

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION LEGAL SERVICES POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY, IOWA

Pottawattamie County is seeking competitive price quotes for legal services to assist in the acquisition of ten (10) flood damaged properties. The County is working with the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD), Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) to implement a program designed to voluntarily acquire flood damaged properties. All properties to be acquired are located in the northwest portion of the County and were substantially damaged by a flood event in March of 2019. Properties will be demolished after acquisition. The County anticipates acquisitions beginning in October 2022 and continuing for a period of 3 months.

State and Federal funding sources are anticipated to be secured for this program. Funding sources may include one or all of the following: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and HSEMD; Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Iowa Economic Development Authority; and Iowa Flood Recovery Fund administered by HSEMD.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The following types of legal services are required:

1. Preparing the purchase offer/agreement and coordinating acquisition processes;
2. Reviewing abstracts and providing title opinions;
3. Obtaining title guaranty certificate through Iowa Title Guaranty;
4. Requesting payoff amounts on property liens;
5. Preparing closing documents including open space deed restrictions;
6. Recording documents;
7. Acting as the escrow and closing agent for the County; and
8. Proving all title opinions, Title Certificates and closing documents electronically to the County

QUALIFICATIONS AND METHODS

- Submission of a complete proposal including all required elements outlined in this notice.
- Permitted to practice law in Iowa as established in Chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules.
- Experience in real estate transactions.
- Capacity of the individual or firm to undertake the scope of work.
- The selected proposal will be based on the lowest total cost.

TIMEFRAME

The County desires to initiate acquisition in October 2022 and continuing for a period of 3 months.

VOLUNTARY BUYOUT PROGRAM-NUMBER OF ACQUISITIONS MAY VARY

The County's Buyout Program is strictly voluntary to property owner; thus, any property owner may withdraw their application at any time. If funding is secured, the County desires to increase the number of property acquisitions above the numbers outlined in this request of proposal. As a result, the actual number of closings needed could vary downward from those proposed.

SUBMITTAL

Vendor price must be in writing and include estimated, not-to-exceed costs for legal services and documents. Proposals shall include the following elements:

1. Completed project cover sheet (see Attachment "A").
2. Brief narrative of the individual or firm.
3. Experience and expertise with real estate transactions of the individuals to be assigned to the project. Please specify experience with real estate transactions in Pottawattamie County.
4. Brief narrative on the individuals and/or firms' capacity to undertake the scope of work.
5. Documentation that the individuals or firm is permitted to practice law in Iowa.
6. Three references for related work within the past three (3) years.
7. Proposed costs on a per unit basis for ten (10) property acquisitions.

Please direct questions to Ryan Ossell at 402-444-6866 x3218 or rossell@mapacog.org. Written quotes, by USPS or email, must be provided to:

Pottawattamie County Planning Department
Pottawattamie County Courthouse Annex
223 S 6th Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

Proposals must be received by September 30, 2022 by 4:30 pm. to be considered

Selected firm must adhere to Part 200 Contract Provisions for Non-Federal contracts under Federal Awards as outlined in Attachment "B", as well as the required contract language outlined in Attachment "C".

The County reserves the right to cancel this request for small purchase quotes at any time during the procurement process. They may also reissue this request or re-request quotes at any time as well. Any quotes received, prior to cancellation, will be returned to their respective vendor(s), along with an explanation of said cancellation.

A contract, between the County and lowest price (selected) vendor, will be executed upon HSEMD review and County Board approval of the procurement process, analysis of quotes, and vendor selection.

Attachment A
Project Cover Sheet

Submittal Form for Real Estate Acquisition Legal Services
Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Name of Business: *Name*

Business Address: *Street Address*

City, State, Zip Code

Contact Name: *Name*

Telephone: *Telephone Number*

Email: *Email*

FID/SSN: *Number*

Business Classification (check all that apply): Individual Partnership Corporation

Submittal Requirements:

- Brief narrative on the individual or firm.
- Experience and expertise with real estate transactions of the individuals to be assigned to the project. Please specify experience with real estate transactions in Mills County.
- Brief narrative on the individuals and/or firms capacity to undertake the scope of work.
- Documentation that the individual or firm is permitted to practice law in Iowa.
- Three references for related work within the past five (5) years.
- Proposed cost bid shall be submitted on a per unit basis for 8 acquisitions.

Per Unit Price: *\$ Amount*

Total Price (per unit price x 8 units): *\$ Amount*

Type Name and Sign

Date

Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity

Contracts Under Federal Awards

In addition to other provisions required by the Federal agency or non-Federal entity, all contracts made by the non-Federal entity under the Federal award must contain provisions covering the following, as applicable.

(A) Contracts for more than the simplified acquisition threshold currently set at \$150,000, which is the inflation adjusted amount determined by the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) as authorized by 41 U.S.C. 1908, must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate.

(B) All contracts in excess of \$10,000 must address termination for cause and for convenience by the non-Federal entity including the manner by which it will be effected and the basis for settlement.

(C) Equal Employment Opportunity. Except as otherwise provided under 41 CFR Part 60, all contracts that meet the definition of “federally assisted construction contract” in 41 CFR Part 60-1.3 must include the equal opportunity clause provided under 41 CFR 60-1.4(b), in accordance with Executive Order 11246, “Equal Employment Opportunity” (30 FR 12319, 12935, 3 CFR Part, 1964-1965 Comp., p. 339), as amended by Executive Order 11375, “Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity,” and implementing regulations at 41 CFR part 60, “Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor.”

(D) Davis-Bacon Act, as amended (40 U.S.C. 3141-3148). When required by Federal program legislation, all prime construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 awarded by non-Federal entities must include a provision for compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 3141-3144, and 3146-3148) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR Part 5, “Labor Standards Provisions Applicable to Contracts Covering Federally Financed and Assisted Construction”). In accordance with the statute, contractors must be required to pay wages to laborers and mechanics at a rate not less than the prevailing wages specified in a wage determination made by the Secretary of Labor. In addition, contractors must be required to pay wages not less than once a week. The non-Federal entity must place a copy of the current prevailing wage determination issued by the Department of Labor in each solicitation. The decision to award a contract or subcontract must be conditioned upon the acceptance of the wage determination. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to the Federal awarding agency. The contracts must also include a provision for compliance with the Copeland “Anti-Kickback” Act (40 U.S.C. 3145), as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR Part 3, “Contractors and Subcontractors on Public Building or Public Work Financed in Whole or in Part by Loans or Grants from the United States”). The Act provides that each contractor or subrecipient must be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he or she is otherwise entitled. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to the Federal awarding agency.

(E) Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 3701-3708). Where applicable, all contracts awarded by the non-Federal entity in excess of \$100,000 that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers must include a provision for compliance with 40 U.S.C. 3702 and 3704, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR Part 5). Under 40 U.S.C. 3702 of the Act, each contractor must be required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of a standard work week of 40 hours. Work in excess of the standard work week is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than one and a half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in the work week. The requirements of 40 U.S.C. 3704 are applicable to

construction work and provide that no laborer or mechanic must be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation or transmission of intelligence.

(F) Rights to Inventions Made Under a Contract or Agreement. If the Federal award meets the definition of “funding agreement” under 37 CFR §401.2 (a) and the recipient or subrecipient wishes to enter into a contract with a small business firm or nonprofit organization regarding the substitution of parties, assignment or performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under that “funding agreement,” the recipient or subrecipient must comply with the requirements of 37 CFR Part 401, “Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements,” and any implementing regulations issued by the awarding agency.

(G) Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387), as amended—Contracts and subgrants of amounts in excess of \$150,000 must contain a provision that requires the non-Federal award to agree to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387). Violations must be reported to the Federal awarding agency and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

(H) Debarment and Suspension (Executive Orders 12549 and 12689)—A contract award (see 2 CFR 180.220) must not be made to parties listed on the governmentwide exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM), in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR part 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR part 1989 Comp., p. 235), “Debarment and Suspension.” SAM Exclusions contains the names of parties debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies, as well as parties declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549.

(I) Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352)—Contractors that apply or bid for an award exceeding \$100,000 must file the required certification. 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 must 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 non-Federal award.

(J) See §200.322 Procurement of recovered materials.

[78 FR 78608, Dec. 26, 2013, as amended at 79 FR 75888, Dec. 19, 2014]

Attachment C – Required Contract Language

REQUIRED CONTRACT LANGUAGE

All project contracts shall contain at a minimum the following provisions, as appropriate.

ALL CONTRACTS

1. Access and Maintenance of Records

The contractor must maintain records, including supporting documentation, for three years from closeout of the grant to the state of Iowa.

At any time during normal business hours and as frequently as is deemed necessary, the contractor shall make available to the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the State Auditor, the General Accounting Office, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, for their examination, all of its records pertaining to all matters covered by this contract and permit these agencies to audit, examine, make excerpts or transcripts from such records, contract, invoices, payrolls, personnel records, conditions of employment, and all other matters covered by this contract.

2. Civil Rights

The Contractor must comply with the following laws and regulations:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352).
States that no person may be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance on the basis of race, color, or national origin.
- Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended.
- Federal Executive Order 11063, as amended by Executive Order 12259
Equal Opportunity Housing
- Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965.
This Act mirrors the Federal Civil Rights Act.
- Section 109 of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5309).
Provides that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap under any program or activity funded in part or in whole under Title I of the Act.
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)
Provides that no person on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-112, 29 U.S.C. 794).
Provides that no otherwise qualified individual shall solely by reason of his/her handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (P.L. 101-336, 42 U.S.C. 12101-12213)
Provides comprehensive civil rights to individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

- Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701u).

The purpose of section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) (section 3) is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by certain HUD financial assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing Federal, State and local laws and regulations, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to business concerns which provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons.

3. Termination Clause

All contracts utilizing CDBG funds must contain a termination clause that specifies the following:

- Under what conditions the clause may be imposed.
- The form the termination notice must take (e.g., certified letter).
- The time frame required between the notice of termination and its effective date.
- The method used to compute the final payment(s) to the contractor.

4. Certification regarding government-wide restriction on lobbying.

All contracts utilizing CDBG funds must contain the following certification concerning restriction of lobbying:

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

- i. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the Recipient, 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 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.
- ii. 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, or an employee of a Member of congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the Recipient shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Federal Lobbying" in accordance with its instruction.
- iii. The Recipient 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."

5. Lead-Safe Housing Regulations (As applicable)

24 CFR Part 35 et. al.

Requirements for Notification, Evaluation and Reduction of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Federally Owned Residential Properties and Housing Receiving Federal Assistance, Final Rule

6. Recycled Materials

The contractor agrees to comply with all the requirements of Code of Iowa chapter 8A.315-317 and Iowa Administrative Code chapter 11-117.6(5) — Recycled Product and Content which states:

When appropriate, specifications shall include requirements for the use of recovered materials and products.

The specifications shall not restrict the use of alternative materials, exclude recovered materials, or require performance standards that exclude products containing recovered materials unless the subrecipient seeking the product can document that the use of recovered materials will impede the intended use of the product.

7. Notice of Awarding Agency Requirements and Regulations Pertaining to Reporting

The Contractor must provide information as necessary and as requested by the Iowa Economic Development Authority for the purpose of fulfilling all reporting requirements related to the CDBG program.

ALL CONTRACTS IN EXCESS OF \$10,000

Federal Executive Orders 11246 and 11375:
Provides that no one be discriminated in employment.

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

- (1) The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, 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, 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 by the contracting officer setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.
- (2) 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, or national origin.
- (3) 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 by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under Section 202 of the Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
- (4) The contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.
- (5) The contractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor,

or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the contracting agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

- (6) In the event of the contractor's non-compliance with the nondiscrimination clause of this contract or with any of such 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 in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.
- (7) The contractor will include the provisions of Paragraphs (1) through (7) 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 No. 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 contracting agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, that in the event the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the contracting agency, the contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

ALL CONTRACTS IN EXCESS OF \$100,000

Clean Air and Water Acts:

- Section 306 of the Clean Air Acts (42 U.S.C. 1857(h)).
- Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1368).
- Executive Order 11738. *Providing administration of the Clean Air and Water Acts*

Clean Air and Water Acts - required clauses:

This clause is required in all third party contracts involving projects subject to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1857 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), and the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to 40 CFR Part 15, as amended. It should also be mentioned in the bid document.

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

- (1) The CONTRACTOR will certify that any facility to be utilized in the performance of any nonexempt contract or subcontract is not listed on the Excluded Party Listing System pursuant to 40 CFR 32.
- (2) The CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with all the requirements of Section 114 of the Clean Air Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1857c-8) and Section 308 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1318) relating to inspection, monitoring, entry, reports, and information, as well as all other requirements specified in said Section 114 and Section 308, and all regulations and guidelines issued thereunder.
- (3) The CONTRACTOR agrees that as a condition for the award of the contract, prompt notice will be given of any notification received from the Director, Office of Federal Activities, Environmental Protection Agency, indicating that a facility utilized or to be utilized for the contract is under consideration to be listed on the Excluded Party Listing System.
- (4) The CONTRACTOR agrees that it will include or cause to be included the criteria and requirements in Paragraph (1) through (4) of this section in every nonexempt subcontract and require every subcontractor to take such action as the Government may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions.

ALL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS IN EXCESS OF \$2,000

Federal Labor Standards

In addition to the preceding provisions, all construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 must include the Federal Labor Standards Provisions (verbatim) found in Appendix 2 under Required Contract Provisions. (Housing rehabilitation contracts of less than 8 units are excluded from this requirement.)

Federal Labor Standards Provisions (verbatim) found in Appendix 2, including:

- Davis-Bacon and Related Acts
- Contract Work Hours and Safety Standard Act
- Copeland Anti-kickback Act