

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS/QUALIFICATIONS

Hidalgo County
Edinburg, Texas

**“POOL OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS TO SEEK FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE
THROUGH STATE, FEDERAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR(S) AND OTHER SOURCES”**

MAY , 2010

Contact Person:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
Physical Address: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Mailing/US Postal Address: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

LEGAL NOTICE

RFP NO: 2010-163-00-00CGV

1. Sealed proposals with qualifications will be received for **HIDALGO COUNTY-POOL OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS TO SEEK FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE THROUGH STATE, FEDERAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR(S) AND OTHER SOURCES**, in accordance with the requirements attached hereto as Exhibit "A." Proposals with qualifications should address all requirements set forth. Proposers may suggest substitutions of features which they feel would be in the best interest of Hidalgo County ("County"). Strong rationale must be presented for any deviation from the requirements. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject the deviation and its effect on the overall proposal with qualification.
2. One (1) original and seven (7) copies of all RFP/Qs are required, with the vendor's name and address clearly typed/printed on upper left hand corner and the proper notation clearly typed/printed on the lower left hand corner of the envelope and/or package, **RFP/Q NO: 2010-163-00-00-CGV-“Hidalgo County–Pool Of Professional Consultants To Seek Funding And Assistance Through State, Federal And Private Sector(s) And Other Sources”** and in County's Purchasing Department, **physical address:** 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281; **mailing address:** 2812 S. Hwy. Business 281, New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas, 78539 **on or before 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May , 2010.**

NO FACSIMILES OR LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ANY RFP/Q RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED AND WILL BE RETURNED. OVERNIGHT MAIL MUST ALSO BE PROPERLY LABELED ON THE OUTSIDE OF EXPRESS ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE WITH THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE: RFP/Q NO: 2010-163-00-00CGV-HIDALGO COUNTY-“POOL OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS TO SEEK FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE THROUGH STATE, FEDERAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR(S) AND OTHER SOURCES.”

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED via facsimile to (956) 292-7612 or via e-mail to cris.villarreal@co.hidalgo.tx.us BY NO LATER THAN Wednesday, May , 2010 at 5:00 p.m. Responses will be sent to all applicants by Friday, May , 2010. TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any/all proposals with qualifications and to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the proposal with qualifications considered the best and most advantageous to Hidalgo County.

3. Hidalgo County reserves the right to: **A.** separate and accept, or eliminate any item(s) listed under this proposal with qualifications that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary and/or operational requirements; **B.** right to reject any or all proposals with qualifications submitted and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to

be used in selecting the lowest and best proposal with qualifications for approval. Receipt of any proposal with qualifications shall under no circumstances obligate County to accept the lowest dollar proposal and; **C.** award of this contract shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal with qualifications is determined to be the best evaluated offer resulting from negotiation, taking into consideration the relative importance of price and other evaluation factors as herein set forth.

4. Failure of the delivered item(s) to perform as specified or failure to meet the stated delivery schedule shall release Hidalgo County from all obligations to the contracting party with regard to the item(s) in question. In such event, County may elect to award the contract to the next-lowest responsible proposer with qualifications, or to reject all proposals with qualifications and re-advertise.
5. For work to be performed at a County owned or operated location, each proposer shall, in its sole discretion, visit the job site before preparing the proposal with qualifications and thoroughly familiarize himself/herself with existing conditions. Proposer should take field dimensions and note all circumstances which affect the dollar amount of the proposal.
6. Descriptive specifications are referenced in this document to indicate the general kind and quality of equipment desired by Hidalgo County. Due to various styles and models of equipment, proposers are required to include illustrations, specifications, explanation of warranties, and service data with their proposal including catalogue numbers and any necessary references.
7. No proposal with qualifications may be withdrawn within sixty (60) days from the scheduled time to open proposals.
8. Proposed prices are to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after priced proposal opening.
9. Any interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes to this proposal document must be in a written addendum and signed by the County Judge or his designee. Addenda will be mailed to all who are known to have received a copy of the Request for Proposals with Qualifications. Proposers shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda as a part of their proposal.
10. County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals with qualifications.
11. Costs are to be net F.O.B., County Prepaid.
12. County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax, State Tax and Local Tax. Do Not include tax in cost figure. If it is determined that tax was included in the cost figures it will not be included in the tabulation of any awards. Tax exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.

13. Funds for this procurement have been provided through the County budget for this fiscal year only. County, on an annual basis, has the right to reconsider a contract during the budget process for ensuing years if financial resources of County are insufficient to meet the liabilities of said contract. The award of a proposal with qualifications or contract hereunder will not be construed to create a debt of the County which is payable out of funds beyond the current fiscal year.

14. Upon award and prior to execution of a contract, Sole Proprietorships are required to submit a copy of their social security card to the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office in order to establish an account with the County. All awarded vendors must submit a completed W-9 and a copy of their Federal ID Number Certificate.

15. DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS: (If applicable)

- . No deliveries accepted after 3:00 P.M., Monday-Friday.
- . At least seventy two (72) hours prior notice of delivery must be given to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent before delivery will be accepted.
- . If you need additional information call the office listed below:

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281, New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 318-2626

16. BILLING AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

- . Invoices must include:
 - a) Name and address of successful proposer
 - b) Name and address of receiving department or official
 - c) Purchase Order Number (if any)
 - d) Notation: **“Pool Of Professional Consultants To Seek Funding And Assistance Through State, Federal And Private Sector(s) And Other Sources”**
 - e) Descriptive information as to the items or services delivered, including product code, item number, quantity, etc.
- . Discount payments will be considered when offered.
- . Contact person for Billing and Payment questions:

Hidalgo County Auditor's Department
Ray Eufrazio, CPA
2808 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

17. Schedule of Events

Projected RFP/Q Acceptance: 9:30 A.M., May , 2010
Project/Anticipated Award Date: _____, 2010
Commence Work or Deliver Products _____ , 2010

18. Bid or Performance Bond and **Debarment Certification**; Payment Under Contract:

~~If the contract proposed is for the construction of public works or is for a contract for goods and services exceeding \$100,000, all bidders shall furnish a good and sufficient bid bond in the amount of five percent of the total contract price. A bid bond must be executed with a surety company authorized to do business in Texas.~~ **All participants are required to furnish a certification or acknowledgment stating that the contractor or vendor is free from suspension or debarment pursuant to federal regulation 45CFR76.**

~~Together with the signing of a contract or issuance of a purchase order following the acceptance of a proposal, and prior to commencement of the actual work, the proposer shall furnish a performance bond to the County for the full amount of the contract, if that contract exceeds \$50,000.~~

~~If the contract is for \$50,000 or less, no money will be paid to the contractor until completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County, and, if applicable, the receipt by County of satisfactory evidence that all subcontractors and material men have been paid.~~

~~If a contract is for the construction, alteration or repair of public buildings or public works, the contractor shall provide a payment bond for a contract in excess of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), as required by Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2253.~~

~~For requirements contracts, bond requirements are determined by applying the proposed unit price to the estimated quantities included in the specifications.~~

19. Ethical Standards:

~~It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of the County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of the County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation,~~

auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal therefor pending before any department or agency of the County.

- . It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for the County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.
- . No public official shall have an interest in a contract awarded hereunder except in accordance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Chapter 171.

20. **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 successful Proposer fails to comply with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encouraged 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 located at 100 No. Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse **COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE PROPOSER.**

21. If, during the life of any contract or proposal awarded, the successful proposer's net prices generally available to other customers for items awarded herein are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such reduction shall be extended to County.
22. Proposals with qualifications, and all goods and services provided thereunder, shall comply with all federal, state and local laws concerning this type(s) of goods and/or services.
23. Minimum Standards For Responsible Prospective Proposers: A prospective proposer must

affirmatively demonstrate proposer's responsibility. A prospective proposer, by submitting a proposal with qualifications, represents to County that it meets the following requirements:

- . Possess or is able to obtain adequate financial resources as required to perform under the proposal;
 - . Be able to comply with the required or proposed delivery schedule;
 - . Have a satisfactory record of performance;
 - . Have a satisfactory record of integrity and ethics;
 - . Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award.
23. Successful proposer will pay or cause to be paid, without cost or expenses to County, all FICA, FUTA/SUTA and Federal Income Withholding Taxes of all employees, and all wages and benefits as required by Federal or State law. Successful proposers' officers, agents and/or employees will not be entitled to any benefits of an employee or elected official of County, including, but not limited to, benefits associated with County's civil service system.
24. Any contract award to a successful proposer will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by County with thirty (30) day's written notice prior to cancellation.
25. County reserves the right to enforce performance of any contract awarded hereunder in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County in the event of breach or default by successful proposer; County reserves the right to terminate any contract immediately in the event a successful proposer fails to:
- A. Meet schedules;
 - B. Pay any required fees or taxes; or
 - C. Otherwise perform in accordance with the requirements.
26. Successful proposer shall defend, indemnify and save harmless County and all its elected officials, officers, agents and employees from all suits, actions, or other claims of any character, name and description brought for or on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property on account of any negligent act or fault of the successful proposer, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from proposal award. Successful proposer indemnifies and will indemnify and save harmless County from liability, claim or demand on their part, agents, servants, customers, and/or employees whether such liability, claim or demand arise from event or casualty happening or within the occupied premises themselves or happening upon or in any of the halls, elevators, entrances, stairways or approaches of or to the facilities within which the occupied premises are located. Successful proposer shall pay any judgment with costs which may be obtained

against County growing out of such injury or damages, and shall, upon request, provide a defense to County by counsel reasonably acceptable to County. Successful proposer's indemnity hereunder shall include, but is not limited to, claims relating to patent, copyright or trademark infringement, and the like, arising out of the goods or services provided by successful proposer.

27. Successful proposer shall warrant that all items/services shall conform with the specifications and/or all warranties provided under the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship and the like. Items supplied under a contract pursuant to this Request for Proposals shall be subject to County's approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by successful proposer within two business days at no expense to County. Items not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to County and may be used or disposed of at County's discretion and without waiver of any other rights of County as to the item's nonconformity.
28. This document and any disputes arising hereunder shall be governed and construed according to the laws of the State of Texas, and will be performable exclusively in Hidalgo County, Texas.
29. The successful proposer shall not assign, sell, transfer or convey its rights under any awarded contract, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County.
30. Proposers shall provide with the proposal response, a list of at least three (3) references where like services have been supplied by their firm. Include the name of the business or government, address, telephone number and name of representative or contact person.
31. Proposers must provide **all** documentation requested with this Proposal in their response. Failure to provide this information may result in rejection of the proposal as non conforming.

Request for Proposal/Qualifications

“RFP/Q NO: 2010-163-00-00CGV

To: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Physical Address: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Mailing/US Postal Address: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

In accordance with the Requirements, and subject to all laws and regulations of the United States and state and local laws, the undersigned proposer proposes and commits to furnish all labor, equipment, material, software and services as set forth in the documents hereinbefore mentioned. The undersigned proposer further agrees, upon acceptance of its proposal, to execute a contract and/or Purchase Order issued by Hidalgo County for performing and completing the work described in the Requirements within the time stated and for the prices proposed in the documents attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Proposer acknowledges receipt of all of the pages of the documents referenced in the Request for Proposal with Qualification Checklist presented in connection with this procurement. Proposer understands that Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best proposal with qualifications.

Proposer agrees that this proposal shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receiving proposals, as contained in the Requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Proposer: _____

Address: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

EXHIBIT A
REQUIREMENTS
HIDALGO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSAL/QUALIFICATIONS

**"POOL OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS TO SEEK FUNDING AND
ASSISTANCE THROUGH FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES,
PRIVATE SECTOR(S) AND OTHER SOURCES"**
(INCLUDING ALL FUNDING SOURCES, PROGRAMS, AND ENTITIES)

RFP/Q NO: 2010-163-00-00CGV

Hidalgo County is requesting for sealed proposals with qualifications from qualified **"Consultant(s)"** in order to establish a **"Pool of Professional Consultants To Seek Funding And Assistance Through Federal and State Agencies, Private Sector(s) And Other Sources"** on an **"As Needed Basis"**. Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will receive sealed proposals with qualifications for the provision and establishment of a **"Pool Of Professional Consultants To Seek Funding And Assistance Through Federal and State Agencies, Private Sector(s) And Other Sources"** as specified herein. Sealed proposals with qualifications will be accepted until **9:30 A.M., Wednesday, _____ 2010. ANY RFP/Q RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BE RETURNED UNOPENED.**

Deliver Submittal to:

RFP/Q NO: 2010-163-00-00CGV

US Postal Mail address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Physical Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

The Submittal Envelope Must Show the RFP Number, Name and Acceptance Date.

The following outlines the Request For Proposal/Qualifications:

SECTION I. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Hidalgo County is requesting that "Request For Proposal/Qualifications" be routed to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, at:

US Postal Mail address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Physical Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMIL NO LATER THAN Wednesday, _____ at 5:00 P.M. at (956) 292-7612, and/or BY EMAIL AT: cris.villarreal@co.hidalgo.tx.us Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile by Friday, _____. 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 successful bidder fails to comply with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encouraged 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 located at 100 No. Closser, 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/Q must submit a signed Proposer's Affidavit (attached herein in **Exhibit E**) certifying that the submission is (1) not the result of Collusion as described in the Proposer's Affidavit, (2) that the Respondent does not have a Conflict of Interest 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/Qualification (RFP/Q) 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 bidding 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 RFP/Q, to make sure that it is stamped with date and time by the County Purchasing staff.

SIGNING OF PROPOSALS/QUALIFICATIONS:

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 for one (1) additional one year term, under the same rates, terms and conditions.

The County has the option to extend for sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract for unforeseen delays on subsequent contract under the same rates, terms and conditions.

DAVIS BACON ACT: (If Applicable)

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

SECTION II RFP REQUIREMENTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL/QUALIFICATION:

The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFP/Q 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/Q. A total of **one (1) original and seven (7) copies** of the RFP/Q shall be submitted to the address on the cover letter.

CONTENTS:

The required contents for the RFP/Q are presented below in the order they should be incorporated into the submitted document.

UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT:

This section should demonstrate the submitter's understanding of the project needs, the work required, and any local issues or concerns. This description should be concise, candid, and limited to 3 pages in length.

FIRM QUALIFICATIONS:

The County of Hidalgo is seeking to contract with competent, qualified "**Consultant(s)**", in order to establish a "Pool", that has had experience in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Prefer a minimum of five (5) years responsible experience in business/government;
- Prefer a minimum of three (3) years recent experience in grant and/or technical writing;
- Must have experience relevant to Federal And State Agencies, Private Sector(s), and Other Sources For Funding;
- Must have staffing adequate to devote and assign proper personnel to perform and render all the services requested
- Overall understanding of the "Project" as detailed in scope of work/services
- Excellent financial-related background and interpersonal skills
- Effective communication skills, both verbal and written
- Excellent organizational and analytical skills
- Ability to manage multiple priorities
- Ability to formulate recommendations
- Ability to compile and analyze financial data

FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS-PLEASE REFER TO "SCOPE OF SERVICES" SECTION.

Additionally, this section should include a description of the firm's project personnel and their most recent similar projects. For each project, a client contract name and phone number should be included for reference purposes. Additionally, the names of the personnel proposed for this project who participated in the listed projects should be provided. This project list is limited to 5 pages.

PERSONNEL AND STAFFING:

The firm 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.

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

Hidalgo County is requesting proposals from experienced, qualified consultants in order to establish a **"Pool Of Professional Consultants"** to provide consulting services required to seek funding and assistance through federal and state agencies. The **"Pool Of Professional Consultants To Seek Funding And Assistance Through Federal and State Agencies, Private Sector(s) And Other Sources"** contract will encompass all project-related services to the County of Hidalgo including, but not limited to, the following:

Required services include, but may not be limited to the following:

- a. Review, prepare and/or coordinate grants/funding sources with the assistance of designated Hidalgo County Staff and/or Engineers and Architects;
- b. Provide governmental relations and representation before federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources;
- c. Plan and coordinate meetings between County Officials and key representatives of federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources;
- d. Plan, prepare, and coordinate development of appropriate legislation and appropriation requests to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources to be presented by County Officials and/or key representatives of the County;
- e. Plan, prepare and coordinate presentations for County Officials/Representatives to present before federal and state Agencies, private sector(s) and other sources;
- f. Notwithstanding, before commencing, consultant shall **not engage** in any lobbying activity for which a license or registration is required under either state or federal law.
- g. Attend meeting(s) with County Officials and Staff to understand the County's concerns and goals prior to commencing any activity relating to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources;
- h. Coordinate with the County to jointly develop strategies relating to federal and

- state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources;
- i. Assist the County in identifying and preparing for critical issues and concerns relating to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources;
 - j. Assist with providing appropriate input on any studies identifying concerns that impact the County relating to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources;
 - k. Coordinate and develop better working relationships with other urban counties, and any other appropriate leadership and personnel which may be helpful in coordinated response, in the areas of concern as reasonable and necessary relating to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources;
 - l. Meet with any and other individual(s) or group(s) involved on such matters of concern relating to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources;
 - m. Determine and communicate the various impacts to the County of any and/or such concerns relating to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources;
 - n. Obtain funding from federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources to increase the County's capacity for services through grants and other funding sources.
 - o. Prepare and perform other assignments as requested accordingly;
 - p. Cooperate and coordinate fully with the County Commissioners' Court, the professional and administrative staffs of the County;
 - q. Report and consult to the County Commissioners as often as reasonably necessary;
 - r. Provide any other service(s) necessary or desirable for the development of the service(s);
 - s. Prepare grant applications/funding requests;
 - t. Prepare funding needs assessment;
 - u. Prepare and circulate funding alerts;
 - v. Consultant will identify, define, and develop funding sources to support existing and planned program activities as well as coordinate the development, writing, and submission of grant proposals to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources.
 - w. Knowledge of Texas County/Local Government, including knowledge of applicable statutes/regulations;
 - x. Will be required to collect, analyze, and reporting data on the performance of program activities that are funded by public and private sources;
 - y. Consultant will entail researching available grant funding for specific areas of county responsibility and interest (examples: criminal justice, health care, economic development, emergency management, etc.) technical research/writing required to prepare grant applications, prepares complex correspondence and grant reports/statistics and submits to local, federal, state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources, administration of awarded grants in compliance with all grant requirements, regulations, including monitoring of project activities, budgets, record keeping/reporting;

NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED:

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

PROPOSERS ARE TO PROVIDE A FEE SCHEDULE WITH THIS SUBMITTAL:

Proposer is to provide a fee proposal based on the scope of work and services.

SECTION III: SELECTION AND SCHEDULES

SELECTION PROCEDURES/EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The evaluation consists of a 100-point scoring system based on the Evaluation Criteria - Exhibit B. However, at the sole discretion of Commissioner's Court a presentation may be requested from the participating firm(s) that have scored at least 80 points in order to complete and finalize the ranking and establish a "POOL":

(A) The Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court and/or an Evaluation Committee (selected and/or designated by Commissioner's Court) will review, score and evaluate the RFQs received in response to this Hidalgo County request for proposals/qualifications.

(B) After the RFQs have been reviewed, scored and evaluated, the committee will present a grid to the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court for the purposes of ranking.

Proposals/Qualifications will be graded on a point system with emphasis on ability to service the County and experience in seeking funding and assistance through federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources, including but not limited to the following:

A. BACKGROUND - 15 POINTS

1. Provides sufficient professional background.
2. Provides references.
3. Indicative of outstanding, or exceptional, performance required services for federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources.

B. COST - 20 POINTS

Provides the required turnkey services at a reasonable cost.

C. EXPERIENCE - 20 POINTS

1. Experience in business/government relevant to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources.
2. Experience in business/governmental relations and representation before federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources.
3. Knowledge of Texas County/Local Government, including knowledge of applicable statutes/regulations.
4. Extent of experience.

D. PROPOSER'S QUALIFICATIONS - 20 POINTS

1. Met minimum of five (5) years of experience in federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources.
2. Met minimum of three (3) years of experience in grant and/or technical writing.
3. Experience relevant to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources for funding.

E. CAPACITY OF PERFORMANCE - 25 POINTS

1. Provides appropriate evidence of adequate staffing.
2. Staffing level/experience of staff.
3. Adequacy of resources to perform these services.

TERMINATION OF SERVICES:

Any contract awarded to a successful proposer will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by County with thirty day's written notice prior to cancellation.

PROPOSAL WITH QUALIFICATION SUBMITTED TO: An original and seven (7) copies of RFP/Qs should be submitted to:

<p><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</p>	<p><u>Physical Address:</u> Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent Hidalgo County Purchasing Department Administration Building 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539</p>
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RFP/Qs must be submitted by **no later than 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday,** , 2010.

Categories are further detailed in the Selection Criteria (Exhibit B) section of this RFP/Q.

EXHIBIT B
EVALUATION CRITERIA

**HIDALGO COUNTY -
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL/QUALIFICATIONS**

**“POOL OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS TO SEEK FUNDING AND
ASSISTANCE THROUGH FEDERAL, STATE, PRIVATE SECTOR(S)
AND OTHER SOURCES”**

(INCLUDING ALL FUNDING SOURCES, PROGRAMS, AND ENTITIES)

RFP/Q NO: 2010-163-00-00CGV

SELECTION/EVALUATION/RANKING CRITERIA

Proposals/Qualifications will be graded on a point system with emphasis on ability to service the County and experience in seeking funding and assistance through federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources, including but not limited to the following:

A. BACKGROUND - 15 POINTS

1. Provides sufficient professional background
2. Provides references
3. Indicative of outstanding, or exceptional, performance required services for federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources

B. COST - 20 POINTS

Provides the required turnkey services at a reasonable cost.

C. EXPERIENCE - 20 POINTS

1. Experience in business/government relevant to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources
2. Experience in business/governmental relations and representation before federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources
3. Knowledge of Texas County/Local Government, including knowledge of applicable statutes/regulations
4. Extent of experience

D. PROPOSER'S QUALIFICATIONS - 20 POINTS

1. Met minimum of five (5) years of experience in federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources
2. Met minimum of three (3) years of experience in grant and/or technical writing
3. Experience relevant to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources for funding

E. CAPACITY OF PERFORMANCE - 25 POINTS

1. Provides appropriate evidence of adequate staffing
2. Staffing level/experience of staff
3. Adequacy of resources to perform these services

Total Points = 100 Points

RFP EVALUATION FORM

SELECTION CRITERIA

Min Points

Score

A. BACKGROUND

1. Provides sufficient professional background
2. Provides references
3. Indicative of outstanding, or exceptional, performance required services for federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources

0-15 Points

Comments/Rationale For
Points: _____

B. COST

Provides the required turnkey services at a reasonable cost.

0-20 Points

Comments/Rationale For
Points: _____

C. EXPERIENCE

1. Experience in business/government relevant to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources
2. Experience in business/governmental relations and representation before federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources
3. Knowledge of Texas County/Local Government, including knowledge of applicable statutes/regulations
4. Extent of experience

0-20 Points

Comments/Rationale For
Points: _____

D. QUALIFICATIONS

- 1. Met minimum of five (5) years of experience in federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources
- 2. Met minimum of three (3) years of experience in grant and/or technical writing
- 3. Experience relevant to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources for funding

0-20 Points _____

Comments/Rationale For Points: _____

E. CAPACITY OF PERFORMANCCE

- 1. Met minimum of five (5) years of experience in federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources
- 2. Met minimum of three (3) years of experience in grant and/or technical writing
- 3. Experience relevant to federal and state agencies, private sector(s) and other sources for funding

0-25 Points _____

Comments/Rationale For Points: _____

Total Score _____

Provider: _____

Evaluator: _____ Date: _____