

Jim Wells County Request for Proposals for American Rescue Plan Act Consulting Services

1. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the County anticipates receiving approximately \$7.8 million in additional funds to address local needs generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Because these funds will be received directly from the U.S. Treasury, the County is seeking expertise with respect to administration of the funds.

Specifically, the County is seeking a professional consulting firm to provide expertise to augment staff's capabilities to ensure compliance with federal regulations while maximizing the recovery of and beneficial uses of Rescue Plan dollars in the local community.

The ideal consulting firm will have demonstrated experience in programmatic disaster recovery and must have intimate knowledge and expertise in the areas of compliance with the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB)'s Uniform Guidance 2 CFR, Part 200 federal funding requirements, including but not limited to federal acquisition requirements, and operations of the FEMA Public Assistance Program. The County is seeking services in the following areas:

Cost Recovery and Emergency Advisory Services Assessment, Planning and Decision Making Application, Reimbursement Request Review, Funding and Cost Reimbursement and Compliance Monitoring and Reporting It is expected this Request for Proposals may result in on-demand contracts to meet the need for timely specific services. Consulting firm must have an understanding of the intricacies of the laws, regulations, policies, timelines, requirements, processes, and systems that govern eligibility and reporting for FEMA, HUD, HHS and other federal agencies. Consulting firm must have the ability to perform services remotely with access to electronic tools.

The selected consulting firm shall assist the County with the following duties as mutually agreed upon:

- Provide technical advisory services related to recovery from COVID-19
- Develop and implement strategies designated to maximize federal and state assistance
- Provide expert programmatic and policy advice on federal disaster relief programs
- Provide support for strategic planning and coordination of all recovery efforts
- Identify long-term cost exposures and expenditures associated with COVID-19
- Review contracts and purchasing documentation to ensure cost recovery and compliance of expenditures using federal funds
- Identify potential improvements and maximize public assistance/American Rescue Plan Act funding in conjunction with the County
- Provide oversight and guidance to guarantee compliance with OMB Uniform Guidance 2 CFR, Part 200, including performing internal control risk assessments as required
- Review and assist with processing payment requests, determining allowable costs, with

- scope of review and assistance to be set by County
- Represent Jim Wells County and attend meetings with FEMA, U.S. Treasury, or other agencies as may be necessary on behalf of the County
 - Provide the County with grant / funding close-out services to ensure funding is retained
 - Resolve any requests for information, justification, audit findings and eligibility appeals
 - Streamline reporting process to ensure continued compliance and provide post-award grants administration

2. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS – SUBMISSION

Contact - Jim Wells County Judge's Office

Linda Reynolds

linda.reynolds@co.jim-wells.tx.us

(361) 668-5706 ext. 1

Jim Wells County intends to fund the project through administrative overhead allowable under the American Rescue Plan Act.

The submissions must be received by **10:00 a.m. on June 24, 2021** as an electronic copy in pdf format. Submission must be transmitted via attachment to an email titled "Proposal for Disaster Recovery Consulting Services" and addressed to linda.reynolds@co.jim-wells.tx.us

These instructions to offerors and all parts of the Request for Proposals are, by this reference, made part of the contract documents for this project. For a Proposal to be accepted as responsive, the following items must be included:

1. **A) Transmittal letter:** A cover letter with company name, address, phone number, project contact and principal signature is required, expressing interest in the project and certifying that sufficient resources in personnel, equipment, and time are available and can be committed to this project.
2. **B) Facilities, Resources, and Personnel:** The offeror is required to state its organizational resources, which the offeror considers to be advantageous to the successful completion of the project. Items to be considered include the capabilities and experience of the offeror, identification of the principal participants including résumés, certifications and licenses, and office locations. Please include the name, position (including qualification) and phone number of the individual(s) that will be assigned to complete this project. These persons may not be withdrawn from the project or personnel substitutions made without consent of the Jim Wells County Judge. Please identify how many projects the firm currently is obligated to perform and the approximate dollar value of each. Please provide proof of errors and omissions coverage. Please provide an organizational chart for this project.
3. **C) References:** Information is required regarding previous work of a similar nature performed by the organization with other governmental units or businesses, if any. This would include a description of the work performed, when the work was performed, the dollar amount of the project, the date, name, address, and telephone number of at least three (3) clients who may be contacted for further information. Please provide

verification that the offeror is not involved in any current litigation or been the subject of arbitration.

4. **D) Work Plan:** Explain the work plan with detailed specific tasks as noted in the *Scope of the Proposed Project* section of this RFP. Note all tasks and the responsible parties including the County and sub-consultants. Given the limited information herein, provide a conceptual project plan and schedule. Demonstrate how your firm will minimize costs and maximize federal resources including utilization of project management resources in a cost-effective manner, assessment of alternatives, delivery methods, streamlining project and work tasks, quality control methods and so forth.
5. **E) Costs:** Provide costs to complete the work plan as detailed in the Proposal. Provide hourly rates for each type of activity and each level of personnel, as well as an estimated total to complete the scope of work.

3. EVALUATION PROCESS

A committee comprised of County staff shall review and rank all Proposals according to qualifications. The committee will evaluate submissions received that conform to the instructions above. The committee's recommendation of a preferred firm or firms will be submitted to the Jim Wells County Commissioners Court for approval to proceed in the evaluation process.

Selected firms may be invited to participate in interviews or oral presentations as deemed necessary by the committee where the firm may elaborate on their submission. Travel costs of such an interview, if any, shall be borne by the offeror.

The selection of the consultant and the execution of a contract, while anticipated, are not guaranteed by the County. The County reserves the right to determine which offering is in the County's best interest and to award the contract on that basis, to reject any and all offerings or portions thereof, waive any irregularities of any offering, negotiate with any potential offeror (after Proposals are reviewed) if such is deemed in the best interests of the County.

4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

An offeror's technical qualifications and experience will be evaluated. Interviews may be conducted with only the most qualified offerors with the best responsive and responsible submissions.

Firm selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Firm's project approach and understanding of the Scope of Services required in the RFP as evidenced by its Proposal, including whether all requested information was furnished in the format required by the RFP and estimated costs.
- Experience and background of the specific personnel that will be assigned to the County's project as outlined in the Proposal, including consideration of the specific involvement of those persons in projects as noted in the Proposal.

- Past record of performance and experience on similar projects, including strength of references listed in the Proposal. Capacity and capability of the firm to perform the work. Experience with county government officials and federal regulations.

5. REJECTION RIGHTS

Jim Wells County Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any and all submittals for business reasons and reserves the right to resolicit submittals or change the closing date for any such business reason.

6. COST OF PREPARATION

No reimbursement will be made for any costs incurred prior to a formal notice to proceed under an appropriately executed contract.