

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) CHECKLIST

“PRE-PAID (POST TAX) VOLUNTARY LEGAL SERVICES-HIDALGO COUNTY”

RFP No 2014-054-00-00-YSS

1. Request for Proposals Letter.
2. Request for Proposals, Legal Notice, consisting of 9 pages.
3. Exhibit “A”, Requirements/Scope of Services/Proposal Page(s), consisting of 18 pages.
4. Exhibit “B”, Evaluation Criteria, consisting of 1 pages.
5. Exhibit “C”, Insurance Requirements, consisting of 4 pages.
6. Exhibit “D”, Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ), consisting of 1 page.
7. Exhibit “E”, Proposer Affidavit, consisting of 1 page.
8. Proposer/Vendor Application and W-9 Form, consisting of 6 pages.
9. Certification Regarding Debarment, consisting of 1 page.
10. Draft Service Agreement, consisting of 12 pages.

The above mentioned items shall be found in the Request for Proposals (RFP) packet that is attached herewith. Should you find that any of the items are not attached in its entirety please contact Purchasing by calling (956) 318-2626, advise of missing documentation, and Purchasing will forward information either through facsimile or by U.S. Mail.

Thank you,

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent

Month day, 2014

Date

RFP NO: 2014-054-00-00	Buyer: Yvette Salinas	Tel. No: (956) 318-2626
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Hidalgo County

Edinburg, Texas

“PRE-PAID (POST TAX) VOLUNTARY LEGAL SERVICES”

Month day, 2014

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

(956) 318-2626

Form HCPD-04

LEGAL NOTICE

RFP NO: 2014-054-00-00

1. Sealed proposals will be received for **“Hidalgo County –PRE-PAID (POST TAX) VOLUNTARY LEGAL SERVICES”**, in accordance with the requirements attached hereto as Exhibit "A." Proposals 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.
2. One (1) original and seven (7) copies of all RFPs 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 NO: 2014-053-00-00-YSS-Hidalgo County-Pre-Paid (Post Tax) Voluntary Legal Services”** 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, on or before 9:30 a.m., Month day, 2014.**

NO FACSIMILES OR LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ANY RFP 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 REFERENCE TO: RFP NO: 2014-054-00-00-YSS-HIDALGO COUNTY-PRE-PAID (POST TAX) VOLUNTARY LEGAL SERVICES”.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WILL BE ACCEPTED via e-mail to: yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us, BY NO LATER THAN **Wednesday, Month day, 2014 5:00 p.m. Responses will be sent to all applicants by Friday, Month day, 2014. TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any/all proposals and to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the proposal 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 that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary and/or operational requirements; **B.** right to reject any or all proposals submitted and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best proposal for approval. Receipt of any proposal 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 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, or to reject all proposals 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 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 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. 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.
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 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
(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 – **“Hidalgo County- Pre-Paid (Post Tax) Voluntary Legal Services”**
 - 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 Office
Ray Eufrazio, County Auditor
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, TX 78539
956-318-2511

17. Schedule of Events

Projected Proposal Opening, 9:30 A.M., **Month day, 2014**
Project/Anticipated Award Date: _____, 2014
Commence Work or Deliver Products _____, 2014

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. Closner, 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, 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, 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.
24. 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 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.

27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. 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
“HIDALGO COUNTY PRE-PAID (POST TAX) VOLUNTARY LEGAL SERVICES”
RFP NO: 2011-059-03-02-VYG

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 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.

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

HIDALGO COUNTY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

“PREPAID (POST TAX) VOLUNTARY LEGAL SERVICES”

RFP NO: 2014-054-00-00-YSS

**HIDALGO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
“PREPAID (POST TAX) VOLUNTARY LEGAL SERVICES”
RFP NO: 2014-054-00-00-YSS**

Overview:

Hidalgo County is accepting proposals from qualified legal firms to provide legal and counseling services for Hidalgo County Employees on an “As Needed Basis”. The qualified firm(s) must be prepared to devote sufficient time to the County to assure that the services offered provide the most benefit to the participant and would be strictly on a employee voluntary payroll deduction participation.

The Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will receive sealed envelopes containing proposals for the provision of “**PREPAID (POST TAX) VOLUNTARY LEGAL SERVICES** ” as specified herein. Sealed proposals will be accepted until **9:30 A.M., MARCH 2, 2011. ANY RFP RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BE RETURNED UNOPENED.**

Deliver Submittal to:
RFP Number: 2011-059-03-02-VYG

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 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

: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 WILL BE ACCEPTED via e-mail to:
yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us, BY NO LATER THAN **Wednesday, Month day, 2014 at 5:00**

p.m. Responses will be sent to all applicants by Friday, Month day, 2014. 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 TAX 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 participant 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 TAX Office locate at 100 No. Closner, 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.

DURATION OF CONTRACT: The initial term of the contract shall be for **One (1) Year**, with the County's option to renew the agreement **two (2)-one (1) year terms** based on prior year's performance evaluation and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this proposal for an additional sixty (60) day "Grace Period" at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay of award for next term and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged.

DAVIS BACON ACT:

All selected and awarded firms are required to include the Davis-Bacon Act when advertising and developing specifications **(if applicable)**.

SECTION II - RFP REQUIREMENT

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 services required, and any local issues or concerns. Briefly explain how long you have been organized and your business objectives. Explain how long you have been in business. This description should be concise, candid, and limited to 3 pages in length.

PROPOSER'S QUALIFICATIONS:

The firms must be registered and licensed to practice in the State of Texas, that has had experience in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Must have a minimum of Five (5) years experience in legal services;
- At least Five (5) years experience in litigation on behalf of plaintiff;
- At least Five (5) years experience in the South Texas Courts;
- The firm/company must assign a minimum of one qualified account representative to service Hidalgo County;
- A Certificate of the representative's Errors and Omission insurance must be provided within 21 days from award and prior to execution of contract;
- The firm and representative(s) must be authorized by the State of Texas for sale and solicitation of Legal Services Benefit Plan;

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. In addition, the names of the personnel proposed for this project who participated in the listed projects should be provided. This project list is limited to five (5) pages.

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 proposer's credentials, education and experience with other entities is required and will be scored accordingly during the evaluation process.

REQUIRED CERTIFICATES AND SUBMITTAL:

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

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

The information contained in these scope of services is confidential and is to be used only in connection with preparing a proposal for the following employee benefit plan. The contract will encompass all project-related legal services to the County of Hidalgo, including but not limited to, the following:

- Firm will evaluate and prosecute all claims;
- The selected firm will be expected to provide knowledgeable staff to explain the benefits to employees during the initial enrollment and during an annual enrollment period;

- Group employee education meetings, up to 20 minutes, will be allowed prior to or following the scheduled working day;
- Hidalgo County will sponsor only one Legal Services Benefit Plan;
- Legal Services Benefit Plan should not include the use of the legal services by a participating employee to the detriment of Hidalgo County;
- Hidalgo County is to be provided with a master payroll deduction list;
- After enrollment is held, Hidalgo County Treasurer's Office need to be provided with a spreadsheet including the names, addresses, social security numbers, and effective date for coverage;
- When change occurs, Hidalgo County Treasurer's Office needs to be formally notified by the awarded company; these changes include in services, deletion of certain services, or cancellation; and an effective date for these changes.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

A. Information

1. The information contained in these specifications is confidential and is to be used only in connection with preparing a proposal for the following employee benefit plan:

“Pre-Paid Voluntary Legal Services Benefit Plan”

2. Hidalgo County reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of the proposals, waive minor technicalities, and award the proposal to best serve the interest of Hidalgo County. Hidalgo County also reserves the right to waive or dispense with any of the formalities contained herein.
3. Proposals are to be submitted on the basis of the specifications contained herein. Alternate proposals will also be considered, provided they are clearly explained. All deviations from the specifications must be clearly identified and explained.
4. The information contained herein is believed to be accurate and up-to-date, but is not intended to be an expressed or implied warranty.
5. No telephone or fax proposals will be accepted. Proposals may only be accepted if delivered by U.S. Postal Services, Federal Express, UPS, other courier services or personally delivered by proposer. The County of Hidalgo will not be responsible for missing, lost, or late mail. Any proposals received after the time set for opening will be returned to the proposer unopened upon proposer's request and expense.
6. Vendors are cordially invited to the proposals opening, but are not required to attend.
7. Can you provide a sample of company's agreement for services being requested? If yes, please include with your RFP response.

B. Legal

All parties submitting proposals are expected to comply with federal, state and local insurance laws and regulations relative to the preparation and submissions of insurance proposals, when applicable. Specifically, the services to be provided are expected to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), insurance laws and insurance regulations. All proposals that are submitted will be presumed to be in compliance with all applicable laws.

C. Communication

1. Proposals are to be sealed in an envelope clearly labeled “ **Pre-Paid (Post Tax) Voluntary Legal Services Benefit Plan**”. Proposer is required to provide one (1) original and seven (7) copies of proposal and submitted to:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB
Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent
2812 S. Business Hwy. 281, New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 318-2626 (Phone)
(956) 318-2629 (Fax)

2. Requests for information, must be in writing and must be faxed to:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB
Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent
2812 S. Business Hwy. 281-New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 318-2626 (Phone)
(956) 318-2629 (Fax)

3. Copies of all correspondence relevant to this assignment will be distributed to all interested participants.
4. **COMMUNICATION WITH COUNTY MEMBERS/EMPLOYEES:**
Firm/Company submitting proposals shall not discuss this RFP with Members of Commissioners Court and or employees of Hidalgo County, other than the assigned staff member(s) at the Purchasing Department.

IF DISCUSSION IS NECESSARY, YOUR COMPANY WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THIS REQUIREMENT MAY RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

D. Time Frame

1. The specifications will be available to interested parties on or after Monday, February 14, 2011 at the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department, Administration Bldg, 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281, New Administration Building - Edinburg, Texas.
2. Proposals (one (1) original and seven (7) copies) must be delivered to Hidalgo County Purchasing Department, 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281, New Administration

Building, Edinburg, Texas 78539, no later than Wednesday, March 2, 2011 by 9:30 a.m. .

“Request for Proposal No. - Pre-Paid (Post Tax) Voluntary Legal Services Plan”

3. The proposal will be opened in public at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at the Hidalgo County Purchasing Departments’ Conference Room, 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281, New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas 78539. The proposal shall be opened in a manner to avoid disclosure of contents to competing vendors and the contents shall be kept secret during the process of proposal negotiations.

E. Proposals

1. Proposals must be clearly explained and identified. All costs, including optional programs, must be clearly stated and summarized. Exceptions to or deviations from the specifications **must** be explicitly identified.
2. Each party submitting a proposal is asked to screen their designated proposals for correctness and compliance with the specifications.
3. Request for interpretation of the specifications will be provided by:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent
2812 S. Business Hwy. 281, New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 318-2626 (Phone)
(956) 318-2629 (Fax)

All such responses will be made in writing. Oral explanations will not be binding.

4. The amount of commission and service work to be provided by the representative is to be included as part of the submitted proposal.
5. The contents of the proposals shall be kept confidential during the process of negotiations. After the agreement is awarded, all proposals will be available for public inspection.

F. Disqualification and Rejection of Proposals

Failure to comply with the requirements or the procedures set forth herein, or to satisfy the servicing criteria as set forth in the specifications, may result in disqualification. It is not intended that exceptions to the specifications will, in and of themselves, result in disqualification.

G. Selection of Vendor

Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals, in whole or in part; to waive any informality in any proposal, and to accept the proposal which, in its discretion, is in the best interest of the County. The County reserves the right to request Best and Final Offer(s) from one or more vendor(s). Hidalgo County Commissioners’

Court will make the final decision of agreement award. **AGREEMENT WILL BE SUBJECT TO FINAL NEGOTIATION AND CONTRACT DELIVERY.**

H. Terms of Agreement

Hidalgo County is seeking an agreement for a primary term of one (1) year with the option to renew the agreement for two (2) additional one (1) year terms.

Hidalgo County reserves the right to terminate the agreement at the expiration of the budget period, during the term of the agreement or at the end of the anniversary date on a thirty (30) day notice. The agreement will be for current revenues only. The agreement will be for the current revenues only in accordance with Local Government Section 271.903 to terminate the agreement.

The agreement is to contain cancellation provision that provides for thirty (30) days notice of cancellation (except for non-payment) and sixty (60) days notice for non-renewal or material charge.

Hidalgo County reserves the right to terminate the agreement at any time for any or no reason. **If termination of agreement is necessary, NO termination penalties will be imposed.**

I. Qualification of Companies

Company shall comply with all applicable laws and requirements of the State of Texas.

J. Representatives Minimum Qualifications

All representatives submitting proposals must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- The representative must have insurance for errors and omissions liability with a limit of at least \$1 million per occurrence.
- The representative must have been in the legal services contract business for at least five (5) years.
- The company must assign a minimum of one qualified account representative to service Hidalgo County. A certificate of the representative's E & O insurance must be provided within ten (10) days from date of award and prior to execution of contract.

K. Copies of Contracts

It is required that a complete specimen contract (including all forms, endorsements, exclusions and policy jackets) and appropriate contractual documents be furnished with proposal.

L. Authorized Signature

All proposal forms must be signed by persons who have legal authority to bind the company and administrator to the services that are proposed.

PROPOSERS ARE TO PROVIDE A FEE SCHEDULE WITH THIS SUBMITTAL:

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

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

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

All/Any costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of (bids, proposals and/or quotes) shall be the responsibility of the proposer and not reimbursements for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County.

Hidalgo County has the authority to utilize State Contracts from its membership with their existing or new cooperatives when ever it is in the County’s best interest to do so.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RFP ASSUMPTIONS

1. Eligible employees:

Number	Description
3800	Employees
2. A Pre-Paid Voluntary Legal Services Benefit Plan is being considered by Hidalgo County.
3. Hidalgo County will sponsor only one Pre-Paid Voluntary Legal Services Benefit Plan.
4. The selected provider will be expected to provide knowledgeable staff to explain the benefits to employees during the initial enrollment and ruing an annual enrollment period. Group employee education meetings, up to 20 minutes will be allowed.
5. Hidalgo County is to be provided with a master payroll deduction list.
6. Will be at no cost to Hidalgo County but to the participating employee for the Pre-Paid (Post Tax) Voluntary Legal Services by voluntary payroll deduction.
7. Pre-Paid Voluntary Legal Services Benefit Plan should not include the use of the legal services by a participating employee to the detriment of Hidalgo County.
8. The Company and representative(s) must be authorized by the State of Texas for sale and solicitation of Legal Services Benefit Plans.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT
VOLUNTARY PAYROLL DEDUCTION

Hidalgo County requests that the Voluntary Deduction Company (the Company) execute a Hold Harmless Agreement that will include the following provisions:

1. The Company, its agents and representatives shall comply with all pertinent written directives and reasonable request of Hidalgo County regarding the solicitation of employees and at the purchase of Voluntary Payroll Deduction of Pre-Paid Voluntary Legal Services Contracts.
2. The Company shall indemnify and hold harmless Hidalgo County's employees, from every claim and demand, excluding those based upon negligence or act of Hidalgo County's employees, which may be made by reason of the negligence of the Company or its officers, directors, employees, agents or representatives resulting in the purchase of Voluntary Deduction of Pre-Paid Voluntary Legal Services Contracts by the County through the Company.
3. The Company, at its own expense, shall defend any legal proceedings that may be brought against Hidalgo County, employees, regarding any claim or demand for which the Company is required hereunder to indemnify the County, its employees shall satisfy any judgement that may be rendered against any of them by reason of the purchase of Voluntary Payroll Deduction of Legal Services Contracts by Hidalgo County through the Company. Hidalgo County shall promptly notify the Company by Registered or Certified Mail upon the receipt of any such claim or demand.
4. Hidalgo County reserves the right, upon thirty (30) days written notice by Hidalgo County to firm, by Registered or Certified Mail, to terminate this Agreement but such termination shall in no manner affect any liability of the Company incurred prior to such termination.

SECTION III – SELECTION/EVALUATION/RANKING

A. 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 including a presentation of the proposed system. Hidalgo County 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.

Proposals will be graded on a 100-point system with emphasis on ability to service Hidalgo County including, but not be limited to, the items listed below:

1. Provide sufficient proof of financial stability to ensure continued service throughout the contract term. **25 points**

2. Cost: Provide the required turnkey system(s) at a reasonable cost. **20 Points**

3. Experience and knowledge necessary to provide the appropriate systems and perform all the required services. **20 Points**

4. Have the personnel level and equipment necessary to provide immediate service and ensure minimal “down” time. **20 Points**

5. Provide sufficient professional background (references) indicative of outstanding, or exceptional Systems’ performance in city, county and other entities in the area. **15 Points**

Total 100 Points

B. RANKING OF PROPOSALS:

At the sole discretion of Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Court: (a) score/evaluate themselves and/or (b) may appoint or designate a Committee to score and evaluate the written RFPs. Firms may be asked to provide additional information for clarification purposes based on the information provided within the Proposal response. Thereafter, Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Court will finalize the evaluation and rank the respondents based upon their presentations to the Court.

C. 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.

HIDALGO COUNTY
Pre-Paid (Post Tax) Voluntary Legal Services Benefit Plan
Request for Proposal No. 2014-054-00-00-YSS

QUESTIONNAIRE

Describe organization submitting proposal:

1. Company Name:
 - a. Number of years in the Legal Services Benefit Plan business:
 - b. Number of counties serviced with Legal Services Benefits Plans:
 - c. Contact Person:
 - d. Telephone Number:

2. Name of Representative:
 - a. Address:
 - b. Telephone Number:
 - c. Number of years in the Legal Services Benefit Plan Business:
 - d. Number of years representing Legal Services Benefit Plans:
 - e. Number of counties serviced with Legal Services Benefit Plans:
 - f. Relationship with company (length of time, number of groups, amount of premium)

3. What is your agency estimated premium volume for Legal Services Benefit Plans with Counties?

4. What is current A.M. Best rating of your Company and financial size category, if any?

5. Provide three (3) Texas client references (preferably counties) where the proposed product is enrolled.

Name of Client	Contact Person	Telephone Number	No. of Employees

6. Please attach rates for Individual and Family Coverage for all proposed plans.
For what period of time are quoted rates guaranteed?
7. Is a longer rate guarantee available? Yes No
If so, please describe:
8. Please provide commission structure included in your quoted rates:
9. Will a “Hold Harmless Agreement” with provision comparable to those presented in the RFP Specifications be executed? Yes No
10. Will a Group Contract be issued to Hidalgo County? Yes No
11. Is the product Portable? Yes No
12. If so, at the same group rate? Yes No
Is the product Cafeteria Plan Eligible? Yes No
If not, please explain:

13. Number of Affiliated Attorneys & coverage areas: _____

14. Is access to services available outside listed coverage areas? Yes No
15. May the participant choose the attorney without a reduction in benefits? Yes No
16. Is Direct Access to an attorney available? Yes No

If No, please describe “Gatekeeper” procedure:

17. Are costs such as filing fees, recording costs, depositions, fines, and court costs included as a covered benefit? Yes No

18. Please list all benefits covered in full:

19. Please list all benefits covered at a discount and the discounted rate:

20. Please list the rate per hour and any caps for benefits not specifically covered by the plan.

21. Please list all plan exclusions and waiting periods:

22. Please describe claim filing process and turnaround time:

23. Will Hidalgo County be provided with utilization or other reports on a scheduled basis?

Yes No

ANTI-COLLUSION CERTIFICATION

By submission of this proposal, the Proposer certifies that:

1. This proposal has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other Proposer or with any competitor;
2. This proposal has not been knowingly disclosed and will not knowingly disclosed, prior to the opening of proposal for this project, to any other proposer competitor or potential competitor;
3. No attempt has been or will be made to induce any other person, partnership or corporation to submit or not to submit a proposal;
4. The person signing this proposal certifies that he/she has been fully informed himself/herself regarding the accuracy of the statements contained in this certification, and under the penalties being applicable to the proposer as well as to the person signing in its behalf.

Company Name

Authorized Signature

Address

Type Signatory's Name and Title

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone Number

Representative's Name

Fax Number

Representative's Address

EXHIBIT B

SOQ's EVALUATION FORM

<u>Selection Criteria</u>	<u>Range Points</u>	<u>Score</u>
1. Provide sufficient proof of financial stability to ensure continued service throughout the throughout the contract term.		
Comments/Rationale for Points:	25 Points	_____

2. Cost: Provide the required turnkey system(s) at a reasonable cost.		
Comments/Rationale for Points:	20 Points	_____

3. Experience and knowledge necessary to provide the appropriate systems and perform all the required services.		
Comments/Rationale for Points:	20 Points	_____

4. Have the personnel level and equipment necessary to provide immediate service and ensure minimal "down" time.		
Comments/Rationale for Points:	20 Points	_____

5. Provide sufficient professional background (references) indicative of outstanding, or exceptional, systems' performance in city, county and other entities in the area.		
Comments/Rationale for Points:	15 Points	_____

Provider: _____

Evaluator: _____ Date: _____

EXHIBIT “C”

Insurance Requirements Professional Services (i.e...Engineers, Architects, Appraisers & Surveyors)

The proposer awarded the contract shall furnish proof of insurance, which will also include any subcontractor that is subcontracted by the proposer in at least the following limits, to be in place prior to providing any services under this Contract and to continue at all times in force in effect during the term of this Contract:

1. Professional liability insurance policy with limits of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence, or limited to claims made, include at least a five (5) year extended reporting period.
2. A Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) Comprehensive General Liability insurance policy providing additional coverage to all underlying liabilities of County.
3. Automobile liability insurance policy with limits of at least Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) per person and Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) per occurrence. Coverage should include injury to or death of persons and property damage claims with limits up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) arising out of the services provided to County hereunder.
4. Uninsured/Underinsured motorist coverage in an amount equal to the bodily injury limits set forth immediately above;
5. Workers compensation insurance in amounts established by Texas law, unless the Bidder is specifically exempted from the Texas Workers Compensation Act, Texas Labor Code Chapter 401, et. seq.

Hidalgo County will only accept certificates of insurance on an Acord form (as attached hereto). Certificates of insurance naming County as an additional insured shall be submitted to County for approval prior to any services being performed by Contractor. Each policy of insurance required hereunder shall extend for a period equivalent to, or longer than the term of the Contract, and any insurer hereunder shall be required to give at least thirty (30) days written notice to the County prior to the cancellation of any such coverage on the termination date, or otherwise. This Contract shall be automatically suspended upon the cancellation, or other termination, of any required policy of insurance hereunder, and such suspension shall continue until evidence adequate replacement coverage is provided to County. If replacement coverage is not provided within thirty (30) days following suspension of the Contract, this Contract shall automatically terminate.

ACORD**CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE**

DATE (MM/DD/YY)

PRODUCER

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW.

INSURERS AFFORDING COVERAGE

INSURED

INSURER A:

INSURER B:

INSURER C:

INSURER D:

INSURER E:

COVERAGES

THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THEIR TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. AGGREGATE LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE (MM/DD/YY)	POLICY EXPIRATION DATE (MM/DD/YY)	LIMITS	
A	GENERAL LIABILITY				EACH OCCURRENCE	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY				FIRE DAMAGE (Any one fire)	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS MADE OCCUR				MEDICAL (Any one person)	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> OWNER'S & CONT. PROT				PERSONAL & ADV INJURY	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> OWNER'S PROTECTIVE LIABILITY				ANNUAL AGGREGATE	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> GENL AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: POLICY PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC				PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG	\$
B	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY				COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident)	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO				BODILY INJURY (Per person)	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> ALL OWNED AUTOS				BODILY INJURY (Per accident)	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS				PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident)	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS					
<input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS						
	GARAGE LIABILITY				AUTO ONLY-EA ACCIDENT	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO				OTHER THAN EA ACC AUTO ONLY AGG	\$
						\$
C	EXCESS LIABILITY				EACH OCCURENCE	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS MADE				AGGREGATE	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> DEDUCTIBLE					\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> RETENTION \$					\$
D	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY				WC STATU- <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER TORY LIMITS	
					E.L. EACH ACCIDENT	\$
					E.L. DISEASE-EA EMPLOYEE	\$
					E.L. DISEASE-POLICY LIMIT	\$
	OTHER					

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATION / VEHICLES / EXCLUSIONS ADDED BY ENDORSEMENT / SPECIAL PROVISIONS
 County of Hidalgo shall be named as additional insured on all Commercial General Liability policies.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER

ADDITIONAL INSURED: INSURER LETTER: _____

CANCELLATION

Hidalgo County
Attn: Purchasing Department
2812 S Highway Bus. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BY CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, THE ISSUING INSURER WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAIL **30** DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER NAMED TO THE LEFT, BUT FAILURE TO DO SO SHALL IMPOSE NO OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY OF ANY KIND UPON THE INSURER, ITS AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES.
 AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Insurance Requirement Acknowledgment

I, _____, authorized representative for _____,
Company/Vendor

hereby acknowledge receipt of the County's required insurance limits. Said requirements:

" will be acquired within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of award of project by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court;

" will acquire additional amounts required to meet the County's requirements within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of award of project by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court; currently carry the following

Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions): \$ _____

Automobile Liability: \$ _____ General Liability: \$ _____

" have already been met, see attached copy of insurance certificate.

Authorized Representative

Date

Notice to Proposer:

A certificate of insurance for the required insurance limits shall be provided to the Purchasing Department's Contract Managers in order to qualify for award and to execute a contract between your Company and the County

Failure to provide Certificates of Insurance to the Purchasing Department's Contract Managers will cause the award to be rescinded and re-awarded to next qualified vendor. Certificates of Insurance will be monitored and verified on a **quarterly basis** to ensure coverage policy is in place. It is the Company's obligation to maintain the appropriate insurance coverage throughout the term of the contract.

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR PACKET

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This is to certify that I, _____, possess all of the **APPLICABLE:**

1. Licenses: _____

2. Bonds: _____

3. Certificates: _____

4. Permits: _____

5. Other: _____

necessary to carry out the required project. Furthermore, I am providing copies of the required documentation so that, if my company is awarded this project, I may be eligible to enter into a contract with Hidalgo County and proceed to complete the project in a timely manner.

*** Any licenses, bonds, certificates, permits, etc. which are required must be presented as part of the packet in order to expedite the evaluation process. Failure to provide said documentation will result in the disqualification of your proposal/qualification.**

Authorized Signature

Date

Company

Address

City, State, Zip

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

FORM CIQ

For vendor or other person doing business with local governmental entity

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 1491, 80th Leg., Regular Session.

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

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 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 knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

1 Name of person 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 the originally filed questionnaire becomes incomplete or inaccurate.)

3 Name of local government officer with whom filer has employment or business relationship.

Name of Officer

This section (item 3 including subparts A, B, C & D) must be completed for each officer with whom the filer 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 filer of the questionnaire?

Yes No

B. Is the filer of the questionnaire 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 serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership of 10 percent or more?

Yes No

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

4

Signature of person doing business with the governmental entity

Date

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT
Exhibit "E"

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT OF NON-COLLUSION NON-CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AND ANTI-LOBBYING
--

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO

Affiant, _____, being first duly sworn, deposes that:

- (1) Affiant does hereby state neither the Proposer nor any of the Proposer's officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees, or parties in interest, has in any way colluded, conspired, agreed, directly or indirectly with any person, firm, corporation, or other proposer, or potential proposer, to provide any money or other valuable consideration for assistance in procuring or attempting to procure a contract or fix the prices in the attached proposed or the proposal of any other proposer, and further states that no such money or other reward will be hereinafter paid.
- (2) Affiant further states they have neither recommended or suggested to Hidalgo County or nay of its officials or employees, any of the terms or provisions set forth in their Request for Proposal and subsequent agreement, except at a meeting open to all interested proposers, of which proper notice was given.
- (3) Affiant, further states their officers, employees, or agents have not, and will not attempt to lobby, directly or indirectly, the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court between proposal submission date and award by the Hidalgo County County Commissioner's Court.
- (4) Affiant further states no officer, or stockholder of the Proposer is a member of the staff, or related to any employee of the Hidalgo County except as noted herein below:

Signature/Title: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 2011.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____, 20____.

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) DECLARATION

The primary objective of the Hidalgo County HUB Program is to ensure Historically Underutilized Businesses receive a fair and equal opportunity for participation in the County’s procurement process. This fact holds true for Services (Professional & Non-Professional), Commodities, and Construction contracts and any subcontracts thereto. The program strongly encourages Prime Contractors to provide subcontracting opportunities to Certified Hub Contractors/Vendors. Our goal for HUB contractor/vendor participation, as well as HUB subcontractor participation is 30%. To be considered as a “Certified HUB Contractor/Vendor” the contractor/vendor must have been certified by, and hold a current and valid certification with any of the three agencies listed below.

Have you been Certified as a HUB or an MBE/WBE source?: Yes No

If yes, by whom?: Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other _____

Indicate Certification No(s): _____ or Are Certificate(s) Attached?: Yes No

LIST OF CERTIFIED HUB SUBCONTRACTORS

(Attach additional pages if necessary)

What percentage of the Bid, RFP, or RFQ is to be subcontracted with Certified HUB sources?: _____%
(List HUB Subcontractor information below).

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status:

Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip:

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: ()

~~Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed:~~

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status:

Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip:

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: ()

~~Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed:~~

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status:

Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip:

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: ()

~~Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed:~~

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

**Give Form to the
 requester. Do not
 send to the IRS.**

Print or type See Specific Instructions on page 2.	Name (as shown on your income tax return)	
	Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above	
	Check appropriate box for federal tax classification: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> C Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/estate <input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=partnership) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions) ▶ _____	Exemptions (see instructions): Exempt payee code (if any) _____ Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____
	Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.)	Requester's name and address (optional)
	City, state, and ZIP code	
List account number(s) here (optional)		

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on the "Name" line to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the Part I instructions on page 3. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN* on page 3.

Social security number									

Note. If the account is in more than one name, see the chart on page 4 for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Employer identification number									

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me), and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below), and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions on page 3.

Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person ▶	Date ▶
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General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.
Future developments. The IRS has created a page on www.irs.gov/w9 for information about Form W-9, at www.irs.gov/w9. Information about any future developments affecting Form W-9 (such as legislation enacted after we release it) will be posted on that page.

Purpose of Form

A person who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) to report, for example, income paid to you, payments made to you in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, real estate transactions, mortgage interest you paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, or contributions you made to an IRA.

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN to the person requesting it (the requester) and, when applicable, to:

1. Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued),
2. Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
3. Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the

withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income, and
 4. Certify that FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that you are exempt from the FATCA reporting, is correct.

Note. If you are a U.S. person and a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

Definition of a U.S. person. For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien,
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States,
- An estate (other than a foreign estate), or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

Special rules for partnerships. Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax under section 1446 on any foreign partners' share of effectively connected taxable income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, the rules under section 1446 require a partnership to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the section 1446 withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid section 1446 withholding on your share of partnership income.

In the cases below, the following person must give Form W-9 to the partnership for purposes of establishing its U.S. status and avoiding withholding on its allocable share of net income from the partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States:

- In the case of a disregarded entity with a U.S. owner, the U.S. owner of the disregarded entity and not the entity,
- In the case of a grantor trust with a U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner, generally, the U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner of the grantor trust and not the trust, and
- In the case of a U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust), the U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust) and not the beneficiaries of the trust.

Foreign person. If you are a foreign person or the U.S. branch of a foreign bank that has elected to be treated as a U.S. person, do not use Form W-9. Instead, use the appropriate Form W-8 or Form 8233 (see Publication 515, Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities).

Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien. Generally, only a nonresident alien individual may use the terms of a tax treaty to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on certain types of income. However, most tax treaties contain a provision known as a "saving clause." Exceptions specified in the saving clause may permit an exemption from tax to continue for certain types of income even after the payee has otherwise become a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes.

If you are a U.S. resident alien who is relying on an exception contained in the saving clause of a tax treaty to claim an exemption from U.S. tax on certain types of income, you must attach a statement to Form W-9 that specifies the following five items:

1. The treaty country. Generally, this must be the same treaty under which you claimed exemption from tax as a nonresident alien.
2. The treaty article addressing the income.
3. The article number (or location) in the tax treaty that contains the saving clause and its exceptions.
4. The type and amount of income that qualifies for the exemption from tax.
5. Sufficient facts to justify the exemption from tax under the terms of the treaty article.

Example. Article 20 of the U.S.-China income tax treaty allows an exemption from tax for scholarship income received by a Chinese student temporarily present in the United States. Under U.S. law, this student will become a resident alien for tax purposes if his or her stay in the United States exceeds 5 calendar years. However, paragraph 2 of the first Protocol to the U.S.-China treaty (dated April 30, 1984) allows the provisions of Article 20 to continue to apply even after the Chinese student becomes a resident alien of the United States. A Chinese student who qualifies for this exception (under paragraph 2 of the first protocol) and is relying on this exception to claim an exemption from tax on his or her scholarship or fellowship income would attach to Form W-9 a statement that includes the information described above to support that exemption.

If you are a nonresident alien or a foreign entity, give the requester the appropriate completed Form W-8 or Form 8233.

What is backup withholding? Persons making certain payments to you must under certain conditions withhold and pay to the IRS a percentage of such payments. This is called "backup withholding." Payments that may be subject to backup withholding include interest, tax-exempt interest, dividends, broker and barter exchange transactions, rents, royalties, nonemployee pay, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, and certain payments from fishing boat operators. Real estate transactions are not subject to backup withholding.

You will not be subject to backup withholding on payments you receive if you give the requester your correct TIN, make the proper certifications, and report all your taxable interest and dividends on your tax return.

Payments you receive will be subject to backup withholding if:

1. You do not furnish your TIN to the requester,
2. You do not certify your TIN when required (see the Part II instructions on page 3 for details),
3. The IRS tells the requester that you furnished an incorrect TIN,
4. The IRS tells you that you are subject to backup withholding because you did not report all your interest and dividends on your tax return (for reportable interest and dividends only), or
5. You do not certify to the requester that you are not subject to backup withholding under 4 above (for reportable interest and dividend accounts opened after 1983 only).

Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding. See *Exempt payee code* on page 3 and the separate Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

Also see *Special rules for partnerships* on page 1.

What is FATCA reporting? The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) requires a participating foreign financial institution to report all United States account holders that are specified United States persons. Certain payees are exempt from FATCA reporting. See *Exemption from FATCA reporting code* on page 3 and the Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

Updating Your Information

You must provide updated information to any person to whom you claimed to be an exempt payee if you are no longer an exempt payee and anticipate receiving reportable payments in the future from this person. For example, you may need to provide updated information if you are a C corporation that elects to be an S corporation, or if you no longer are tax exempt. In addition, you must furnish a new Form W-9 if the name or TIN changes for the account, for example, if the grantor of a grantor trust dies.

Penalties

Failure to furnish TIN. If you fail to furnish your correct TIN to a requester, you are subject to a penalty of \$50 for each such failure unless your failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.

Civil penalty for false information with respect to withholding. If you make a false statement with no reasonable basis that results in no backup withholding, you are subject to a \$500 penalty.

Criminal penalty for falsifying information. Willfully falsifying certifications or affirmations may subject you to criminal penalties including fines and/or imprisonment.

Misuse of TINs. If the requester discloses or uses TINs in violation of federal law, the requester may be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

Specific Instructions

Name

If you are an individual, you must generally enter the name shown on your income tax return. However, if you have changed your last name, for instance, due to marriage without informing the Social Security Administration of the name change, enter your first name, the last name shown on your social security card, and your new last name.

If the account is in joint names, list first, and then circle, the name of the person or entity whose number you entered in Part I of the form.

Sole proprietor. Enter your individual name as shown on your income tax return on the "Name" line. You may enter your business, trade, or "doing business as (DBA)" name on the "Business name/disregarded entity name" line.

Partnership, C Corporation, or S Corporation. Enter the entity's name on the "Name" line and any business, trade, or "doing business as (DBA) name" on the "Business name/disregarded entity name" line.

Disregarded entity. For U.S. federal tax purposes, an entity that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner is treated as a "disregarded entity." See Regulation section 301.7701-2(c)(2)(iii). Enter the owner's name on the "Name" line. The name of the entity entered on the "Name" line should never be a disregarded entity. The name on the "Name" line must be the name shown on the income tax return on which the income should be reported. For example, if a foreign LLC that is treated as a disregarded entity for U.S. federal tax purposes has a single owner that is a U.S. person, the U.S. owner's name is required to be provided on the "Name" line. If the direct owner of the entity is also a disregarded entity, enter the first owner that is not disregarded for federal tax purposes. Enter the disregarded entity's name on the "Business name/disregarded entity name" line. If the owner of the disregarded entity is a foreign person, the owner must complete an appropriate Form W-8 instead of a Form W-9. This is the case even if the foreign person has a U.S. TIN.

Note. Check the appropriate box for the U.S. federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on the "Name" line (Individual/sole proprietor, Partnership, C Corporation, S Corporation, Trust/estate).

Limited Liability Company (LLC). If the person identified on the "Name" line is an LLC, check the "Limited liability company" box only and enter the appropriate code for the U.S. federal tax classification in the space provided. If you are an LLC that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal tax purposes, enter "P" for partnership. If you are an LLC that has filed a Form 8832 or a Form 2553 to be taxed as a corporation, enter "C" for C corporation or "S" for S corporation, as appropriate. If you are an LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner under Regulation section 301.7701-3 (except for employment and excise tax), do not check the LLC box unless the owner of the LLC (required to be identified on the "Name" line) is another LLC that is not disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes. If the LLC is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, enter the appropriate tax classification of the owner identified on the "Name" line.

Other entities. Enter your business name as shown on required U.S. federal tax documents on the "Name" line. This name should match the name shown on the charter or other legal document creating the entity. You may enter any business, trade, or DBA name on the "Business name/disregarded entity name" line.

Exemptions

If you are exempt from backup withholding and/or FATCA reporting, enter in the *Exemptions* box, any code(s) that may apply to you. See *Exempt payee code* and *Exemption from FATCA reporting code* on page 3.

Exempt payee code. Generally, individuals (including sole proprietors) are not exempt from backup withholding. Corporations are exempt from backup withholding for certain payments, such as interest and dividends. Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding for payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions.

Note. If you are exempt from backup withholding, you should still complete this form to avoid possible erroneous backup withholding.

The following codes identify payees that are exempt from backup withholding:

1—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), any IRA, or a custodial account under section 403(b)(7) if the account satisfies the requirements of section 401(f)(2)

2—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities

3—A state, the District of Columbia, a possession of the United States, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities

4—A foreign government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities

5—A corporation

6—A dealer in securities or commodities required to register in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a possession of the United States

7—A futures commission merchant registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission

8—A real estate investment trust

9—An entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940

10—A common trust fund operated by a bank under section 584(a)

11—A financial institution

12—A middleman known in the investment community as a nominee or custodian

13—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947

The following chart shows types of payments that may be exempt from backup withholding. The chart applies to the exempt payees listed above, 1 through 13.

IF the payment is for . . .	THEN the payment is exempt for . . .
Interest and dividend payments	All exempt payees except for 7
Broker transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4 and 6 through 11 and all C corporations. S corporations must not enter an exempt payee code because they are exempt only for sales of noncovered securities acquired prior to 2012.
Barter exchange transactions and patronage dividends	Exempt payees 1 through 4
Payments over \$600 required to be reported and direct sales over \$5,000 ¹	Generally, exempt payees 1 through 5 ²
Payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4

¹ See Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, and its instructions.

² However, the following payments made to a corporation and reportable on Form 1099-MISC are not exempt from backup withholding: medical and health care payments, attorneys' fees, gross proceeds paid to an attorney, and payments for services paid by a federal executive agency.

Exemption from FATCA reporting code. The following codes identify payees that are exempt from reporting under FATCA. These codes apply to persons submitting this form for accounts maintained outside of the United States by certain foreign financial institutions. Therefore, if you are only submitting this form for an account you hold in the United States, you may leave this field blank. Consult with the person requesting this form if you are uncertain if the financial institution is subject to these requirements.

A—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) or any individual retirement plan as defined in section 7701(a)(37)

B—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities

C—A state, the District of Columbia, a possession of the United States, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities

D—A corporation the stock of which is regularly traded on one or more established securities markets, as described in Reg. section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

E—A corporation that is a member of the same expanded affiliated group as a corporation described in Reg. section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

F—A dealer in securities, commodities, or derivative financial instruments (including notional principal contracts, futures, forwards, and options) that is registered as such under the laws of the United States or any state

G—A real estate investment trust

H—A regulated investment company as defined in section 851 or an entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940

I—A common trust fund as defined in section 584(a)

J—A bank as defined in section 581

K—A broker

L—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947(a)(1)

M—A tax exempt trust under a section 403(b) plan or section 457(g) plan

Part I. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. If you are a resident alien and you do not have and are not eligible to get an SSN, your TIN is your IRS individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Enter it in the social security number box. If you do not have an ITIN, see *How to get a TIN* below.

If you are a sole proprietor and you have an EIN, you may enter either your SSN or EIN. However, the IRS prefers that you use your SSN.

If you are a single-member LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner (see *Limited Liability Company (LLC)* on page 2), enter the owner's SSN (or EIN, if the owner has one). Do not enter the disregarded entity's EIN. If the LLC is classified as a corporation or partnership, enter the entity's EIN.

Note. See the chart on page 4 for further clarification of name and TIN combinations.

How to get a TIN. If you do not have a TIN, apply for one immediately. To apply for an SSN, get Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card, from your local Social Security Administration office or get this form online at www.ssa.gov. You may also get this form by calling 1-800-772-1213. Use Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to apply for an ITIN, or Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, to apply for an EIN. You can apply for an EIN online by accessing the IRS website at www.irs.gov/businesses and clicking on Employer Identification Number (EIN) under Starting a Business. You can get Forms W-7 and SS-4 from the IRS by visiting IRS.gov or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you are asked to complete Form W-9 but do not have a TIN, apply for a TIN and write "Applied For" in the space for the TIN, sign and date the form, and give it to the requester. For interest and dividend payments, and certain payments made with respect to readily tradable instruments, generally you will have 60 days to get a TIN and give it to the requester before you are subject to backup withholding on payments. The 60-day rule does not apply to other types of payments. You will be subject to backup withholding on all such payments until you provide your TIN to the requester.

Note. Entering "Applied For" means that you have already applied for a TIN or that you intend to apply for one soon.

Caution: A disregarded U.S. entity that has a foreign owner must use the appropriate Form W-8.

Part II. Certification

To establish to the withholding agent that you are a U.S. person, or resident alien, sign Form W-9. You may be requested to sign by the withholding agent even if items 1, 4, or 5 below indicate otherwise.

For a joint account, only the person whose TIN is shown in Part I should sign (when required). In the case of a disregarded entity, the person identified on the "Name" line must sign. Exempt payees, see *Exempt payee code* earlier.

Signature requirements. Complete the certification as indicated in items 1 through 5 below.

1. Interest, dividend, and barter exchange accounts opened before 1984 and broker accounts considered active during 1983. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

2. Interest, dividend, broker, and barter exchange accounts opened after 1983 and broker accounts considered inactive during 1983. You must sign the certification or backup withholding will apply. If you are subject to backup withholding and you are merely providing your correct TIN to the requester, you must cross out item 2 in the certification before signing the form.

3. Real estate transactions. You must sign the certification. You may cross out item 2 of the certification.

4. Other payments. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification unless you have been notified that you have previously given an incorrect TIN. "Other payments" include payments made in the course of the requester's trade or business for rents, royalties, goods (other than bills for merchandise), medical and health care services (including payments to corporations), payments to a nonemployee for services, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, payments to certain fishing boat crew members and fishermen, and gross proceeds paid to attorneys (including payments to corporations).

5. Mortgage interest paid by you, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, qualified tuition program payments (under section 529), IRA, Coverdell ESA, Archer MSA or HSA contributions or distributions, and pension distributions. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

What Name and Number To Give the Requester

For this type of account:	Give name and SSN of:
1. Individual	The individual
2. Two or more individuals (joint account)	The actual owner of the account or, if combined funds, the first individual on the account ¹
3. Custodian account of a minor (Uniform Gift to Minors Act)	The minor ²
4. a. The usual revocable savings trust (grantor is also trustee) b. So-called trust account that is not a legal or valid trust under state law	The grantor-trustee ³ The actual owner ³
5. Sole proprietorship or disregarded entity owned by an individual	The owner ³
6. Grantor trust filing under Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 1 (see Regulation section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(A))	The grantor [*]
For this type of account:	Give name and EIN of:
7. Disregarded entity not owned by an individual	The owner
8. A valid trust, estate, or pension trust	Legal entity ⁴
9. Corporation or LLC electing corporate status on Form 8832 or Form 2553	The corporation
10. Association, club, religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization	The organization
11. Partnership or multi-member LLC	The partnership
12. A broker or registered nominee	The broker or nominee
13. Account with the Department of Agriculture in the name of a public entity (such as a state or local government, school district, or prison) that receives agricultural program payments	The public entity
14. Grantor trust filing under the Form 1041 Filing Method or the Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 2 (see Regulation section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(B))	The trust

¹ List first and circle the name of the person whose number you furnish. If only one person on a joint account has an SSN, that person's number must be furnished.

² Circle the minor's name and furnish the minor's SSN.

³ You must show your individual name and you may also enter your business or "DBA" name on the "Business name/disregarded entity" name line. You may use either your SSN or EIN (if you have one), but the IRS encourages you to use your SSN.

⁴ List first and circle the name of the trust, estate, or pension trust. (Do not furnish the TIN of the personal representative or trustee unless the legal entity itself is not designated in the account title.) Also see *Special rules for partnerships* on page 1.

*Note. Grantor also must provide a Form W-9 to trustee of trust.

Note. If no name is circled when more than one name is listed, the number will be considered to be that of the first name listed.

Secure Your Tax Records from Identity Theft

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, social security number (SSN), or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. An identity thief may use your SSN to get a job or may file a tax return using your SSN to receive a refund.

To reduce your risk:

- Protect your SSN,
- Ensure your employer is protecting your SSN, and
- Be careful when choosing a tax preparer.

If your tax records are affected by identity theft and you receive a notice from the IRS, respond right away to the name and phone number printed on the IRS notice or letter.

If your tax records are not currently affected by identity theft but you think you are at risk due to a lost or stolen purse or wallet, questionable credit card activity or credit report, contact the IRS Identity Theft Hotline at 1-800-908-4490 or submit Form 14039.

For more information, see Publication 4535, Identity Theft Prevention and Victim Assistance.

Victims of identity theft who are experiencing economic harm or a system problem, or are seeking help in resolving tax problems that have not been resolved through normal channels, may be eligible for Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) assistance. You can reach TAS by calling the TAS toll-free case intake line at 1-877-777-4778 or TTY/TDD 1-800-829-4059.

Protect yourself from suspicious emails or phishing schemes. Phishing is the creation and use of email and websites designed to mimic legitimate business emails and websites. The most common act is sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft.

The IRS does not initiate contacts with taxpayers via emails. Also, the IRS does not request personal detailed information through email or ask taxpayers for the PIN numbers, passwords, or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank, or other financial accounts.

If you receive an unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, forward this message to phishing@irs.gov. You may also report misuse of the IRS name, logo, or other IRS property to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484. You can forward suspicious emails to the Federal Trade Commission at: spam@uce.gov or contact them at www.ftc.gov/idtheft or 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338).

Visit IRS.gov to learn more about identity theft and how to reduce your risk.

Privacy Act Notice

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to provide your correct TIN to persons (including federal agencies) who are required to file information returns with the IRS to report interest, dividends, or certain other income paid to you; mortgage interest you paid; the acquisition or abandonment of secured property; the cancellation of debt; or contributions you made to an IRA, Archer MSA, or HSA. The person collecting this form uses the information on the form to file information returns with the IRS, reporting the above information. Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and possessions for use in administering their laws. The information also may be disclosed to other countries under a treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce civil and criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism. You must provide your TIN whether or not you are required to file a tax return. Under section 3406, payers must generally withhold a percentage of taxable interest, dividend, and certain other payments to a payee who does not give a TIN to the payer. Certain penalties may also apply for providing false or fraudulent information.

**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 bid/proposal 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, theory, 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 bid/proposal and/or application had one or more public transactions terminated of cause or default.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date: _____

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

accordance with the Specifications within **Hidalgo County** following a request for Services by the Hidalgo County or his designated agent(s). Company agrees in performing the Services that it will use proper professional standards, comply with any and all appropriate laws and regulations in providing the Services, and devote such time as is necessary to safely and efficiently provide the Services.

3. This Contract shall be for a period beginning _____, **2014** and ending _____, **2015** and may be extended at the sole discretion of County for an additional two (2)-one (1) year terms at the same rates, terms and conditions, unless this Contract is terminated pursuant to the provisions herein, whichever occurs first. County also reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day Grace Period, under the same rates terms and conditions.

4. As a condition of this Contract, Company shall hold and maintain throughout the term of this Contract all licenses and permits required, or which may be required by any authority during the term hereof to provide the Services.

5. All trucks or vehicles operated by the Company to perform the Services shall contain all equipment required by any authority to operate on streets and roads and all persons in the employ of Company who operate such trucks or vehicles shall have the required licenses, qualifications, skill and expertise to perform such Services and shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations prescribed by any agency or authority having jurisdiction with regard to the operation of such trucks or vehicles in providing the Services.

6. As consideration for rendering the Service provided for in this Contract, the County agrees to pay Company the amounts specified in Exhibit "B" attached hereto

payable against written invoice submitted by Company.

7. Company shall provide insurance in force on all its vehicles and all persons connected with providing services under this Contract naming County as an additional insured (with the coverages and in the amounts described on Exhibit "C" attached hereto and incorporated herein at this point for all purposes), and shall furnish to County certificates of such insurance coverage.

8. Company shall provide a sufficient number of trucks, vehicles, personnel and equipment available to safely and efficiently provide the Services.

9. Company shall indemnify and hold harmless County, its elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses including attorney's fees for the defense of any action against County arising out of, resulting from, or connected with the provision of the Service by Company under this Contract. Said indemnity shall cover any act or failure to act by the Company, its agents or employees.

10. This Contract shall not be assignable in whole or in part by either party without prior written consent of the other party.

11. It is expressly agreed that this Contract and the performance by the parties hereunder does not create any agency relationship or master-servant relationship, that County has no supervision of the performance of the Services provided by Company, and that Company is an independent contractor under this Contract.

12. Any notice required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally or sent by certified mail, postage prepaid, as set forth

below:

If to County: **The County of Hidalgo**
 Attn: County Judge
 ADDRESS
 Edinburg, Texas 78539

If to Company

13. In case any 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.

14. Any contract award to a successful bidder 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.

15. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.

16. **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioners Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company. County agrees, however, to use

reasonable efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this Agreement. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of County pursuant to the provisions of Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Ann. ' 271.903 (Vernon Supp. 1996).

17. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire contract between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representation or agreement in connection with this Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing executed by the parties hereto, and not otherwise

18. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and shall be performable in Hidalgo County.

WITNESS our hands in duplicate originals this _____ day of _____, 2014.

COUNTY OF HIDALGO

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr. County Clerk

By: _____
Ramon Garcia, County Judge

COMPANY: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Approved by Commissioners Court on:

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ATLAS & HALL, LLP**

By: _____
Stephen L. Crain

DRAFT

EXHIBIT "A" SPECIFICATIONS

DRAFT

EXHIBIT “B” VENDOR’S BID

DRAFT

EXHIBIT "C" INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

DRAFT

**EXHIBIT “D”
CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM
(CIQ)**

DRAFT

VENDOR/BIDDER APPLICATION

DRAFT

DEBARMENT FORM

DRAFT


RFB PACKET

DRAFT

Zimbra

yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us

RE: pre-paid legal agrmnt

From : Steve Crain <scrain@atlashall.com> Tue, May 27, 2014 02:21 PM
Subject : RE: pre-paid legal agrmnt  1 attachment
To : 'Yvette Salinas' <yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us>

The draft contract is fine.

From: Yvette Salinas [mailto:yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 1:49 PM
To: Steve Crain
Subject: Fwd: pre-paid legal agrmnt

Please see attached with revisions.

Yvette Salinas
Buyer III
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2812 S. Business Highway 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539
956-318-2626
yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us

From: "Stephen L. Crain" <scrain@atlashall.com>
To: "yvette salinas" <yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 8:40:09 AM
Subject: FW: pre-paid legal agrmnt

Good Morning Yvette:

See page 6 with revision.

Thank you,
Marynel

From: Yvette Salinas [<mailto:yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us>]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 4:16 PM
To: Steve Crain
Subject: Fwd: pre-paid legal agrmnt

Please see attached changes as requested.

Yvette Salinas
Buyer III
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2812 S. Business Highway 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539
956-318-2626
yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us

From: "Stephen L. Crain" <scrain@atlashall.com>
To: "yvette salinas" <yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 8:10:32 AM
Subject: FW: pre-paid legal agrmnt

Good Morning Yvette:

See the attached pdf doc with Mr. Crain's proposed changes. If you have any questions, please call our office.

Thank you,
Marynel Trevino, Secretary for

Stephen L. Crain & J. Joseph Vale
ATLAS, HALL & RODRIGUEZ, LLP
818 Pecan Blvd. (78501)
P. O. Box 3725
McAllen, Texas 78502
Direct Dial Number (956) 632-8221
Main Number (956) 682-5501
Fax Number (956) 686-6109
E-mail Address scrain@atlashall.com



Atlas Hall
Rodriguez

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This communication does not reflect an intention by the sender or the sender's client or principal to conduct a transaction or make any agreement by electronic means. Nothing contained in this message or in any attachment shall satisfy the requirements for a writing, and nothing contained herein shall constitute a contract or electronic signature under the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, any version of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act or any other statute governing electronic transactions.

From: Yvette Salinas [<mailto:yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us>]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 5:09 PM
To: Steve Crain
Subject: pre-paid legal agrmnt

Please review/approve attached document as to form.

Thank you,
Yvette Salinas
Buyer III
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2812 S. Business Highway 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539
956-318-2626
yvette.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us



Atlas Hall
Rodriguez

image001.jpg
5 KB
