

**NOTICE TO CONSULTANT ENGINEERS REGARDING A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND LETTERS OF INTEREST**

**May 6, 2024**

**RFQ – TDEC ARPA Grant Administration Services**



Submit Qualifications to:  
City of Knoxville  
Purchasing Division  
City/County Building  
Room 667-674  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

<b>RFQ Timetable</b>	
Availability of RFQ	May 6, 2024
Question Deadline	May 23, 2024
<b>Submission Deadline</b>	May 30, 2024

This timetable is for informational purposes only and these dates are subject to change. The issuance of written addenda by the City of Knoxville Purchasing Division is the only official method whereby a deadline extension for qualification submissions or additional information can be given.

The City of Knoxville, an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer, seeks to retain the services of a professional consultant engineering firm to provide grant administration services for the TDEC ARPA Non-Competitive Grant awarded to the City of Knoxville.

### **Project Description**

This project will consist of administering a grant awarded by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) for approximately \$20M in ARPA federal funds. The City of Knoxville's grant contract covers twelve separate projects, including several stormwater projects and a partnership with the Knoxville Utilities Board on a water plant upgrade project.

### **Required Scope of Services**

This scope of work will include but not be limited to providing the following services:

1. Coordinating with TDEC and City of Knoxville staff on all project approvals, updates, additional requirements, and reimbursement request information primarily through the TDEC Grant Management System but also any other avenues of communication as required, including regular update meetings with City staff on grant status and project progression
2. Attending meetings with TDEC, consultants, contractors, City staff, and other project stakeholders as required
3. Submitting all required project materials and information through the TDEC Grant Management System
4. Review of project concepts and designs for compliance with grant proposal
5. Ensuring projects meet all state and federal requirements as outlined by the grant
6. Staying informed of updated information and guidelines on the ARPA Grant Program as TDEC publishes that material

### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Evaluation.** The City of Knoxville will evaluate the firms on the following criteria (relative weight):

- **Firms Qualifications and Experience on Similar Contracts.** Proposal shall include information on the firm's experience in managing grants and projects with federal, state, or local grants or other alternative public financing methods. Specifically, detail any experience with state and/or federal grants, working with municipalities as a client and the familiarity of the firm with TDEC ARPA program and eligibility regulations. (20%).
- **Project Approach/Methodology.** Proposal shall include information regarding the methodology/approach to be used to administer the grant which would address the needs of the City. Clearly show why the firm should be superior to other proposing firms in the delivery of the scope of services. (20%).
- **Key Project Personal Qualifications & Experience.** Proposal shall describe the background, experience and qualifications of the person(s) who will act as the grant administrator and the qualifications of any staff who will assist with the administration of the grant (include their role, education, relevant experience, dedication of time, and related qualifications) (35%).

- **Firms Availability.** List location of key staff and their ability to meet with City personnel or conduct site visits and inspections as required. Include the capacity of the firm to perform the work within the TDEC ARPA Guidelines and timeframe desired by the City, taking into account the current and planned workload of the firm. (25%).

**Contract Clauses.** Submitting entities, if selected, must be willing to sign a contract with the City which will include certain provisions, among which are the following:

1. **Contract Documents:** The contract shall consist of (1) the RFQ; (2) the proposal submitted by the contractor to this RFQ; and (3) the contract. In the event of a discrepancy between the contract, the RFQ and the submitted proposal, the terms that provide the greater benefit to the City and/or impose the greater obligation to the contractor will prevail.
2. **Administration:** The contract will be administered by the City of Knoxville's Department/Office.
3. **Invoices:** Invoices for services will be submitted to the City in accordance with the contract terms.
4. **Independent Contractor:** The relationship of contractor to the City will be that of independent contractor. The contractor will be solely and entirely responsible for its acts and for the acts of its agents, employees, servants and subcontractors done during the performance of the contract. All services performed by the contractor shall be provided in an independent contractor capacity and not in the capacity of officers, agents, or employees of the City.
5. **Assignment:** The contractor shall not assign or transfer any interest in this contract without prior written consent of the City of Knoxville.
6. **Licenses:** Before a contract is signed by the City, the submitting entity, if selected, must provide the City Purchasing Division with a copy of its valid business license or with an affidavit explaining why it is exempt from the business licensure requirements of the city or county in which it is headquartered. If a contract is signed, the contractor's business license shall be kept current throughout the duration of the contract, and the contractor shall inform the City of changes in its business name or location. The contractor must be a licensed professional as required by the state of Tennessee, see T.C.A. Sections 62-2-101 et. seq., for any services in this contract requiring such licensure.
7. **Insurance:** When applicable and prior to the commencement of the contract, contractor must, at its sole expense, obtain and maintain in full force and effect for the duration of the Agreement and any extension hereof at least the following types and amounts of insurance for claims which may arise from or in connection with this Agreement. Contractor shall furnish the City of Knoxville with properly executed certificates of insurance which shall clearly evidence all insurance required by the City. All insurance must be underwritten by insurers with an A.M. Best rating of A-VIII or better. Such insurance shall be at a minimum the following:
  1. **Commercial General Liability Insurance:** occurrence version commercial general liability insurance, and if necessary, umbrella liability insurance, with a limit of not less

than \$2,000,000 each occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury, property damage, and products and completed operations. If such insurance contains a general aggregate limit, it shall apply separately to the work/location in this Agreement or be no less than \$3,000,000.

Such insurance shall:

1. Contain or be endorsed to contain a provision that includes the City, its officials, officers, employees, and volunteers as additional insureds with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of the Contractor including materials, parts, or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of its protection afforded to the above-listed insureds. Proof of additional insured status up to and including copies of endorsements and/or policy wording will be required.

2. For any claims related to this project, Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the City, its officers, officials, officers, employees, and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance programs covering the City, its officials, officers, employees, and volunteers shall be excess of Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

3. At the sole discretion of the City, dedicated limits of liability for this specific project may be required.

**2. Automobile Liability Insurance:** including vehicles owned, hired, and non-owned, with a combined single limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each accident. Such insurance shall include coverage for loading and unloading hazards. Insurance shall contain or be endorsed to contain a provision that includes the City, its officials, officers, employees, and volunteers as additional insureds with respect to liability arising out of automobiles owned, leased, hired, or borrowed by or on behalf of Contractor.

**4. Workers' Compensation Insurance:** Contractor shall maintain workers' compensation insurance with statutory limits as required by the State of Tennessee or other applicable laws and employers' liability insurance with limits of not less than \$500,000. Contractor shall require each of its subcontractors to provide Workers' Compensation for all of the latter's employees to be engaged in such work unless such employees are covered by Contractor's workers' compensation insurance coverage.

**5. Professional Liability (including Errors & Omissions).** Consultant shall maintain professional liability insurance covering claims arising from real or alleged negligent errors, omissions, or acts committed in the performance of professional services under this contract with limits of \$2,000,000. If the coverage is written on a claims-made form:

- a. The "Retro Date" must be shown and must be before the date of the contract or the beginning of contract work.

- b. Insurance must be maintained and evidence of insurance must be provided for at least three (3) years after completion of the contract work and acceptance by the City.
- c. If coverage is cancelled or non-renewed and not replaced with another claims-made policy form with a "Retro Date" prior to the contract effective date, Consultant must purchase "extended reporting" coverage for a minimum of three (3) years after completion of contract work.
- d. A copy of the claims reporting requirements must be submitted to the City for review.

#### **6. Other Insurance Requirements:**

Contractor shall:

- Prior to commencement of services, furnish the City with original certificates and amendatory endorsements effecting coverage required by this section and provide that such insurance shall not be cancelled, allowed to expire, or be materially reduced in coverage except on 30 days' prior written notice to the City Attorney of Knoxville; P.O. Box 1631; Knoxville, Tennessee 37901. Proof of policy provisions regarding notice of cancellation will be required.
- Upon the City's request, provide certified copies of endorsements and policies if requested by the City in lieu of or in addition to certificates of insurance. Copies of policies will only be requested when contracts are deemed to be extremely or uniquely hazardous, include a dollar amount that is significant to the overall budget of the City or a City Department, or the coverage(s) may not follow standard insurance forms. A policy will only be requested after the City's Risk Manager has reviewed the contract and proof of coverage has been provided. Should the certificate of insurance refer to specific coverage wording or endorsements(s), proof of such policy wording or endorsement(s) will be required.
- Replace certificates, policies, and endorsements for any such insurance expiring prior to completion of services.
- Maintain such insurance from the time services commence until services are completed. Failure to maintain or renew coverage or to provide evidence of renewal may be treated by the City as a material breach of contract.
- If Contractor cannot procure insurance through an insurer having an A.M. Best rating of A-VIII, Contractor may, in the alternative, place such insurance with insurer licensed to do business in Tennessee and having A.M. Best Company ratings of no less than A. Modification of this standard may be considered upon appeal to the City Law Director.
- Require all subcontractors to maintain during the term of the Agreement Commercial General Liability insurance, Business Automobile Liability insurance, and Workers' Compensation/Employer's Liability insurance (unless subcontractor's employees are covered by Contractor's insurance) in the same manner as specified for Contractor. Contractor shall furnish subcontractors' certificates of insurance to the City without expense immediately upon request.

- Large Deductibles/Self-Insured Retentions: Any deductibles and/or self-insured retentions greater than \$50,000 must be disclosed to and approved by the City of Knoxville prior to the commencement of services. Use of large deductibles and/or self-insured retentions may require proof of financial ability as determined by the City.
- Waiver of Subrogation Required: The insurer shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation against the City, its officers, officials, and employees for losses arising from work performed by Contractor for the City. Proof of waiver of subrogation up to and including copies of endorsements and/or policy wording will be required.
- Occurrence Basis Requirement: All general liability policies must be written on an occurrence basis, unless the Risk Manager determines that a claims made basis is reasonable in the specific circumstance. Use of policies written on a claims made basis must be approved by the City. Risk Manager and retroactive dates and/or continuation dates must be provided to the City prior to commencement of any work performed. Professional Liability and Environmental Liability (Pollution Coverage) are most commonly written on a claims made basis and are generally acceptable in that form.

8. **Ethical Standards:** Attention of all firms is directed to the following provisions contained in the Code of the City of Knoxville: Chapter 24, Article II, Section 24-33 entitled “Debts owed by persons receiving payments other than Salary;” Chapter 2, Article VIII, Division 11. the Contractor hereby takes notice of and affirms that it is not in violation of, or has not participated, and will not participate, in the violation of any of the following ethical standards prescribed by the Knoxville City Code:

1. Section 2-1048 - Conflict of Interest:

It shall be unlawful for any employee of the city to participate, directly or indirectly, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or purchase standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or otherwise, in any proceeding or application, request for ruling or other determination, claim or controversy or other matter pertaining to any contract or subcontract and any solicitation or proposal therefore, where to the employee’s knowledge there is a financial interest possessed by:

1. The employee or the employee’s immediate family;
2. A business other than a public agency in which the employee or member of the employee’s immediate family serves as an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee; or
3. Any person or business with whom the employee or a member of the employee’s immediate family is negotiating or has an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

2. Section 2-1049 - Receipt of Benefits from City Contracts by Council Members, Employees and Officers of the City:

It shall be unlawful for any member of council, member of the board of education, officer or employee of the city to have or hold any interest in the profits or emoluments of any contract, job, work or service, either by himself or by another, directly or indirectly. Any such contract for a job, work or service for the city in which any member of council, member of the board of education, officer or employee has or holds any such interest is void.

3. Section 2-1050 - Gratuities and Kickbacks Prohibited:

It is unlawful for any person to offer, give or agree to give to any person, while a city employee, or for any person, while a city employee, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, anything of a pecuniary value for or because of:

1. An official action taken, or to be taken, or which could be taken;
2. A legal duty performed, or to be performed, or which could be performed; or
3. A legal duty violated, or to be violated, or which could be violated by such person while a city employee.

Anything of nominal value shall be presumed not to constitute a gratuity under this section.

Kickbacks: It is unlawful for any payment, gratuity, or benefit to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.

4. Section 2-1051 - Covenant Relating to Contingent Fees:

1. Representation of Contractor: Every person, before being awarded a contract in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) with the city, shall represent that no other person has been retained to solicit or secure the contract with the city upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial, selling agencies maintained by the person so representing for the purpose of securing business.

2. Intentional Violation Unlawful: The intentional violation of the representation specified in subsection (a) of this section is unlawful.

5. Section 2-1052 - Restrictions on Employment of Present and Former City Employees:

Contemporaneous employment prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any city employee to become or be, while such employee, an employee of any party contracting with the particular department or agency in which the person is employed.

For violations of the ethical standards outlined in the Knoxville City Code, the City has the following remedies:

1. Oral or written warnings or reprimands;
2. Cancellation of transactions; and
3. Suspension or debarment from being a Contractor or subcontractor under city or city-funded contracts.

The value of anything transferred in violation of these ethical standards shall be recoverable by the City from such person. All procedures under this section shall be in accord with due process requirements, included but not limited to a right to notice and hearing prior to imposition of any cancellation, suspension or debarment from being a Contractor or subcontractor under a city contract.

9. **Governing Law and Venue:** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of Tennessee and its conflict of laws provisions. Venue for any action arising between the City and the Contractor from the Agreement shall lie in Knox County, Tennessee.

10. **Federal, State, and Local Requirements:** Each submitting entity is responsible for full compliance with all laws, rules and regulations which may be applicable.

11. **EEO/AA:** The City of Knoxville is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Section 504/ADA/ADEA Employer.

1. Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Orders No.11246 and 11375 which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Bidders must not maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin. Bidders must also comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Copeland Anti-Kick Back Act, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standard Act, Section 402 of the Vietnam Veterans Adjustment Act of 1974 and Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all of which are herein incorporated by reference.

2. All bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as codified in 42 U.S.C. 2000d. The successful bidder must follow Title VI guidelines in all areas including hiring practices, open facilities, insurance, and wages. The City of Knoxville reserves the right to review all compliance records by a contract compliance officer designated by the City.

3. With regard to the services performed under this Agreement, the Contractor will comply with all applicable requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42



U.S.C. § 12101, et seq. ("ADA"). The Contractor agrees that it will defend, indemnify and hold the City harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or causes of action which arise out of any negligent and/or intentional act or omission by the Contractor, its employees, agents or representatives that violates the ADA. The Contractor agrees that the City will not be responsible for any cost or expenses arising from the Contractor's failure to comply with the ADA.

12. **Firms shall give consideration to:**

1. The inclusion of minority firms or individuals in this project, and shall advise the city in this proposal of their efforts to do so.
2. The use of environmentally sustainable best practices, and shall advise the city in this submittal of qualifications of their efforts to do so.

13. **Subcontracts to the Agreement:** Contractor shall not enter into a subcontract for any of the services performed under this Agreement without obtaining the prior written approval of the City.

14. **Amendments:** This Agreement may be modified only by a written amendment or addendum that has been executed and approved by the appropriate officials shown on the signature page of the Agreement.

15. **Captions:** The captions appearing in the Agreement are for convenience only and are not a part of the Agreement; they do not in any way limit or amplify the provisions of the Agreement.

16. **Severability:** If any provision of the Agreement is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, such determination shall not affect the validity of the other provisions contained in the Agreement. Failure to enforce any provision of the Agreement does not affect the rights of the parties to enforce such provision in another circumstance, nor does it affect the rights of the parties to enforce any other provision of this Agreement at any time.

17. **No Benefit for Third Parties:** The services to be performed by the Contractor pursuant to the Agreement with the City are intended solely for the benefit of the City, and no benefit is conferred hereby, nor is any contractual relationship established herewith, upon or with any person or entity not a party to the Agreement. No such person or entity shall be entitled to rely on the Contractor's performance of its services hereunder, and no right to assert a claim against the City or the Contractor, its officers, employees, agents, or contractors shall accrue to the Contractor or to any subcontractors, independently retained professional consultant, supplier, fabricator, manufacturer, lender, tenant, insurer, surety, or any other third party as a result of this Agreement or the performance or non-performance of the Contractor's services hereunder.

18. **Non-Reliance of Parties:** Parties explicitly agree that they have not relied upon any earlier or outside representations other than what has been included in the Agreement. Furthermore, neither party has been induced to enter into this Agreement by anything other than the specific written terms set forth herein.

19. **Force Majeure:** Neither party shall be liable to the other for any delay or failure to perform any of the services or obligations set forth in this Agreement due to causes beyond its reasonable control, and performance times shall be considered extended for a period of time equivalent to the time lost because of such delay plus a reasonable period of time to allow the parties to recommence performance of their respective obligations hereunder. Should a circumstance of force majeure last more than ninety (90) days, either party may by written notice to the other terminate this Agreement. The term "force majeure" as used herein shall mean the following: acts of God; strikes, lockouts or other industrial disturbances; acts of public enemies; orders or restraints of any kind of the government of the United States or of the State or any of their departments, agencies or officials, or any civil or military authority; insurrections, riots, landslides, earthquakes, fires, storms, tornadoes, droughts, floods, explosions, breakage or accident to machinery, transmission pipes or canals; or any other cause or event not reasonably within the control of either party.

20. **Funding:** The City's performance and obligation to pay under this contract is subject to funding contingent upon an annual appropriation.

21. **Indemnification and Hold Harmless:** The successful proposer will be required to sign a contract with the City which contains the following indemnification clause. This indemnification clause will not be altered in any way. Failure to agree with this indemnification clause in the contract may result in the City moving to the next responsible responsive proposer.

Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers, employees and agents from any and all liabilities which may accrue against the City, its officers, employees and agents or any third party for any and all lawsuits, claims, demands, losses or damages alleged to have arisen from an act or omission of Contractor in performance of this Agreement or from Contractor's failure to perform this Agreement using ordinary care and skill, except where such injury, damage, or loss was caused by the sole negligence of the City, its agents or employees. The amount and type of insurance coverage requirements set forth in this Agreement will in no way be construed as limiting the scope of the indemnity in this section.

Contractor shall save, indemnify and hold the City harmless from the cost of the defense of any claim, demand, suit or cause of action made or brought against the City alleging liability referenced above, including, but not limited to, costs, fees, attorney fees, and other expenses of any kind whatsoever arising in connection with the defense of the City; and Contractor shall assume and take over the defense of the City in any such claim, demand, suit, or cause of action upon written notice and demand for same by the City. Contractor will have the right to defend the City with counsel of its choice that is satisfactory to the City, and the City will provide reasonable cooperation in the defense as Contractor may request. Contractor will not consent to the entry of any judgment or enter into any settlement with respect to an indemnified claim without the prior written consent of the City, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed. The City shall have the right to participate in the defense against the indemnified claims with counsel of its choice at its own expense.

Contractor shall save, indemnify and hold City harmless and pay judgments that shall be rendered in any such actions, suits, claims or demands against City alleging liability referenced above.

The indemnification and hold harmless provisions of this Agreement shall survive termination of the Agreement.

22. **Termination:** The City may terminate this Agreement at any time, with or without cause, by written notice of termination to the Contractor.

If the City terminates this Agreement, and such termination is not a result of a default by the Contractor, the Contractor shall be entitled to receive as its sole and exclusive remedy the following amounts from the City, and the City shall have no further or other obligations to the Contractor: the amount due to the Contractor for work executed through the date of termination, not including any future fees, profits, or other compensation or payments which the Contractor would have been entitled to receive if this Agreement had not been terminated.

The City may, by written notice of default to the Contractor, terminate the whole or any part of this Agreement if the Contractor fails to perform any provisions of this Agreement and does not cure such failure within a period of ten (10) days (or such longer period as the Purchasing Agent may authorize in writing) after receipt of said notice from the Purchasing Agent specifying such failure. If this Agreement is terminated in whole or in part for default, the City may procure, upon such terms and in such manner as the Purchasing Agent may deem appropriate, supplies or services similar to those terminated.

23. By submitting a proposal, the submitting entity agrees to all terms and conditions established in this LOI, including its contract requirements.

24. **Equal Employment Opportunity.** During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following:

Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

The contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

The contractor will not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because such employee or applicant has inquired about, discussed, or disclosed the compensation of the employee or applicant or another employee or applicant. This provision shall not apply to instances in which an employee who has access to the compensation information of other employees or applicants as a part of such employee's essential job functions discloses the compensation of such other employees or applicants to individuals who do not otherwise have access to such information, unless such disclosure is in response to a formal complaint or charge, in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding,

hearing, or action, including an investigation conducted by the employer, or is consistent with the contractor's legal duty to furnish information.

The contractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided advising the said labor union or workers' representatives of the contractor's commitments under this section, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

The contractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

In the event of the contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts or federally assisted construction contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

The contractor will include the portion of the sentence immediately preceding paragraph (1) and the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (8) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 204 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the administering agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance

Provided, however, that in the event a contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the administering agency, the contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

The applicant further agrees that it will be bound by the above equal opportunity clause with respect to its own employment practices when it participates in federally assisted construction work: *Provided*, That if the applicant so participating is a State or local government, the above equal opportunity clause is not applicable to any agency, instrumentality or subdivision of such government which does not participate in work on or under the contract.

The applicant agrees that it will assist and cooperate actively with the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor in obtaining the compliance of contractors and subcontractors with the equal opportunity clause and the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor, that it will furnish the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor such information as they may require for the supervision of such compliance, and that it will otherwise assist the administering agency in the discharge of the agency's primary responsibility for securing compliance.

The applicant further agrees that it will refrain from entering into any contract or contract modification subject to Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, with a contractor debarred from, or who has not demonstrated eligibility for, Government contracts and federally assisted construction contracts pursuant to the Executive Order and will carry out such sanctions and penalties for violation of the equal opportunity clause as may be imposed upon contractors and subcontractors by the administering agency or the Secretary of Labor pursuant to Part II, Subpart D of the Executive Order. In addition, the applicant agrees that if it fails or refuses to comply with these undertakings, the administering agency may take any or all of the following actions: Cancel, terminate, or suspend in whole or in part this grant (contract, loan, insurance, guarantee); refrain from extending any further assistance to the applicant under the program with respect to which the failure or refund occurred until satisfactory assurance of future compliance has been received from such applicant; and refer the case to the Department of Justice for appropriate legal proceedings.

## **25. Debarment and Suspension.**

This contract is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180 and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000. As such, the contractor is required to verify that none of the contractor's principals (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.995) or its affiliates (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.935).

The contractor must comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C, and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into. As such, the Contractor shall verify that its principals, affiliates, and subcontractors are eligible to participate in this federally funded contract and are not presently declared by any Federal department or agency to be:

1. Debarred from participation in any federally assisted Award;
2. Suspended from participation in any federally assisted Award;
3. Proposed for debarment from participation in any federally assisted Award;
4. Declared ineligible to participate in any federally assisted Award;
5. Voluntarily excluded from participation in any federally assisted Award; or
6. Disqualified from participation in any federally assisted Award.

By signing and submitting its bid, proposal, or contract, the bidder, proposer, or contractor certifies as follows:

7. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact relied upon by the City of Knoxville. If it is later determined by the City of Knoxville that the bidder or proposer

knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to remedies available to the City of Knoxville, the Federal Government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment. The bidder, proposer, or awardee agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 CFR pt. 180 and 2 CFR pt. 3000 while this offer is valid and throughout the contract period. The bidder, proposer, or contractor further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its resulting subcontracts or subrecipient agreements.

26. **Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, 31 U.S.C § 1352 (as amended).** Contractors who apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more shall file the required Certification Regarding Lobbying. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient who in turn will forward the certification(s) to the awarding agency.
27. **Recovered Materials.** In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA-designated items unless the product cannot be acquired:
- Competitively within a timeframe providing for compliance with the contract performance schedule;
  - Meeting contract performance requirements; or
  - At a reasonable price.

Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA-designated items, is available at EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site, <https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>.

The Contractor also agrees to comply with all other applicable requirements of Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

28. **Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment.** Recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending loan or grant funds to:
1. Procure or obtain;
  2. Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or
  3. Enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. As described in Public Law 115-232, section 889, covered telecommunications equipment is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
    1. For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology

Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

2. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.
3. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

In implementing the prohibition under Public Law 115-232, section 889, subsection (f), paragraph (1), heads of executive agencies administering loan, grant, or subsidy programs shall prioritize available funding and technical support to assist affected businesses, institutions and organizations as is reasonably necessary for those affected entities to transition from covered communications equipment and services, to procure replacement equipment and services, and to ensure that communications service to users and customers is sustained.

29. **Domestic preferences for procurements.** To the greatest extent practicable under a Federal award, contractor shall provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). For the purposes of this clause,
1. “Produced in the United States” means, for iron and steel products, that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States. “
  2. “Manufactured products” means items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of non-ferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer-based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber.

### Instructions to Submitting Entities

All submissions of qualifications shall comply with the following instructions. These instructions ensure that (1) submissions contain the information and documents required by the City’s RFQ and (2) the submissions have a degree of uniformity to facilitate evaluation.

#### 1. General

Submission forms and RFQ documentation may be obtained, at no charge, from:

City of Knoxville Purchasing Division  
City/County Building  
400 Main Street, Room 667  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Documents will be available on or after May 6, 2024 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday or by calling 865-215-2070. RFQ information and forms are also available on the

City web site at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing) where it can be read or printed using Adobe Acrobat Reader software.

## 2. Submission Information

### **Option 1 - Electronic Submission Procedures:**

Electronic submissions must be submitted online through the City's Procurement website. **DO NOT EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSION.**

All proposers/bidders must register as a vendor in order to submit an electronic file.

**Step One:** Register as a City of Knoxville vendor (Vendors are encouraged to complete this step now to ensure seamless submission process prior to deadline.)

To register as a vendor:

- Visit the website at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing)
- Click the "Vendor Registration" link
- Click the link titled "Click here to register as a City of Knoxville Vendor"
- Follow the prompts to complete online registration. There is no cost to register as a vendor with the City of Knoxville.

Note: An account activation email will be emailed to you and may be sent to your spam or junk folder.

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL SUBMISSION DEADLINE TO REGISTER AS A VENDOR.** The electronic submission link will be disabled at 11:00:00 a.m. Eastern time. Vendors will not have the ability to submit any electronic files once the deadline has passed and the City will accept no late submissions.

**Step Two:** Submit all materials electronically as one (1) file to City's Procurement website PRIOR to 11:00:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) on the submission due date.

To submit electronic file:

- Visit the City's solicitation website at <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/tennessee/cityofknoxville>
- Select "RFQ – TDEC ARPA Grant Administration Services"
- Click "Place Bid" (located in the blue bar at top of screen)
- Follow the prompts to upload and submit electronic file
- The City prefers only one (1) bid file per submission. Files **MUST** use the following naming convention, listing the firm's name followed by the title of the project. Example: "ABC Company – TDEC ARPA Grant Administration Services.pdf." Should you need to merge multiple documents into one PDF please utilize Google to download a free software intended for merging pdf documents.



**Option 2 - Hard Copy Submission Procedures:**

Proposals shall include one original and one electronic copy of the proposal (.pdf format on CD or USB drive only - mark the storage device with the company name); the electronic version shall be an exact duplicate of the original, and the electronic version will be the official document exhibited in the contract. Electronic submissions must be included with the sealed submissions; do not email your submission.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The original hard copy submitted proposal must bear an original signature, signed in ink (duplicated signatures substituted for original ink signatures may result in rejection of the proposals).** The signature must be entered above the typed or printed name and title of the signer. All proposals must be signed by an officer of the company authorized to bind the firm to a contract.

Proposals will be received until 11:00:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) on the submission date. Each proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:

City of Knoxville Purchasing Division  
City/County Building  
400 Main Street, Room 667  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Each mailing envelope or carton containing a hardcopy proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside "RFQ - TDEC ARPA Grant Administration Services."** The Purchasing Division receives many bids and proposals for any number of solicitations; unlabeled submissions are extremely difficult to match to their appropriate solicitations and therefore may be rejected.

Any proposals received after the time and date on the cover sheet will not be considered. It shall be the sole responsibility of the submitting entity to have the proposal delivered to the City of Knoxville Purchasing Division on or before that date. Late proposals will not be considered. Proposals that arrive late due to the fault of United States Postal Service, United Parcel Service, DHL, FEDEX, any delivery/courier service, or any other carrier of any sort are still considered late and shall not be accepted by the City. Such proposals shall remain unopened and will be returned to the submitting entity upon request.

**Diversity Business Enterprise (DBE) Program**

The City of Knoxville strongly encourages prime contractors to employ diverse businesses in the fulfillment of contracts/projects for the City of Knoxville.

The City of Knoxville's Fiscal Year 2023 goal is to conduct 4.3% of its business with minority-owned businesses, 10.3% of its business with woman-owned businesses, and 34.8% with small businesses.

While the City cannot engage (pursuant to state law) in preferential bidding practices, the City does **strongly encourage** prime contractors to seek out and hire diverse businesses in order to help the City meet its goals as stated above. As such, the City encourages prime contractors to seek out and consider competitive sub-bids and quotations from diverse businesses.

For DBE tracking purposes, the City requests that prime contractors, who are bidding, proposing, or submitting statements of qualifications, report whether or not they plan to employ DBE's as sub-contractors or consultants. With that in mind, **please fill out, sign, and submit (with your bid/proposal) the Subcontractor/Consultant statement included in the submission forms based on the following definitions:**

#### CITY OF KNOXVILLE DIVERSITY BUSINESS DEFINITIONS

Diversity Business Enterprise (DBE's) are minority-owned (MBE), women-owned (WBE), service-disabled veteran-owned (SDVBE), and small businesses (SBE), who are impeded from normal entry into the economic mainstream because of past practices of discrimination based on race or ethnic background. These persons must own at least 51% of the entity and operate or control the business daily.

Minority: A person who is a citizen or lawful admitted permanent resident of the United States and who is a member of one (1) of the following groups:

- a) African American: persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa;
- b) Hispanic American: persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race;
- c) Native American: persons who have origin in any of the original peoples of North America;
- d) Asian American: persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.

Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) is a continuing, independent, for-profit business that performs a commercially useful function, and is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more minority individuals.

Woman Business Enterprise (WBE) is a continuing, independent, for-profit business that performs a commercially useful function, and is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more women.

Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business Enterprise (SDVBE) is a continuing, independent, for profit business that performs a commercially useful function, owned by any person who served honorably on active duty in the armed forces of the United States with at least a twenty percent (20%) disability that is service connected, meaning such disability was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air service, and is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more service disabled veteran.

Small Business Enterprise (SBE) is a continuing, independent, for-profit business which performs a commercially useful function and has total gross receipts of not more than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) average over a three-year period or employs no more than ninety-nine (99) persons on a full-time basis.

Persons with Disabilities Business Enterprise (PDBE) is business owned by a person with a disability that is a continuing, independent, for-profit business that performs a commercially useful function, and is at

least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more persons with a disability; or, in the case of any publicly owned business, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the stock of which is owned and controlled by one or more persons with a disability and whose management and daily business operations are under the control of one or more persons with a disability. "Person with a disability" means an individual who meets at least one of the following: (A) Has been diagnosed as having a physical or mental disability resulting in marked and severe functional limitations that is expected to last no less than 12 months; (B) Is eligible to receive social security disability insurance (SSDI); or (C) Is eligible to received supplemental security income (SSI) and has a disability as defined in (A) above.

**Submission Affidavits and Certifications**

We \_\_\_\_\_  
(Bidder/Proposer Company Name)

do certify that on the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Solicitation Title/Project Name)

we are in receipt of the following checked items and do hereby certify or affirm as follows:

**SUBCONTRACTOR/CONSULTANT STATEMENT**

**Please select one:**

**Option A: Intent to subcontract using Diverse Businesses**

A Diversity business will be employed as subcontractor(s), vendor(s), supplier(s), or professional service(s). The estimated **percentage** of the amount that we plan to pay is:

% \_\_\_\_\_

Total Estimated Percentage of Subcontractor Service:

<b>Diversity Business Enterprise Utilization (See Section 7.5 for Classifications)</b>			
Description of Work/Project	Percentage	Diverse Classification (MBE, WBE, SBE, SDVBE, PDBE)	Name of Diverse Business

**Option B: Intent to perform work “without” using Diverse Businesses**

We hereby certify that it is our intent to perform 100% of the work required for the contract, work will be completed without subcontracting, or we plan to subcontract with non-diverse companies.

**Option C: Intent to self-perform work as a Diversity Business Enterprise**

We intend to self-perform 100% of the work required for the contract as a Diversity Business Enterprise.

**NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT**

1. Submitted proposal is genuine and is not a collusive or sham proposal;

2. Neither the said firm nor any of its officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees or parties in interest, including this signatory, has in any way colluded, conspired, connived or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any other vendor, firm or person to submit collusive or sham proposal in connection with the contract or agreement for which the attached proposal has been submitted or to refrain from making a proposal in connection with such contract or agreement, or collusion or communication or conference with any other firm, or, to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of the proposed price or the proposed price of any other firm, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, connivance, or unlawful agreement any advantage against the City of Knoxville or any person interested in the proposed contract or agreement; and

3. The scope of service outlined in the proposal is fair and proper and is not tainted by collusion, conspiracy, connivance, or unlawful agreement on the part of the firm or any of its agents, representatives, owners, employees, or parties including this signatory.

**NO CONTACT/NO ADVOCACY AFFIDAVIT**

1. **NO CONTACT POLICY:** After the posting of this solicitation to the Purchasing Division's website, any contact initiated by any proposer with any City of Knoxville representative concerning this proposal is strictly prohibited, unless such contact is made with the Purchasing Agent (Penny Owens) or the listed point of contact. Any unauthorized contact may cause the disqualification of the proposer from this procurement transaction.

2. **NO ADVOCATING POLICY:** To ensure the integrity of the review and evaluation process, companies and/or individuals submitting proposals for any part of this project, as well as those persons and/or companies representing such proposers, may not lobby or advocate to the City of Knoxville staff including, but not limited to, members of City Council, Office of the Mayor, Engineering Department/Office, or any other City staff.

**Any company and/or individual who does not comply with the above stated “No Contact” and “No advocating” policies may be subject to having their proposal rejected from consideration.**

**IRAN DIVESTMENT ACT**

**CERTIFICATION OF NONINCLUSION**

**NOTICE:** Pursuant to the Iran Divestment Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-106 requires the State of Tennessee Chief Procurement Officer to publish, using creditable information freely available to the public, a list of persons it determines engage in investment activities in Iran, as described in § 12-12-105. Inclusion on this list makes a person ineligible to contract with the state of Tennessee; if a person ceases its engagement in investment activities in Iran, it may be removed from the list. A list of entities ineligible to contract in the State of Tennessee Department of General Services or any political subdivision of the State may be found here:

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/generalservices/documents/cpo/library/public-information-library/List of persons pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 12-12-106 Iran Divestment Act updated with%20NY12.04.23.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/generalservices/documents/cpo/library/public-information-library/List_of_persons_pursuant_to_Tenn._Code_Ann._12-12-106_Iran_Divestment_Act_updated_with%20NY12.04.23.pdf)

By submission of this form, the proposer certifies that the above-named firm, under penalty of perjury to the best of its knowledge and belief, and any proposed suppliers are not on the list created pursuant to § 12-12-106.

**NON-BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL**

For submissions with a total cost of \$250,000 or greater, the Signatory certifies that the proposed firm and any subcontractors or suppliers certify that the firms, subcontractors and suppliers are not boycotting Israel pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §12-4-1 and will not during the term of any award.

**Notarization of Affidavits**

In order for a submission to be considered for award, the following section must be notarized hereby certifying or affirming that the Bidder/Proposer is in receipt and has acknowledged each clause in the [Submission Affidavits and Certifications](#) section above. At the discretion of the City of Knoxville Purchasing Division, a submission that has not been notarized may be deemed non-responsive.

**State of** \_\_\_\_\_ **County of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Being duly sworn, deposes, and says that:

They are a principal officer of , the firm submitting the attached proposal, their title being , and has authority to affirm and/or certify the listed declarations.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission expires

## CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

### Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- 1)** No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- 2)** If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- 3)** The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

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The Contractor, \_\_\_\_\_, certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of each statement of its certification and disclosure, if any. In addition, the Contractor understands and agrees that the provisions of 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38, Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements, apply to this certification and disclosure, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date