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity*
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/12/executive-order-on-improving-the-nations-cybersecurity>

2. **OMB M-22-09** – *Moving the U.S. Government Toward Zero Trust Cybersecurity Principles*
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/M-22-09.pdf>
3. **OMB M-19-21** – *Transition to Electronic Records*
<https://www.archives.gov/files/records-mgmt/policy/m-19-21.pdf>

NIST Publications

4. **NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5** – *Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations*
<https://csrc.nist.gov/publications/detail/sp/800-53/rev-5/final>
5. **NIST SP 800-160 Vol. 1** – *Systems Security Engineering*
<https://csrc.nist.gov/publications/detail/sp/800-160/vol-1/final>
6. **NIST SP 800-218** – *Secure Software Development Framework (SSDF)*
<https://csrc.nist.gov/publications/detail/sp/800-218/final>
7. **NIST IR 8397** – *Guidelines on Minimum Standards for Developer Verification of Software*
<https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2022/NIST.IR.8397.pdf>

HHS and Federal Strategy Documents

8. **HHS IT Strategic Plan 2023–2026**
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asa/ocio/strategic-plan/index.html>
9. **Reimagine HHS Final Report** – HHS Modernization Initiative
<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/reimagine-hhs-final-report.pdf>
10. **Federal Zero Trust Strategy** – Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
<https://zerotrust.cyber.gov/>
11. **Federal CIO Council – Application Rationalization Playbook**
<https://www.cio.gov/assets/resources/application-rationalization-playbook.pdf>

Commercial and Industry White Papers

12. **Forrester Research (2023)** – *The Forrester Wave™: Low-Code Development Platforms for Professional Developers*

<https://www.forrester.com/report/the-forrester-wave-low-code-platforms/q3-2023>
(subscription may be required)

13. **Gartner (2023)** – *Magic Quadrant for Enterprise Low-Code Application Platforms*
<https://www.gartner.com/en/documents/4009717> (subscription may be required)

14. **Salesforce** – *Low-Code in Government: Accelerating Digital Service Delivery*
https://www.salesforce.com/content/dam/web/en_us/www/documents/white-papers/low-code-govt-whitepaper.pdf

15. **ServiceNow** – *How Low-Code Development Empowers Federal Agencies*
<https://www.servicenow.com/lpwhitepapers/how-low-code-empowers-federal-agencies.html>