



CITY OF ELIZABETH, COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Public Defenders

Contract Term

Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

4:00 P.M.
Friday,
JUNE 16, 2023

ADDRESS ALL QUALIFICATION STATEMENT PROPOSALS IN THE FORM REQUIRED
IN THE SPECIFICATIONS AND ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND (2) COPIES MUST BE
DELIVERED TO:

Marie Krupinski
Asst. Business Administrator
CITY OF ELIZABETH
50 WINFIELD SCOTT PLAZA
ELIZABETH, NJ 07201

GENERAL INFORMATION & SUMMARY

ORGANIZATION REQUESTING QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS (PROPOSALS)

CITY OF ELIZABETH
Department of Administration
50 WINFIELD SCOTT PLAZA
ELIZABETH, NJ 07201

CONTACT PERSON

MARIE KRUPINSKI
CITY OF ELIZABETH
DEPARTMENT of Administration
50 WINFIELD SCOTT PLAZA
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY 07201
(908) 820-4280

PURPOSE OF REQUEST

This document, entitled a Request for Qualifications for Public Defenders and is issued by the Department of Administration, City of Elizabeth. This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is for the sole purpose of pre-qualifying prospective Consultants on Qualification Statements and experience achieved in this field.

This RFQ does not constitute a bid and is intended solely to obtain qualifications from which the City of Elizabeth ("the City") may choose counsel that best meets the City's needs. It is the City's intent that no statutory, regulatory, or common law bidding requirement apply to this RFQ. The City intends to award contracts for these services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (a)(i) and Chapter 19, P.L. 2004-N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq. One or more individuals/firms may be selected to provide services. Accordingly, this Request For Qualifications is being solicited under a fair and open process.

PERIOD OF CONTRACT

Fiscal Year (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024)

CONTRACT FORM

The successful Firm shall be required to execute the City's contract, which includes the indemnification, insurance, termination and licensing provisions.

It is also agreed and understood that the acceptance of the final payment by the Contractor shall be considered a release in full of all claims against the City arising out of, or by reason of, the work done and materials furnished under this Contract.

**DETAILED REQUIREMENTS OF THE
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR Public Defenders**

1. CITY OF ELIZABETH-FACTS AND FIGURES - The City of Elizabeth is a legal, governmental entity. The City was incorporated in 1855 and operates under N.J.S.A 40:69A-1 et seq., "the Optional Municipal Charter Law-Mayor-Council Plan.". The legislative authority and responsibilities of the City of Elizabeth is vested in the elected nine-member City Council. The executive power of the City is exercised by the Mayor who is responsible for enforcing the ordinances and general laws of the City.

The City of Elizabeth is the fourth largest city in New Jersey. The City's population is in excess of 130,000 and it consists of approximately 11.7 square miles of area. The City employs approximately 1,500 people. A regional center of labor, retail, manufacturing, and transportation, the City is also the County seat of Union County, attracting the corresponding concentration of government, legal and related professional services. The largest employment sectors in the City include commercial, health, transportation, construction, retail and light industry.

The City's operating budget is approximately \$270 million. It provides a variety of services consisting of police and fire protection, maintenance of City streets, water and sewer systems, health and human services, park and recreational facilities, cultural activities, and refuse collection.

2. NATURE/ SCOPE OF SERVICES - The City of Elizabeth is requesting proposals from qualified individuals and firms to provide public defenders for Elizabeth Municipal Court which includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Provide Public Defender legal services for Elizabeth Municipal Court.
2. Must have more than 5 years of legal experience.
3. Must be available for meetings and consultations.
4. Must all appropriate licenses and/ or degrees

3. STANDARD REQUIREMENTS OF TECHNICAL PROPOSAL - Proposers should submit a technical proposal which contains the following:

- A.** The name of the proposer, the principal place of business and, if different, the place where the services will be provided;
- B.** The proposing Attorney must have more than 5 years experience as an Attorney.
- C.** The education, qualifications, experience, and training of all persons who would be assigned to provide services along with their names and titles;
- D.** A Statement that neither the firm nor any individuals assigned to this engagement are suspended, or otherwise prohibited from professional practice by any federal, state, or local agency;

5. EVALUATION Criteria - The City will select the most advantageous proposals based on all of the evaluation factors set forth at the end of this RFQ. The City will make the award(s) that is in the best interest of the City.

Each proposal must satisfy the objectives and requirements detailed in this RFQ. The successful proposer shall be determined by an evaluation of the total content of the proposal submitted. The City reserves the right to:

- a.** Not select any of the proposals;
- b.** Select only portions of a particular proposer's proposal for further consideration; (However, proposers may specify portions of the proposal that they consider "bundled".)

The City shall not be obligated to explain the results of the evaluation process to any proposer.

The City may require proposers to demonstrate any services described in their proposal prior to award.

6. PROPOSAL LIMITATIONS - This RFQ is not intended to be an offer, order or contract and should not be regarded as such, nor shall any obligation or liability be imposed on the City by issuance of this RFQ. The City reserves the right at the City's sole discretion to refuse any proposal submitted.

7. USE OF INFORMATION - Any specifications, drawings, sketches, models, samples, data, computer programs, documentation, technical or business information and the like ("Information") furnished or disclosed by the City to the proposer in connection with this RFQ shall remain the property of the City. When in tangible form, all copies of such information shall be returned to the City upon request. Unless such information was previously known to the proposer, free of any obligation to keep it confidential, or has been or is subsequently made public by the City or a third party, it shall be held in confidence by the proposer, shall be used only for the purposes of this RFQ, and may not be used for other purposes except upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon in writing.

8. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS -

- A.** The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, if necessary, or to waive any informalities in the proposals, and, unless otherwise specified by the proposer, to accept any item, items or services in the proposals should it be deemed in the best interest of the City to do so.
- B.** In case of failure by the successful proposer, the City of Elizabeth may procure the articles or services from other sources, deduct the cost of the replacement from money due to the proposer under the contract and hold the proposer responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby.
- C.** The proposer shall maintain sufficient insurance to protect against all claims under Workmen's Compensation, General, Professional and Automobile Liability.
- D.** Each proposal must be signed by the person authorized to do so.
- E.** The contract shall be in effect for fiscal Year (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) unless otherwise stated.

- F.** Proposals may be hand delivered or mailed consistent with the provisions of the legal notice to proposers. In the case of mailed proposals, the City assumes no responsibility for proposals received after the designated date and time and will return late proposals unopened. Proposals will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.
- G.** In accordance with Affirmative Action Law, P.L. 1975, c.127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) with implementation of July 10, 1978, successful proposers must agree to submit individual employer certifications and number or complete Affirmative Action employee information report (form AA-302). Also, during the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows: (a) the contractor or subcontractor where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status or affectional or sexual orientation. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex or handicap. 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 section for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notice to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this non-discrimination clause: (b) the contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, 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 age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex or handicap; (c) the contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative or workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer advising the labor union or worker's representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice; (d) the contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the treasurer pursuant to the P.L. 1975, c.127, as amended and supplemented from time to time.

- H. By submission of the proposal, the proposer certifies that the service to be furnished will not infringe upon any valid patent, trademark or copyright and the successful proposer shall, at its expense, defend any and all actions or suits charging such infringement, and will save the City harmless in any case of any such infringement.
- I. No proposer shall influence, or attempt to influence, or cause to be influenced, any City officer or employee to use his/her official capacity in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of said officer or employee.
- J. No proposer shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any City officer or employee to use his/her official capacity to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for the proposer or any other person.
- K. Should any difference arise between the contracting parties as to the meaning or intent of these instructions or specifications, the City Council's decision shall be final and conclusive.
- L. The City of Elizabeth shall not be responsible for any expenditure of monies or other expenses incurred by the proposer in making its proposal.
- M. The checklist presented at the end of this Request for Qualifications is a part of this Request for Qualifications and shall be completed and submitted as part of this proposal.

END OF GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BASIS OF AWARD

EVALUATION FACTORS

- A.** Relevance and Extent of Qualifications, Experience, Reputation and Training of Personnel to be assigned

- B.** Knowledge of the City of Elizabeth and the subject matter to be addressed under this engagement

- C.** Relevance and Extent of Similar Engagements performed

- D.** Technical Proposal contains all required information

- E.** Any other relevant information or qualifications which, upon the determination of the Business Administrator, are in the best interest of the City of Elizabeth.

- F.** Positive reflecting references to be furnished upon request.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST

DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO A CONTRACT EXECUTION:

A. An original and three (2) signed copies of your complete proposal _____

(To be submitted with RFQ)

B. Non-Collusion Affidavit properly notarized

C. Owners Disclosure Statement, properly notarized, listing the names of all persons owning ten (10) percent or more of the proposing entity. _____

D. Authorized signatures on all forms.

E. Business Registration Certificate(s)

F. Partnership Disclosure Statement

G. Affirmative Action Statement

Note: N.J.S.A 52:32-44 provides that the City shall not enter into a contract for goods or services unless the other party to the

contract provides a copy of its business registration certificate and the business registration certificate of any subcontractors at the time that it submits its proposal. The contracting party must also collect the state use tax where applicable.

**THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGES AND WILL SUBMIT
THE ABOVE LISTED REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO EXECUTION OF CONTRACT.**

NAME OF PROPOSER:

Person, Firm or Corporation
Date

BY: (PRINT NAME)
(TITLE)

BY: (SIGNATURE)
(TITLE)

EXHIBIT A
N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 and N.J.A.C. 17:27
MANDATORY EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY LANGUAGE
Goods, Professional Services and General Service Contracts
(Mandatory Affirmative Action Language)

During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation or sex. Except with respect to affectional or sexual orientation, the contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation or sex. 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 by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting for the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable 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 age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation or sex.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative or workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-31

et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to make good faith efforts to employ minority and women workers consistent with the applicable City employment goals established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2 or a binding determination of the applicable City employment goals determined by the Division, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to inform in writing its appropriate recruitment agencies including, but not limited to, employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation or sex, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing, as established by the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

In conforming with the applicable employment goals, the contractor or subcontractor agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation or sex, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor shall submit to the public agency, after notification of award but prior to execution of a goods and services contract, one of the following three documents:

- Letter of Federal Affirmative Action Plan Approval
- Certificate of Employee Information Report
- Employee Information Report Form AA302

The contractor and its subcontractors shall furnish such reports or other documents to the Division of Contract Compliance and EEO as may be requested by the Division from time to time in order to carry out the purposes of these regulations, and public agencies shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Division of Contract Compliance & EEO for conducting a compliance investigation pursuant to Subchapter 10 of the Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 17:27.

NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF UNION
CITY OF ELIZABETH

ss :

I AM _____

OF THE FIRM OF _____

UPON MY OATH, I DEPOSE AND SAY:

1. THAT I EXECUTED THE SAID PROPOSAL WITH FULL AUTHORITY SO TO DO;
2. THAT THIS PROPOSER HAS NOT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ENTERED INTO ANY AGREEMENT, PARTICIPATED IN ANY COLLUSION, OR OTHERWISE TAKEN ANY ACTION IN RESTRAINT OF FAIR AND OPEN COMPETITION IN CONNECTION WITH THIS ENGAGEMENT;
3. THAT ALL STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN SAID PROPOSAL AND IN THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, AND MADE WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT THE CITY OF ELIZABETH RELIES UPON THE TRUTH OF THE STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN SAID PROPOSAL AND IN THE STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS AFFIDAVIT IN AWARDING THE CONTRACT FOR THE SAID ENGAGEMENT; AND
4. THAT NO PERSON OR SELLING AGENCY HAS BEEN EMPLOYED TO SOLICIT OR SECURE THIS ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT OR UNDERSTANDING FOR A COMMISSION, PERCENTAGE, BROKERAGE OR CONTINGENT FEE, EXCEPT BONA FIDE EMPLOYEES OR BONA FIDE ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL SELLING AGENCIES OF THE PROPOSER.
(N.J.S.A.52: 34-25)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO

BEFORE ME THIS _____ DAY

OF _____ 20_____.

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF
AFFIANT UNDER SIGNATURE)

NOTARY PUBLIC OF

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: _____, 20____.

REVISED
OWNER DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

Set forth below are the names and addresses of all owners of 10% or more of the proposing business entity.

Name: _____
Name: _____

Address: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Name: _____

Address: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Name: _____

Address: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Name: _____

Address: _____
Address: _____

NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITY

SIGNATURE
TITLE

Notary Public of
My Commission Expires: _____, 20____.

REVISED PARTNERSHIP DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

(To be submitted with proposal)

(a) Is or was anyone in your firm or company a member of the City Council within the last calendar year or a member of his/her immediate family? If yes, then provide the name of the individual below and his/her relationship.

Yes _____ No _____

Name Position Relationship

(b) Has any principal/partner of your firm been convicted of an indictable offense? If yes, then please provide further explanation and copies of any relative documents.

Yes _____ No _____

Name Date

(c) Has any individual who would provide service under this contract ever been sanctioned by the appropriate licensing board?

Yes _____ No _____

Name Position Term
Reason for censure:

(d) Has the firm been found liable for professional malpractice in the last 5 years?

Yes _____ No _____

Reason for Action:

(e) Has any member of your firm ever been barred from doing business with any state, City or municipal government? If yes, then please provide further written explanation including date and copies of relevant documentation.

Yes _____ No _____

Name State, City or Municipality Date
Government

(f) Has your firm sued the City of Elizabeth in the past five (5) years? If yes, then please identify the matter/case and provide further written explanation including date and copies of relevant documents.

Yes_____

No_____

Name

Date