

MCDOWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Providence Road Water Extension Project

EXPANSION PROJECT

April 22, 2024

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS- ENGINEERING
SERVICES SUBMITTAL PACKAGE REQUIREMENTS**

OWNER: McDowell County, North Carolina
PROJECT: Providence Road Water Extension Project
FUNDING SOURCE: North Carolina Department of Commerce
Appalachian Regional Commission

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: May 31, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

SEND SUBMITTALS TO:

Hand Delivery:
Foothills Regional Commission
ATTN: Alan Toney
111 West Court
Street
Rutherfordton, NC
28139

**US Postal
Service:**
PO BOX 841
Rutherfordton, NC
28139

1.0 PURPOSE

The Owner is issuing this request for qualifications (RFQ) to hire an Owner's Representative that will be responsible to complete all needed engineering services on the following project:

McDowell County is seeking a qualified engineering firm to assist with the design and development of a new public water system southwest of the City of Marion that will be owned and operated by McDowell County. Federal, state, and local funds have been secured to initiate this project.

The initial focus of the project will be the extension of a water line approximately two miles to West Marion Elementary School. Additional water line extensions to serve other parts of the community will be dependent on available funds.

2.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

The full range of professional services will be further defined during project development, but may include the following: preliminary reports, design, bidding/negotiation, construction administration, resident project representation, property surveying, easement, surveying, geotechnical, special inspections, etc.

3.0 SELECTION PROCESS | SCHEDULE

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-64.31 and federal procurement guidelines, the Owner will utilize a qualifications-based selection process without consideration of fee proposals in the initial stages of selection. The selection process and schedule will be as follows:

3.1 Advertisement -This RFQ will be advertised in *The McDowell News*, County website, and various listserves, and the RFQ will be made available to local consulting firms and those firms who have expressed an interest in the project.

3.1.1 RFQ Package - This package represents the overall expectations of the Owner. Any changes or additional requests will be submitted to each interested party by addend. Each firm that requests a package will need to provide a point of contact [*email, phone, address*] and will be placed on a list of interested parties.

3.1.2 Inquiries/Questions - Questions regarding the project or these requirements shall be directed to

Alan Toney, Community & Economic Development Director

Email: atoney@foothillsregion.org

Phone: 828-351-2331

3.1.3 Inquiry/Submittal Deadlines - Any questions in regards to these RFQ submittal package requirements or related documents may be submitted 10 business days prior to the submittal deadline. The submittal deadline is shown at the beginning of this document. Clarifications and/or additional information will be provided to all interested parties by the Owner by addenda to this package.

3.2 Short-list Selection and Interviews - The Owner's RFQ Selection Committee will evaluate the written submittals based on the criteria identified in Section 4.0 below and determine the best qualified firm for this project.

3.3 Fee/Cost Negotiations - Once the Owner has completed their evaluation, they will rank the most qualified firms in order. The Owner will attempt to negotiate reasonable fees with the most qualified firm. If such negotiations are not successful, the Owner will attempt to negotiate with the next most qualified firm until an agreement can be made.

4.0 SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection process shall be based on the qualification information exhibited in the written submittal, the interview process (if needed), and reference checks completed by the Owner. Firms will be evaluated on past performance and relevant experience/expertise with similar projects, the qualifications and experience of key project team members who will be actively involved in the work, and the specified details of their project approach. Key selection criteria for this project will include, but may not be limited to the following:

Experience:

- Has previously designed water distribution projects
- Has worked on federally funded construction projects
- Has worked on projects that were in this general region
- Extent of experience in project construction management.

Work Performance:

- Past projects completed on schedule
- Manages projects within budgetary constraints
- Work product is of high quality.

Capacity to Perform

- Staff Level / Experience of Staff
- Adequacy of Resources
- Professional liability insurance is in force.

5.0 SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

All costs for development of the written submittal and the oral presentation (if needed) are entirely the obligation of the submitting entity and shall not be remunerated in any manner by the Owner.

The submittal shall be provided on 8.5" x 11" paper with a maximum of 25 pages (not including front or back covers, table of contents and cover letter). Four (4) hardcopies of each submittal will be needed. The below outline shall be followed as a template for the report and the overall information that is expected with each submittal:

- A brief history of the firm, including general background, knowledge of and experience working with relevant agencies and programs;
- Related experience in managing federally-funded local projects, in particular recent experience;
- A description of work performance and experience with similar projects including a list of at least three references from past local government clients, with information describing the relevancy of the previous performance;
- Describe which specific parts of the Scope of Work the service provider proposes to perform and which parts shall be completed by subcontractors;
- Describe the capacity to perform the chosen Scope of Work activities as well as resumes of all employees who may be assigned to provide services if your firm is selected, identifying current employees and proposed hires; and
- A statement substantiating the resources of the service provider and the ability to carry out the scope of work requested within the proposed timeline.

6.0 MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1 Insurance - The Owner will expect the following insurance coverage during the life of the potential contract: Professional Error & Omissions, Automobile Liability, Commercial General Liability, Worker's Compensation, etc. with minimum limits of \$1,000,000.00.
- 6.2 Additional Information - The owner reserves the right to request additional information or clarification of information provided in the response without changing the terms of this RFQ.
- 6.2 Confidentiality - In general, documents that are submitted as part of the response to this RFQ will become public records and will be subject to public disclosure. North Carolina General Statutes Section 132-1.2 and 66-152 provide a method for protecting some documents from public disclosure. If the architectural/engineering consultant firm follows the procedures prescribed by those statutes and designates a document "confidential" or "trade secret", the Owner will withhold the document from public disclosure to the extent that it is entitled or required to do so by applicable law.
- 6.3 Federal and State Requirements – This solicitation is for services that will be funded by Appalachian Regional Commission and The State of North Carolina and therefore all contracted consultants and subconsultants must be eligible to receive federal funds as provided by 2 CFR 200.

- 6.4 Statement of Conflicts of Interest - (if any) the service provider or key employees may have regarding these services, and a plan for mitigating the conflict(s). Note that the County may in its sole discretion determine whether a conflict disqualifies a firm, and/or whether or not a conflict mitigation plan is acceptable.
- 6.5 System for Award Management - Service provider and its Principals, may not be debarred or suspended nor otherwise on the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) in the System for Award Management (SAM). Include verification that the service provider as well as its principals are not listed (are not debarred) through the System for Award Management (www.SAM.gov). Enclose a printout of the search results that includes the record date.
- 6.6 Contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms - Small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to participate in this RFQ. If the awarded vendor is a prime contractor and may use subcontractors, the following affirmative steps are required of the prime contractor:
- 1) Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
 - 2) Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
 - 3) Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
 - 4) Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
 - 5) Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) of the Department of Commerce.