

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

(Agency Name and RFP #)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Section 1:** General Information
- Section 2:** Project Specifications
- Section 3:** Vendor Proposal
- Section 4:** Evaluation and Award
- Section 5:** Contract Terms and Conditions

SECTION ONE: GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Purpose: The Purchasing Division, hereinafter referred to as the "State," is soliciting proposals pursuant to **West Virginia Code §5A-310b** for the Department of _____, _____ Division, hereinafter referred to as the "Agency," to provide _____

1.2 By signing and submitting its proposal, the successful Vendor agrees to be bound by all the terms contained in this RFP.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) is generally used for the procurement of services in situations where price is not the sole determining factor and the award will be based on a combination of cost and technical factors (Best Value). Through its proposal, the bidder offers a solution to the objectives, problem, or need specified in the RFP, and defines how it intends to meet (or exceed) the RFP requirements.

1.2.1 Compliance with Laws and Regulations: The Vendor shall procure all necessary permits and licenses to comply with all applicable Federal, State, or municipal laws, along with all regulations, and ordinances of any regulating body.

The Vendor shall pay any applicable sales, use or personal property taxes arising out of this contract and the transactions contemplated thereby. Any other taxes levied upon this contract shall be borne by the Vendor. It is clearly understood that the State of West Virginia is exempt from any taxes regarding performance of the scope of work of this contract.

1.3 Schedule of Events:

Vendor's Written Questions Submission Deadline.....	xx/xx/xx
Mandatory Pre-bid Conference.....	xx/xx/xx
Addendum Issued	xx/xx/xx
Bid Opening Date	xx/xx/xx
Oral Presentation (<i>Agency Option</i>).....	xx/xx/xx

- 1.4 **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** (*Agency Option*): A mandatory pre-bid will be conducted on the date listed below:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Telephone Number:

All interested Vendors are required to be represented at this meeting. **Failure to attend the mandatory pre-bid shall result in the disqualification of the bid.** No one person may represent more than one Vendor.

All potential Vendors are requested to arrive prior to the starting time for the pre-bid conference. Vendors who arrive late, but prior to the dismissal of the technical portions of the pre-bid conference will be permitted to sign in. Vendors who arrive after conclusion of the technical portion of the pre-bid, but during any subsequent part of the pre-bid will not be permitted to sign the attendance sheet.

An attendance sheet will be made available for all potential Vendors to complete. This will serve as the official document verifying attendance at the mandatory pre-bid. Failure to provide your company and representative name on the attendance sheet will result in the disqualification of your bid. The State will not accept any other documentation to verify attendance. The Vendor is responsible for ensuring they have completed the information required on the attendance sheet. The Purchasing Division and the State Agency will not assume any responsibility for a Vendor's failure to complete the pre-bid attendance sheet. In addition, all potential Vendors are asked to include their email address and fax number.

- 1.5 **Inquiries:** Inquiries regarding specifications of this RFP must be submitted in writing to the State Buyer with the exception of questions regarding the proposal submission which may be oral. The deadline for written inquiries is identified in the Schedule of Events, Section 1.3. All inquiries of specification clarification must be addressed to:

Buyer Name, Senior Buyer
Purchasing Division
2019 Washington Street, East
P.O. Box 50130
Charleston, WV 25305-0130
Fax: (304) 558-4115

No contact between the Vendor and the Agency is permitted without the express written consent of the State Buyer. Violation may result in rejection of the bid. The State Buyer named above is the sole contact for any and all inquiries after this RFP has been released.

- 1.6 **Verbal Communication:** Any verbal communication between the Vendor and any State personnel is **not** binding, including that made at the mandatory pre-bid conference. Only information issued in writing and added to the RFP specifications by an official written addendum by Purchasing is binding.
- 1.7 **Addenda:** If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, an official written addendum will be issued by the Purchasing Division.

SECTION TWO: PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

2.1 **Location:** Agency is located at _____.

2.2 **Background and Current Operating Environment:** _____

2.3 **Qualifications and Experience:** Vendors will provide in **Attachment A: Vendor Response Sheet** information regarding their firm, such as staff qualifications and experience in completing similar projects; references; copies of any staff certifications or degrees applicable to this project; proposed staffing plan; descriptions of past projects completed entailing the location of the project, project manager name and contact information, type of project, and what the project goals and objectives were and how they were met.

2.4 **Project and Goals:** The project goals and objectives are:

2.4.1 Goal/Objective 1

2.4.2 Goal/Objective 2

2.4.3. Goal/Objective 3

2.5 **Mandatory Requirements**

The following mandatory requirements must be met by the Vendor as a part of the submitted proposal. Failure on the part of the Vendor to meet any of the mandatory specifications shall result in the disqualification of the proposal. The terms “must”, “will”, “shall”, “minimum”, “maximum”, or “is/are required” identify a mandatory item or factor. Decisions regarding compliance with any mandatory requirements shall be at the sole discretion of the State.

2.5.1 Mandatory Requirement 1

2.5.2 Mandatory Requirement 2

2.5.3 Mandatory Requirement 3

2.6 **Oral Presentations (Agency Option):** State agencies have the option of requiring oral presentations of all Vendors participating in the RFP process. If this option is exercised, it would be listed in the Schedule of Events (Section 1.3) of this RFP. During oral presentations, Vendors may not alter or add to their submitted proposal, but only clarify information. A description of the materials and information to be presented is provided below:

2.6.1 Materials and Information Required at Oral Presentation:

SECTION THREE: VENDOR PROPOSAL

- 3.1 **Economy of Preparation:** Proposals should be prepared simply and economically providing a straightforward, concise description of the Vendor's abilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be placed on completeness and clarity of the content.
- 3.2 **Incurring Cost:** Neither the State nor any of its employees or officers shall be held liable for any expenses incurred by any Vendor responding to this RFP, including but not limited to preparation, delivery, or travel.
- 3.3 **Proposal Format:** Vendors should provide responses in the format listed below:
- Title Page:** State the RFP subject, number, Vendor's name, business address, telephone number, fax number, name of contact person, e-mail address, and Vendor signature and date.
- Table of Contents:** Clearly identify the material by section and page number.
- Attachment A:** Within the attached response sheet (**Attachment A: Vendor Response Sheet**), provide the following: firm and staff qualifications and experience in completing similar projects; references; copies of any staff certifications or degrees applicable to this project; proposed staffing plan; descriptions of past projects completed entailing the location of the project, project manager name and contact information, type of project, and what the project goals and objectives were and how they were met.
- Also, describe the approach and methodology proposed for this project. This should include how each of the goals and objectives listed is to be met.
- Attachment B:** Complete **Attachment B: Mandatory Specification Checklist**. By signing and dating this attachment, the Vendor acknowledges that they meet or exceed each of these specifications as outlined in 2.5 of Section Two: Project Specifications. The State reserves the right to require documentation detailing how each is met at its discretion.
- Attachment C:** Complete **Attachment C: Cost Sheet** included in this RFP and submit in a separate sealed envelope. Cost should be clearly marked.
- Oral Presentations:** If established by the Agency in the Schedule of Events (Section 1.3), all Vendors participating in this RFP will be required to provide an oral presentation, based on the criteria set in Section 2.6. During oral presentations, Vendors may not alter or add to their submitted proposal, but only to clarify information.
- 3.4 **Proposal Submission:** Proposals must be received in **two distinct parts**: technical and cost.
- **Technical proposals** must not contain any cost information relating to the project.
 - **Cost proposal** shall be sealed in a separate envelope and will not be opened initially.

All proposals must be submitted to the Purchasing Division **prior** to the date and time stipulated in the RFP as the opening date. All bids will be dated and time stamped to verify official time and date of receipt.

- 3.4.1 Vendors should allow sufficient time for delivery. In accordance with **West Virginia Code** §5A-3-11, the Purchasing Division shall not waive or excuse late receipt of a proposal, which is delayed or late for any reason. Any proposal received after the bid opening date and time shall be immediately disqualified in accordance with State law. The proposal will be stamped as "Bid Received Late," maintained with the official file and posted online upon receipt with the other proposals.

Vendors responding to this RFP shall submit:

One original technical and cost proposal plus _____ convenience copies to:

Purchasing Division
2019 Washington Street, East
P.O. Box 50130
Charleston, WV 25305-0130

The outside of the envelope or package(s) for both the technical and the cost should be clearly marked:

Vendor: _____
Buyer: _____
Req #: _____
Opening Date: _____
Opening Time: 1:30 p.m.

- 3.5 **Purchasing Affidavit:** **West Virginia Code** §5A-3-10a requires that all bidders submit an affidavit regarding any debt owed to the State. The affidavit must be signed and submitted prior to award. It is preferred that the affidavit be submitted with the proposal.
- 3.6 **Resident Vendor Preference:** In accordance with **West Virginia Code** §5A-3-37, Vendors may make application for Resident Vendor Preference. Said application must be made on the attached Resident Vendor Certification form at the time of proposal submission.
- 3.7 **Technical Bid Opening:** The Purchasing Division will open and announce only the technical proposals received prior to the date and time specified in the Request for Proposal. The technical proposals shall then be provided to the Agency evaluation committee.
- 3.8 **Cost Bid Opening:** The Purchasing Division shall schedule a date and time to publicly open and announce cost proposals when the Purchasing Division has approved the technical recommendation of the evaluation committee. All cost bids for qualifying proposals will be opened. Cost bids for non-qualifying proposals will also be opened but shall not be considered. A proposal may be deemed non-qualifying for a number of reasons including, but not limited to, the bidder's technical proposal failing to meet the minimum acceptable score and the bidder's technical proposal failing to meet a mandatory requirement of the contract. Certain information, such as technical scores and reasons for disqualification, will not be available until after the contract award, pursuant to **West Virginia Code** §5A-3-11(h) and **West Virginia Code of State Rules** §148-1-6.2.5.

SECTION FOUR: EVALUATION AND AWARD

4.1 **Evaluation Process:** Proposals will be evaluated by a committee of three (3) or more individuals against the established criteria with points deducted for deficiencies. The Vendor who demonstrates that they meet all of the mandatory specifications required; and has appropriately presented within their written response and/or during the oral demonstration (if applicable) their understanding in meeting the goals and objectives of the project; and attains the highest overall point score of all Vendors shall be awarded the contract. The selection of the successful Vendor will be made by a consensus of the evaluation committee.

4.2 **Evaluation Criteria:** All evaluation criteria is defined in the specifications section and based on a 100 point total score. Cost shall represent a minimum of 30 of the 100 total points.

The following are the evaluation factors and maximum points possible for technical point scores:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Qualifications and experience | (#) Points Possible |
| • Approach and methodology | (#) Points Possible |
| • (Oral interview, if applicable) | (#) Points Possible |
| • Cost | <u>30 Points Possible</u> |

Total 100 Points Possible

Each cost proposal cost will be scored by use of the following formula for all Vendors who attained the minimum acceptable score:

$$\frac{\text{Lowest price of all proposal}}{\text{Price of Proposal being evaluated}} \times 30 = \text{Price Score}$$

4.2.1 **Technical Evaluation:** The Agency evaluation committee will review the technical proposals, deduct points where appropriate, and make a final written recommendation to the Purchasing Division.

4.2.2 **Minimum Acceptable Score:** Vendors must score a minimum of 70% (49 points) of the total technical points possible. All Vendors not attaining the minimum acceptable score (MAS) shall be considered as non-qualifying; however, the cost bids will be opened. A proposal may be deemed non-qualifying for a number of reasons including, but not limited to, the bidder's technical proposal failing to meet the minimum acceptable score and the bidder's technical proposal failing to meet a mandatory requirement of the contract. Certain information, such as technical scores and reasons for disqualification, will not be available until after the contract award, pursuant to **West Virginia Code** §5A-3-11(h) and **West Virginia Code of State Rules** §148-1-6.2.5.

4.2.3 **Cost Evaluation:** The Agency evaluation committee will review the cost proposals, assign appropriate points, and make a final recommendation to the Purchasing Division.

4.3 **Independent Price Determination:** A proposal will not be considered for award if the price in the proposal was not arrived at independently without collusion, consultation, communication, or agreement as to any matter relating to prices with any competitor unless the proposal is submitted as a joint venture.

- 4.4 **Rejection of Proposals:** The State reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, in part or in whole at its discretion. The State further reserves the right to withdraw this RFP at any time and for any reason. Submission of or receipt of proposals by the State confers no rights upon the bidder nor obligates the State in any manner.
- 4.5 **Vendor Registration:** Vendors participating in this process should complete and file a Vendor Registration and Disclosure Statement (Form WV-1) and remit the registration fee. Vendor is not required to be a registered Vendor in order to submit a proposal, but the **successful bidder must** register and pay the fee prior to the award of an actual purchase order or contract.

SECTION FIVE: CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 5.1 **Contract Provisions:** The RFP and the Vendor's response will be incorporated into the contract by reference. The order of precedence shall be the contract, the RFP and any addendum, and the vendor's proposal in response to the RFP.
- 5.2 **Public Record:** All documents submitted to the State Purchasing Division related to purchase orders or contracts are considered public records. All bids, proposals, or offers submitted by Vendors shall become public information and are available for inspection during normal official business hours in the Purchasing Division Records and Distribution center after the bid opening. Certain information, such as technical scores and reasons for disqualification, will not be available until after the contract award, pursuant to **West Virginia Code** §5A-3-11(h) and **West Virginia Code of State Rules** §148-1-6.2.5.
- 5.2.1 **Risk of Disclosure:** The only exemptions to disclosure of information are listed in **West Virginia Code** §29B-1-4. Any information considered a trade secret must be separated from the Vendor submission and clearly labeled as such. Primarily, only trade secrets, as submitted by a bidder, are exempt from public disclosure. The submission of any information to the State by a Vendor puts the risk of disclosure on the Vendor. The State does not guarantee non-disclosure of any information to the public.
- 5.2.2 **Written Release of Information:** All public information may be released with or without a Freedom of Information request; however, only a written request will be acted upon with duplication fees paid in advance. Duplication fees shall apply to all requests for copies of any document. Currently, the fees are 50 cents per page, or a minimum of \$10.00 per request, whichever is greater.
- 5.3 **Conflict of Interest:** Vendor affirms that neither it nor its representatives have any interest nor shall acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would compromise the performance of its services hereunder. Any such interests shall be promptly presented in detail to the Agency.
- 5.4 **Vendor Relationship:** The relationship of the Vendor the State shall be that of an independent contractor and no principal-agent relationship or employer-employee relationship is contemplated or created by this contract. The Vendor as an independent contractor is solely liable for the acts and omissions of its employees and agents.

Vendor shall be responsible for selecting, supervising, and compensating any and all individuals employed pursuant to the terms of this RFP and resulting contract. Neither the Vendor, nor any employees or subcontractors of the Vendor, shall be deemed to be employees of the State for any purpose whatsoever.

Vendor shall be exclusively responsible for payment of employees and contractors for all wages and salaries, taxes, withholding payments, penalties, fees, fringe benefits, professional liability insurance premiums, contributions to insurance and pension, or other deferred compensation plans, including but not limited to, Workers' Compensation and Social Security obligations, licensing fees, *et cetera* and the filing of all necessary documents, forms and returns pertinent to all of the foregoing.

Vendor shall hold harmless the State, and shall provide the State and Agency with a defense against any and all claims including, but not limited to, the foregoing payments, withholdings, contributions, taxes, Social Security taxes, and employer income tax returns.

The Vendor shall not assign, convey, transfer, or delegate any of its responsibilities and obligations under this contract to any person, corporation, partnership, association, or entity without expressed written consent of the Agency.

5.4.1 **Subcontracts/Joint Ventures:** The Vendor may, with the prior written consent of the State, enter into subcontracts for performance of work under this contract.

5.4.2 **Indemnification:** The Vendor agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State and the Agency, their officers, and employees from and against: (1) Any claims or losses for services rendered by any subcontractor, person, or firm performing or supplying services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of the contract; (2) Any claims or losses resulting to any person or entity injured or damaged by the Vendor, its officers, employees, or subcontractors by the publication, translation, reproduction, delivery, performance, use, or disposition of any data used under the contract in a manner not authorized by the contract, or by Federal or State statutes or regulations; and (3) Any failure of the Vendor, its officers, employees, or subcontractors to observe State and Federal laws including, but not limited to, labor and wage laws.

5.4.3 **Governing Law:** This contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of West Virginia. The Vendor further agrees to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all other applicable laws and regulations as provided by Federal, State, and local governments.

5.5. **Term of Contract and Renewals:** This contract will be effective upon award and shall extend for the period of one (1) year, at which time the contract may, upon mutual consent, be renewed. Such renewals are for a period of up to one (1) year, with a maximum of two (2) one-year renewals, or until such reasonable time thereafter as is necessary to obtain a new contract. The "reasonable time" period shall not exceed twelve (12) months. During the "reasonable time" period, Vendor may terminate the contract for any reason upon giving the Agency ninety (90) days written notice. Notice by Vendor of intent to terminate will not relieve Vendor of the obligation to continue providing services pursuant to the terms of the contract.

5.6 **Non-Appropriation of Funds:** If funds are not appropriated for the Agency in any succeeding fiscal year for the continued use of the services covered by this contract, the State may terminate the contract at the end of the affected current fiscal period without further charge or penalty. The State shall give the Vendor written notice of such non-appropriation of funds as soon as possible after the Agency receives notice. No penalty shall accrue to the Agency in the event this provision is exercised.

5.7 **Changes:** If changes to the contract become necessary, a formal contract change order will be negotiated by the State, the Agency, and the Vendor.

As soon as possible, but not to surpass thirty (30) days after receipt of a written change request from the Agency, the Vendor shall determine if there is an impact on price with the change requested and provide the Agency a written Statement identifying any price impact on the contract. The Vendor shall provide a description of any price change associated with the implementation.

NO CHANGE SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE VENDOR UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE VENDOR RECEIVES AN APPROVED WRITTEN CHANGE ORDER FROM THE PURCHASING DIVISION.

- 5.8 **Price Quotations:** The price(s) quoted in the Vendor's proposal will not be subject to any increase and will be considered firm for the life of the contract unless specific provisions have been provided in the original specifications.
- 5.9 **Invoices and Progress Payments:** The Vendor shall submit invoices, in arrears, to the Agency at the address on the face of the purchase order labeled "Invoice To." Progress payments may be made at the option of the Agency on the basis of percentage of work completed if so defined in the final contract.
- 5.10 **Liquidated Damages:** According to **West Virginia Code** §5A-3-4(8), Vendor agrees that liquidated damages shall be imposed at the rate of \$_____ (per day, per week, per unit, or some other agreed measure) for failure to provide (deliverables, meet milestones identified to keep the project on target, or failure to meet specified deadlines). This clause shall in no way be considered exclusive and shall not limit the State or Agency's right to pursue any other additional remedy which the State or Agency may have legal cause for action.
- 5.11 **Contract Termination:** The State may terminate any contract resulting from this RFP immediately at any time the Vendor fails to carry out its responsibilities or to make substantial progress under the terms of this RFP and resulting contract. The State shall provide the Vendor with advance notice of performance conditions which may endanger the contract's continuation. If after such notice the Vendor fails to remedy the conditions within the established timeframe, the State shall order the Vendor to cease and desist any and all work immediately. The State shall be obligated only for services rendered and accepted prior to the date of the notice of termination.

The contract may be terminated by the State with thirty (30) days prior notice pursuant to **West Virginia Code of State Rules** § 148-1-7.16.2.

5.12 **Special Terms and Conditions:**

5.12.1 Bid and Performance Bonds

5.12.2 Insurance Requirements: *(Provide liability insurance requirements. Insurance certificates are required prior to award, but are not required at the time of bid).*

- Public liability
- Property damage
- Professional liability (medical, advertising, *et cetera*)

5.12.3 License Requirement: *Workers' Compensation, Contractor's License, etc. (List any specific licenses, or other special license requirements for your project, et cetera.)*

5.12.4 Protest Bond: Any bidder that files a protest of an award shall at the time of filing the protest submit a protest bond in the amount equal to one percent of the lowest bid submitted or \$5,000, whichever is greater.

The entire amount of the bond shall be forfeited if the hearing officer determines that the protest was filed for frivolous or improper purpose, including but not limited to the purpose of harassing, causing unnecessary delay, or needless expense for the Agency. All protest bonds shall be made payable to the Purchasing Division and shall be signed by the protester and the surety. In lieu of a bond, the protester may submit a cashier's check or bank money order payable to the Purchasing Division. The money will be held in trust in the State Treasurer's office.

If it is determined that the protest has not been filed for frivolous or improper purpose, the bond shall be returned in its entirety.

- 5.13 **Record Retention (Access and Confidentiality):** Vendor shall comply with all applicable Federal and State rules, regulations, and requirements governing the maintenance of documentation to verify any cost of services or commodities rendered under this contract by the Vendor. The Vendor shall maintain such records a minimum of five (5) years and make such records available to Agency personnel at the Vendor's location during normal business hours upon written request by the Agency within ten (10) days after receipt of the request.

Vendor shall have access to private and confidential data maintained by the Agency to the extent required for the Vendor to carry out the duties and responsibilities defined in this contract. Vendor agrees to maintain confidentiality and security of the data made available and shall indemnify and hold harmless the State and the Agency against any and all claims brought by any party attributed to actions of breach of confidentiality by the Vendor, subcontractors, or individuals permitted access by the Vendor.

Attachment A: Vendor Response Sheet

Provide a response regarding the following: firm and staff qualifications and experience in completing similar projects; references; copies of any staff certifications or degrees applicable to this project; proposed staffing plan; descriptions of past projects completed entailing the location of the project, project manager name and contact information, type of project, and what the project goals and objectives were and how they were met.

List project goals and objectives contained in Section 2.4:

Section 2.4.1:

Vendor Response:

Section 2.4.2:

Vendor Response:

Section 2.4.3:

Vendor Response:

Attachment B: Mandatory Specification Checklist

List mandatory specifications contained in Section 2.5:

Section 2.5.1:

Vendor Response:

Section 2.5.2:

Vendor Response:

Section 2.5.3:

Vendor Response:

I certify that the proposal submitted meets or exceeds all the mandatory specifications of this Request for Proposal. Additionally, I agree to provide any additional documentation deemed necessary by the State of West Virginia to demonstrate compliance with said mandatory specifications.

(Company)

(Representative Name, Title)

(Contact Phone/Fax Number)

(Date)

Attachment C: Cost Sheet

Cost information below as detailed in the Request for Proposal and submitted in a separate sealed envelope. Cost should be clearly marked.

If applicable, sign and submit the attached Resident Vendor Preference Certificate with the proposal.