



CAMERON COUNTY
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

To: Interest RFP Grant Writer Consultants
From: Mark A. Yates, Director
Date: July 20, 2018
Subject: **RFQ Grant Writing Services**

Attached is a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) newspaper advertisement and the RFQ application package for Grant Writing Services. The County of Cameron is requesting qualifications (RFQs) from service providers for the identification of grants and preparation of grant application at no cost to the county. Upon award of grant and the subsequent grant contract is signed by both the county and funding agency, the county will enter into a contract management agreement not to exceed 15% of the grant(s) with the grant writing agency. RFQs must be received in the Cameron County Purchasing Department no later than August 7, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. (as per Purchasing Department time clock). RFRs must be addressed and sent to the Cameron County Purchasing Department at the Cameron County Courthouse, 1100 East Monroe Street, Suite 345, Brownsville, Texas 78520. RFQs will be opened in the Purchasing Department, 3rd Floor County Courthouse, Suite 345, at 11:01 a.m. on the deadline date.

We have sent this notice to you because your name or organization is listed in the Texas Department of Agriculture list of CDBG certified administrators. If the notice does not apply to you or your organization, please feel free to pass it along to anyone that might be interested. Also, if you do not wish to be on our mailing list, please advise.

If you have any questions, please call Raul Garcia at 550-1354 or me at (956) 544-0828.

Attachments

P.O. Box 3846
Brownsville, Texas 78520

1100 E. Monroe Street, Suite 105
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Phone: (956) 544-0828
Fax: (956) 544-0891
www.co.cameron.tx.us



**CAMERON COUNTY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION TO RFQ**

RFQ NUMBER # 180701

RFQ TITLE: REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES

DATE DUE: AUGUST 7, 2018

DUE NO LATER THAN 11:00 A.M.

RFQ's will be opened at the Cameron County Courthouse, 1100 East Monroe Street, Brownsville, Texas in the Purchasing Department – 3rd Floor – Room # 345 at 11:01 a.m. (as per Purchasing Dept. time clock) on deadline due date.

RFQ's received later than the date and time above will not be considered.

Please return RFQ **ORIGINAL AND SEVEN (7) COPIES** in sealed envelope. Be sure that return envelope shows the RFQ Number, Description and is marked "SEALED RFQ".

RETURN RFQ TO:

by U.S. mail or delivered to the office of Purchasing Dept., **County Courthouse (Dancy Bldg.)**
1100 E. Monroe St, 3rd Floor, Room 345, Brownsville, Texas 78520

For additional information or to request addendum contact: Mike Forbes or Beverly Findley at (956) 544-0871,
E-mail: mforbes@co.cameron.tx.us or purchasing@cameroncounty.com.

You must sign below in INK; failure to sign WILL disqualify the offer. All prices must be typewritten or written in ink.

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Historically Underutilized Business (State of Texas) Certification VID Number: _____

Telephone No. _____ Fax No. _____ e- mail _____

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

How did you find out about this RFQ? _____ (ex: Newspaper, Web, Mail)

Is Respondent's principal place of Business within Cameron County? Yes - No

(Your signature attests to your offer to provide the goods and/or services in this RFQ according to the published provision of this RFQ. When an award letter is issued, this RFQ becomes the contract. If a RFQ required specific Contract is to be utilized in addition to this RFQ, this signed RFQ will become part of that contract. When an additional Contract is required a RFQ award does not constitute a contract award and RFQ / Contract is not valid until contract is awarded by Commissioners Court (when applicable) signed by County Judge) and Purchase Order is issued.

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CHECK LIST

Offerors are asked to review the package to be sure that all applicable parts are included. If any portion of the package is missing, notify the Purchasing Department immediately. It is the Offeror's responsibility to be familiar with all the Requirements and Specifications. Be sure you understand the following before you return your RFQ packet.

- Cover Sheet**
Your company name, address and your signature (**IN INK**) should appear on this page.
- Instructions to Respondents**
You should be familiar with all of the Instructions to Respondents.
- Special Requirements**
This section provides information you must know in order to make an offer properly.
- Specifications / Scope of Work**
This section contains the detailed description of the product/service sought by the County.

Attachments

- Attachments A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I**
Be sure to complete these forms and return with packet.

Other - Final Reminders To double check before submitting RFQ

- Is your RFQ sealed with RFQ #, title, Respondent Name, & return address, on outside?
- Did you complete, sign and submit page 1?
- Did you provide the number of copies as required on the cover page?
- Did you visit our website for any addendums?

[http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp\(q\)_and_addms_and_tabs.php](http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp(q)_and_addms_and_tabs.php)

If not interested in responding please let us know why e-mail to: Purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING RFQs

These General Instructions apply to all offers made to Cameron County, Texas (herein after referred to as "County") by all prospective vendors (herein after referred to as "Respondent") on behalf of Solicitations including, but not limited to, Invitations to RFQ.

Carefully read all instructions, requirements and specifications. Fill out all forms properly and completely. Submit your RFQ with all appropriate supplements and/or samples. Prior to returning your sealed RFQ response / submittal, all Addendums - if issued - should be reviewed and downloaded by entering the County Purchasing web

[http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp\(q\)_and_addms_and_tabs.php](http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp(q)_and_addms_and_tabs.php) Addendums Column (updated Addendums). These Addendums must be signed and returned with your RFQ in order to avoid disqualification. All Tabulations can also be viewed and downloaded at this site. Annual RFQ award information can be accessed at:

[http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp\(q\)_and_addms_and_tabs.php](http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp(q)_and_addms_and_tabs.php) Review this document in its entirety. Be sure your RFQ is complete, and double check your RFQ for accuracy.

Cameron County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Review this document in its entirety. Be sure your RFQ is complete, and double check your RFQ for accuracy.

GOVERNING FORMS: In the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of these requirements and the specifications, the specifications shall govern. In the event of any conflict of interpretation of any part of this overall document, Cameron County's interpretation shall govern. Where substitutions are used, they must be of equivalent value or service, and specified by the Respondent as such, in the columns to the right on the "Minimum Specifications' Forms". The County's specifications may be exceeded and should be noted by the Vendor as such. Any RFQ NOT MEETING the Minimum Requirements specified will be rejected.

GOVERNING LAW: *This invitation to RFQ is governed by the competitive proposing requirements of the County Purchasing Act, Texas Local Government Code, §262.021 et seq., as amended. Offerors shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Offeror is further advised that these requirements shall be fully governed by the laws of the State of Texas and that Cameron County may request and rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of Texas and the County Attorney concerning any portion of these requirements.*

Questions requiring only clarification of instructions or specifications will be handled verbally. If any questions results in a change or addition to this RFQ, the Change(s) and addition(s) will be forwarded to all vendors involved (as quickly as possible) in the form of a written addendum only. Verbal changes to RFQ's must be backed-up by written addendum or written Q/A clarifications which would be posted on County Purchasing Web site. Without written Addendum or written Q / A clarification, verbal changes to RFQ will not apply.

Sign the Vendor's Affidavit Notice, complete answers to Attachments A,B, C, D, E , F , G, H, I and return all with your RFQ.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE:

For vendor or other person doing business with local governmental entity

This questionnaire must be filed in accordance with chapter 176 of the Local Government Code by a person doing business with the governmental entity.

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator (County Clerk's Office) of the local government not later than the 7th business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006, Local Government Code.

A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than September 1 of the year for which an activity described in Section 176.006(a), Local Government Code, is pending and not later than the 7th business day after the date the originally filed questionnaire becomes incomplete or inaccurate.

Please review this entire document, if for any reason there is any information to disclose, relative to any questions in this Conflict of Interest form, you must file with County Clerk's Office subject to above instructions.

can be downloaded at the following web site:

<http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/purchasing/docs/conflictinterest.pdf>

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

This questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator (County Clerk's Office) of the local government and no later than the 7th business day after the person becomes aware of facts that require this statement to be filed. Cameron County, Texas requires all persons or firms seeking to do business with the County to **provide the following information if the person becomes aware of facts that require this statement to be filed.** Every question must be answered. If the question is not applicable, answer with "N/A."

Please review this entire document, if for any reason there is any information to disclose, relative to any questions in this disclosure of interest form, you must file with County Clerk's Office subject to above instructions.

can be downloaded at the following web site:

<http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/purchasing/docs/DisclosureofInterest.pdf>

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION FORM 1295

All RFQs prior to award or award of Contract by Commissioner's Court will require that the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) Form 1295 Electronic (on line) Vendor filing procedure be completed by Vendor.

All Vendors being recommended to Commissioners Court for award or renewal of award on Agenda must register and obtain a TEC Certification for the specific award. This Certification Form 1295 must be electronically submitted, printed and notarized. Notarized form must be emailed or delivered to County Purchasing Department making the request for form. This process must be completed prior to Commissioners Court Agenda for approval consideration of RFQ award. There is no charge for this TEC online process.

Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) Form 1295 must be completed (by firm - on line "New Form 1295 Certificate of Interested Parties Electronic Filing Application" Site

at: https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm)

If any Vendors have questions as to TEC Form 1295 visit the County Purchasing Web site left column tab "Vendor – TEC Form 1295" for more information. TEC Web site links can be found at this location including Question / Answers and Video instructions.

tab Link: http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/index.php

RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT RFQ ON THE FORM PROVIDED, SIGN THE VENDOR AFFIDAVIT, AND RETURN ENTIRE RFQ PACKET. In the event of inclement weather and County Offices are officially closed on a RFQ deadline day, RFQ's will be received until 2:00 p.m. of the next business day. RFQs will be opened at the Cameron County Courthouse, 1100 East Monroe Street, Brownsville, Texas in the Purchasing Department – 3rd Floor – Room # 345 (as per Purchasing Dept. time clock).

RFQ'S SUBMITTED AFTER THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE SHALL BE RETURNED UNOPENED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED VOID AND UNACCEPTABLE.

RESPONDENTS MAY ATTEND PUBLICLY HELD COMM COURT MEETING FOR AWARD OF THIS SOLICITATION. All responding bidders/ s are welcome to attend the publicly held Commissioners Court meeting relative to the outcome / award of this solicitation. Court Meeting agenda date and times may be obtained at the following web site: <http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/judge/agenda.htm>

SUCCESSFUL RESPONDENT WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL. All responding vendors will receive written notification regarding the outcome of the award.

OPEN RECORDS ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION SUBMITTED. All information included will be open to the public, other Respondents, media as per the Open Records Act and not be confidential in nature. If you deem any information as confidential, it should not be made part of your RFQ package.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY

THIS IS THE ONLY APPROVED INSTRUCTION FOR USE ON YOUR RFQ. ITEMS BELOW APPLY TO AND BECOME A PART OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RFQ. ANY EXCEPTIONS THERETO MUST BE IN WRITING.

1. **ORIGINAL AND SEVEN (7) COPIES OF RFQ's MUST BE SUBMITTED** Each RFQ shall be placed in a separate envelope completely and properly identified with the name and number of the RFQ. RFQ's must be in the Purchasing Department **BEFORE** the hour and date specified.
2. Each RFQ shall be placed in a separate envelope completely and properly identified with the name and number of the RFQ. RFQs must be in the Purchasing Department **BEFORE** the hour and date specified.
3. RFQs **MUST** give full firm name and address of the Respondent. Failure to manually sign RFQ will disqualify it. Person signing RFQ should show **TITLE** or **AUTHORITY TO BIND THE FIRM IN A CONTRACT**.
4. RFQs **CANNOT** be altered or amended after deadline time. Any alterations made before deadline time must be initiated by Respondent or his authorized agent. No RFQ can be withdrawn after opening time without approval by the Commissioners Court based on a written acceptable reason.
5. Written and verbal inquires pertaining to RFQs must give RFQ Number and Company.
6. **NO** substitutions, changes or cancellations permitted without written approval of Purchasing Agent.
7. The County reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of any RFQ, waiver minor technicalities. The County of Cameron reserves the right to award by item category or by total RFQ. Prices should be itemized. Cameron County retains the option to re-RFQ at any time if in its best interest and is not automatically bound to renewal or re-RFQ. The County reserves the right to add additional County Departments (at a later time during this RFQ award) as the need arises.

8. The County reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of any RFQ, waiver minor technicalities. The County of Cameron reserves the right to award by item category or by total RFQ. Prices should be itemized. County also reserves the right to award either with or without trade-in, if applicable. Cameron County retains the option to re-solicit at any time if in its best interest and is not automatically bound to renewal or re-solicitation. The County reserves the right to hold all RFQs for 60 days from the due date of receipt without actions. The County reserves the right to add additional County Departments (at a later time during this RFQ award) as the need arises. The County also reserves the right to consider utilizing CO-OP Interlocal Agreements / pricing if determined to be more advantageous to the County.
9. This is a RFQ inquiry only and implies no obligation on the part of Cameron County. The County reserve the right to accept or reject any or all RFQs received. Incomplete RFQs will be considered at the County's sole discretion.
10. Partial RFQs will not be accepted unless awarded by complete category or line item.
11. It is expected that the respondent will meet all state and federal safety standards and laws in effect on the date of the RFQ for the item(s) being specified, and the particular use for which they are meant.
12. It is the responsibility of the respondent to ask any and all questions the respondent feels to be pertinent to the RFQ. Cameron County shall not be required to attempt to anticipate such questions for respondents. Cameron County will endeavor to respond promptly to all questions asked.
13. RFQ SUBMISSION: RFQs must be in correct format and complete. Respondents are expected to address all items in as much detail as necessary for Cameron County representatives to make a fair evaluation of the Respondent and the RFQ.
14. The contract will be awarded to the most qualified RFQ. An Evaluation Committee will review all completed RFQs.
15. The County reserve the right to reject any and all RFQs and to waive any irregularities. All expenses incurred by the respondent in preparing its response to this RFQ and in seeking award of this contract shall be borne solely by the respondent.
16. The County does not guarantee that a contract (or contracts) will be awarded as a result of the RFQ. In the event that a contract award is made, but the contract is not executed, the County does not guarantee that the contract will be re-awarded. Cameron County staff will review all RFQs for compliance and thoroughness. The RFQs found to be in compliance will then be distributed to the members of a Selection Committee.
17. REIMBURSEMENTS: There is no express or implied obligation for the County to reimburse responding firms for any expenses incurred in preparing RFQs in response to this Request for RFQ. The County will not reimburse responding firms for these expenses, nor will the County pay any subsequent costs associated with the provision of any additional information or presentation, or to procure a contract for these services.
18. MANAGEMENT: Should there be a change in ownership or management; the contract shall be cancelled unless a mutual agreement is reached with the new County or manager to continue the contract with its present provisions and prices. This contract is nontransferable by contract vendor.
19. NEGOTIATIONS: Negotiations may be conducted with responsible offeror(s) who submit RFQs that are reasonably susceptible of being selected. All firm(s) reasonably susceptible of being selected based on criteria set forth in this RFQ may be given an opportunity to make a presentation and/or interview with the Selection Committee. Following any presentation and/or interviews, firms will be ranked

in order of preference and contract negotiations will begin with the top ranked firm. Should negotiations with the highest ranked firm fail to yield a contract, or if the firm is unable to execute said contract, negotiations will be formally ended and then commence with the second highest ranked firm, etc. However, the County may in their sole discretion, award a contract without interviews, based solely on information supplied in the RFQ responses.

20. This RFQ does not commit County or their representatives to enter into a contract or award any services related to this RFQ, nor does it obligate County or their representatives to pay any costs incurred in preparation or submission of a RFQ or in anticipation of a contract.
21. **CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS:** This request for RFQ, response and associated documentation, any negotiations and final contract, when properly accepted by Cameron County, shall constitute a contract equally binding between the respondent and Cameron County.

INVOICES AND PAYMENTS: (a) Vendor shall submit separate invoices, in duplicate, on each purchase order after each delivery. Invoices shall indicate the purchase order number, shall be itemized and transportation charges, if any, shall be listed separately. A copy of the bill of lading and the freight weigh bill when applicable, should be attached to the invoice. Mail to: Cameron County, ATTN: Auditor's Office, 1100 East Monroe St., Brownsville, Texas 78520. Payment shall not be due until the above instruments are submitted after delivery. Our Vendors must keep the Auditor advised of any changes in your remittance addresses. (b) County's only obligation to pay Vendor is to pay from funds budgeted and available for the purpose of the purchase. Lack of funds shall render this contract null and void to the extent funds are not available and any delivered ~~buy~~ but unpaid for goods will be returned to Vendor by the County. (c) Do not include Federal Excise, State or City Sales Tax. County shall furnish tax exemption certificate if required.

Any invoice, which cannot be verified by the contract price and/or is otherwise incorrect, will be returned to the Vendor for correction. Under term contracts, when multiple deliveries and/or services are required, the Vendor may invoice following each delivery and the County will pay on invoice. Contracts providing for a monthly charge will be billed and paid on a monthly basis only. Prior to any and all payments made for good and/or services provided under this contract, the Vendor should provide his Taxpayer Identification Number or social security number as applicable. This information must be on file with the Cameron County Auditor's office. Failure to provide this information may result in a delay in payment and/or back-up withholding as required by the Internal Revenue Services.

Vendor shall submit two (2) copies of an itemized invoice showing RFQ number and purchase order number to:

**CAMERON COUNTY AUDITOR
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
1100 EAST MONROE ST.,
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520**

Please note that any payment due under this RFQ award will be applied towards any debt, including but not limited to delinquent taxes that is owed to Cameron County.

PAYMENT DISCOUNT: Indicate the payment discount (s) available depending on the when invoices are paid. For example, 1/30 means a 1% discount if paid within 30 days, 2/15 means a 2% discount if paid within 15 days, etc. Payment in full will be made within thirty (30) days of delivery, inspection, and receipt of invoice.

All costs quotations must include all the various features needed to satisfy the requirements. Note: No amounts will be paid for the items in this RFQ in excess of the amounts quoted.

I. INVITATION TO RFQ

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS RFQ INVITATION # 180701

The County of Cameron is requesting (RFQs) from service providers for the identification of grants and preparation of grant application at no cost to the county. Upon award of grant and the subsequent grant contract is signed by both the county and funding agency, the county will enter into a contract management agreement not to exceed 15% of the grant(s) with the grant writing agency. RFQs must be received in the Cameron County Purchasing Department no later than August 7, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. (as per Purchasing Department time clock). RFRs must be addressed and sent to the Cameron County Purchasing Department at the Cameron County Courthouse, 1100 East Monroe Street, Suite 345, Brownsville, Texas 78520. RFQs will be opened in the Purchasing Department, 3rd Floor County Courthouse, Suite 345, at 11:01 a.m. on the deadline date.

Cameron County is interested in entering into an agreement with an individual or firm who is currently Texas Department of Agriculture certified administrator of Texas Community Development Block Grants, must show evidence of prior experience in the administration, reporting, and compliance of Texas Community Block Grant programs and other federal and state grant programs. The selected individual or firm will be responsible for providing all applicable and required compliance and reporting management, engineering and/or architectural services including the project design and specifications, and conduct all required inspections and close-out of the prescribed construction activities. The county will be responsible for all procurements resulting from the grant award.

RFQ submissions must include one (1) original and seven (7) copies of the RFQ. RFQs must be titled / referenced " Attn: Purchasing Dept. Sealed RFQ # 180701" Grant Writing Services".

A complete copy of the RFQ may be obtained from Beverly Findley at (956) 544-0871 of the County Purchasing Department or the County website at <http://www.purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us>. Questions regarding the RFQ proposed project and funding should be submitted in writing to Raul Garcia via email at rgarcia@co.cameron.tx.us or delivered in person. Questions regarding the RFQ County's procurement requirements may be directed to the County's Purchasing Department. All contractors/subcontractors, that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

Cameron County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and expressly reserves the right to negotiate with any respondent, extend the RFQ deadline, reject any or all RFQs, and waive any informalities.

II. RFQ TIMELINE*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
July 10, 2018	CC Authorizes RFQ for grant writing services, Establish RFQ Evaluation Criteria, Establish RFQ Selection Review Committee, and Authorizes RFQ newspaper publication
July 20, 2018	RFQs Released by Direct Mail
July 20, 2018	Newspaper Publishes RFQ Notice
August 7, 2018	RFQs Opened
August 7, 2018	RFQ's sent to Review Committee
August 10, 2018	Committee Evaluates Proposals
August 21, 2018	CC Selects Proposal
August 21, 2018	Notice of Award Issued
September 4, 2018	CC Approvals Professional Service Agreement
September 7, 2018	County Coordination Meeting with Grant Writer(s)

***Timeline is subject to change.**

III. Background of County Grant Writing Needs:

The County of Cameron is seeking professional services to assist the county in researching and identifying potential grant opportunities and to provide grant management services associated the grant funded project(s). The County of Cameron recognizes that due to shortage grant writing personnel, the county is not taking advantage of thousands of grant opportunities available to county governments for a large array of public services, such for street lighting, veteran, parks, economic development, community development, housing, health care, drainage improvements and other capital infrastructure projects, etc.

IV. RFQ Purpose Statement:

The County of Cameron is seeking RFQs from qualified consultants for the purpose of researching grants and preparation of the grant applications at no cost to the county. Upon grant award and issuance of the grant contract from the funding agency, the consultant is expected to enter into a contract management agreement with Cameron County at which point the consultant will be reimbursed up to 15% of the grant funds for the management of the project.

V. Duration of Grant Writing Service Contract:

One calendar year from professional services contract approval with option for contract renewal for another 12 months, if it is in the best interest of the county.

VI. Scope of Services:

Application Preparation Services

- Research and identification of grants;
- Preparing the grant applications;
- Coordinate with respective county departments in preparing grant applications;
- Provide general advice and technical assistance in preparing the application in conformance with TxCDBG or other grant funding agency program requirements;
- Prepare beneficiary documentation in conformance with TxCDBG program requirements; and
- Ensure the completed application is submitted to grant agency on or before the application deadline.
- Other:

Basic Contract Implementation Services

- Provide general advice and technical assistance on regulatory matters and implementing project activities included in the approved grant application in conformance with TxCDBG and/or other grant's program requirements;
- Assist in the procurement process such as preparing notices and solicitation of bids for engineering, construction activities, or other grant-related services;
- Assist in meeting financial, administrative, and bookkeeping requirements of the TxCDBG or other grant program, including review of invoices received for payment,

preparation of grant fund drawdown requests and retention of all pertinent records and documents sufficient to reflect all charges submitted;

- Assist in meeting record keeping requirements of the TxCDBG program or other grant program, including the establishment and maintenance of an acceptable filing system;
- Assist in contract administration and monitoring requirements of the TxCDBG program or other grant program, including enforcement of compliance requirements;
- Assist in the environmental review process for the proposed project, including preparing and submitting necessary documentation to the appropriate agency for clearance or approval, and preparing Request for Release of Funds and required certifications and submitting them to TDA or other grant program;
- Assist in meeting all special condition requirements stipulated in the grant contract;
- Act as a liaison between the local government, construction contractors, and TDA or other grant program to ensure an efficient, smoothly managed program;
- Monitor the work of authorized contractors and subcontractors.
- Furnish necessary forms and submit all required reports as outlined in the grant contract;
- Prepare and submit any program amendments, including re-assessments of environmental clearances, as necessary during the duration of the project; and
- Prepare and coordinate the submission of appropriate documents for TxCDBG or other grant program contract close-out and completion.
- Assist in developing, implementing and documenting new activities to affirmatively further fair housing during the grant term;
- Other:

Assistance for Acquisition of Real Property

- Provide guidance regarding real property acquisition activities and assistance in meeting real property acquisition/URA requirements, including preparation of correspondence to property owners, and preparation and submission of required reports to TDA or other grant program.
- Other:

VII. RFQ Qualifications:

It is important that the respondent(s) possess the necessary skills and qualifications to successfully research, prepare, and successfully be awarded federal, state, and other grants for the County of Cameron, but that the grants allow up to 15% of the grant funds for contract management.

VIII. Evaluation Criteria:

Cameron County shall establish an evaluation committee which shall review the RFQs solely on the basis of qualifications of firm or individuals, past performance, experience, capacity to perform, and implementation technical merit. All firms deemed to be in the competitive range may be invited for an interview. Cameron County reserves the right to hold discussions and award multiple contracts under this solicitation if deemed necessary. Specific criteria upon which RFQs will be reviewed during the process and their representative weight is detailed below:

Cameron County has established the following expectations of grant writing entity and must include support documentation in the RFQ related sections (e.g. statement of qualifications, experience, capacity to perform, and implementation):

- Respondent(s) show evidence of having a good track record of successfully securing grants for units of local governments.
- Respondent(s) must demonstrate of having the financial capacity and means to devote time and effort, at no cost to the county, to research grants and prepare the grant application(s)/RFQ(s) at no cost, knowing that the grants allows up to 15% of the grants for contract managements by the selected grant writing entity.
- Ability to communicate and possibility to translated necessary documents in from English to Spanish.
- Respondent(s) must have prior experience working with Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), Texas Agriculture Department's office that administer the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and other similar state and federal grant programs.
- Respondent must be certified by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to administer CDBG grants.
- Respondent(s) must maintain professional liability insurance in the amount of \$500,000 for the duration of its contract with Cameron County.
- Respondent(s) must be willing to enter into a grant contract with Cameron County.
- Respondent(s) must provide a certified statement that the grant writer(s)and/or firm is not debarred, suspended or otherwise prohibited from doing business with any federal, state or local agency.
- Respondent(s) must complete Form 1295 (on County's website) Statement of conflict of interest.

RFQs will be evaluated and ranked by a review committee appointed by the Cameron County Commissioners Court. The respondent ranked highest by the review committee will be recommended to Commissioners Court for contract negotiation. Final contract award will be made by the Cameron County Commissioners Court. The County reserves the right to negotiate with any or all respondents and award a contract for self-help services in whole or in part.

The RFQ evaluation criteria will generally be based on an agency's statement of qualifications, experience, capacity to perform, and its implementation method. RFQ evaluation factors will be scored as shown below. Interviews with respondents may or may not be conducted, at the discretion of the review committee.

WEIGHTED QUANTITATIVE SCORING:

Each Vendor will be assigned a score of 1- 4 by each evaluator for each criteria

- 4 = Very good / Exceeds expectations
- 3 = Above expectations
- 2 = Meets expectations
- 1 = Does not meet expectations
- 0 = non responsive

Utilization of 0 by evaluator requires Evaluation Committee’s full consensus. Evaluators average by category will be multiplied by the assigned weight for each vendor then totaled.

Once RFQs are reviewed and scored, a short list will be compiled. Interviews may be conducted with Respondents determined by total score rankings. Additional information may be required at that time. Negotiations will begin with the Respondent selected for the project. Commissioners Court will make the final selection and possible approval of the contract.

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Score</u>
a) qualifications	25
b) experience	25
c) capacity to perform	25
<u>d) implementation</u>	<u>25</u>
Total Score	100

WEIGHTED QUANTITATIVE SCORING:

Each Vendor will be assigned a score of 0 - 4 by each evaluator for each criteria

- 4 = Very good / Exceeds expectations
- 3 = Above expectations
- 2 = Meets expectations
- 1 = Does not meet expectations
- 0 = non responsive

Evaluators score by category will be multiplied by the assigned weight for each criteria by vendor then totaled.

Scoring for price will be a ratio and based on a pro rata factor of the best price submitted.

Ex: Vendor W - price \$100,000 = 4 points X assigned weight (ie: 25%) = 100 points
 Vendor X – price \$150,000 = 2.66 points X assigned weight (ie: 25%) = 66.6 points
 Vendor Y – price \$200,000 = 2 points X assigned weight (ie: 25%) = 50 points
 $\$100,000 \div \$200,000 = .50 \times 4 = 2 \times 25 = 50$
 $\$100,000 \div \$150,000 = .66 \times 4 = 2.666 \times 25 = 66$

Once RFQs are reviewed and scored, a short list will be compiled. Interviews may be conducted with Respondents determined by total score rankings. Additional information may be required at that time. Negotiations will begin with the respondent selected for the project. Commissioners Court will make the final selection and possible approval of the contract.

IX. RFQ Submission Requirements

RFQs **must** address each of the four (4) sections listed below. Incomplete RFQs may **not** be considered. Responses to these four sections will provide the basis for RFQ evaluation.

1. Statement of Qualifications

Provide a statement of qualifications, including agency's background in the development and delivery of similar grant writing services. List units of local governments or other entities that grants for written for, amount of grants, type of grant(s) and services resulting from the grants, and dates when grants were awarded. Provide list of references from clients, funding agencies, neighborhood groups, governmental units, or community development partner agency associate with the grants. Include qualifications and/or resumes of key staff and/or affiliates to be connected to the grant writing and contract management. Include documentation as to number of years that agency and or staff has been and currently certified by Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) in the management of TxCDBG programs. Include a statement or SAM that entity is not disqualified for conducting business with the state and/or federal government. Note: Prior to awarding the contract, verify the Respondent is not listed (is not debarred) through the System for Award Management (www.SAM.gov). Include in this section the form 1295 found in the county website under procurement.

2. Experience

Provide a detailed narrative statement explaining experience in grant writing, contract management services, and other related experiences.

3. Capacity to Perform.

Describe in detail the agency's ability and capacity to perform in the area of grant research and identify grant opportunities. Include a description of staff experience, staffing level, organizational structure, current projects or responsibilities, and staff that will be assigned. Describe agency's financial management system, including cost accounting, record keeping, and internal controls. Provide evidence of operating charter and copies of current insurance coverage, including general liability and workers compensation. Include copies of required professional liability insurances and

4. Implementation

Interested grant writing entity, shall indicate in this section the willingness to perform the grant writing services at no cost to the county and explain the conditions for performing at no-cost for writing the grants. Include a statement on the process for entering into the grant management agreement with the county for projects resulting from grant awards. Assuming that each grant allows up to 15% for the administration or management of the projects associated with the grant, what percent are you willing to share with the County's Program Development & Management Department for oversight management and reporting to the funding agency(s). Explain how you will reach out and coordinate with the different county departments for identifying grant needs.

PART II

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Contractor shall provide the following scope of services: (*choose contracted services*)

A. Project Management

1. Develop a recordkeeping system consistent with program guidelines, including the establishment of a filing system.
2. Maintenance of filing system.
3. Provide general advice and technical assistance to the City/County personnel on implementation of project and regulatory matters.
4. Assist in the procurement of professional consulting engineering services through the request for RFQ process, if applicable, and as required by the TxCDBG regulations.
5. Furnish City/County with necessary forms and procedures required for implementation of project.
6. Assist the City/County in meeting all special condition requirements that may be stipulated in the contract between the City/County and TDA.
7. Prepare and submit to TDA documentation necessary for amending the TxCDBG contract.
8. Conduct re-assessment of environmental clearance for any program amendments.
9. Prepare and submit quarterly reports (progress and minority hiring).
10. Prepare Financial Information Report or City/County.
11. Establish procedures to document expenditures associated with local administration of the project.
12. Provide guidance and assistance to City/County regarding acquisition of property:
 - Submit required reports concerning acquisition activities to TDA;
 - Establish a separate acquisition file for each parcel of real property acquired;
 - Determine necessary method(s) for acquiring real property;
 - Prepare correspondence to the property owners for the City/County's signature to acquire the property or to secure an easement; and
 - Assist the City/County in negotiation with property owner(s).
13. Maintain TxCDBG Property Management register for any property/equipment purchased or leased.
14. Serve as liaison for the City/County during any monitoring visit by staff representatives from either TDA or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

B. Financial Management

1. Assist the City/County in proving its ability to manage the grant funds to the state's audit division.
2. Assist the City/County in establishing and maintaining a bank account (Direct Deposit account) and/or separate local bank account, journals and ledgers.
3. Assist the City/County in submitting the required Accounting System Certification letter, Direct Deposit Authorization Form (if applicable), and/or Depository/Authorized Signatory form to TDA.
4. Prepare all fund drawdowns on behalf of the City/County in order to ensure orderly, timely payments to all contracting parties within the allotted time period.
5. Review invoices received for payment and file back-up documentation.
6. Provide general advice and technical assistance to City/County personnel on implementation of project and regulatory matters.
7. Assist the City/County in establishing procedures to handle the use of any TxCDBG program income.

C. Environmental Review

1. Prepare environmental assessment.
2. Coordinate environmental clearance procedures with other federal or state agencies and interested parties responsible for implementing applicable laws.
3. Document consideration of any public comments.
4. Prepare any required re-assessment of environmental assessment.
5. Prepare Request for Release of Funds and certifications to be sent to TDA.

D. Acquisition

1. Prepare required acquisition reports(s).
2. Obtain documentation of ownership for City/County-owned property and/or Right of Way (ROWS).
3. Maintain a separate file for each parcel of real property acquired.
4. Determine necessary method(s) for acquiring real property.
5. Prepare correspondence with property owners.
6. Assist City/County in negotiations with property owner(s).
7. Prepare required acquisition reports and submit to TDA.

E. Construction Management

1. Establish procedures to document expenditures associated with local construction of the project (if force account is applicable).
 - Assist City/County in determining whether and/or what TxCDBG contract activities will be carried out in whole or in part via force account labor.
 - Assist City/County in determining whether or not it will be necessary to hire temporary employees to specifically carry out TxCDBG contract activities.
 - Assist City/County in maintaining adequate documentation of personnel, equipment and materials expended/used and their costs.
2. Assist City/County in documenting compliance with all federal and state requirements related to equal employment opportunity.
3. Assist City/County in documenting compliance with all federal and state requirements related to minimum wage and overtime pay requirements.
4. Provide assistance to or act as local labor standards officer. Notify TDA in writing of name, address, and phone number of appointed labor standards compliance officer.
5. Request wage rates from TDA.
6. Provide sample TxCDBG contract documents to engineer.
7. Advertise for bids.
8. Make ten-day call to TDA.
9. Verify construction contractor eligibility with TDA.
10. Review construction contract.
11. Conduct pre-construction conference and prepare minutes.
12. Submit any reports of additional classification and rates to TDA.
13. Issue Notice of Start of Construction to TDA.
14. Review weekly payrolls, including compliance follow-ups. Conduct employee interviews.
15. Process change orders approved by City/County and the project engineer and submit to TDA prior to execution with the construction contractor.
16. Obtain Certificate of Construction Completion/Final Wage Compliance Report and submit to TDA.
17. Provide general advice and technical assistance to City/County personnel on implementation of project and regulatory matters.

F. Fair Housing / Equal Opportunity

1. Assist the City/County in developing, implementing and documenting new activities to affirmatively further fair housing during the contract period.
2. Maintain documentation of all project beneficiaries by ethnicity and gender.
3. Assist with the development and administration of the Citizen Participation Plan per 24 CFR Part 91, including grievance procedures.
4. Assist with Section 3 requirements per 24 CFR Part 135.
5. Prepare all Section 504 requirements per 24 CFR Part 8.
6. Provide all applicable equal opportunity provisions and certifications for inclusion in bid packet.
7. Ensure adoption of Excessive Force provision per 24 CFR Part 91.
8. Ensure the adequate publication of required notices.

G. Relocation

1. Prepare and submit local relocation guidelines to TDA for approval.
2. Assist City/County in identifying individuals to be relocated and prepare appropriate notices.
3. Interview relocatees and identify assistance needs.
4. Maintain a relocation record for each individual/family.
5. Provide education/assistance to relocatees.
6. Inventory local available housing resources and maintain a referral list.
7. Issue appropriate notices to relocatees.
8. Ensure that all payments are made in a timely manner.

H. Rehabilitation of Private Property

1. Prepare and submit local rehabilitation guidelines to TDA for approval.
2. Assist City/County in establishing escrow account and obtaining TDA approval.
3. Develop outreach and necessary application processing/verification forms.
4. Screen applicants.
5. Prepare work write-ups and cost estimates.
6. Issue Notice to Proceed to construction contractor(s).
7. Conduct interim/final inspections, process final contract documents, and maintain a record of beneficiaries.
8. Maintain client files following TDA requirements.

I. Audit / Close-out Procedures

1. Prepare the final Project Completion Report, including the General Report, Recipient Beneficiary Report, Final Financial Interest Report, and any required documentation regarding citizen participation/equal rights/fair housing and Certificate of Completion.
2. Assist City/County in resolving any monitoring and audit findings.
3. Assist City/County in resolving any third party claims.
4. Provide auditor with TxCDBG audit guidelines.

REFERENCES

Please list three (3) references of current customers who can verify the quality of service your company provides. The County prefers customers of similar size and scope of work to this RFQ.

REFERENCE ONE

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

REFERENCE TWO

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

REFERENCE THREE

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CAMERON

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned certifies that the RFQ have been carefully checked and are submitted as correct and if RFQ is accepted (within 60 days), agrees to furnish any and/or all services upon which are offered, and upon the conditions contained in the Specifications.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, A Notary Public in and for the State of _____, on this day personally appeared _____ who, after having first been duly sworn, upon oath did depose and say;

That the foregoing RFQ submitted by _____ hereinafter called "Respondent" is the duly authorized agent of said company and that the person signing said RFQ has been duly authorized to execute the same. Respondent affirms that they are duly authorized to execute this contract, that this company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual has not prepared this RFQ in collusion with any other Respondent. The Respondent is not a member of any trust, pool, or combination to control the price of products or services responded on, or to influence any person to respond or not to respond thereon. I further affirm that the Responder has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give, at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discounts, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with the submitted RFQ. The contents of this RFQ as to prices, terms or conditions of said RFQ have not been communicated by the undersigned nor by any employee or agent to any other person engaged in this type of business prior to the official opening of this RFQ.

Name and Address of Responder :

Telephone number _____ Fax number _____

Signature

Name: _____ Title: _____

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBE BEFORE ME THIS _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Notary Public in and for County _____ State _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

RESIDENCE CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Texas Government Code §2252.001 *et seq.*, as amended, Cameron County requests Residence Certification. §2252.001 *et seq.* of the Government Code provides some restrictions on the awarding of governmental contracts; pertinent provisions of §2252.001 are stated below:

“Nonresident Respondent ” refers to a person who is not a resident.

“Resident Respondent ” refers to a person whose principal place of business is in this state, including a contractor whose ultimate parent company or majority owner has its principal place of business in this state.

I certify that _____ is a Resident
(Company Name)
Respondent of Texas as defined in Government Code §2252.001.

I certify that _____ is a Nonresident
(Company Name)
Respondent as defined in Government Code §2252.001 and our principal place of business is

(City and State)

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

CAMERON COUNTY EXPRESSLY REQUESTS THAT OFFEROR NOT DISCUSS THIS ENGAGEMENT OR THIS RESPONDENT'S PLANS, EXPERIENCE OR CREDENTIALS WITH OTHER RESPONDENT'S OR ANY MEMBER OF COMMISSIONERS' COURT, ANY COUNTY OFFICIAL, OR ANY EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTED BY COMMISSIONERS COURT. EXCLUDED ARE PRE-RFQ CONFERENCES, EVALUATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULED VENDOR PRESENTATIONS OR VENDOR INTERVIEWS, OR EVALUATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULED EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES DEMONSTRATIONS. YOU MAY CONTACT THE PURCHASING AGENT /PURCHASING DEPARTMENT AT ANY TIME.

FROM RFQ OPENING DATE THROUGH COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING FOR SELECTION, VENDORS WILL NOT APPROACH THE COUNTY JUDGE OR COMMISSIONERS TO DISCUSS MATTERS PERTAINING TO THIS RFQ.

- 01. Has any individual with the firm submitting this RFQ made any contact with any member of Commissioners Court, any County Official, or an Evaluation Committee member concerning this Invitation to RFQ, other than questions to the Purchasing Agent?

- 02. Has any individual with the firm submitting this RFQ made any contact with any other Respondent concerning this Invitation to RFQ?

Signature of person submitting this RFQ

Date

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

ORDER NO. 2007O2005

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §

**ORDER ADOPTING CONTRACTING RULES
FOR PERSONS INDEBTED TO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, pursuant to V.T.C.A., Local Government Code, Section 262.0276, a commissioners court is authorized to adopt rules permitting a county to refuse to enter into a contract or other transaction with a person indebted to the county;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Cameron County finds it is in the best interest of Cameron County to adopt such rules;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Cameron County, that the following rules be adopted regarding Cameron County and persons interested in doing business with Cameron County:

1. Cameron County may refuse to enter into a contract or other transaction with a person with a past due debt to Cameron County, including delinquent ad valorem taxes, even if the person is the lowest successful respondent; and
2. **For purposes of this Order, a debt is past due if it is not received in the County Treasurer’s Office by the due date in a written agreement or notice, and ad valorem taxes are past due if not received in the County Tax Assessor/Collector’s Office by February 1st following the January 1st on which the ad valorem taxes are due.**
3. For purposes of this Order, a person includes an individual, sole proprietorship, corporation, nonprofit corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, and any other entity that proposes or otherwise seeks to enter into a contract or other transaction with Cameron County requiring approval by the Commissioners Court.

ADOPTED this 13 day of March, 2007.

Taxpayer Identification Number (T.I.N.): _____

Cameron County Acct #'s : Real Estate _____ Personal Property _____

01. Is the person or the firm submitting this RFQ current with all local and State taxes?

Signature of person submitting this RFQ

Date

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension Ineligibility

As is required by the Federal Regulations Implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 45 CFR Part 76, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension, in the applicant certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that both it and its principals:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this RFQ and/or application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity with commission of any of the offenses enumerated herein; and
- d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this RFQ and/or application had one or more public transactions terminated of cause or default.

Company Name: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date: _____

If the Offeror is unable to certify to all of the statements in this Certification, such Offeror should attach an explanation to this RFQ.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

SWORN STATEMENT ON DEBARMENT

This SWORN statement is submitted with project number _____

By: _____
(PRINT INDIVIDUALS NAME AND TITLE)

For: _____
(PRINT NAME OF ENTITY SUBMITTING SWORN STATEMENT)

whose business address is:

CITY STATE ZIP VOICE PHONE

and if applicable its Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN) is:

(INDICATE WHICH STATEMENTS APPLY)

_____ Neither the entity submitting this SWORN statement, nor any of its officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members or agents who are active in the management of the entity, nor any affiliate of the entity has been charged with and convicted of a public entity crime.

_____ The entity submitting this SWORN statement, or one or more of its officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members, or agents who are active in the management of the entity, or an affiliate of the entity **HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF A PUBLIC ENTITY CRIME.**

_____ The entity submitting this SWORN statement is not present on any Federal list of debarred contractors, nor been debarred from any other type of contracting.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

(Printed Name) (Title)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, _____.

Personally known _____ OR Produced identification _____
SHOW TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION

Notary Public State of _____, County of _____ My commission expires _____

(PRINTED/TYPED/ OR STAMPED COMMISSIONED NAME OF NOTARY PUBLIC)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE**FORM CIQ****For vendor doing business with local governmental entity**

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.

OFFICE USE ONLY

This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001 (1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).

Date Received

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. *See* Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.

A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.

2. Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire.

(The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)

3. Name of local government officer about whom the information in this section is being disclosed.

Name of Officer

This section (item 3 including subparts A, B, C, & D) must be completed for each officer with whom the vendor has an employment or other business relationship as defined by Section 176.001 (1-a), Local Government Code. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

A Is the local government officer named in this section receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income from the vendor?

Yes No

B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer named in this section AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?

Yes No

C. Is the filer of this questionnaire employed by a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer services as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more?

Yes No

D. Describe each employment or business and family relationship with the local government officer named in this section.

4.

Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity

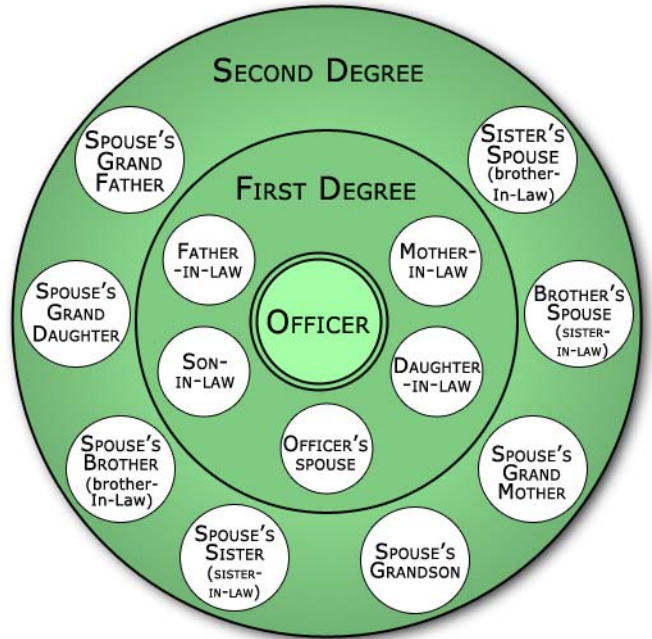
Date

NEPOTISM CHART

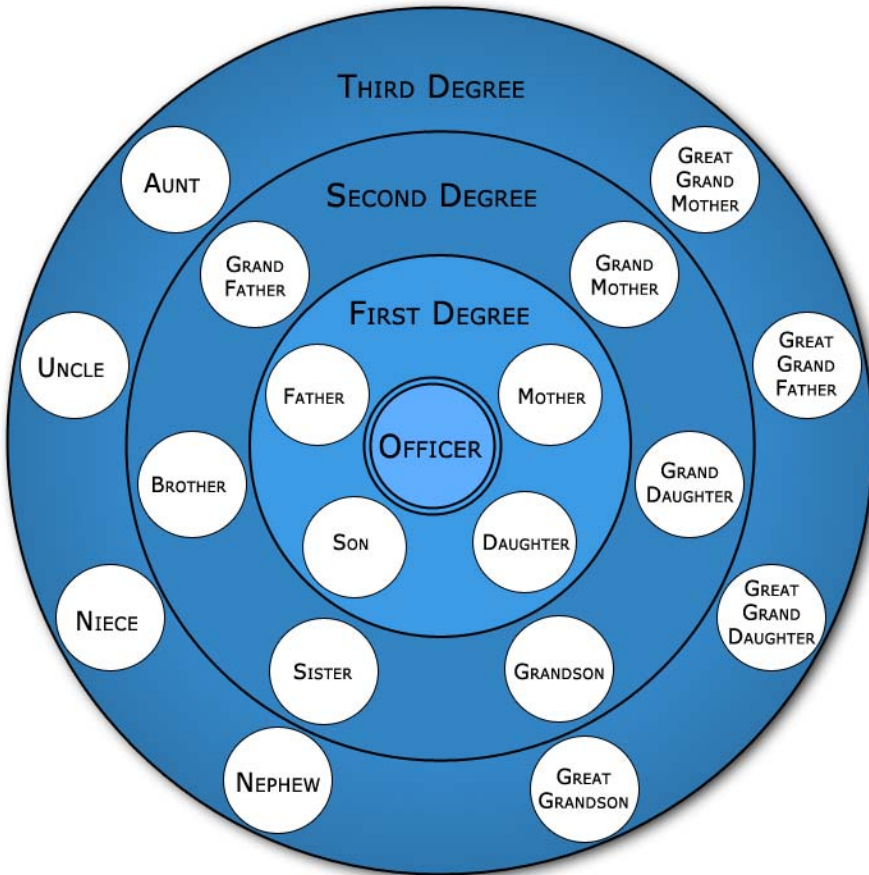
The chart below shows

- **Affinity Kinship** (relationship by marriage)
- **Consanguinity Kinship** (relationship by blood) for purposes of interpreting nepotism as defined in VTCA Government Code, Chapter 573, §§573.021 - .025

AFFINITY KINSHIP Relationship by Marriage



CONSANGUINITY KINSHIP Relationship by Blood



DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SUBMITTED WITH THE RFQ
IF DISCLOSING: OFFEROR MUST ALSO FILE WITH THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
THE PURCHASING DEPT. WILL NOT BE FILING ON THE OFFEROR'S BEHALF

Cameron County, Texas requires all persons or firms seeking to do business with the County to provide the following information. Every question must be answered. If the question is not applicable, answer with "N/A." By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator (County Clerk's Office) of the local government.

Date _____

FIRM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

FIRM is: 1. Corporation () 2. Partnership () 3. Sole Owner ()
4. Association () 5. Other () _____

DISCLOSURE QUESTIONS

If additional space is necessary, please use the reverse side of this page or attach separate sheet.

1. State the names of each "employee, elected official, or member of Commissioners Court" of Cameron County having Substantial Interest in Business Entity **Local Govt. Code 171.002**

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (CONTINUED)

- a) For purpose of this chapter, a person has a substantial interest in a business entity if :
 - (1) the person owns 10 percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity or owns either 10 percent or more or \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of the business entity; or
 - (2) funds received by the person from the business entity exceeds 10 percent of the person’s gross income for the previous year.
- b) A person has a substantial interest in real property if the interest is an equitable or legal ownership with a fair market value of \$2,500 or more.
- c) A local public official is considered to have a substantial interest under this section if a person related to the official in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, has a substantial interest under this section.

Name	Title	Department

CERTIFICATE

I certify that all information provided is true and correct as of the date of this statement, that I have not knowingly withheld disclosure of any information requested; and that supplemental statements will be promptly submitted to the Cameron County as changes occur.

Certifying Person: _____ Title: _____
 (Type or Print)

Signature of Certifying Person: _____ Date: _____

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS (RFQ)

ADDENDA: If RFQ specifications, terms or conditions are revised, the Cameron County Purchasing Department will issue an addendum addressing the nature of the changes and notify interested potential respondents. Respondents must acknowledge receipt and consideration of any such changes by signing the addendum and including it in the RFQ package containing the Respondent's submittal.

ADVERTISING: Unless otherwise required by law, respondents to County RFQs shall not publish and shall keep confidential their intentions and actions respecting any response to the RFQ.

AWARD: Cameron County may hold RFQ responses for a period of sixty (60) days. Cameron County reserves the right to reject any or all responses to RFQs. Cameron County reserves the right to award a contract, if any, based on the Respondent's response when compared to the EVALUATION CRITERIA (AS STATED IN RFQ) and, in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, reserves the right to waive any formality or irregularity, to make awards to more than one Respondent. Commissioners Court reserves the right to determine the method and procedures for the final award of all RFQs at any time they so choose, regardless of the Point System used by the Evaluation Committee.

BONDS: If the contract that may be entered into between an RFQ respondent and the County will likely require a performance guarantee or bond, the Purchasing Department will attach a separate page to the RFQ explaining those requirements.

CANCELLATION AND TERMINATION: In any contract resulting from the RFQ, the County shall have the right to cancel all or any part of the undelivered portion of the contract if Respondent breaches any of the terms hereof, including, but not limited to warranties, and/or Respondent becomes insolvent or files for bankruptcy. Such right of cancellation is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedies which the County may have in law or equity. Cancellation of work hereunder shall be effected by the delivery to the Respondent of a "Notice of Cancellation of Undelivered Work" specifying the extent to which performance of work under the contract is or cancelled and the date upon which such cancellation becomes effective.

The performance of work under any resulting contract may be terminated in whole, or in part, by the County in accordance with this provision. The County shall have the right to cancel all or any part of the contract if Respondent breaches any of the terms hereof, including, but not limited to warranties, and/or Respondent becomes insolvent or files for bankruptcy. Such right of termination is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedies which the County may have in law or equity. Termination of work hereunder shall be effected by the delivery to the Respondent of a "Notice of Termination" specifying the extent to which performance of work under the contract is terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective.

CHANGE ORDERS: No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise change, or affect the terms, conditions or specifications stated in the resulting contract. All change orders to the contract will be made in writing by mutual consent of the Respondent and the County.

CONTRACT RENEWALS: Contract Renewals must receive Commissioners Court approval. For contract renewal status and information, please contact Elisa Cisneros at 956-982-5405 e-mail: Elisa.Cisneros2@co.cameron.tx.us Cameron County Purchasing Dept. or Dylbia Jeffries 956-550-1340 djefferies@co.cameron.tx.us at the Cameron County Civil Legal Division. Any price escalations are limited to those stated by the original contract terms. All contracts with a one (1) year renewal option requires that the Respondent must notify Cameron County of any anticipated price increases in writing at least three months (90 calendar days) prior to the annual renewal award date unless otherwise specified within the specific provisions of the contract up for renewal. This allows the County sufficient time to find an alternative vendor if possible. Respondent fails to notify the County within time noted it shall be assumed that there will be no price increase for the following year's award period if renewed. This procedure does not apply to any contract which allows for Open Market Price increases or Cost allowance increases.

DISCRIMINATION: In order to encourage fair employment practices, the Respondent agrees as follows: 1.) Respondent will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, sex, color, age, religion, handicap, or national origin; 2) in all solicitations or advertisements for employees, the Respondent will state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, handicap or national origin; 3) the Respondent will furnish such relevant information and reports as requested by the County for the purpose of determining compliance with these regulations; and 4) failure of the Respondent to comply with these laws will be deemed a breach of contract and it may be cancelled, terminated or suspended in whole or in part.

DISQUALIFICATION OF RESPONDENT: Upon submitting a response to this RFQ, Respondent certifies that the Respondent has not violated the antitrust laws of this state codified in Texas Business and Commerce Code 15.01, *et seq.*, as amended, or the federal antitrust laws, and has not communicated directly or indirectly its RFQ considerations, plan or response to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business. Any and all responses may be rejected if the County believes that collusion exists among the respondents. If multiples are submitted by a respondent and, after all responses to the RFQs are opened, one or more of the responses are withdrawn, the result will be that all of the responses submitted by that respondent will be withdrawn; however, nothing herein prohibits a respondent from submitting multiples for different products or services.

EVALUATION: All responses will be evaluated in accordance with law and reviewed to assure they are in the best interest of Cameron County. Evaluations shall be based on criteria bearing on performance in the user environment. Any specific criteria section or sections identified elsewhere in this RFQ may be evaluated by one or more evaluators once the basis and details of this process have been approved by the Purchasing Officer and acknowledged by the Evaluation Committee. Detailed information pertaining to this selective evaluation process is available to respondents and the Commissioners Court upon request. Evaluation sheets and summary of all responses are subject to review by the Cameron County Purchasing Department and Evaluation Committee's recommendation to Cameron County Commissioners Court. Compliance with all RFQ requirements, delivery and needs of the using department are considerations in evaluating responses. The Cameron County Purchasing Department reserves the right to contact any Respondent, at any time, to clarify, verify or request information with regard to that Respondent's response. The Cameron County Purchasing Department further reserves the right to hold negotiation discussions with any responsible Respondent's response determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award in accordance with law.

PROTEST PROCEDURES: Procedure - This protest procedure is available to Respondents responding to this RFQ and requesting a debriefing conference.

Debriefing Conference – A debriefing conference must be requested in writing to the Purchasing Department within five (5) business days from the date of the RFQ award by the Cameron County Commissioners Court. Debriefing questions must be submitted (in writing - to the Purchasing Department) no later than two (2) business days before the scheduled date for the Debriefing Conference. These questions will be answered at the debriefing conference. Follow-up questions must be submitted (in writing) no later than one (1) business day after the date of the Debriefing Conference and answered no later than two (2) business days after the date of the Debriefing Conference. Follow-up answers will be sent via e-mail or fax (if e-mail not available). For RFQs, Respondents are given the opportunity to ask questions of the Evaluation Committee relative to their responses and scores received by the Respondent.

Protests are made:

1. To the Purchasing Department after the debriefing conference. Respondent protests shall be received, in writing, by the Purchasing Department within five (5) business days after the debriefing conference.
2. To the Protest Committee, only after the protest to the Purchasing Department was not satisfactorily resolved. Protests to the Protest Committee shall be made within five (5) business days after the Respondent has received notification from the County Purchasing Department of the decision.

Grounds for protest:

1. Errors were made in computing the score.
2. The County failed to follow procedures established in the RFQ, the Purchasing policy on acquisitions or applicable state or federal laws or regulations.
3. Bias, discrimination or conflict of interest on the part of an evaluator. Protests not based on these criteria shall not be considered.

Format and Content - Protesting Respondents shall include, in their written protest to the Cameron County Purchasing Department, all facts and arguments upon which they rely. Respondents shall, at a minimum, provide:

1. Information about the protesting vendor; name of firm, mailing address, phone number and name of individual responsible for submission of the protest.
2. Information about the acquisition and the acquisition method.
3. Specific and complete statement of the County's action(s) protested.
4. Specific reference to the grounds for the protest.
5. Description of the relief or corrective action requested.
6. For protests to the Protest Committee, a copy of the Purchasing Department's written decision on the protest.

Review Process:

1. Upon receipt of a Respondent protest, the Purchasing Department shall postpone further steps in the acquisition process until the Respondent protest has been resolved.
2. The Department's internal protest review procedures consist of the following: a) The Purchasing Department shall perform an objective review of the protest by individuals not involved in the acquisition protested. The review shall be based on the written protest material submitted by the Respondent. b) A written decision will be delivered to the Respondent within five business days after receipt of the protest, unless more time is needed. The protesting Respondent shall be notified if additional time is necessary.

Final Determination - The final determination shall:

1. Find the protest lacking in merit and uphold the agency's action; or
2. Find only technical or harmless errors in the agency's acquisition process conduct, determine the agency to be in substantial compliance, and reject the protest; or
3. Find merit in the protest and provide the agency options which may include a) Correct its errors and reevaluate all RFQs, and/or b) Reissue the Respondent solicitation document; or c) Make other findings and determine other courses of action as appropriate.

Protest Committee Review Process: Protests to the Protest Committee may be made only for Protest Committee approved acquisitions and only after review by County Purchasing Department. Protests of the decisions of County Purchasing Department shall be made by letter to the Protest Committee, who may establish procedures to resolve the protest. Protests shall be received by the Protest Committee within five business days after the decision of Purchasing Department in order to be considered. The resulting decision is final with no further administrative appeal available.

FISCAL FUNDING: A multi-year lease or lease/purchase arrangement (if requested by the Special Requirements/Instructions), or any contract continuing as a result of an extension option, must include a fiscal funding “out” clause. If, for any reason, funds are not appropriated to continue the lease or contract, said lease or contract shall become null and void on the last day of the current appropriation of funds. After expiration of the lease, leased equipment shall be removed by the Respondent from the using department without penalty of any kind or form to Cameron County. All charges and physical activity related to delivery, installation, removal and redelivery shall be the responsibility of the Respondent.

GRATUITIES AND PROHIBITION AGAINST PERSONAL INTEREST IN CONTRACTS: Any elected or appointed official who has any substantial interest, either direct or indirect, in any business entity seeking to contract with the County, shall, before any vote or decision on any matter involving the business entity, file an affidavit stating the nature and extent of interest and shall abstain from any participation in the matter. This is not required if the vote or decision will not have any special effect on the entity other than its effect on the public. However, if a majority of the governing body is also required to file, and do file similar affidavits, then the member is not required to abstain from further participation. Attached and included is a disclosure of all of this Company's business or pecuniary financial relationships with officers or employees of Cameron County or County entities (if any such relationships exists) must be attached and included with RFQ submitted. The County may, by written notice to the Respondent, cancel this contract without liability to Respondent if it is determined by County that gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts, or otherwise, were offered or given by the Respondent, or any agent, or representative of the Respondent, to any officer or employee of Cameron County with a view toward securing a contract or securing favorable treatment with respect to the awarding or amending or the making or any determinations with respect to the performance of such a contract. In the event this contract is cancelled by County pursuant to this provision, County shall be entitled, in addition to any other rights and remedies, to recover or withhold the amount of the cost incurred by Respondent in providing such gratuities. Consistent and continued tie RFQ responses could cause rejection of an RFQ response by the County and/or investigation for Anti-Trust violations. Respondent guarantees that he has not retained a person to solicit or secure any contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies maintained by the Respondent for the purpose of securing business.

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) CERTIFICATION: If Respondent is a Certified Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), please include a copy of your HUB Certificate with your response. This information will assist Cameron County in the percentage tracking of HUB utilization.

INSURANCE : The Respondent shall secure and maintain, throughout the duration of the Contract, insurance of such types and in such amounts as may be necessary to protect the Respondent and the interests of the County against all hazards or risks of loss as hereinafter specified. The form and limits of such insurance, together with the insurer, must be acceptable to the County. It shall be the responsibility of the Respondent to maintain adequate insurance coverage at all times. Failure of the Respondent to maintain adequate coverage shall not relieve the Respondent of any contractual responsibility or obligation.

SCANNED RE-TYPED RESPONSE - FLOPPY DISK: If in its RFQ response, Respondent either electronically scans, re-types, or in some way reproduces the County's published RFQ package, then, in event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of the County's published RFQ specifications or any portion thereof, and the terms and provisions of the RFQ response made by Respondent, the County's RFQ specifications as published shall control. Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the County's published RFQ specifications is only discovered after the contract is executed and is or is not being performed, the contract is subject to immediate cancellation.

SILENCE OF SPECIFICATIONS: The apparent silence of specifications as to any detail, or the apparent omission from it of a detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practices are to be used.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: Respondents are responsible for including all pertinent data in the returned RFQ package. Literature, brochures, data sheets, specification information, completed forms requested as part of the RFQ

package and any other facts which may affect the evaluation and subsequent contract award should be included. Materials such as legal documents and contractual agreements, which the respondent wishes to include as a condition of the RFQ, must also be in the returned RFQ package. Failure to include all necessary and proper supplemental materials may be cause to reject the entire RFQ.

USAGE REPORTS: Cameron County reserves the right to request, and receive at no additional cost up to two (2) times during the contract period, a usage report detailing services furnished to date under a contract resulting from this RFQ. The reports must be furnished no later than five (5) working days after written request and itemize all purchases to date by the Cameron County department using the services with a description of services rendered, the unit and total price.

WARRANTY: Respondents may not limit or exclude any implied warranties. **Respondent warrants that services provided to the County shall conform to the highest commercial and/or professional standards in the industry.**

APPLICABLE LAW

ASSIGNMENT DELEGATION: No right or interest in this contract shall be assigned or delegation of any obligation made by Respondent without the written permission of the County. Any attempted assignment or delegation by Respondent shall be wholly void and totally ineffective for all purposes unless made in conformity with this paragraph. Any contract entered into pursuant to this request is not assignable, nor the duties thereunder, by either party, without the written consent of the other party, the Commissioners Court, and County Auditor.

CONTRACT OBLIGATION: Cameron County Commissioners Court must award any resulting contract and the County Judge or other person authorized by the Cameron County Commissioners Court must sign the contract before it becomes binding on Cameron County or the Respondent. Department heads are NOT authorized to sign agreements for Cameron

County. Binding agreements shall remain in effect until the contract requirements have been satisfied.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS: Errors and Omissions in the RFQ of any provision herein described will not be construed as to relieve the Respondent of any responsibility or obligation requisite to the complete and satisfactory implementation, operation, and support of all obligations under any resulting contract.

FORCE MAJEURE: If, by reason of Force Majeure, either party hereto shall be rendered unable wholly, or in part, to carry out its obligations under this RFQ and any resulting contract, then such party shall give notice and full particulars of Force Majeure in writing to the other party within a reasonable time after occurrence of the event or cause relied upon, and the obligation of the party giving such notice, so far as it is affected by such Force Majeure, shall be suspended during the continuance of the inability then claimed, except as hereinafter provided, but for no longer period, and such party shall endeavor to remove or overcome such inability with all reasonable dispatch. The term "Force Majeure" as employed herein, shall mean acts of God, strikes, lockouts, or other industrial disturbances, act of public enemy, orders of any kind of government of the United States or the State of Texas or any civil or military authority, insurrections, riots, epidemics, landslides, lightening, earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, storms, floods, washouts, droughts, arrests, restraint of government and people, civil disturbances, explosions, breakage or accidents to machinery, pipelines or canals, or other causes not reasonably within the control of the party claiming such inability. It is understood and agreed that the settlement of strikes and lockouts shall be entirely with the discretion of the party having the difficulty, and that the above requirement that any Force Majeure shall be remedied with all reasonable dispatch shall not require the settlement of strikes and lockouts by acceding to the demands of the opposing party or parties when such settlement is unfavorable in the judgment of the party having the difficulty.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT: The successful Respondent, shall indemnify and hold Cameron County harmless from all claims for personal injury, death and/or property damage resulting directly or indirectly from Respondent's performance. Respondent shall procure and maintain, with respect to the subject matter of this RFQ, appropriate

insurance coverage including, as a minimum, public liability and property damage with adequate limits to cover Respondent's liability as may arise directly or indirectly from work performed under terms of this RFQ. Certification of such coverage must be provided to the County upon request.

INTERPRETATION PAROLE EVIDENCE: Unless a separate contract or addendum hereof is prepared and entered into following the award of this RFQ to a successful respondent, this writing is intended by the parties as a final expression of the terms of this RFQ and the general terms of any resulting contract with the selected Respondent. No course of prior dealings between the parties and no usage of the trade shall be relevant to supplement or explain any term. Acceptance or acquiescence in a course of performance rendered under this RFQ and any resulting contract shall not be relevant to determine meaning even though the accepting or acquiescing party has knowledge of the performance and opportunity for objection.

LATE RESPONSES: RFQ responses must be received by the County before the hour and date specified. Responses received after the time and date specified will be disqualified and may be returned to sender. The County is not responsible for lateness or non-delivery of mail, delivered to wrong office, carrier, etc.

REMEDIES: The successful Respondent and County agree that both parties have all rights, duties, defenses and remedies available under law.

RIGHT TO ASSURANCE: During the RFQ process and any resulting contract, whenever a respondent or the County in good faith has reason to question the other's intent to perform, demand may be made that the other party give written assurance of intent. In the event that a demand is made, and no assurance is given within five (5) days, such failure may be treated as an anticipatory repudiation of the RFQ and any resulting contract.

SEVERABILITY: If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word of these requirements or the specifications shall be held invalid, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of these requirements and the specifications and it is hereby declared that such remaining portions would have been included in these requirements and the specifications as though the invalid portion had been omitted.

VENUE: Both parties agree that venue for any litigation arising from this contract shall lie in Cameron County, Texas. These General Terms and Conditions shall be incorporated in the response to the RFQ and any resulting contract. The Respondent shall specifically state acceptance of these terms and conditions as a basis for providing the County with a response. The Respondent shall state any exceptions desired to these terms and conditions and may suggest alternate wording that addresses the intent of the term or condition. The County may accept or reject any suggestions in accordance with law.

XI: TxCDBG PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Termination of Agreement for Cause. If the Firm fails to fulfill in a timely and proper manner its obligations under this Agreement, or if the Firm violates any of the covenants, conditions, agreements, or stipulations of this Agreement, the City/County shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by giving written notice to the Firm of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, which shall be at least five days before the effective date of such termination. In the event of termination for cause, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models, photographs and reports prepared by the Firm pursuant to this Agreement shall, at the option of the City/County, be turned over to the City / County and become the property of the City / County. In the event of termination for cause, the Firm shall be entitled to receive reasonable compensation for any necessary services actually and satisfactorily performed prior to the date of termination.

Notwithstanding the above, the Firm shall not be relieved of liability to the City/County for damages sustained by the City/County by virtue of any breach of the Agreement by the Firm, and the City/County may set-off the damages it incurred as a result of the Firm's breach of the contract from any amounts it might otherwise owe the Firm.

2. Termination for Convenience of the City/County. The City/County may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving at least ten (10) days' notice in writing to the Firm. If this Agreement is terminated for convenience, the City/County will pay the Firm for actual services rendered up to the termination date, based on the charges for time, labor, expenses and other items specified in the Agreement.
3. Changes. The City/County may, from time to time, request changes in the services the Firm will perform under this Agreement. Such changes, including any increase or decrease in the amount of the Firm's compensation, must be agreed to by all parties and finalized through a signed, written amendment to this Agreement.
4. Resolution of Program Non-Compliance and Disallowed Costs. In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising from or relating to this Agreement, or the breach thereof, including determination of responsibility for any costs disallowed as a result of non-compliance with federal, state or TxCDBG program requirements, the parties hereto shall use their best efforts to settle the dispute, claim, question or disagreement. To this effect, the parties shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith within 30 days of receipt of a written notice of the dispute or invitation to negotiate, and attempt to reach a just and equitable solution satisfactory to both parties. If the matter is not resolved by negotiation within 30 days of receipt of written notice or invitation to negotiate, the parties agree first to try in good faith to settle the matter by mediation administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Commercial Mediation Procedures before resorting to arbitration, litigation, or some other dispute resolution procedure. The parties may enter into a written amendment to this Amendment and choose a mediator that is not affiliated with the American Arbitration Association. The parties shall bear the costs of such mediation equally. [*This section may also provide for the qualifications of the mediator(s), the locale of meetings, time limits, or any other item of concern to the parties.*] If the matter is not resolved through such mediation within 60 days of the initiation of that procedure, either party may proceed to file suit.

5. Personnel.

- a. The Firm represents that he/she/it has, or will secure at its own expense, all personnel required in performing the services under this Agreement. Such personnel shall not be employees of or have any contractual relationship with the City/County.
 - b. All of the services required hereunder will be performed by the Firm or under its supervision and all personnel engaged in the work shall be fully qualified and shall be authorized or permitted under State and Local law to perform such services.
 - c. None of the work or services covered by this Agreement shall be subcontracted without the prior written approval of the City/County. Any work or services subcontracted hereunder shall be specified by written contract or agreement and shall be subject to each provision of this Agreement.
6. Assignability. The Firm shall not assign any interest on this Agreement, and shall not transfer any interest in the same (whether by assignment or novation), without the prior written consent of the City/County thereto; Provided, however, that claims for money by the Firm from the City/County under this Agreement may be assigned to a bank, trust company, or other financial institution without such approval. Written notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the City/County.
7. Reports and Information. The Firm, at such times and in such forms as the City/County may require, shall furnish the City/County such periodic reports as it may request pertaining to the work or services undertaken pursuant to this Agreement, the costs and obligations incurred or to be incurred in connection therewith, and any other matters covered by this Agreement.
8. Records and Audits. The Firm shall insure that the City/County maintains fiscal records and supporting documentation for all expenditures of funds made under this contract in a manner that conforms to 2 CFR 200.300-.309, 24 CFR 570.490, and this Agreement. Such records must include data on the racial, ethnic, and gender characteristics of persons who are applicants for, participants in, or beneficiaries of the funds provided under this Agreement. The Firm and the City/County shall retain such records, and any supporting documentation, for the greater of three years from closeout of the Agreement or the period required by other applicable laws and regulations.
9. Findings Confidential. All of the reports, information, data, etc., prepared or assembled by the Firm under this contract are confidential and the Firm agrees that they shall not be made available to any individual or organization without the prior written approval of the City/County.
10. Copyright. No report, maps, or other documents produced in whole or in part under this Agreement shall be the subject of an application for copyright by or on behalf of the Firm.
11. Compliance with Local Laws. The Firm shall comply with all applicable laws, ordinances and codes of the State and local governments, and the Firm shall save the City/County harmless with respect to any damages arising from any tort done in performing any of the work embraced by this Agreement.
12. Conflicts of interest.
- a. Governing Body. No member of the governing body of the City/County and no other officer, employee, or agent of the City/County, who exercises any functions or responsibilities in

connection with administration, construction, engineering, or implementation of TxCDBG award between TDA and the City / County, shall have any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in the Firm or this Agreement; and the Firm shall take appropriate steps to assure compliance.

- b. Other Local Public Officials. No other public official, who exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with the planning and carrying out of administration, construction, engineering or implementation of the TxCDBG award between TDA and the City/County, shall have any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in the Firm or this Agreement; and the Firm shall take appropriate steps to assure compliance.
- a. The Firm and Employees. The Firm warrants and represents that it has no conflict of interest associated with the TxCDBG award between TDA and the City/County or this Agreement. The Firm further warrants and represents that it shall not acquire an interest, direct or indirect, in any geographic area that may benefit from the TxCDBG award between TDA and the City/County or in any business, entity, organization or person that may benefit from the award. The Firm further agrees that it will not employ an individual with a conflict of interest as described herein.

13. Debarment and Suspension (Executive Orders 12549 and 12689)

The Firm certifies, by entering into this Agreement, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federally-assisted programs under Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR Part 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR Part 1989 Comp., p. 235). The term “principal” for purposes of this Agreement is defined as an officer, director, owner, partner, key employee, or other person with primary management or supervisory responsibilities, or a person who has a critical influence on or substantive control over the operations of the Firm. The Firm understands that it must not make any award or permit any award (or contract) at any tier to any party which is debarred or suspended or is otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, “Debarment and Suspension.”

Federal Civil Rights Compliance.

During the performance of this Agreement, the Firm agrees as follows:

14. Equal Opportunity Clause (applicable to contracts and subcontracts over \$10,000).

- a. The Firm will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. The Firm will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the City/County setting forth the provisions of this non-discrimination clause.
- b. The Firm will, in all solicitation or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Firm, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin.
- c. The Firm will cause the foregoing provisions to be inserted in all subcontracts for any work covered by this Agreement so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor,

provided that the foregoing provisions shall not apply to contracts or subcontracts for standard commercial supplies or raw materials.

- d. The Firm will include provisions (a). through (c). in every subcontract or purchase order, unless exempted.
15. Civil Rights Act of 1964. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
16. Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Firm shall comply with the provisions of Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. No person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, religion, or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this title.
17. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The Firm agrees that no otherwise qualified individual with disabilities shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination, including discrimination in employment, under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.
18. Age Discrimination Act of 1975. The Firm shall comply with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 which provides that no person in the United States shall on the basis of age be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.
19. Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352) (if contract greater than or equal to \$100,000)
The Firm certifies that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining this contract. The Firm shall disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award.

[If this Contract is greater than \$100,000, include the following Section 3 language:]

20. Economic Opportunities for Section 3 Residents and Section 3 Business Concerns.
 - a. The work to be performed under this contract is subject to the requirements of section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701u (section 3). The purpose of section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance or HUD-assisted projects covered by section 3, shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly persons who are recipients of HUD assistance for housing.
 - b. The parties to this Agreement agree to comply with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR part 135, which implement section 3. As evidenced by their execution of this contract, the parties to this Agreement certify that they are under no contractual or other impediment that would prevent them from complying with the part 135 regulations.
 - c. The Firm agrees to send to each labor organization or representative of workers with which the Firm has a collective bargaining agreement or other understanding, if any, a notice advising the labor organization or workers' representative of the Firm's commitments under this section 3 clause, and will

post copies of the notice in conspicuous places at the work site where both employees and applicants for training and employment positions can see the notice. The notice shall describe the section 3 preference, shall set forth minimum number and job titles subject to hire, availability of apprenticeship and training positions, the qualifications for each; and the name and location of the person(s) taking applications for each of the positions; and the anticipated date the work shall begin.

d. The Firm agrees to include this section 3 clause in every subcontract subject to compliance with regulations in 24 CFR part 135, and agrees to take appropriate action, as provided in an applicable provision of the subcontract or in this section 3 clause, upon a finding that the subcontractor is in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR part 135. The Firm will not subcontract with any subcontractor where the Firm has notice or knowledge that the subcontractor has been found in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR part 135.

e. The Firm will certify that any vacant employment positions, including training positions, that are filled (1) after the Firm is selected but before the contract is executed, and (2) with persons other than those to whom the regulations of 24 CFR part 135 require employment opportunities to be directed, were not filled to circumvent the Firm's obligations under 24 CFR part 135.

f. Noncompliance with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR part 135 may result in sanctions, termination of this Agreement for default, and debarment or suspension from future HUD assisted contracts.

g. With respect to work performed in connection with section 3 covered Indian housing assistance, section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450e) also applies to the work to be performed under this Agreement. Section 7(b) requires that to the greatest extent feasible (i) preference and opportunities for training and employment shall be given to Indians, and (ii) preference in the award of contracts and subcontracts shall be given to Indian organizations and Indian-owned Economic Enterprises. Parties to this contract that are subject to the provisions of section 3 and section 7(b) agree to comply with section 3 to the maximum extent feasible, but not in derogation of compliance with section 7(b).

XXVIII. Sample Contract- Administration/Professional Services

**PART I
AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into this ____ day of _____, by and between the CITY/COUNTY OF _____, hereinafter called the "City"/"County", acting herein by _____ hereunto duly authorized, and _____ hereinafter called "the Contractor", acting herein by _____.

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, the City/County of _____ desires to [implement/construct/etc.] the following: _____ [describe project] under the general direction of the Texas Community Development Block Grant (hereinafter called "TxCDBG") Program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture; and Whereas the City/County desires to engage _____ to render certain [professional /administration] services in connection with this TxCDBG Project, Contract Number _____.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties do mutually agree as follows:

1. Scope of Services
The Contractor will perform the services set out in Part II, Scope of Services.
2. Time of Performance - The services of the Contractor shall commence on _____. In any event, all of the services required and performed hereunder shall be completed no later than _____.
3. Local Program Liaison - For purposes of this Contract, the [e.g. City Manager/County] or equivalent authorized person will serve as the Local Program Liaison and primary point of contact for the Contractor. All required progress reports and communication regarding the project shall be directed to this liaison and other local personnel as appropriate.
4. Access to Records - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Inspectors General, the Comptroller General of the United States, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), and the City/County, or any of their authorized representatives, shall have access to any documents, papers, or other records of the Contractor which are pertinent to the TxCDBG award, in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts, and to closeout the City/County's TxCDBG contract with TDA.
5. Retention of Records - The Contractor shall retain all required records for three years after the City/County makes its final payment and all pending matters are closed.
6. Compensation and Method of Payment - The maximum amount of compensation and reimbursement to be paid hereunder shall not exceed \$_____. Payment to the Contractor shall be based on satisfactory completion of identified milestones in Part III - Payment Schedule of this Agreement.
7. Indemnification - The Contractor shall comply with the requirements of all applicable laws, rules and regulations, and shall exonerate, indemnify, and hold harmless the City/County and its agency members from and against any and all claims, costs, suits, and damages, including attorneys' fees, arising out of the Contractor's performance or nonperformance of the activities, services or subject matter called for in this agreement or in connection with the management and administration of the TxCDBG contract, and shall assume full responsibility for payments of Federal, State and local taxes on contributions imposed or required under the Social Security, worker's compensation and income tax laws.
8. Miscellaneous Provisions

- a. This Agreement shall be construed under and in accord with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in _____ County, Texas.
- b. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.
- c. In any case one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.
- d. If any action at law or in equity is necessary to enforce or interpret the terms of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and necessary disbursements in addition to any other relief to which such party may be entitled.
- e. This Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties hereto and a writing to be attached to and incorporated into this Agreement.

9. Extent of Agreement

This Agreement, which includes Parts I-IV, [*and if applicable*, including the following exhibits/attachments: represents the entire and integrated agreement between the City/County and the Contractor and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, either written or oral. This Agreement may be amended only by written instrument signed by authorized representatives of both City/County and Contractor.

IN WITNESSETH WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement by causing the same to be signed on the day and year first above written.

BY:

(Local City/County Official)

(Printed Name)

(Title)

BY:

(Contractor's Authorized Representative)

(Printed Name)

(Title)