

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP**

Issue Date: November 01, 2022 RFP#: DHCD-918-95-10-27-2022

Title: The Office of Broadband Digital Equity Act Planning

Commodity Code: 918-95 Telecommunications, Consulting Services

Issuing Agency: Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Where work will be performed: Virginia (statewide)

Period of Contract: One year following award

Contract Renewal Period: Up to One (1) Year following initial contract period

Proposals for furnishing the services described herein will be received until: December 14, 2022 3:00 p.m.

All inquiries for information should be directed to: Tamarah Holmes
Director, Office of Broadband
Telephone: (804) 371-7056
Email: Tamarah.Holmes@dhcd.virginia.gov

SEND ALL PROPOSALS DIRECTLY TO ISSUING AGENCY. IF PROPOSALS ARE HAND DELIVERED, DELIVER TO: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, 600 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 300, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

In compliance with this Request for Proposals and to all conditions imposed herein, the undersigned offers and agrees to furnish the services in accordance with the attached signed proposal or as mutually agreed upon by subsequent negotiations.

***PREBID CONFERENCE:** An optional prebid conference will be held on November 30th 2022(10:00 a.m.) at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, 600 East Main Street, Suite 300 Richmond, Virginia 23219. (Reference: VIII Preproposal Conference). If special ADA accommodations are needed, please contact Christopher Mattox at (804) 371-7012 by November 16th 2022.

Name and Address of Firm: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

FEI/FIN NO. _____

E-mail: _____

DATE: _____

By: _____

Title: _____

Tel: (_____) _____

Fax: (_____) _____

Web Address: _____

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I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit proposals to establish a contract with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for consulting services for the Office of Broadband's Digital Equity Act Planning Grant activities

Failure to provide information required by this RFP will be grounds for rejection of the proposal.

II. BACKGROUND:

The Department of Housing and Community Development's (the Department) Office of Broadband.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Office of Broadband partners with local governments and internet service providers through multiple programs to ensure Virginians have access to broadband infrastructure. The office's largest program, the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI), has invested over \$798 million of state and federal dollars to provide broadband access to over 424,000 homes, businesses and community anchor institutions.

As a product of this work, Virginia remains on track to obligate funding for functional universal broadband access by 2024. By this definition, every Virginia home, business and community anchor that can be reached through a cost-effective solution will be included in a project area for expanding broadband infrastructure to include these locations.

The General Assembly and Governor, during the 2022 General Assembly Session designated the Department to develop a plan to access federal funding under the federal Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA). Reflecting this directive, the Department was identified as the lead applicant for the Commonwealth under the Digital Equity Act Programs under IIJA. The first of these activities under the Digital Equity Act is the Planning Grant Program, the grant application of which has been approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Association, the administering entity of the Digital Equity Act's Planning Grant Program.

The Department's Office of Broadband is seeking consulting services for assistance in the development of the Commonwealth's Digital Opportunity Plan in accordance with the Department's Digital Equity Act Planning Grant Application.

The selected contractor will work in conjunction with the Digital Opportunity Coordinator to shape this effort over the course of a nine-month period beginning in December 2022 and concluding September 30, 2023. DHCD expects the statewide stakeholder engagement process to take place within 4-6 months following receipt of funds under the DEPG program. The consultant will deliver a report to DHCD within 7 months after receipt of funds. The consultant will be selected following state procurement policy.

III. STATEMENT OF NEEDS:

A. General

1. Working in close cooperation with the Representative of the DHCD, the Contractor shall provide all of the services, materials, equipment, facilities, and personnel required to carry out the work described below.
2. The selected Contractor shall report to the Digital Opportunity Coordinator.
3. The contractor shall furnish all labor and resources to develop Commonwealth's Digital Opportunity Plan in accordance with the Department's Digital Equity Act Planning Grant Application. With the purpose of analyzing and recommending appropriate changes to improve efficiency, etc.

B. Scope of Work

The selected consultant will be responsible for structuring and conducting stakeholder engagement activities necessary for the development of the Commonwealth's Digital Opportunity Plan. These activities will include work sessions with DHCD staff and Broadband Advisory Council members, community input sessions across the Commonwealth, regional focus group discussions, interviews, and survey design. Specifically, the scope of work shall include the following activities:

1. Identification of barriers to digital opportunity faced by Covered Populations in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as identified by the Notice of Funding Opportunity of the Digital Equity Act Planning Grant Program.
2. Conduct a needs assessment of the status of digital opportunity in the Commonwealth to determine the necessary starting point for digital opportunity efforts.
3. Compile an asset inventory of public, non-profit, and private digital opportunity-related efforts in the Commonwealth, including existing resources, programs, and strategies related to digital opportunity for the covered populations.

Components of the activities outlined above, will include:

- a. Work session with DHCD staff and the Broadband Advisory Council to shape the planning process
- b. Meeting design and onsite facilitation for 15 community input sessions across the state (locations to be determined)
- c. Meeting design and facilitation for up to eight focus group discussions with regional experts
- d. Completion of several one-on-one interviews with regional experts
- e. Design survey instrument for gathering input both on-line and print from stakeholders

- f. Provide a report of both on-line and print survey results to DHCD
- g. Work session with DHCD staff to synthesize major themes and critical issues identified through input sessions, in Richmond, VA
- h. One work session members of the Broadband Advisory Council to reach consensus on final plan elements (to be conducted remotely)
- i. Conduct an asset mapping process that incorporates current digital equity resources, programs, and strategies in Virginia that promote digital equity for covered populations into an asset inventory
- j. Consult with the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) for best practices on the above activities

IV. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. RFP Response: In order to be considered for selection, offerors must submit a complete response to this RFP. One (1) original and (3) copies of each proposal must be submitted to the issuing agency. No other distribution of the proposal shall be made by the offeror.
2. Proposal Preparation:
 - a. Proposals shall be signed by an authorized representative of the offeror. All information requested should be submitted. Failure to submit all information requested may result in the purchasing agency requiring prompt submission of missing information and/or giving a lowered evaluation of the proposal. Proposals which are substantially incomplete or lack key information may be rejected by the purchasing agency. Mandatory requirements are those required by law or regulation or are such that they cannot be waived and are not subject to negotiation.
 - b. Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be placed on completeness and clarity of content.
 - c. Proposals should be organized in the order in which the requirements are presented in the RFP. All pages of the proposal should be numbered. Each paragraph in the proposal should reference the paragraph number of the corresponding section of the RFP. It is also helpful to cite the paragraph number, sub letter, and repeat the text of the requirement as it appears in the RFP. If a response covers more than one page, the paragraph number and sub letter should be repeated at the top of the next page. The proposal should contain a table of contents which cross-references the RFP requirements. Information which the offeror desires to present that does not fall within any of the requirements of the RFP should be inserted at an appropriate place or be attached at the end of the proposal and designated as additional material. Proposals that are not organized in this manner risk elimination from consideration if the evaluators are unable to find where the RFP requirements are specifically addressed.
 - d. As used in this RFP, the terms "must", "shall", "should" and "may" identify the criticality of requirements. "Must" and "shall" identify requirements whose absence will have a major negative impact on the suitability of the proposed solution. Items

labeled as "should" or "may" are highly desirable, although their absence will not have a large impact and would be useful, but are not necessary. Depending on the overall response to the RFP, some individual "must" and "shall" items may not be fully satisfied, but it is the intent to satisfy most, if not all, "must" and "shall" requirements. The inability of an Offeror to satisfy a "must" or "shall" requirement does not automatically remove that Offeror from consideration; however, it may seriously affect the overall rating of the Offerors' proposal.

- e. Each copy of the proposal should be bound or contained in a single volume where practical. All documentation submitted with the proposal should be contained in that single volume.
 - f. Ownership of all data, materials, and documentation originated and prepared for the State pursuant to the RFP shall belong exclusively to the State and be subject to public inspection in accordance with the *Virginia Freedom of Information Act*. Trade secrets or proprietary information submitted by an offeror shall not be subject to public disclosure under the *Virginia Freedom of Information Act*; however, the offeror must invoke the protections of § 2.2-4342F of the *Code of Virginia*, in writing, either before or at the time the data or other material is submitted. The written notice must specifically identify the data or materials to be protected and state the reasons why protection is necessary. The proprietary or trade secret material submitted must be identified by some distinct method such as highlighting or underlining and must indicate only the specific words, figures, or paragraphs that constitute trade secret or proprietary information. The classification of an entire proposal document or prequalification application, line item prices, and/or total proposal prices as proprietary or trade secrets is not acceptable and will result in rejection of the proposal. If, after being given reasonable time the offeror refuses to withdraw an entire classification designation, the proposal will be rejected.
3. Oral Presentation: Offerors who submit a proposal in response to this RFP may be required to give an oral presentation of their proposal to the agency. This provides an opportunity for the offeror to clarify or elaborate on the proposal. This is a fact finding and explanation session only and does not include negotiation. The issuing agency will schedule the time and location of these presentations. Oral presentations are an option of the purchasing agency and may or may not be conducted.
- B. Proposals should be as thorough and detailed as possible so that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) may properly evaluate your capabilities to provide the required goods/services. Offerors are required to submit the following items as a complete proposal:
- 1. Return the RFP cover sheet and all addenda acknowledgments, if any, signed and filled out as required.
 - 2. Offeror Data Sheet, included as an attachment to the RFP, and other specific items or data requested in the RFP.
 - 3. A written narrative statement to include:
 - a. Experience in providing the goods/services described herein.

- b. Names, qualifications and experience of personnel to be assigned to the project.
- c. Resumes of staff to be assigned to the project.

4. Specific plans for providing the proposed goods/services including:

- a. List of proposed equipment/goods/etc. including operating parameters, illustrations, etc.
- b. What, when and how the service will be performed.
- c. Time frame for completion (if not otherwise specified by the agency in the statement of needs).

5. Proposed Price. Indicate in the pricing schedule, Section XI of the RFP, if provided.

6. Small Business Subcontracting Plan – Summarize the planned utilization of DSBSD-certified small businesses under the contract to be awarded as a result of this solicitation. This is a requirement for all prime contracts in excess of \$100,000 unless no subcontracting opportunities exist. (See 3.11 h and Appendix B, Section II, 36.) Complete Annex 7-G.

7. State Corporation Commission Form: Required of all offerors pursuant to Title 13.1 or Title 50 (See Appendix B, Section II, 64.). Include SCC Form, Annex 7-I, in Request for Proposals.

V. EVALUATION AND AWARD CRITERIA:

A. EVALUATION CRITERIA: Proposals shall be evaluated by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) using the following criteria:

FOR SERVICE	POINT VALUE
1. Understanding of the Assignment	20
2. Expertise, qualifications, and references of Offeror	30
3. Proposed methodology/procedures	20
4. Price	10
5. Small Business subcontracting plan	20
TOTAL	100

B. AWARD OF CONTRACT:

AWARD: Selection shall be made of two or more offerors deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposals on the basis of the evaluation factors included in the Request for Proposals, including price, if so stated in the Request for Proposals. Negotiations shall be conducted with the offerors so selected. Price shall be considered, but need not be the sole determining factor. After negotiations have been conducted with each offeror so selected, the agency shall select the offeror which, in its opinion, has made the best

proposal, and shall award the contract to that offeror. The Commonwealth may cancel this Request for Proposals or reject proposals at any time prior to an award, and is not required to furnish a statement of the reasons why a particular proposal was not deemed to be the most advantageous (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4359D). Should the Commonwealth determine in writing and in its sole discretion that only one offeror is fully qualified, or that one offeror is clearly more highly qualified than the others under consideration, a contract may be negotiated and awarded to that offeror. The award document will be a contract incorporating by reference all the requirements, terms and conditions of the solicitation and the contractor's proposal as negotiated.

VI. REPORTING AND DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:

- A. The contractor shall provide the following documentation to Digital Opportunity Coordinator for approval by the agency
- B. The contractor shall provide a monthly progress report to Digital Opportunity Coordinator outlining the following:
 - 1. The specific accomplishments achieved during the reporting period.
 - 2. The specific tasks completed pursuant to the provisions of the contract and the completion dates of such tasks.
 - 3. The projected completion dates for the remaining specific tasks required by the contract.
- C. Within thirty (30) calendar days after the award date of the contract, the contractor shall furnish a preliminary outline of the organizational structure of the final report to Digital Opportunity Coordinator.
 - 1. The preliminary outline shall delineate the main topics and subtopics that will later be described in detail in the final report.
 - 2. Beneath each topic and subtopic, the contractor shall furnish a brief narrative description of the subject matter encompassed by the topic or subtopic.
 - 3. The agency shall have the right to edit, modify and/or rearrange the organizational structure, topics, and subtopics as it deems necessary to insure the inclusion of all work required by the contract.
- D. At least two (2) weeks prior to the submission of the final report, the contractor shall present a preliminary draft of the final report to Digital Opportunity Coordinator. The agency shall have the right to modify and/or to require additional elaboration as it deems necessary to insure a comprehensive and thorough written study of all work required by the contract.”
- E. On or before the date specified in the contract, a final report shall be delivered to Digital Opportunity Coordinator for its approval. The contractor shall furnish (3) copies of the final report.

- F. The contractor shall make at least one (1) oral presentation of the final report to persons or organizations as deemed necessary by the agency.
- G. See 3.11 h. outlining requirements for a Small Business Subcontracting Plan in solicitations where the prime contract is in excess of \$100,000. Prime contractors are required to complete Annex 7-G which should be attached to the RFP solicitation. For competitive negotiation, the Small Business Subcontracting Plan shall be used as one of the evaluation criteria. A DSBSD-certified small business who serves as prime contractor will receive full credit for subcontracting for work performed by such prime. See Appendix B, Section II, 36 for the special term and condition that may be included in RFPs requiring the contractor to provide evidence of compliance with this requirement. Receipt of a small business subcontracting plan may be a condition of the award and if so, a requirement for a report from the prime contractor must be stated in the solicitation indicating the frequency of the report required in the contract.

VII. PREPROPOSAL CONFERENCE:

***PREBID CONFERENCE:** An optional prebid conference will be held on November 30th 2022(10:00 a.m.) at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, 600 East Main Street, Suite 300 Richmond, Virginia 23219. (Reference: VIII Preproposal Conference). If special ADA accommodations are needed, please contact Christopher Mattox at (804) 371-7012 by November 16th 2022.

VIII. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- A. VENDORS MANUAL
- B. APPLICABLE LAWS AND COURTS
- C. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
- D. ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING
- E. IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1986
- F. DEBARMENT STATUS
- G. ANTITRUST
- H. MANDATORY USE OF STATE FORM AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS
- I. CLARIFICATION OF TERMS
- J. PAYMENT
- K. PRECEDENCE OF TERMS
- L. QUALIFICATIONS OF BIDDERS OR OFFERORS
- M. TESTING AND INSPECTION
- N. ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT
- O. CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT
- P. DEFAULT
- Q. INSURANCE
- R. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD
- S. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE
- T. NONDISCRIMINATION OF CONTRACTORS
- U. eVA BUSINESS-TO-GOVERNMENT VENDOR REGISTRATION
- V. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS
- W. SET-ASIDES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT AWARD PRIORITY
- X. BID PRICE CURRENCY
- Y. AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN THE COMMONWEALTH
- Z. CIVILITY IN STATE WORKPLACES

A. **VENDORS MANUAL:** This solicitation is subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia *Vendors Manual* and any changes or revisions thereto, which are hereby incorporated into this contract in their entirety. The process for filing a complaint about this solicitation is in section 7.13 of the *Vendors Manual*. (Note section 7.13 does not apply to protests of awards or formal contractual claims.) The procedure for filing contractual claims is in section 7.19 of the *Vendors Manual*. A copy of the manual is normally available for review at the purchasing office and is accessible on the Internet at www.eva.virginia.gov under "I Sell To Virginia".

B. **APPLICABLE LAWS AND COURTS:** This solicitation and any resulting contract shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, without regard to its choice of law provisions, and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the circuit courts of the Commonwealth. The agency and the contractor are encouraged to resolve any issues in controversy arising from the award of the contract or any contractual dispute using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) procedures (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4366). ADR procedures are described in Chapter 9 of the *Vendors Manual*. The contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.

- C. **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION:** By submitting their proposals, offerors certify to the Commonwealth that they will conform to the provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, as well as the Virginia Fair Employment Contracting Act of 1975, as amended, where applicable, the Virginians With Disabilities Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act and § 2.2-4311 of the *Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA)*. If the award is made to a faith-based organization, the organization shall not discriminate against any recipient of goods, services, or disbursements made pursuant to the contract on the basis of the recipient's religion, religious belief, refusal to participate in a religious practice, or on the basis of race, age, color, gender sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin and shall be subject to the same rules as other organizations that contract with public bodies to account for the use of the funds provided; however, if the faith-based organization segregates public funds into separate accounts, only the accounts and programs funded with public funds shall be subject to audit by the public body. (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4343.1E).

In every contract over \$10,000 the provisions in 1. and 2. below apply:

1. During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:
 - a. The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment, except where there is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.
 - b. The contractor, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, will state that such contractor is an equal opportunity employer.
 - c. Notices, advertisements and solicitations placed in accordance with federal law, rule or regulation shall be deemed sufficient for the purpose of meeting the requirements of this section.
 - d. If the contractor employs more than five employees, the contractor shall (i) provide annual training on the contractor's sexual harassment policy to all supervisors and employees providing services in the Commonwealth, except such supervisors or employees that are required to complete sexual harassment training provided by the Department of Human Resource Management, and (ii) post the contractor's sexual harassment policy in (a) a conspicuous public place in each building located in the Commonwealth that the contractor owns or leases for business purposes and (b) the contractor's employee handbook.
 - e. The requirements of these provisions 1. and 2. are a material part of the contract. If the Contractor violates one of these provisions, the Commonwealth may terminate the affected part of this contract for breach, or at its option, the whole contract. Violation of one of these provisions may also result in debarment from State contracting regardless of whether the specific contract is terminated.
 - f. In accordance with Executive Order 61 (2017), a prohibition on discrimination by the contractor, in its employment practices, subcontracting practices, and delivery of goods or services, on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender

identity, age, political affiliation, disability, or veteran status, is hereby incorporated in this contract.

2. The contractor will include the provisions of 1. above in every subcontract or purchase order over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

D. **ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING:** By submitting their proposals, offerors certify that their proposals are made without collusion or fraud and that they have not offered or received any kickbacks or inducements from any other offeror, supplier, manufacturer or subcontractor in connection with their proposal, and that they have not conferred on any public employee having official responsibility for this procurement transaction any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services or anything of more than nominal value, present or promised, unless consideration of substantially equal or greater value was exchanged.

E. **IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1986:** Applicable for all contracts over \$10,000:

By entering into a written contract with the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Contractor certifies that the Contractor does not, and shall not during the performance of the contract for goods and services in the Commonwealth, knowingly employ an unauthorized alien as defined in the federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

F. **DEBARMENT STATUS:** By participating in this procurement, the vendor certifies that they are not currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia from submitting a response for the type of goods and/or services covered by this solicitation. Vendor further certifies that they are not debarred from filling any order or accepting any resulting order, or that they are an agent of any person or entity that is currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

If a vendor is created or used for the purpose of circumventing a debarment decision against another vendor, the non-debarred vendor will be debarred for the same time period as the debarred vendor.

G. **ANTITRUST:** By entering into a contract, the contractor conveys, sells, assigns, and transfers to the Commonwealth of Virginia all rights, title and interest in and to all causes of action it may now have or hereafter acquire under the antitrust laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, relating to the particular goods or services purchased or acquired by the Commonwealth of Virginia under said contract.

H. **MANDATORY USE OF STATE FORM AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR IFBs AND RFPs:**

(For Request For Proposals): Failure to submit a proposal on the official state form provided for that purpose may be a cause for rejection of the proposal. Modification of or additions to the General Terms and Conditions of the solicitation may be cause for rejection of the proposal; however, the Commonwealth reserves the right to decide, on a case by case basis, in its sole discretion, whether to reject such a proposal.

I. **CLARIFICATION OF TERMS:** If any prospective offeror has questions about the specifications or other solicitation documents, the prospective offeror should contact the buyer whose name appears on the face of the solicitation no later than five working days before the due date. Any revisions to the solicitation will be made only by addendum issued by the buyer.

J. PAYMENT:

1. To Prime Contractor:

- a. Invoices for items ordered, delivered and accepted shall be submitted by the contractor directly to the payment address shown on the purchase order/contract. All invoices shall show the state contract number and/or purchase order number; social security number (for individual contractors) or the federal employer identification number (for proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations).
- b. Any payment terms requiring payment in less than 30 days will be regarded as requiring payment 30 days after invoice or delivery, whichever occurs last. This shall not affect offers of discounts for payment in less than 30 days, however.
- c. All goods or services provided under this contract or purchase order, that are to be paid for with public funds, shall be billed by the contractor at the contract price, regardless of which public agency is being billed.
- d. The following shall be deemed to be the date of payment: the date of postmark in all cases where payment is made by mail, or when offset proceedings have been instituted as authorized under the Virginia Debt Collection Act.
- e. **Unreasonable Charges.** Under certain emergency procurements and for most time and material purchases, final job costs cannot be accurately determined at the time orders are placed. In such cases, contractors should be put on notice that final payment in full is contingent on a determination of reasonableness with respect to all invoiced charges. Charges which appear to be unreasonable will be resolved in accordance with *Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4363 and -4364. Upon determining that invoiced charges are not reasonable, the Commonwealth shall notify the contractor of defects or improprieties in invoices within fifteen (15) days as required in *Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4351. The provisions of this section do not relieve an agency of its prompt payment obligations with respect to those charges which are not in dispute (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4363).

2. To Subcontractors:

- a. Within seven (7) days of the contractor's receipt of payment from the Commonwealth, a contractor awarded a contract under this solicitation is hereby obligated:
 - (1) To pay the subcontractor(s) for the proportionate share of the payment received for work performed by the subcontractor(s) under the contract; or
 - (2) To notify the agency and the subcontractor(s), in writing, of the contractor's intention to withhold payment and the reason.
- b. The contractor is obligated to pay the subcontractor(s) interest at the rate of one percent per month (unless otherwise provided under the terms of the contract) on all amounts owed by the contractor that remain unpaid seven (7) days following receipt of payment from the Commonwealth, except for amounts withheld as stated in (2) above. The date of mailing of any payment by U. S. Mail is deemed to be payment to the addressee. These provisions apply

to each sub-tier contractor performing under the primary contract. A contractor's obligation to pay an interest charge to a subcontractor may not be construed to be an obligation of the Commonwealth.

3. Each prime contractor who wins an award in which provision of a SWaM procurement plan is a condition to the award, shall deliver to the contracting agency or institution, on or before request for final payment, evidence and certification of compliance (subject only to insubstantial shortfalls and to shortfalls arising from subcontractor default) with the SWaM procurement plan. Final payment under the contract in question may be withheld until such certification is delivered and, if necessary, confirmed by the agency or institution, or other appropriate penalties may be assessed in lieu of withholding such payment.
 4. The Commonwealth of Virginia encourages contractors and subcontractors to accept electronic and credit card payments.
- K. **PRECEDENCE OF TERMS:** The following General Terms and Conditions *VENDORS MANUAL*, *APPLICABLE LAWS AND COURTS*, *ANTI-DISCRIMINATION*, *ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING*, *IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1986*, *DEBARMENT STATUS*, *ANTITRUST*, *MANDATORY USE OF STATE FORM AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS*, *CLARIFICATION OF TERMS*, *PAYMENT* shall apply in all instances. In the event there is a conflict between any of the other General Terms and Conditions and any Special Terms and Conditions in this solicitation, the Special Terms and Conditions shall apply.
- L. **QUALIFICATIONS OF (BIDDERS/OFFERORS):** The Commonwealth may make such reasonable investigations as deemed proper and necessary to determine the ability of the offeror to perform the services/furnish the goods and the offeror shall furnish to the Commonwealth all such information and data for this purpose as may be requested. The Commonwealth reserves the right to inspect offeror's physical facilities prior to award to satisfy questions regarding the offeror's capabilities. The Commonwealth further reserves the right to reject any (bid/proposal) if the evidence submitted by, or investigations of, such offeror fails to satisfy the Commonwealth that such offeror is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to provide the services and/or furnish the goods contemplated therein.
- M. **TESTING AND INSPECTION:** The Commonwealth reserves the right to conduct any test/inspection it may deem advisable to assure goods and services conform to the specifications.
- N. **ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT:** A contract shall not be assignable by the contractor in whole or in part without the written consent of the Commonwealth.
- O. **CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT:** Changes can be made to the contract in any of the following ways:
1. The parties may agree in writing to modify the terms, conditions, or scope of the contract. Any additional goods or services to be provided shall be of a sort that is ancillary to the contract goods or services, or within the same broad product or service categories as were included in the contract award. Any increase or decrease in the price of the contract resulting from such modification shall be agreed to by the parties as a part of their written agreement to modify the scope of the contract.
 2. The Purchasing Agency may order changes within the general scope of the contract at any time by written notice to the contractor. Changes within the scope of the contract include, but are not

limited to, things such as services to be performed, the method of packing or shipment, and the place of delivery or installation. The contractor shall comply with the notice upon receipt, unless the contractor intends to claim an adjustment to compensation, schedule, or other contractual impact that would be caused by complying with such notice, in which case the contractor shall, in writing, promptly notify the Purchasing Agency of the adjustment to be sought, and before proceeding to comply with the notice, shall await the Purchasing Agency's written decision affirming, modifying, or revoking the prior written notice. If the Purchasing Agency decides to issue a notice that requires an adjustment to compensation, the contractor shall be compensated for any additional costs incurred as the result of such order and shall give the Purchasing Agency a credit for any savings. Said compensation shall be determined by one of the following methods:

- a. By mutual agreement between the parties in writing; or
- b. By agreeing upon a unit price or using a unit price set forth in the contract, if the work to be done can be expressed in units, and the contractor accounts for the number of units of work performed, subject to the Purchasing Agency's right to audit the contractor's records and/or to determine the correct number of units independently; or
- c. By ordering the contractor to proceed with the work and keep a record of all costs incurred and savings realized. A markup for overhead and profit may be allowed if provided by the contract. The same markup shall be used for determining a decrease in price as the result of savings realized. The contractor shall present the Purchasing Agency with all vouchers and records of expenses incurred and savings realized. The Purchasing Agency shall have the right to audit the records of the contractor as it deems necessary to determine costs or savings. Any claim for an adjustment in price under this provision must be asserted by written notice to the Purchasing Agency within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the written order from the Purchasing Agency. If the parties fail to agree on an amount of adjustment, the question of an increase or decrease in the contract price or time for performance shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures for resolving disputes provided by the Disputes Clause of this contract or, if there is none, in accordance with the disputes provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia *Vendors Manual*. Neither the existence of a claim nor a dispute resolution process, litigation or any other provision of this contract shall excuse the contractor from promptly complying with the changes ordered by the Purchasing Agency or with the performance of the contract generally.

P. **DEFAULT:** In case of failure to deliver goods or services in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the Commonwealth, after due oral or written notice, may terminate this contract and procure all goods and/or services contracted for, from other sources and hold the contractor responsible for any resulting additional purchase and administrative costs. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedies which the Commonwealth may have.

Q. **INSURANCE:** By signing and submitting a bid or proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that if awarded the contract, it will have the following insurance coverage at the time the contract is awarded. For construction contracts, if any subcontractors are involved, the subcontractor will have workers' compensation insurance in accordance with §§ 2.2-4332 and 65.2-800 et seq. of the *Code of Virginia*. The bidder or offeror further certifies that the contractor and any subcontractors will maintain these insurance coverages during the entire term of the contract and that all coverage will be provided by companies authorized to sell insurance in Virginia by the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

MINIMUM INSURANCE COVERAGES AND LIMITS:

1. Workers' Compensation - Statutory requirements and benefits. Coverage is compulsory for employers of three or more employees, to include the employer. Contractors who fail to notify the Commonwealth of increases in the number of employees that change their workers' compensation requirements under the *Code of Virginia* during the course of the contract shall be in noncompliance with the contract.
2. Employer's Liability - \$100,000.
3. Commercial General Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate. Commercial General Liability is to include bodily injury and property damage, personal injury and advertising injury, products and completed operations coverage. The Commonwealth of Virginia shall be added as an additional insured to the policy by an endorsement.
4. Automobile Liability - \$1,000,000 combined single limit. (Required only if a motor vehicle not owned by the Commonwealth is to be used in the contract. Contractor must assure that the required coverage is maintained by the Contractor (or third party owner of such motor vehicle.)

<u>Profession/Service</u>	<u>Limits</u>
Accounting	\$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$3,000,000 aggregate
Architecture	\$2,000,000 per occurrence, \$6,000,000 aggregate
Asbestos Design, Inspection or Abatement Contractors	\$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$3,000,000 aggregate
Health Care Practitioner (to include Dentists, Licensed Dental Hygienists, Optometrists, Registered or Licensed Practical Nurses, Pharmacists, Physicians, Podiatrists, Chiropractors, Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants, Clinical Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers, Professional Counselors, Hospitals, or Health Maintenance Organizations.)	<i>Code of Virginia</i> § 8.01-581.15 https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title8.01/chapter21.1/section8.01-581.15/
Insurance/Risk Management	\$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$3,000,000 aggregate
Landscape/Architecture	\$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$1,000,000 aggregate
Legal	\$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$5,000,000 aggregate
Professional Engineer	\$2,000,000 per occurrence, \$6,000,000 aggregate
Surveying	\$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$1,000,000 aggregate

R. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD:** Upon the award or the announcement of the decision to award a contract as a result of this solicitation, the purchasing agency will publicly post such notice in eVA (www.eva.virginia.gov) for a minimum of 10 days.

S. **DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE:** Applicable for all contracts over \$10,000:

During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees to (i) provide a drug-free workplace for the contractor's employees; (ii) post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance or marijuana is prohibited in the contractor's

workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition; (iii) state in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor that the contractor maintains a drug-free workplace; and (iv) include the provisions of the foregoing clauses in every subcontract or purchase order of over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

For the purposes of this section, “*drug-free workplace*” means a site for the performance of work done in connection with a specific contract awarded to a contractor, the employees of whom are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of any controlled substance or marijuana during the performance of the contract.

T. **NONDISCRIMINATION OF CONTRACTORS:** A bidder, offeror, or contractor shall not be discriminated against in the solicitation or award of this contract because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, faith-based organizational status, any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment or because the bidder or offeror employs ex-offenders unless the state agency, department or institution has made a written determination that employing ex-offenders on the specific contract is not in its best interest. If the award of this contract is made to a faith-based organization and an individual, who applies for or receives goods, services, or disbursements provided pursuant to this contract objects to the religious character of the faith-based organization from which the individual receives or would receive the goods, services, or disbursements, the public body shall offer the individual, within a reasonable period of time after the date of his objection, access to equivalent goods, services, or disbursements from an alternative provider.

U. **eVA BUSINESS-TO-GOVERNMENT VENDOR REGISTRATION, CONTRACTS, AND ORDERS:** The eVA Internet electronic procurement solution, web site portal www.eVA.virginia.gov, streamlines and automates government purchasing activities in the Commonwealth. The eVA portal is the gateway for vendors to conduct business with state agencies and public bodies. All vendors desiring to provide goods and/or services to the Commonwealth shall participate in the eVA Internet e-procurement solution by completing the free eVA Vendor Registration. All bidders or offerors must register in eVA and pay the Vendor Transaction Fees specified below; failure to register will result in the bid/proposal being rejected.

Vendor transaction fees are determined by the date the original purchase order is issued and the current fees are as follows:

- a. For orders issued July 1, 2014, and after, the Vendor Transaction Fee is:
 - (i) DSBSD-certified Small Businesses: 1%, capped at \$500 per order.
 - (ii) Businesses that are not DSBSD-certified Small Businesses: 1%, capped at \$1,500 per order.
- b. Refer to Special Term and Condition “eVA Orders and Contracts” to identify the number of purchase orders that will be issued as a result of this solicitation/contract with the eVA transaction fee specified above assessed for each order.

For orders issued prior to July 1, 2014, the vendor transaction fees can be found at www.eVA.virginia.gov.

The specified vendor transaction fee will be invoiced, by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of General Services, typically within 60 days of the order issue date. Any adjustments (increases/decreases) will be handled through purchase order changes.

- V. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** It is understood and agreed between the parties herein that the agency shall be bound hereunder only to the extent that the legislature has appropriated funds that are legally available or may hereafter become legally available for the purpose of this agreement.
- W. **SET-ASIDES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT AWARD PRIORITY:** This solicitation is set-aside for award priority to DSBSD-certified micro businesses or small businesses when designated as “Micro Business Set-Aside Award Priority” or “Small Business Set-Aside Award Priority” accordingly in the solicitation. DSBSD-certified micro businesses or small businesses also includes DSBSD-certified women-owned and minority-owned businesses when they have received the DSBSD small business certification. For purposes of award, bidders/offers shall be deemed micro businesses or small businesses if and only if they are certified as such by DSBSD on the due date for receipt of bids/proposals.
- X. **BID PRICE CURRENCY:** Unless stated otherwise in the solicitation, bidders/offers shall state bid/offer prices in US dollars.
- Y. **AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN THE COMMONWEALTH:** A contractor organized as a stock or nonstock corporation, limited liability company, business trust, or limited partnership or registered as a registered limited liability partnership shall be authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth as a domestic or foreign business entity if so required by Title 13.1 or Title 50 of the *Code of Virginia* or as otherwise required by law. Any business entity described above that enters into a contract with a public body pursuant to the *Virginia Public Procurement Act* shall not allow its existence to lapse or its certificate of authority or registration to transact business in the Commonwealth, if so required under Title 13.1 or Title 50, to be revoked or cancelled at any time during the term of the contract. A public body may void any contract with a business entity if the business entity fails to remain in compliance with the provisions of this section.

Z. **CIVILITY IN STATE WORKPLACES:** The contractor shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that no individual, while performing work on behalf of the contractor or any subcontractor in connection with this agreement (each, a “Contract Worker”), shall engage in 1) harassment (including sexual harassment), bullying, cyber-bullying, or threatening or violent conduct, or 2) discriminatory behavior on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, political affiliation, veteran status, or disability.

The contractor shall provide each Contract Worker with a copy of this Section and will require Contract Workers to participate in agency training on civility in the State workplace if contractor’s (and any subcontractor’s) regular mandatory training programs do not already encompass equivalent or greater expectations. Upon request, the contractor shall provide documentation that each Contract Worker has received such training.

For purposes of this Section, “State workplace” includes any location, permanent or temporary, where a Commonwealth employee performs any work-related duty or is representing his or her agency, as well as surrounding perimeters, parking lots, outside meeting locations, and means of travel to and from these locations. Communications are deemed to occur in a State workplace if the Contract Worker reasonably should know that the phone number, email, or other method of communication is associated with a State workplace or is associated with a person who is a State employee.

The Commonwealth of Virginia may require, at its sole discretion, the removal and replacement of any Contract Worker who the Commonwealth reasonably believes to have violated this Section.

This Section creates obligations solely on the part of the contractor. Employees or other third parties may benefit incidentally from this Section and from training materials or other communications distributed on this topic, but the Parties to this agreement intend this Section to be enforceable solely by the Commonwealth and not by employees or other third parties.

IX. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. AUDIT: The contractor shall retain all books, records, and other documents relative to this contract for five (5) years after final payment, or until audited by the Commonwealth of Virginia, whichever is sooner. The agency, its authorized agents, and/or state auditors shall have full access to and the right to examine any of said materials during said period.
2. AWARD: Selection shall be made of two or more offerors deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposals on the basis of the evaluation factors included in the Request for Proposals, including price, if so stated in the Request for Proposals. Negotiations shall be conducted with the offerors so selected. Price shall be considered, but need not be the sole determining factor. After negotiations have been conducted with each offeror so selected, the agency shall select the offeror which, in its opinion, has made the best proposal, and shall award the contract to that offeror. The Commonwealth may cancel this Request for Proposals or reject proposals at any time prior to an award, and is not required to furnish a statement of the reasons why a particular proposal was not deemed to be the most advantageous (*Code of Virginia, § 2.2-4359D*). Should the Commonwealth determine in writing and in its sole discretion that only one offeror is fully qualified, or that one offeror is clearly more highly qualified than the others under consideration, a contract may be negotiated and awarded to that offeror. The award document will be a contract incorporating by reference all the requirements, terms and conditions of the solicitation and the contractor's proposal as negotiated.
3. CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT: The purchasing agency reserves the right to cancel and terminate any resulting contract, in part or in whole, without penalty, upon 60 days written notice to the contractor. In the event the initial contract period is for more than 12 months, the resulting contract may also be terminated by the contractor, without penalty, after the initial 12 months of the contract period upon 60 days written notice to the other party. Any contract cancellation notice shall not relieve the contractor of the obligation to deliver and/or perform on all outstanding orders issued prior to the effective date of cancellation.
4. eVA ORDERS AND CONTRACTS: The solicitation/contract will result in (Two) purchase order(s) with the applicable eVA transaction fee assessed for each order.
5. RENEWAL OF CONTRACT: This contract may be renewed by the Commonwealth upon written agreement of both parties for up to (one year)/(1 successive one year periods), under the terms of the current contract, and at a reasonable time (approximately 90 days) prior to the expiration.

X. METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- i. Payments will be made monthly to this Contractor for the proportional part of the services rendered during the period.
- ii. This Contractor shall submit to the DHCD by the 5th day of the month a statement for approval and payment for the services performed during the preceding month.
- iii. The lump sum fixed fee will include all services for the contract period, including expenses.
- iv. Should services be required beyond that time, this Contractor will be compensated at a rate set forth in the Contract or, if not set forth in the Contract, at a rate commensurate with the services provided and at the equivalent rates used in the Contract for the personnel classifications involved.

XI. PRICING SCHEDULE:

The Offeror agrees to provide services in compliance with the Statement of Needs and terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals at the proposed lump-sum fixed price of \$_____.

Please quote pricing information for additional tasks (not listed in RFP) if requested by the purchasing agency.

Hourly Rate \$ _____

Weekly Rate \$ _____

XII. ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A: Small Business Subcontracting Plan
- Attachment B: Data Sheet
- Attachment C: Annex 7-I State Corporation Commission Form

Attachment A

Annex 7-G

Small Business Subcontracting Plan

Definitions

Small Business: "Small business " means an independently owned and operated business which, together with affiliates, has 250 or fewer employees, or average annual gross receipts of \$10 million or less averaged over the previous three years. Note: This shall not exclude DMBE-certified women- and minority-owned businesses when they have received DMBE small business certification.

Women-Owned Business: Women-owned business means a business concern that is at least 51% owned by one or more women who are citizens of the United States or non-citizens who are in full compliance with United States immigration law, or in the case of a corporation, partnership or limited liability company or other entity, at least 51% of the equity ownership interest is owned by one or more women who are citizens of the United States or non-citizens who are in full compliance with United States immigration law, and both the management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more women who are citizens of the United States or non-citizens who are in full compliance with the United States immigration law.

Minority-Owned Business: Minority-owned business means a business concern that is at least 51% owned by one or more minority individuals or in the case of a corporation, partnership or limited liability company or other entity, at least 51% of the equity ownership interest in the corporation, partnership, or limited liability company or other entity is owned by one or more minority individuals and both the management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more minority individuals.

All small businesses must be certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Minority Business Enterprise (DMBE) by the due date of the solicitation to participate in the SWAM program. Certification applications are available through DMBE online at www.dmbv.virginia.gov (Customer Service).

Offeror Name: _____

Preparer Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions

- A. If you are certified by the Department of Minority Business Enterprise (DMBE) as a small business, complete only Section A of this form. This shall not exclude DMBE-certified women-owned and minority-owned businesses when they have received DMBE small business certification.

- B. If you are not a DMBE-certified small business, complete Section B of this form. For the offeror to receive credit for the small business subcontracting plan evaluation criteria, the offeror shall identify the portions of the contract that will be subcontracted to DMBE-certified small business in this section. Points will be assigned based on each offeror’s proposed subcontracting expenditures with DMBE certified small businesses for the initial contract period as indicated in Section B in relation to the offeror’s total price.

Section A

If your firm is certified by the Department of Minority Business Enterprise (DMBE), are you certified as a (**check only one below**):

- Small Business

- Small and Women-owned Business

- Small and Minority-owned Business

Certification number: _____ Certification Date: _____

Section B

Populate the table below to show your firm's plans for utilization of DMBE-certified small businesses in the performance of this contract. This shall not exclude DMBE-certified women-owned and minority-owned businesses when they have received the DMBE small business certification. Include plans to utilize small businesses as part of joint ventures, partnerships, subcontractors, suppliers, etc.

B. Plans for Utilization of DMBE-Certified Small Businesses for this Procurement

Small Business Name & Address DMBE Certificate #	Status if Small Business is also: Women (W), Minority (M)	Contact Person, Telephone & Email	Type of Goods and/or Services	Planned Involvement During Initial Period of the Contract	Planned Contract Dollars During Initial Period of the Contract
Totals \$					

Attachment B

Datasheet

1. **Qualification of Firm:** Offeror's signature on this solicitation certifies that his or her firm has the capability and capacity in all respects to satisfy all contractual requirements.

2. **Years in Business:** Indicate the length of time you have been in business providing this type of service: _____ years _____ months.

3. **Is your firm currently registered in eVA?**
 Yes _____ Under what name? _____
 No _____

4. **References:** Indicate below a listing of at least three (3) references for which you have provided this type of service. One reference must be of an account of similar size to the Commonwealth of Virginia and one reference must be of a recent client whose business you lost. Include the dates service was furnished and the name and address of the person DHCD has permission to contact. A narrative statement shall be provided for each reference, describing the scope, size and type of services provided to each reference. **Please verify that the contact persons whom you have listed below are still employed with these firms prior to submitting their names.**

Client	Date	Address	Contact Person <i>(w/ phone and fax number and email address)</i>

Attachment C

Annex 7-I

State Corporation Commission Form

Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) registration information. The offeror:

is a corporation or other business entity with the following SCC identification number:

_____ **-OR-**

is not a corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership, registered limited liability partnership, or business trust **-OR-**

is an out-of-state business entity that does not regularly and continuously maintain as part of its ordinary and customary business any employees, agents, offices, facilities, or inventories in Virginia (not counting any employees or agents in Virginia who merely solicit orders that require acceptance outside Virginia before they become contracts, and not counting any incidental presence of the offeror in Virginia that is needed in order to assemble, maintain, and repair goods in accordance with the contracts by which such goods were sold and shipped into Virginia from offeror's out-of-state location) **-OR-**

is an out-of-state business entity that is including with this proposal an opinion of legal counsel which accurately and completely discloses the undersigned offeror's current contacts with Virginia and describes why those contacts do not constitute the transaction of business in Virginia within the meaning of § 13.1-757 or other similar provisions in Titles 13.1 or 50 of the Code of Virginia.

****NOTE**** >> Check the following box if you have not completed any of the foregoing options but currently have pending before the SCC an application for authority to transact business in the Commonwealth of Virginia and wish to be considered for a waiver to allow you to submit the SCC identification number after the due date for proposals (the Commonwealth reserves the right to determine in its sole discretion whether to allow such waiver):