

EXHIBIT A
REQUIREMENTS/SCOPE OF SERVICES
HIDALGO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
“PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR
FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS”

**HIDALGO COUNTY - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
 "PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES TO SEEK FUNDING ASSISTANCE
 THROUGH FEDERAL/STATE AND OTHER SOURCES"**

RFP NO: 2008-103

Overview:

Hidalgo County (hereinafter referred to as "COUNTY") is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors to provide "Professional Consulting Services To Seek Funding Assistance Through Federal/State Other Sources" for a period of One (1) Year with the County's option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year terms, at the same rates, terms and conditions. The scope of the work/services will encompass all aspects of Hidalgo County operations and requires extensive professional knowledge and experience across all lines of coverage. The information provided in the Request For Proposals (hereinafter referred to as "RFP") is only to be used for the purpose of preparing a proposal for "Professional Consulting Services To Seek Funding Assistance Through Federal/State And Other Sources". Request For Proposals will be accepted until **9:30 A.M., Wednesday, _____ 2008. ANY RFP RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED AND WILL BE RETURNED.**

Deliver Submittal to:
 RFP Number: 2008-103

<u>US Postal Mail Address:</u> Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent Hidalgo County Purchasing Department Administration Building 2812 S. Business Hwy 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539	<u>Physical Address:</u> Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent Hidalgo County Purchasing Department Administration Building 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539
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The Submittal Envelope Must Show The RFP Number, Name And Opening Date.

The following outlines the Request For Proposals:

SECTION I -GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Hidalgo County is requesting that request for proposals be routed to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, at:

<u>US Postal Mail Address:</u> Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent Hidalgo County Purchasing Department Administration Building 2812 S. Business Hwy 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539	<u>Physical Address:</u> Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent Hidalgo County Purchasing Department Administration Building 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539
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WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMILE NO LATER THAN Wednesday, _____ 2008 at 5:00 P.M. at (956) 318-2629. Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile by Friday, _____ 2008. TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County ("the County") to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (the "CIQ") attached as **Exhibit D**, the vendor, person consultant or contractor's affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the

Hidalgo County Clerk's Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business who contract or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encourage to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Please submit complete CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office locate at 100 No. Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse **COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER.**

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT:

Prior Contract award, respondents to this RFP must submit a signed Proposer's Affidavit (attached herein in **Exhibit E**) certainly that the submission is (1) not the result of Collusion as described in the Proposer's Affidavit or that the Respondent has not and will not attempt to lobby directly or indirectly as described in the Proposer's Affidavit.

NON-DISCRIMINATION:

Submitters, during the performance of this contract, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin or disability except where religion, sex, national origin or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor.

PROCESSING TIME FOR PAYMENT:

Submitters are advised that a minimum of thirty (30) days is required to process invoices for payment.

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF BIDS:

Hidalgo County's Purchasing Department will not accept telegraphic or electronically transmitted submissions.

PROOF OF FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CAPABILITY:

Submitters must, upon request, furnish satisfactory evidence of their ability to furnish products or services in accordance with the terms and conditions of these requirements. Hidalgo County will make the final determination as to the submitter's ability.

SUBMITTER DEFAULT:

Hidalgo County reserves the right, in case of submitter default, to procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the defaulting submitter responsible for any excess costs occasioned thereby.

RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS REQUIREMENTS:

It is the responsibility of the submitter to review the Request for Proposal (RFP) packet and to notify the Purchasing Department if the requirements are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition. Any such protest or question regarding the requirements or proposers procedures must be received in the Purchasing Department not less than seventy-two hours prior to the time set for the opening. These criteria also apply to requirements that are ambiguous.

HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS:

Hidalgo County requires submitters, when hand delivering proposals, to make sure that it is stamped with date and time by the County Purchasing Staff.

SIGNING OF PROPOSALS:

In order to be considered all submittals **must** be signed. Please sign the original in **blue** ink.

WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES:

Hidalgo County reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities when it is in the best interest of Hidalgo County.

SUBCONTRACTING:

The successful submitter **may not** subcontract the award without the written consent of the Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County.

TERM OF CONTRACT:

It is intended that the term of the contract will be for an initial period of one (1) year, with County's option to renew/extend for additional two (2), one (1) year terms, under the same rates, terms, and conditions.

DAVIS BACON ACT:

All selected and awarded firms are required to include the Davis-Bacon Act when advertising and developing specifications.

SECTION II - RFP REQUIREMENTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFP are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any County limitations will result in disqualification of the submitted RFP. A total of **one (1) original and seven (7) copies** of the RFP shall be submitted to the address on the cover letter.

UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT:

This section should demonstrate the proposers understanding of the project needs, the work required, and any local issues or concerns. Briefly explain how long you have been organized and your corporate business objectives. Explain how long you have been in business. This description should be concise, candid, and limited to 3 pages in length.

FIRM QUALIFICATIONS:

Hidalgo County is soliciting to contract with a qualified vendors(s) for "Professional Consulting Services To Seek Funding Assistance Through Federal/State and Other Sources". Please refer to the "Scope of Services" for further requirements regarding detailed information.

PERSONNEL AND STAFFING:

The proposers should provide an organizational chart for the project and a summary paragraph of the project work to be performed by each proposed staff member. Biographic summaries that highlight the experience relevant to the specific project responsibilities should be provided for all proposed personnel. There is a one (1) page limitation for each biographic summary provided. Information regarding the firm's credentials, education and experience with other government entities is required and will be scored accordingly during the evaluation process.

REQUIRED CERTIFICATES AND SUBMITTAL:

This section will contain any licenses, registrations, permits, and certifications as required by the STATE OF TEXAS and HIDALGO COUNTY that you possess that deem you as a qualified provider.

If proposer/vendor cannot meet any of the following services/responsibilities, such exceptions must be noted on the company's cover letter.

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

Must be able to do the following:

- Prepare Funding Needs Assessment (Criminal Justice, Health Care, Eco Dev., Emergency Management, Planning and Transportation, etc)-short and long-term

- Identify State, Federal and Private Funding Sources
- Prepare grant applications/funding requests in consultation with departments
- Assist with reporting requirements
- Coordinate special projects related to identification of funding sources (research, coordinating meetings with potential funders, etc.)
- Prepare and circulate funding alerts

PROPOSERS ARE TO PROVIDE A FEE SCHEDULE WITH THIS SUBMITTAL:

Proposer(s) is to provide a fee proposal based on the scope of services/work.

NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED:

Hidalgo County requires one (1) original submittal and seven (7) copies.

SECTION III – SELECTION/EVALUATION/RANKING

SELECTION/EVALUATION/RANKING PROCESS:

The RFP shall be submitted according to the schedule below. The County of Hidalgo is not required to select the proposal with the lowest fees, but shall take into consideration other factors, including past experience, evidence of good organization background, references, ability to provide requested services and any other factors found necessary for quality services. Hidalgo County Community will evaluate the proposal utilizing the evaluation criteria outlined in Exhibit “B” attached herein. Thereafter, Hidalgo County Commissioners Court will rank and/or award this proposal.

STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS RANKING:

Hidalgo County will evaluate and score the RFP responses. After the RFPs have been evaluated and scored, Hidalgo County will make a recommendation to Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for approval of rank and/or award of proposal.

NEGOTIATION PROCESS:

Compliance with all requirements, the most cost productive, efficient and effective plan will be considered. Emphasis will be placed on capability to perform within the program as well as meeting the needs of Hidalgo County. Accuracy and completeness are essential. If negotiations proved unsuccessful, the next highest ranked proposer will be contacted. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs.

RFP SUBMITTED TO: An original and seven (7) copies of RFPs should be submitted to:

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RFPs must be submitted by **no later than 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, _____, 2008.**

All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of (rfq's, bids, proposals and/or quotes) shall be the responsibility of the participant and no reimbursement for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County.