Northwest Arctic Borough

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:
Ambler Buckland Candle Deering Kivalina Kiana
Kobuk Kotzebue Noatak Noorvik Selawik Shungnak

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO. FY19-02 **REVISED**

Comprehensive Economic Development Plan Update

SECTION I – ANNOUNCEMENT EXTENDED

The Northwest Arctic Borough is requesting proposals for the award of a contract to update and revise the 2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (CEDS) for the Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission. This Request for Proposals (RFP) details the overall scope of services desired, identifies specific qualifications, and desired skills. Responses to this RFP will be used to select and negotiate with a qualified contractor to provide the services described in this RFP. The Borough Assembly will approve the award of this contract based on the evaluation criteria identified in Section III of this RFP.

This RFP does not commit the Borough to enter into a contract, nor does it obligate the Borough to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of responses to this RFP. The Borough reserves the right at its sole discretion: to make selections, to reject any or all submissions, to issue subsequent RFPs, to remedy technical errors in the RFP process, and to enter into a contract for all or some of the services described in this RFP.

UPDATED DEADLINE: Proposals must be received by the Northwest Arctic Borough Clerk, P.O. Box 1110, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 or at the Borough office located at 163 Lagoon Street, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752, by 4:30 p.m., local time on Friday, January 25, 2019. The proposals will be opened publicly at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 28, 2019 or as soon thereafter as practicable. **Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. FACSIMILE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

RFP documents may be obtained from the office of the Northwest Arctic Borough Clerk by mail, email, at www.nwabor.org, in person at the Borough offices in Kotzebue, Alaska, or by calling (907) 442-8216. Questions about this RFP may be directed to Jaime Lambert, Economic Development Administrator, at jlambert2@nwabor.org or (907) 442-8216.

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH

Lucy S. Nelson, Mayor

1-15-19
Date

SECTION II - INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Proposal Format: Proposals must be typewritten or prepared in ink and must be attached to the form provided in Section IV of the RFP. Proposals must also include a completed "Local Bidder Certificate" found in Section V of the RFP. No oral, telephone, or facsimile proposals will be accepted. See Proposal Submission below.

Conformance to Proposal Requirements: Proposals must conform to the requirements of the RFP. All necessary attachments (residency statement, references, descriptive literature, etc.) must be submitted with the proposal. Proposal rates must be stated as indicated in the proposal. Failure to comply with all requirements of the RFP may result in proposal rejection.

Signature on Proposal: An authorized representative of the proposer must sign proposals in ink. Signature on a proposal certifies that the proposal is made without collusion with any person, firm, or corporation making a proposal for the same goods and/or services and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. Signature on a proposal also certifies that the proposer has read and fully understands all proposal specifications, terms, and conditions.

Proposal Modification: Modifications or deletions made before submitting a proposal must be initialed in ink by the person signing the proposal. Proposals, once submitted, may be modified in writing before the time and date set for proposal closing. Any modifications shall be prepared on the proposer's letterhead, signed by an authorized representative, and state that the new document supersedes or modifies the prior proposal. Modifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Proposal Modification," and identify the proposal number and closing date.

Proposal Withdrawals: Proposals may be withdrawn in writing on proposer's letterhead signed by an authorized representative and received by the Borough Clerk prior to proposal closing time. Proposals may also be withdrawn in person before proposal closing time upon presentation of appropriate identification.

Proposal Submission: Hard copy sealed proposals must be received and time-stamped by the Borough Clerk prior to proposal closing time. No proposal received after proposal closing time will be considered. To ensure proper identification and handling, all proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope, clearly labeled "NAB CEDS Update RFP FY19-02." The Borough Clerk shall not be responsible for the proper identification and handling of any proposal not submitted in an envelope bearing the required proposal label.

Mail to:
Borough Clerk
Northwest Arctic Borough
P. O. Box 1110
Kotzebue, AK 99752

Proposal Opening: Proposals will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 28, 2019, in the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers (unless otherwise specified), 163 Lagoon Street, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752. Proposers may be present; however, award decisions will not be made at the opening, and any proprietary information may be withheld from public inspection.

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria set forth in Section III of this RFP and on the recommendations received from the Evaluation Committee.

Award: The contract will be awarded based on the evaluation criteria and to the proposer who, in the discretion of the Borough, offers the best combination of price and performance, and meets all requirements of the specifications. At its discretion, the Borough may award contracts to more than one proposer. Upon successful completion of the contract, the Borough may consider awarding subsequent projects to the selected contractor(s).

Proposal Rejection: The Borough reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Local Bidder Preference: "Local Bidders" are entitled to a 5% bid preference as described in the Northwest Arctic Borough Code ("NABC") § 6.16.470, but a contract under this RFP will not be awarded on the basis of cost alone.

Payment: Monthly invoices shall be submitted along with activity reports and an itemized list of time and materials. Proposals that require payment in less than 30 days after receipt of invoice or delivery of services, whichever is later, may be rejected.

Proposal Results: Only a proposer who receives an award will be notified of proposal results; unsuccessful proposers will not be notified. Proposal files are public records and available for review at the Borough Clerk's office between 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Equal Opportunity: Proposals will receive fair and equitable consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or handicap.

Contact: Direct questions regarding RFP requirements to:

Jaime Lambert, Economic Development Administrator at (907) 442-8216 or jlambert2@nwabor.org.

SECTION III – EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Borough's Evaluation Committee will evaluate the RFPs. The Committee will consider how well the proposal meets the Borough's requirements as described in the RFP. It is important that the responses be clear and complete to ensure that the Committee can adequately understand all aspects of the proposal.

Primary Evaluation Criteria

1. Experience performing economic development services and similar professional assistance
2. Customer service and support (references, retention)
3. Adherence to requirements for RFP preparation
4. Rate proposal

Minimum Criteria (no points)

1. 2 years in business
2. Current Alaska business license
3. At least 3 Alaska references
4. Liability Insurance; and Workers' Compensation insurance as required by law

Criteria to be Scored and Weight

1. Contractor's experience performing similar work (50 points)
2. References (10 points)
3. Cost: Amount of proposed rate structure (40 points)

Award

Proposals must demonstrate ability to provide services outlined in the "Scope of Services" and include all "Information Required" as described in Section VI of this RFP. If awarded, the contract will be awarded at the discretion of the Borough Assembly to the proposer who is judged to offer the best combination of price and performance, and to have met all specified qualifications. The Borough fully reserves the right to exercise subjective judgment in ranking proposals.

SECTION IV - PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

I, the undersigned, submit the following proposal for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update and related services as further described in this Request for Proposals.

Proposer's Signature: _____

Proposer's Printed Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Business License Number: _____

Federal Tax ID Number (EIN): _____

DUNS Number: _____

SECTION V – LOCAL BIDDER CERTIFICATE

"Local Bidder" Certification:

_____ Yes, I certify that I am a "local bidder." The Northwest Arctic Borough Code ("NABC") § 6.16.470 describes the requirements to be considered a "local bidder." Local bidders are eligible for a 5% preference in price consideration. Price consideration is not the sole criteria for awarding a contract under this RFP.

_____ No, I am not a "local bidder" as described in NABC § 6.16.470.

SECTION VI - DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS

At this time, the scope of services includes the following minimum specifications. The scope of services will be finalized once the contractor(s) for the project is selected.

1.0 Scope of Services

The Northwest Arctic Borough, a home-rule government, located in Kotzebue, Alaska is requesting for proposals from qualified professional firms to update and revise the 2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (CEDS) for the Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission.

The CEDS is a strategy driven plan for economic development. The CEDS represents a regionally owned and driven planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of a region/borough. The CEDS is required to be updated at least every five years to maintain eligibility for EDA assistance under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs.

The work will include, but not be limited to, a summary background of the economic conditions of the borough, an in-depth analysis of the borough strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats commonly known as the SWOT Analysis. To create a Strategic Direction and Action Plan built on elements from a previously conducted strategic planning session and SWOT analysis including but not limited to other regional plans related to Education and Workforce Development. Energy, Land Use Management and Planning, Transportation, Resource Development, Roads and Ports, Culture and Language.

2.0 Agreement Period

Work will be performed pursuant to a standard form Borough services contract (sample available from Borough Clerk) and will commence upon execution of the contract and shall terminate upon the Project's completion.

3.0 Payment

Payment will be made upon monthly invoices itemizing services rendered and reimbursable expenses. Services should be billed on a prorated-hourly basis. The Borough will pay invoices submitted by the selected contractor on a monthly basis as stipulated in the services agreement. Prior to payment, invoices will be reviewed to determine if billing is reflective of actual agreed-upon project services and performance. Upon acceptance of the billing by the Borough Finance Department, the payment will be processed and submitted to the contractor.

4.0 Review and Selection Process

4.1 The Northwest Arctic Borough Evaluation Committee consists of the Borough Mayor, the Economic Development Director, Director of Finance, and the Economic Development Administrator. The Borough reserves the right to modify the membership of the Evaluation Committee.

4.2 The Evaluation Committee will rank the proposals against the criteria in Section III of this RFP and submit its recommendation to the Assembly for approval and execution of a services agreement. The Assembly will award the contract in its sole discretion and judgment.

4.3 The Northwest Arctic Borough may reject any proposal not in compliance with all prescribed public bidding procedures and requirements in this RFP, and may reject any proposals upon a finding that it is in the Borough's interest to do so. The Borough also reserves the right to waive any informality in any proposal and to delete matters from proposals if not prohibited by law.

5.0 Information Required

Proposers must submit one (1) clearly marked "Original" and three (3) copies of their proposal. The Borough reserves the right to solicit additional information from applicants if the Borough deems such information is necessary during the evaluation process.

Responses to this RFP shall include the following components:

5.1 Name or business name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

5.2 Number of years in business or performing professional services.

5.3 List of proposed personnel to be involved with this project, their education and/or experience related to the project, and the name of the individual who would be the Borough's primary contact.

5.4 Staff availability, considering the current and planned workload in order to perform the required services.

5.5 Specialized experience performing similar work.

5.6 Past record of performance regarding similar work.

5.7 Methodology.

5.8 A minimum of three (3) references. List contact name, address, phone number, fax number, and email address for each reference. *The Borough reserves the right to investigate the references and past performance of any applicant with respect to its successful performance of similar projects, compliance with specifications and*

contractual obligations, completion of prior projects on time, and other factors related to the work of this project. The Borough is not limited to the references provided by the proposer.

5.9 Include a copy of Alaska business license.