

RFP TITLE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH PREPARATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS, PROGRAM MANAGEMENT FOR HUD CDBG, CDBG-DR, CDBG-MIT, EDA, GLO AND OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDING STREAMS
RFP # 191201

Q & A BATCH 2

- 1) This RFP was preceded by an RFQ for essentially the same type of services. Is this a 2-step procurement process wherein only firms qualified through the initial RFQ process are asked to respond to an RFP? Or can any firm participate in the current RFP solicitation? regardless of participation in the previous RFQ?

Answer: Although the RFQ and RFQ are similar, they will be looked at independently. Both processes could have multiple awards depending on the plan, mapping or project that we match to the results of the RFP or RFQ. The two processes are independent and the same company can submit applications for one or the other or both.

- 2) Is Cameron County looking to become an Urban County under this process as well and thereby attaining entitlement community status?

Answer: The only way that Cameron County will become an Urban County is through participation from an entitlement city, Brownsville, Harlingen, or San Benito. The non-entitlement population of the county was approximately 155,000. We needed Harlingen or Brownsville to partner with us. So far, no takers.

- 3) The solicitation calls for both general administrative functions and specific engineering work to be performed. Does this mean that all engineering costs from pre-design, cost estimates and related work can be classified as pre-award costs then actual engineering design and construction oversight functions will be drawn against post award costs? Or will the county solicit separate engineering services for final design of mitigation projects?

Answer: It depends on the capabilities of the firm chosen.

- 4) The solicitation calls for the development of a Drainage Plan. Will the County be selecting one (1) firm to do the county-wide plan then share that plan with other selected grant consultants to develop the appropriate mitigation activity in response to the plan?

Answer: It is a possibility that multiple awards will be made matching the capabilities with the intended task.

- 5) If all engineering work is to be included as part of the grant writing firms work product, will engineering costs be considered direct project costs, expensed to the project activity budget (as is allowable under CDBG regulations) or will those costs be considered part of the administrative costs allowed to the professional grant firm?

Answer: This all depends on the regulations of the grant funding solicited. We are engaging in a process that should make either approach a possibility. The primary goal is to develop projects, develop BCA's, and be able to qualify for funding to address the flooding, watershed, water management and other related issues.