

#### COUNTY OF EL PASO

800 E. Overland, Suite 300 El Paso, Texas 79901 (915) 546-2048 (915) 546-8180 Fax

#### **Notice to Interested Parties**

#### DUE TO THE CURRENT DISASTER DECLARATION

Sealed Request for Proposals (RFP) will be received at the County Purchasing Department, 800 E. Overland, RM 300, El Paso, Texas 79901 before 2:00 p.m., Thursday, October 7, 2021 to be opened at the County Purchasing Office the same date for Life, Voluntary Life, and Vision Insurance for the County of El Paso. No inperson submittals are allowed. Vendors must mail via USPS or third-party carrier (i.e. Fed-Ex/UPS). The County of El Paso is not responsible for late deliveries of any kind or any reason.

Proposals must be in a sealed envelope and marked: "Proposals to be opened Thursday, October 7, 2021
Life, Voluntary Life, and Vision Insurance
for the County of El Paso
RFP Number 22-001

Do not contact the requesting department. Any questions or additional information required by interested vendors must be e-mailed to: <a href="mailto:bidquestions@epcounty.com">bidquestions@epcounty.com</a> before Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. Proposal number and title must be on the "Subject Line" of the e-mail. Attempts to circumvent this requirement may result in rejection of the proposal as non-compliant.

Any changes in the specifications will be posted on the County website as an addendum. It shall be the proposer's responsibility to check the website prior to the bid opening date to verify whether any addendums have been posted. Website: <a href="www.epcounty.com">www.epcounty.com</a>; click button labeled "Directory", search for and select "Purchasing", click on button labeled "List of Bids".

Award will be made based on a review of qualifications, scope of services and price. COMMISSIONER'S COURT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND WAIVE TECHNICALITIES. Only proposals that conform to specifications will be considered. Successful Proposer shall not order items or services until a Purchasing Order is received from the County Purchasing Office. Payment will not be made on items delivered without an Agreement. Payment shall be made through County funds after completion of goods or services. Purchase Orders will be issued as required. Successful proposer must comply with all bonding requirements as stated in the Texas Local Government Code §262.032.

In order to remain active on the El Paso County Vendor list, each Vendor receiving this proposal must respond in some form. Vendors submitting a proposal must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

#### **DUE TO THE CURRENT DISASTER DECLARATION**

**Note:** The County of El Paso is not responsible for late deliveries of any kind or any reason.

Due to the County of El Paso Declaration of Local Disaster for the Public Health Emergency regarding COVID-19, The County Courthouse and all County Buildings and Facilities have closed to the public effective Monday, March 23, 2020, until further notice.

While all County buildings are closed to the public, all scheduled bid openings will occur via live video feed at the County YouTube Channel <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXwcq\_JYs28xwL14oGAVPZg/videos.">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXwcq\_JYs28xwL14oGAVPZg/videos.</a>

During the live broadcast, citizens may call in at telephone (915) 546-2048 ext.4529. Allow for a 10-second delay during the live broadcast.

JOSE LOPEZ, JR.
Interim Purchasing Agent

#### El Paso County Code of Ethics Training Affidavit

(This form must be signed by an officer, principal, or individual authorized to bind the company under a contract with the County.)

IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 161 OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, ANY VENDOR INVOLVED IN A SINGLE PROCUREMENT EXCEEDING \$50,000 MUST COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED ETHICS TRAINING BEFORE SUBMITTING A BID OR PROPOSAL WITH THE COUNTY OF EL PASO.

Purpose: The stability of democracy depends upon the continuing consent of the governed, which in turn depends upon the trust the electorate holds for its government. The Ethics Commission of the County of El Paso, Texas, in concert with elected county officials, as well as leaders of the various county departments, recognizes the need to maintain the public trust and confidence in the workings of county government and thus adopts this Code of Ethics.

#### What is a vendor:

Any person or their representative or employee whose goods and services are purchased under the terms of a purchase order or contractual agreement with the county; and any other persons doing business with the County.

Procurement: In advising upon, discussing, recommending, and/or granting any County purchases, bids or contracts, County public servants shall inform themselves about their financial interests, and shall make a reasonable effort to inform themselves about the financial interest of their family members.

County public servants shall excuse themselves from exercising influence, participating in, discussing, recommending, and/or granting of any County purchases, bids, or contracts if they or a family member have a substantial financial interest.

Private Communication: No member of the El Paso County Commissioners Court, County Elected Officials/Department Heads or the El Paso County Hospital District Board of Managers shall permit any vendor, its lobbyists, representative, or employee to communicate with him privately regarding any procurement of items by the County or the Hospital District from the date that the bid, RFP, or RFQ is authorized or released, whichever is first. No private communication regarding the purchase shall be permitted by a member of the Commissioners Court, a county elected official/department head, or

### El Paso County Code of Ethics Training Affidavit (continued)

the hospital district board of managers until the procurement process is complete and a purchase order is granted or a contract is entered into.

Members of the Commissioners Court, county elected officials/department heads and the board of managers shall make a reasonable effort to inform themselves regarding procurements and shall have a duty to inquire of vendors, their lobbyists, representatives, or employees, the nature of the private communication being sought prior to engaging in any communication.

This prohibition against private communication with vendors, their lobbyists, representatives, or employees shall apply to commissioners court approval of hospital district purchases.
I am an officer, principal, or individual (Full Name) authorized to bind the company, known as
(Company name)
By reading and signing this document, I confirm that I have been trained in the County of El Paso's Code of Ethics regarding Vendors. I understand that any contact by myself or any representative of the company with a County of El Paso official or county employee, other than those shown on the RFP or bid documents shall cause the bid or proposal to be immediately disqualified from consideration of award.  Name
Title
Company Name
Address
Signature
Date



#### EL PASO COUNTY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT 800 E. OVERLAND AVE., ROOM 300 EL PASO, TEXAS 79901 (915) 546-2048

FAX: (915) 546-8180

#### Memorandum

To: All Vendors

**Subject:** County Purchasing New Vendor/Bid System & Online Vendor Registration

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The Purchasing Department has implemented its new bid processing vendor notification/registration system. The new system will allow vendors to register and maintain their vendor file in real time without the intervention of the Purchasing Department. Vendors will maintain their address information and contact information; as well as the commodity information that the vendor wants to be considered for on County bid solicitations. Vendors will be given a choice of receiving hard copy bid notifications, or electronic notifications to the vendors designated email and/or cellular telephone text number. We hope that the changes will help our vendors receive their solicitations in a more effective and efficient manner that will benefit both the County and the vendor with more timely, accurate, competitive bids.

All vendors wishing to receive or continue to receive bid notifications must register in this new system at <a href="www.epcounty.com">www.epcounty.com</a>. /Bids & More/Vendors List. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions please contact us at (915)546-2048.

#### **EL PASO COUNTY SIGNATURE PAGE**

# RFP 22-001 Life, Voluntary Life, and Vision Insurance for the County of El Paso

Vendor must meet or exceed specifications

Please do not include tax, as the County is tax-exempt. We will sign tax exemption certificates covering these items. Please submit one (1) original copy and two (2) electronic versions of the complete proposal (CD/DVD/Flashdrive) in Word/PDF Format. Electronic copies must reflect the original hard copy.

I or we agree to furnish the following described equipment, supplies, or services for the prices shown in accordance with specifications listed below or attached. By execution of this proposal, I hereby represent and warrant to El Paso County that I have read and understood the Proposal Documents and the Contract Documents and this proposal is made in accordance with the Proposal Documents.

Please quote prices and discounts on the following items:

#### F. O. B. El Paso County

Company	Mailing Address
Federal Tax Identification No.	City, State, Zip Code
DUNS Number (Applicable to Grant Funded	
Project)	
Representative Name & Title	Telephone Number include area code
Signature	Fax Number include area code
Date	Email Address

\*\*\*THIS MUST BE THE FIRST PAGE ON THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED\*\*\*

# Life, Voluntary Life, and Vision Insurance for the County of El Paso

RFP 22-001



Opening Date Thursday, October 7, 2021

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The County of El Paso, Texas "County" is seeking proposals for life, voluntary life, and vision insurance for its employees and Dependents, and Value Added Services including but not limited to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) software and administration of the program.

Proposals may be considered from a single offeror for all the above described services, or separate independent offerors for each of the above described services.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The County is a political subdivision of the State of Texas. The governing body of the County is the elected five-member Commissioners Court in accordance with the Texas Constitution, Article 5, §18(b). The Commissioners Court consists of the County Judge, who is elected at large to a four-year term, and four County Commissioners, each elected to represent a precinct within the county for a four- year term. In all Texas counties, the County Judge presides over Commissioners Court meetings. The County's budget year begins October 1st and ends September 30th.

As of 2014, "Wikipedia" estimated the County population at 836,698. The County's Current Active Employee population is approximately 2,800.

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The County of El Paso has decided to issue this Request for Proposal (RFP) in order to:

- Review the life, voluntary life and vision aspects of the County of El Paso's benefit programs to ensure price competitiveness, service and benefit access at optimum levels.
- 2. Maintain or improve the benefit levels in force, if economically feasible.
- 3. Improve cost minimization by investigating alternatives.
- 4. Assess long term alternatives for managing the employee benefits programs.

#### **COUNTY'S CONSULTANT**

HUB International Insurance Services, El Paso, has been engaged to assist in preparingthis RFP document, the analysis of responses and in the selection process.

#### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

- 1. The Proposer must have been in the business of providing vision insurance and/or lifeinsurance for a minimum of three (3) years.
- 2. The Proposer must be licensed to do business in Texas.

#### **CONTRACT TERMS**

The County intends to award a three-year contract from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024, with the County retaining the right to renew the contract for two (2) additional one-year renewal term, not to exceed five (5) total contract years.

#### **CONTRACT**

Any person or entity responding to this RFP will be referred to herein as a "Proposer". Any reference to "you", "your", or derivation thereof refers to any actual or potential Proposer reviewing this RFP.

Each Proposer receiving an award from the County will be expected to agree to a Contract in form and substance satisfactory to the County of El Paso and its legal counsel.

#### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

#### **Brokers or Agents**

If any person or entity was employed or retained by Proposer on a commission, percentage, or contingent fee to solicit or secure an award under this RFP, the same shall be disclosed in the response.

The Proposer must designate its representing Agent(s), if applicable, and must disclose all compensation paid to any Agents, and must confirm that the Agent(s) has completed the Agent Questionnaire portion in the Excel File.

Listed below is the County's current Life and Vision insurance providers.

Service/Benefit Description Current Vendor	
Life Insurance	Dearborn Life Insurance Company
Voluntary Life Insurance	Dearborn Life Insurance Company
Vision	Aetna Vision (EyeMed)

- 1. The current policy and addendums are included in this RFP. Proposer will offer services equal to or greater than the services currently offered. Coverage should be quoted on a no loss/ no gain basis. Actively at work requirements must be waived. It is preferred that all insurance products be offered on a group platform, with conversion and portability features. In addition, if the Proposer has other services that may be of value to the County, they may also offer them:
- 2. Attached Questionnaire The Proposer must complete all appropriate tabs in the <u>Questionnaire</u> Excel Worksheet that is attached to this RFP and include it in response in excel format.

#### **VALUE ADDED SERVICES**

In addition to the core services requested and currently provided, the County of El Paso is interested in any additional Value Added Services that your organization may offer. Proposer is invited to provide a description of any additional services that may meet that description, such as educational seminars, on site wellness support and initiatives, health fair involvement, et cetera.

The County of El Paso is also looking to partner with an insurance company that will administer the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The County currently handles FMLA internally and would like to find a viable resource to assume or assist with that responsibility. Currently, the County has an onsite representative who provides FMLA administration services for approximately five to eight hours per week. Additionally, the County, as part of the FMLA services provided, has access to AbsenceSoft, a leave management system that helps employers manage and streamline leave requests to include FMLA. Provide detailed information on how you think your company is qualified and can provide FMLA services on our behalf.

#### **ADMINISTRATION MATERIALS**

During the term of the contract, the Proposer will provide all applicable claim/enrollment forms, provider directories, survey forms, summary plan description booklets, postage and other administrative materials. All costs for these items will be included in their proposal.

#### **FUTURE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS**

The County reserves the right to modify employer contributions at any time in the future.

#### **BENEFIT PLAN YEAR**

January 1 to December 31. However, the County of El Paso reserves the right to change the plan year time frame in the future.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The County of El Paso may elect to award one (1) or more categories of the Services, or parts thereof, separately and independently to Qualified Proposers. Unless otherwise expressly stated in its proposal, a Proposer agrees to accept any such partial award, if made.

The County will entertain responses on bundled or unbundled Services. A response for unbundled Services should include all Services contained within a particular category of Services. A response for Bundled Services may be through one Proposer providing one or more categories of Services or two (2) or more Proposers submitting a joint response to this RFP.

Willingness to work with outside vendors who may provide other vital services to the County is required. In that regard, in the event the County of El Paso awards one or more categories of the Services, or parts thereof, separately and independently, each Proposer receiving an award from the County will be expected to work well with the other awarded Proposers. If any Proposer believes it may have difficulty in working well with any other potential Proposer, the same should be disclosed in the response.

Any Proposer who is under common control or ownership with any other Proposer, whether or not for the same category of Services, will disclose the same in its response. Any Proposer who is affiliated with any other Proposer, whether or not for the same category of Services, by means of a contractual or other relationship, shall disclose the same in its response.

The Proposer will provide high customer service to the County, equal to other large agencies whom they provide services. During the contract term, members shall be able to access the Proposer's customer service representative (live person, not a recording) by telephone, and/or by e-mail.

#### **PROPOSAL RESPONSES**

Each proposer is encouraged to present proposals that are based on its unique capabilities and resources and that, at the same time, recognize the County of El Paso's specific needs.

The County of El Paso will accept only one (1) proposal from each Proposer. The Proposer must disclose, if applicable, which Agent/broker they are submitting on behalf of. The Proposer may submit on behalf of different Agents but **only one (1) proposal must be submitted**. Each Agent that you are including must provide a response to the Agent Tab of the Questionnaire in order to be considered and that must be made part of your proposal. The County will determine who best suits their needs.

Do not make any changes to the questions or tables in this RFP. Proposers are welcome to elaborate and offer additional information to supplement response in separate documents.

If selected, the Proposer will furnish (if requested) copies of documents that allow the Proposer to conduct business in the State of Texas, prior to the awarding of the contract.

#### CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN YOUR PROPOSAL

The County is a political subdivision of the State of Texas and is governed by the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552, Texas Government Code (the "Act"). If your response to the RFP contains material that you consider Confidential Information, you must indicate prominently on your response which sections are considered confidential. In the event the County receives a request under the Public Information Act for information you have deemed Confidential Information, it shall promptly notify you pursuant to the requirements of the Act, which places on you the burden of establishing the confidentiality of information pursuant to the Act, see section 552.305. It is expressly agreed that the County may request a determination from the Attorney General of the

State of Texas in regard to the application of the Public Information Act to the requested information and whether the information is to be made available to the public. It is further agreed that the County, its officers and employees shall have the right to rely on the determinations of the Texas Attorney General, and that County, its officers and employees shall have no liability to Vendor for disclosure to the public in reliance on a decision by the Attorney General. Nothing in this agreement shall require Vendor or County to violate the terms of the Public Information Act.

#### **PROPOSAL FORMAT:**

The proposal must be organized and indexed in the following format and must contain, at a minimum, all listed items in the sequence indicated.

Cover Page
Letter of transmittal
Table of Contents
Proposal Narrative References
Cost

#### A. COVER PAGE

Each proposal must have the "El Paso County Signature Page" as the coverpage. The cover page must:

- Identify the RFP (i.e., Proposal for Vision and Life Insurance);
- · Identify the applicant organization;
- Identify the applicant organization's contact person;
- Identify the applicant organization's address, phone, FAX; and
- Indicate the date of the proposal.

#### **B. LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

A Letter of Transmittal must be on official business letterhead and must accompany each proposal.

The Letter of Transmittal must:

- Identify the applicant organization and contact person;
- Identify the name and title of the person authorized by the organization to contractually obligate the organization;
- Identify the legal status of the submitting organization (proprietorship, corporation, non/for-profit, etc.)
- State the number of years the organization has been in the business of providing life and/or vision insurance;
- Include federal tax number:
- Identify the name, title, telephone and FAX number of the person to be contacted for clarification;
- Explicitly indicate acceptance of all requirements of the RFP;

- Signed by the person authorized to contractually obligate the organization; and
- Acknowledge receipt of any and all amendments to this RFP.

#### C. TABLE OF CONTENTS

Immediately following the letter of transmittal, the applicant is required toprovide a table of contents that identifies all subsequent sections and pages.

#### D. PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

- a. Response to the Scope of Work Describe your organization's qualifications and experience in providing vision and/or life insurance.
- b. In addition, explain your knowledge and understanding of and experience working with governmental agencies.

#### E. COST

#### **Rates and Fees**

- 1. Whenever possible, any rates and fees should be guaranteed for the initial term of this agreement.
- 2. If your proposal contains any commissions or fees paid to non-employeesof your company then full disclosure of the fees paid, the recipient receiving any fees, and services provided by any-non-employee of your organization must be made.
- 3. All fees should be guaranteed on a per employee per month or permember per month basis for all services.
- 4. Administrative fees and rate-setting methodology for each year should be guaranteed for an initial term of 36 months or until December 31, 2019. Additional time periods should be described in the event of a contract extension. Subsequently, changes in rates and fees must be provided six (6) months in advance.
- 5. There is no prohibition against commissions being included in the price of the products offered, however, all commissions, both initial and renewal, must be fully disclosed in the proposal response.

#### F. Future Employee Contributions

With the exception of the County paid life insurance, all other lines of coverage are voluntary, and the County does not contribute toward the premium.

#### **G.** Required Attachments

- a. Attach all County-required forms
- b. Questionnaire in Excel format

#### **PROPOSAL EVALUATION:**

HUB International Insurance Services has been retained as an independent consultant by the County of El Paso and does not and will not receive any commissions from any proposer of services for products awarded in this Request for Proposal.

Proposals must be evaluated based on the requirements set forth in the RFP. Selection of the firm(s) will be at the discretion of the County and will be based on the proposal the County deems to be most responsive and responsible and serves the best interests of the County.

Selected offeror(s) will be required to make an on-site oral and visual presentation or demonstration at the request of the County. Selected offeror(s) also reserve the right to inspect the equipment on site for operation purposes. The County will schedule the time and location for inspections of equipment or any presentations. Costs and equipment for such presentations are the responsibility of the offeror.

The Proposer is cautioned that it is the Proposer's sole responsibility to submit information related to the evaluation categories and that the County is under no obligation to solicit such information if it is not included in the Proposal. Failure of the Proposer to submit such information may cause an adverse impact on the evaluation of the proposal.

Proposals will be reviewed by the County Selection Committee and will be evaluated based on the following criteria, point value indicate maximum score.

Evaluation Criteria	Score
Quality of services offered	25
Cost/Fee structure – Individual firm's fixed cost and prices, and competitiveness of quoted firm's fixed prices with other proposals received; adequacy of the data in support of figures quoted; basis on which prices are quoted. Reasonableness of ongoing support cost and price. Cost to customers and percentage of gross revenues to be paid to the County.	25
Qualification and experience of the vendor - Company's ability to perform all functions necessary in providing The Parking Facility Management services outlined in this RFP. Demonstrated experience of the company in relation to the scope and quality of service provided to customers in the past.	20
Value added benefits	15
Completeness of response - Completeness of response in accordance with RFP instructions; exceptions to or deviation from the RFP requirements; inclusion of required licenses and certifications.	10
References - Firm must provide the following reference information. The names, business address, and telephone numbers and email addresses of three (3) individuals and/or organizations who can attest to the firm's capability to carry out the requirements in this proposal.	3
<b>Health Insurance to Employee -</b> The County is authorized to allow consideration for those firms providing evidence of reasonable health insurance for their employees.	2
Total Score	100

The Proposer's failure to provide information relative to the above criteria may result in the County of El Paso deeming such proposal non-responsive and may, at its sole discretion result in elimination of said proposal from further consideration. The County of El Paso reserves the right to conduct other evaluation and measurements of the proposals as may be necessary to make an informed decision.

The County of El Paso reserves the right to return to the top candidates to request a final proposal based upon one or more components of the initial proposal. The County of El Paso reserves the right to negotiate certain terms and conditions relative to the contract(s) for particular awarded services (each, a "Contract").

#### **REFERENCES**

#### Three (3) applicable references are required.

Note: Reference responses count as part of the overall score in this category. Ensure that provided references are willing to respond, as each non-response count as a zero in scoring of this criteria

Vendor name:					
Customer name:					
Customer contact:					
Customer E-mail address:					
Duration of Contract:					
Vendor name:					
Customer name:					
Customer contact:					
Customer E-mail address:					
Duration of Contract:					
Vendor name:					
Customer name:					
Customer contact:					
Customer E-mail address:					
Duration of Contract:					

#### General Provisions County of El Paso, Texas

These General Provisions are considered standard language for all County of El Paso BIDS and Request for Proposal documents. If any "specific bid requirements" differ from the General Provisions listed here, the "specific bid requirements" shall prevail.

#### 1. BID/PROPOSAL PACKAGE

- a. The request for bid/proposal, general and special provisions, drawings, specifications/line item details, contract documents and the bid/proposal sheet are all considered part of the bid/proposal package. Bids/Proposals must be submitted on the forms provided by the County, including the bid/proposal sheet completed in its entirety and signed by an authorized representative by original signature. Failure to complete and sign the bid/proposal sheet/contract page (s) may disqualify the bid/proposal from being considered by Commissioners' Court. Any individual signing on behalf of the proposer expressly affirms that he or she is duly authorized to tender this bid/proposal and to sign the bid/proposal sheet/contract under the terms and conditions in this bid/proposal. Proposer further understands that the signing of the contract shall be of no effect unless subsequently awarded and the contract properly executed by Commissioners' Court. All figures must be written in ink or typed. Figures written in pencil or with erasures are not acceptable. However, mistakes may be crossed out, corrections inserted, and initialed in ink by the individual signing the bid/proposal. Changes must also be made to any electronic copies submitted. If there are discrepancies between unit prices quoted and extensions, the unit price will prevail. Each bidder/proposer is required to thoroughly review this entire bid/proposal packet to familiarize themselves with the bid/proposal procedures, the plans and specifications for the requested work as well as the terms, and conditions of the contract the successful proposer will execute with the County.
- b. Bid/Proposal must be in the Purchasing Department BEFORE the hour and date specified. Faxed or e-mailed bids/proposals will not be accepted. Late bids/proposals will not be considered under any circumstances.
- **c.** Any bid/proposal sent via express mail or overnight delivery must have the BID/RFP number and title clearly marked on the outside of the envelope or package. Failure to clearly identify your bid/proposal may be cause for disqualification.

#### 2. COMPETITIVENESS AND INTEGRITY

To prevent biased evaluations and to preserve the competitiveness and integrity of such acquisition efforts, proposers are to direct all communications regarding this bid/proposal to the El Paso County Purchasing Agent or assigned designee, unless otherwise specifically noted.

An authorized person from the submitting firm must sign all bids/proposals. The signature acknowledges that the proposer has read the bid/proposal documents thoroughly before submitting a bid/proposal and will fulfill the obligations in accordance to the terms, conditions, and specifications.

Please carefully review this Request for Bid/Proposal. It provides specific information necessary to aid participating firms in formulating a thorough response.

#### 3. BIDDERS'S/PROPOSER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The Bidder/Proposer must affirmatively demonstrate its responsibility. The Bidder/Proposer must also meet the following minimum requirements:

- Have been in business of providing services for a minimum of one (1) years;
- Have adequate financial resources or the ability to obtain such resources as required;
- Be able to comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances and orders regarding this Request for Bid/Proposal;
- Have satisfactory record of performance;
- Have a satisfactory record of integrity and ethics; and
- Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award.

#### 4. REJECTION OF BIDS/PROPOSALS

The County, acting through its Commissioners' Court reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all bids/proposals and waive any informality in the bids/proposals received; (2) disregard the bid/proposal of any proposer determined to be not responsible. The County further reserves the right to reject any bid/proposal due to failure of performance on deliveries as determined in writing by the County Purchasing Agent.

#### 5. RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS SPECIFICATIONS

It is the responsibility of the prospective proposer to review the entire invitation to bid/proposal packet and to notify the Purchasing Department if the specifications are formulated in a manner that would restrict competition or appear ambiguous. Any such protest or question(s) regarding the specifications or bid/proposal procedures must be received in the Purchasing Department no less than seventy-two hours prior to the time set for bid/proposal opening. Vendors are to propose as specified herein or propose an approved equal. The mention of any brand name in the specifications is not intended to be restrictive, but is intended to describe the general features and requirements (or equivalent) that the County of El Paso is seeking.

Under Local Gov't Code Section 262.005 and Health & Safety Code Section 361.426, the County is required to give preference to products made of recycled materials if they meet specs. The County is also required to encourage the use of recycled products in developing new procedures and specs. They are also required to eliminate procedures and specifications that explicitly discriminate against products made of recycled materials.

#### 6. SUBSTITUTES

It is not the County's intent to discriminate against any material of equal merit to those specified however, should the proposer desire to use any substitutions, prior written approval shall be obtained from the County Purchasing Agent sufficiently in advance in order that an addendum might be issued.

#### 7. EXCEPTIONS TO BID/PROPOSAL

The proposer will list on a separate sheet of paper any exceptions to the conditions of the bid/proposal. This sheet will be labeled, "Exceptions to Bid/Proposal Conditions", and will be attached to the bid/proposal. If no exceptions are stated, it will be

understood that all general and specific conditions will be complied with, without exception.

The Bidder/Proposer must specify in its bid/proposal any alternatives it wishes to propose for consideration by the County. Each alternative should be sufficiently described and labeled within the bid/proposal and should indicate its possible or actual advantage to the program being offered.

The County reserved the right to offer these alternatives to other proposers.

#### 8. PRICING

Bid/Proposals for equipment shall offer new (unused) equipment or merchandise unless otherwise specified. Quotes F.O.B. destination. If otherwise, show exact cost to deliver (merchandise only). Bid/Proposal will be either lump sum or unit prices as shown on the bid/proposal sheet. The net price will be delivered to the EI Paso County, including all freight or shipping charges. In case of error in extension, unit prices shall govern. BID/RFP subject to unlimited price increases will not be accepted. The County is tax exempt and no taxes should be included in your bid/proposal.

Unless prices and all information requested are complete, bid/proposal may be disregarded and given no consideration.

In case of default by the contractor, the County may procure the articles or services from other sources and may deduct from any monies due, or that may thereafter become due to the contractor, the difference between the price named in the contract of purchase order and the actual cost thereof to the County. Prices paid by the County shall be considered the prevailing market price at the time such purchase is made. Periods or performance may be extended if the facts as to the cause of delay justify such extension in the opinion of the Purchasing Agent and the Commissioners' Court.

#### 9. NON-APPROPRIATIONS

Vendor acknowledges that funding to pay for support and services referenced herein is subject to annual appropriations by Customer's governing body, and any termination, liability, indemnity, other provision in the Terms to the contrary does not apply to Customer. In the event such funds are not appropriated in any fiscal year for support and services, Customer may terminate the agreement between the parties upon no less than 30 days prior written notice without incurring any termination liability or penalty. Such termination will not affect Customer's obligation with respect to payment for satisfactory service or support received through the termination date.

#### 10. TAX EXEMPTION

Pursuant to Section 151.309 of the Texas Tax Code, El Paso County qualifies for exemption from sales, excise and use taxes imposed under the Limited Sales, Excise, and Use Tax Act, which is codified at Chapter 151 of the Texas Tax Code. In accordance with Section 151.309, a taxable item sold, leased, or rented to, or stored, used, or consumed by the County is exempt from the taxes imposed under Chapter 151.

#### 11. MODIFICATION OF BIDS/PROPOSALS

A bidder/proposer may modify a bid/proposal by letter at any time prior to the submission deadline for receipt of bids/proposals. Modification requests must be received prior to the submission deadline. Modifications made before opening time must be initialed by bidder/proposer guaranteeing authenticity. Bids/Proposals may not be amended or altered after the official opening with the single exception that any product literature and/or supporting data required by the actual specifications, if any, will be accepted at any time prior to the Commissioners' Court consideration of same. No substitutions or cancellations for merchandise will be permitted without written approval of the County Purchasing Agent.

#### 12. SIGNATURE OF BIDS/PROPOSALS

Each bid/proposal shall give the complete mailing address of the Bidder/Proposer and be signed by an authorized representative by original signature with the authorized representative's name and legal title typed below the signature line. Each bid/proposal shall include the Bidder's/Proposer's Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), failure to sign the Contract page(s) and bid/proposal response sheet will disqualify the bid/proposal from being considered by the County. The person signing on behalf of the Bidder/Proposer expressly affirms that the person is duly authorized to render the bid/proposal and to sign the bid/proposal sheets and contract under the terms and conditions of this BID/RFP and to bind the Bidder/Proposer thereto and further understands that the signing of the contract shall be of no effect until it is properly placed on the Commissioner's Court agenda, approved in open Court, authorized to be executed by the County Judge, and fully executed by both parties.

#### 13. AWARD OF BID/PROPOSALS-EVALUTATION CRITERIA AND FACTORS

#### **Pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code**

**Bids** shall be awarded to the responsible bidder that submits the lowest and best bid.

**Bid/Proposals** will be made to the responsible proposer whose bid/proposal is determined to be the best evaluated offer demonstrating the best ability to fulfill the requirements set forth in this Request for Bid/Proposal. The prices proposed will be considered firm and cannot be altered after the submission deadline. **The proposed cost to the County will be considered firm, unless the County invokes its right to request a best and final offer and cannot be altered after the submission deadline.** 

The County reserves the right to reject any or all bids/proposals in whole or in part received by reason of this BID/RFP and may discontinue its efforts under this BID/RFP for any reason or no reason or solely for the County's convenience at any time prior to actual execution of the contract by the County. County reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of the bid/proposal, waive minor technicalities, or to award by item or by total bid/proposal. Price should be itemized.

A Bidder/Proposer whose bid/proposal does not meet the mandatory requirements set forth in this BID/RFP will be considered noncompliant.

Each Bidder/Proposer, by submitting a bid/proposal, agrees that if its bid/proposal is accepted by the Commissioners' Court, such Bidder/Proposer will furnish all items and services upon the terms and conditions in this BID/RFP and contract.

Contractor shall submit to the County, for approval, within ten (10) days from notice of contract award, all Certificates of Insurance evidencing the required coverage as described under Insurance in the schedule of the Requests for Bids/Proposals.

#### 14. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT

The parties agree that the County is a governmental body for purposes of the Public Information Act, codified as Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code and as such is required to release information in accordance with the Public Information Act. Bidder/Proposer agrees that it has marked any information that it considers to be confidential, proprietary, and/or trade secret in its bid/proposal. County agrees to provide notice to Bidder/Proposer in accordance with the Public Information Act in the event the County receives a request for information under the Public Information Act for information that the Proposer has marked as confidential, proprietary, and/or trade secret.

#### 15. RESULTANT CONTRACT

The resultant contract shall become effective upon the Commissioners' Court execution of the same. The contract documents shall consist of the contract, the general and special provisions, the drawings, bid/proposal package, any addenda issued, and any change orders issued during the work.

The criteria utilized for determining responsibility of bidder/proposer(s) includes, but is not limited to, the proposer's experience, skill, ability, business judgment, financial capacity, integrity, honesty, possession of the necessary facilities or equipment, previous performance, reputation, promptness, and any other factor deemed relevant by the County to determine whether a bidder/proposer is responsible. The term of the resultant contract will begin as stated in the contract executed by the Commissioners' Court and will terminate on the date specified in the contract unless terminated earlier as herein set forth.

#### 16. ESTIMATED QUNTITIES

Any reference to quantities shown in the Request for Bids/Proposals are an estimate only. Since the exact quantities cannot be predetermined, the County reserves the right to adjust quantities as deemed necessary to meet its requirements.

#### 17. CONTRACTOR INVESTIGATION

Before submitting a bid/proposal, each contractor shall make all investigations and examinations necessary to ascertain all site conditions and requirements affecting the full performance of the contract and to verify any representations made by the County upon which the contractor will rely. If the contractor receives an award as a result of its bid/proposal submission, failure to have made such investigations and examinations will in no way relieve the contractor from its obligation to comply in every detail with all provisions and requirements of the contract, nor will a plea of ignorance of such conditions and requirements be accepted as a basis for any claim whatsoever by the contractor for additional compensation.

#### 18. NO COMMITMENT BY COUNTY

This Request for Bid/Proposal does not commit the County to award any costs or pay any costs, or to award any contract, or to pay any costs associated with or incurred in the preparation of a bid/proposal to this request, or to procure or contract for services or supplies.

#### 19. BEST AND FINAL OFFERS

In acceptance proposals, the County reserves the right to negotiate further with one or more of the contractors as to any features of their proposals and to accept modifications of the work and price when such action will be in the best interest of the County. This includes solicitations of a Best and Final Offer from one or more of the proposers. If invoked, it allows acceptable proposers the opportunity to amend, change or supplement their original proposal. Proposers may be contacted in writing requesting that they submit their best and final offer. Any such best and final offer must include discussed and negotiated changes.

#### 20 SINGLE BID/PROPOSAL RESPONSE

If only one (1) bid/proposal is received in response to the Request for Bids/Proposals, a detailed cost bid/proposal may be requested of the single contractor. A cost/price analysis and evaluation and/or audit may be performed of the cost bid/proposal in order to determine if the price is fair and reasonable.

#### 21. REJECTION/DISQUALIFICATION OF BIDS/PROPOSALS

El Paso County reserves the right to reject any or all bids/proposals in whole or in part received by reason of this bid/proposal package and may discontinue its efforts for any reason under this bid/proposal package at any time prior to actual execution of the Contract by the County. Bidders/Proposers may be disqualified and rejection of bid/proposals may be recommended to the Commissioners' Court for any of (but not limited to) the following causes:

- A. Failure to use the bid/proposal form(s) furnished by the County, if applicable.
- B. Lack of signature by an authorized representative that can legally bind the company on the bid/proposal form.
- C. Failure to properly complete the bid/proposal.
- D. Bids/proposals that do not meet the mandatory requirements.
- E. Evidence of collusion among bidders/proposers.

#### 22. CHANGES IN SPECIFICATIONS

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this bid/proposal, a written notice of such revision will be posted on the County Purchasing website. The County is not bound by any oral representations, clarifications, or changes made in the written specifications by the County's employees, unless such clarification or change is posted on the County Purchasing website. It shall be Bidder's/Proposer's responsibility to check the website prior to the bid/proposal opening date to verify whether any addendums have been posted.

#### 23. BID/PROPOSAL IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

The County reserves the right to adopt or use for its benefits, any concept, plan, or idea contained in any bid/proposal.

#### 24. BID/PROPOSAL DISCLOSURES

Results of bids/proposals for the purchase of goods, materials, general services and construction are considered public information at the time of the bid/proposal opening. All information contained in the bid/proposal response is available for public review.

The Proposal for Services: Only the names of those who submitted proposals will be made public information until an award is made by Commissioners' Court and contract executed by the parties. No price, staffing or other proposal information will be released. Proposers are requested to withhold all inquiries regarding their proposal or other submissions until after an award is made. No communication is to be had with any County employee, other than the Purchasing Agent, regarding whether a proposal was received. Violations of this provision may result in the rejection of a proposal.

#### 25. WITHDRAWAL OF BID/PROPOSAL

Bidders/Proposers may request withdrawal of a sealed bid/proposal prior to the scheduled bid/proposal opening time provided the request for withdrawal is submitted to the Purchasing Agent in writing. No bids/proposals may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) calendar days after opening of the bids/proposals.

#### 26. INDEMNIFICATION

A. The contractor shall agree to assume all risks and responsibility for, and agrees to indemnify, defend, and save harmless, the County, its elected and appointed officials and department heads, and its agents and employees from and against all claims, demands, suits, actions, recoveries, judgments, and costs and expenses including reasonable attorney's fees for the defense thereof in connection therewith on account of the loss of life property or injury or damage to the person which shall arise from contractor's operations under this contract, its use of County facilities and/or equipment or from any other breach on the part of the contractor, its employees, agents or any person(s) in or about the County's facilities with the expressed or implied consent of the County. Contractor shall pay any judgment with cost which may be obtained against El Paso County resulting from contractor's operations under this contract.

Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold the County harmless from all claims of subcontractors, laborers incurred in the performance of this contract. Contractor shall furnish satisfactory evidence that all obligations of this nature herein above designated have been paid, discharged or waived. If Contractor fails to do so, then the County reserves the right to pay unpaid bills of which County has written notice direct and withhold from Contractor's unpaid compensations a sum of money reasonably sufficient to liquidate any and all such lawful claims.

B. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 262.032(b), any successful bidder who is awarded any contract in excess of \$50,000 may be required to execute a performance bond to the County. Said bond shall be in the full amount of the contract and must be furnished within 30 days after the date a purchase

order is issued or the contract is signed and prior to commencement of the actual work. A performance bond required pursuant to this section shall be noted in the attached detailed bid specifications or scope of work. This section does not apply to a performance bond required by Chapter 2253, Texas Government Code.

#### 27. PROOF OF INSURANCE

Successful proposer agrees to keep in full force and effect, a policy of public liability and property damage insurance issued by a casualty company authorized to do business in the State of Texas, and in standard form approved by the Board of Insurance Commissioners' of the State of Texas, with coverage provision insuring the public from any loss or damage that may arise to any person or property by reason of services limits of not less than the following sums:

## INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE COUNTY OF EL PASO

#### **GENERAL LIABILITY:**

\$1,000,000 - Each Occurrence

\$1,000,000 - General Aggregate

\$1,000,000 - Personal & Advertising Injury

\$1,000,000 - Products/Completed Operations - Aggregate

\$5,000 - Premises Medical Expense

\$500,000 - Fire Legal Damage Liability

County named as "Additional Insured"

Waiver of Subrogation

#### **AUTOMOBILE:**

\$1,000,000 - Each Occurrence

County named as "Additional Insured"

Waiver of Subrogation

#### WORKERS COMPENSATION:

\$1,000,000 - Employers Liability - Each Accident

\$1,000,000 - Employers Liability - Each Employee

\$1,000,000 - Employers Liability - Disease - Policy Limit

Statutory Limits

Waiver of Subrogation

#### **CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS** additional requirements:

Builders Risk Policy for total amount of completed project

Bid Bond

Performance & Payment Bond

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES additional requirements:

Limit of \$1,000,000 for E&O/Professional Insurance.

#### CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

In the remarks section should include job description or project name and/or number. Successful bidder shall carry in full force Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy (ies), if there is more than one employee, for all employees, including but not limited to full time, part time, and emergency employees employed by the successful bidder. Current insurance Certificates certifying that

such policies as specified above are in full force and effect shall be furnished by successful bidder to the County. Insurance is to be placed with insurers having a best rating of no less than A. The Bidder shall furnish the County with certificates of insurance and original endorsements affecting coverage required by these insurance clauses within ten (10) business days of execution of this contract. The certificates and endorsements for each insurance policy are to be signed by a person authorized by the insurer to bind coverage on its behalf. The Bidder shall be required to submit annual renewals for the term of this contract prior to expiration of any policy.

In addition to the remedies stated herein, the County has the right to pursue other remedies permitted by law or in equity. The County agrees to provide Bidder with reasonable and timely notice of any claim, demand, or cause of action made or brought against the County arising out of or related to utilization of the property. Proposer shall have the right to defend any such claim, demand or cause of action at its sole cost and expense and within its sole and exclusive discretion. The County agrees not to compromise or settle any claim or cause of action arising out of or related to the utilization of the property without the prior written consent of the Bidder. In no event shall the County be liable for any damage to or destruction of any property belonging to the Bidder.

County of El Paso shall be listed as the additional insured on policy certificates and shall be notified of changes to the policy during the contractual period.

The County reserves the right to review the insurance requirements during the effective period of the contract and to require adjustment of insurance coverage and their limits when deemed necessary and prudent by the County based upon changes in statutory law, court decisions, or the claims history of the industry as well as the contractor.

#### 28. BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

In accordance with Chapter 2270 of the Texas Government Code, a company, other than a sole proprietorship, with ten or more full time employees is required to certify in writing that it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract, if the contract has a value of \$100,000 or more.

#### 29. MANDATORY DISCLOSURES:

Texas law requires the following disclosures by vendors:

## Conflict of Interest Disclosure Reporting (required of all vendors responding to the Bid/RFP/RFQ)

Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor or person considering doing business with a local government entity make certain disclosures. In 2015, the Texas Legislature updated the law and the Texas Ethics Commission made corresponding changes to the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ Form), in which the vendor must disclose any covered affiliation or business relationship with County personnel that might cause a conflict of interest with a local government entity. A list of County elected officials and employees that will award the bid/proposal and/or make recommendations for award are included in this bid/proposal. By law, a completed questionnaire must be filed with the County of El Paso County, Texas. If no conflict of

interest exists, write "N/A" or "None" in Box 3 of the CIQ Form. For vendor's convenience, a blank CIQ Form is enclosed with this bid/proposal. Blank CIQ Forms may also be obtained by visiting the Purchasing Department website at: <a href="http://epcounty.com/purchasing/bids/default.htm">http://epcounty.com/purchasing/bids/default.htm</a>

## Disclosure of Interested Parties (only required of vendors who are awarded the Bid/RFP/RFQ)

In 2015, the Texas Legislature added Section 2252.908 to Chapter 2252 of the Texas Government Code. Pursuant to Section 2252.908, for contracts entered into January 1, 2016 and after, the awarded vendor must submit to the County a completed "Certificate of Interested Parties" form, which will be included in the Commissioners Court agenda at the time the contract is approved and sent to the Texas Ethics Commission within 30 days thereafter.

Compliance with this new requirement requires logging into the Texas Ethics Commission website, at: <a href="https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf">https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf</a> info form1295.htm Several instructional videos are available there.

#### 30 NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT

The contractor declares, by signing and submitting a bid/proposal, that the bid/proposal is not made in the interest of, or on behalf of, any undisclosed person, partnership, company, association, organization, or corporation; that the bid/proposal is genuine and not collusive or sham; that the contractor has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited another contractor to put in a false or sham bid/proposal, and has not directly or indirectly colluded, conspired, connived, or agreed with any contractor or anyone else to put in a sham bid/proposal, of that anyone shall refrain from bidding; that the contractor has not in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement, communications, or conference with anyone to fix the bid/proposal price of the contractor of any other bidder/proposer, or to fix any overhead, profit or cost element of the bid/proposal price, or of that of any other contractor, or to secure any advantage against the public body awarding the contract of anyone interested in the proposed contract, that all statements contained in the bid/proposal are true; and further, that the contractor has not, directly or indirectly, submitted his or her bid/proposal price or any breakdown thereof, or the contents thereof, or divulged information or data relative thereto, or paid, and will not pay, any fee to any cooperation, partnership, company association, organization, bid/proposal depository, or to any member or agent thereof to effectuate a collusive or sham bid/proposal.

Non negotiations, decisions, or cautions shall be initiated by any company as a result of any result of any verbal discussion with any County employee prior to the opening of responses to this Request for Bid/Proposal.

No officer or employee of the County, and no other public or elected official, or employee, who may exercise any function or responsibilities in the review or approval of this undertaking, shall have any personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or negotiation process thereof. The above compliance request will be part of all County contracts for this service.

#### 31. SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

The County specifically reserves any claim it may have to sovereign, qualified, or official immunity as a defense to any action arising in conjunction with this contract.

#### 32. MERGERS, ACQUISITIONS

The Bidder/Proposer shall be required to notify the County of any potential for merger or acquisition of which there is knowledge at the time that a bid/proposal is submitted.

If subsequent to the award of any contact resulting from this BID/RFP the Bidder/Proposer shall merge or be acquired by another firm, the following documents must be submitted to the County.

- 1. Corporate resolutions prepared by the awarded Proposer and the new entity ratifying acceptance of the original contract, terms, conditions and prices;
- 2. New Bidder's/Proposer's Federal Identification Number (FEIN); and
- 3. New Bidder's/Proposer's proposed operating plans.

Moreover, Bidder/Proposer is required to provide the County with notice of any anticipated merger or acquisition as soon as Bidder/Proposer has actual knowledge of the anticipated merger or acquisition. The new Bidder's/Proposer's proposed plan of operation must be submitted prior to merger to allow time for submission of such plan to the Commissioners' Court for its approval.

#### 33. DELAYS

The County reserves the right to delay the scheduled commencement date of the contract if it is to the advantage of the County. There shall be no additional costs attributed to these delays should any occur. Bidder/Proposer agrees it will make no claim for damages, for damages for lost revenues, for damages caused by breach of contract with third parties, or any other claim by Bidder/Proposer attributed to these delays, should any occur. In addition, Bidder/Proposer agrees that any contract it enters into with any third party in anticipation of the commencement of the contract will contain a statement that the third party will similarly make no claim for damages based on delay of the scheduled commencement date of the contract.

#### 34. ACCURACY OF DATA

Information and data provided through this BID/RFP are believed to be reasonably accurate.

#### 35. SUBCONTRACTING/ASSIGNMENT

Bidder/Proposer shall not assign, sell, or otherwise transfer its contact in whole or in part without prior written permission of Commissioners' Court. Such consent, if granted, shall not relieve the Bidder/Proposer of any of its responsibilities under this contract.

#### 36. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Bidder/Proposer expressly acknowledges that it is an independent contractor. Nothing in this agreement is intended nor shall be construed to create an agency relationship, an employer/employee relationship, a joint venture relationship, or any other relationship

allowing County to exercise control or direction over the manner or method by which Bidder/Proposer or its subcontractors perform in providing the requirements stated in the Request for Bid/Proposal.

#### 37. MONITORING PERFORMANCE

The County shall have the unfettered right to monitor and audit the Vendor's work in every respect. In this regard, the Vendor shall provide its full cooperation and insure the cooperation of its employees, agents, assigns, and subcontractors. Further, the Vendor shall make available for inspection and/or copying when requested, original data, records, and accounts relating to the Bidder's/Proposer's work and performance under this contract. In the event any such material is not held by the vendor in its original form, a true copy shall be provided.

The County of El Paso is an equal opportunity employer.

#### 38. PROCUREMENT ETHICS

#### **CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING AFFIDAVIT FORM**

#### El Paso County Code of Ethics Training Requirement for Vendors:

Any vendor involved in a single procurement exceeding \$50,000 must read and sign the El Paso County Code of Ethics Training Affidavit that is included in each bid/proposal packet. By reading and signing the Affidavit form, the bidder has confirmed that they have been trained in the El Paso County Code of Ethics. The training must be completed by an officer, principal, or other person with the authority to bind the company.

**Optional On-Line Training:** As an alternative to reading and completing the El Paso County Code of Ethics Training Affidavit, in compliance with Section 161 of the Texas Local Government Code, the training on the El Paso County Code of Ethics is accessible in an online format to Vendors and Lobbyists on an ongoing basis, subject only to limitations due to technical resources.

The optional On-Line Training may be accessed and completed at: http://www.epcounty.com/ethicscom/training.htm

If completed on-line, the training receipt should be printed out and included with the BID/RFP/RFQ/RFI.

#### **COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**

CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING LOBBYING, DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS; DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS; FEDERAL DEBT STATUS, AND NONDISCRIMINATION STATUS AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS\*

Instructions for the certifications:

#### General Requirements

The County of El Paso, Texas is required to obtain from all applicants of federal funds or pass-through certifications regarding federal debt status, debarment and suspension, and a drug free workplace. Institutional applicants are required to certify that they will comply with the nondiscrimination statutes and implementing regulations.

Applicants should refer to the regulations cited below to determine the certifications to which they are required to attest. Signature of the form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 21 CFR part 1405, "New Restrictions on Lobbying," 21 CFR part 1414, Government wide Debarment and Suspension (Non procurement), Certification Regarding Federal Debt Status (0MB Circular A-129), and Certification Regarding the Nondiscrimination Statutes and Implementing Regulations. The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the County of El Paso determines to award the covered cooperative agreement

#### 1. LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented in 21 CFR part 1405, for persons entering into a cooperative agreement over \$100,000, as defined at 21 CPR Part 1405, the applicant certifies that;

- (a) No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, and officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making of any Federal grant, the entering into continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal grant or cooperative agreement,
- (b) 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 Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal Grant or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form -LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions:
- (c) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award document for all sub-awards at all tiers (including sub-grants, contracts under grants and cooperative agreements, and subcontracts) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

#### 1. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

As required by Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension and implemented at 21 CFR Part 1404, for prospective participants in primary covered transactions

- A. The applicant certifies that it and its principals:
  - (a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, sentenced to a denial of Federal benefits by a State or Federal court, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;

- (b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application been convicted of or and a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- (c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default; and
- B. Where the applicant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, he or she shall attach an explanation to the application.

#### 2. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

As required by the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988, and implemented at 21 CFR Part 1404 Subpart F.

- A. The applicant certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug free workplace by:
  - (a). Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the applicant's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition;
  - (b) Establishing an on-going drug free awareness program to inform employees about:
    - (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
    - (2) The applicant's policy of maintaining a drug free workplace;
    - (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
    - (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violation occurring in the workplace;
  - (c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph
  - (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee must
    - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
    - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction.
  - (e) Notifying the agency, in writing, within 10 calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such convictions. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice including position title, to: The County of El Paso, Texas, 500 East San Antonio Street, Suite 406, El Paso, Texas 79901. Notice shall include the identification number of each affected grant
  - (f) Taking one of the following actions within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted:
    - (1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
    - (2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency

- (g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).
- 3. CERTIFICATION REGARDING FEDERAL DEBT STATUS (0MB Circular A-129)

The Applicant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it is not delinquent in the repayment of any federal debt.

4. CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATION STATUTES AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

The applicant certifies that it will comply with the following nondiscrimination statues and their implementing regulations: (a) title VI of the Civil right Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000D et seq.) which provides that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the applicant received federal financial assistance; (b) Section 504 of the rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance; (c) title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972m as amended (20 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance; and (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and amended (42 U.S.C. 6101 ec seq.) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance, except that actions which reasonably take age into account as a factor necessary for the normal operation or achievement of any statutory objective of the project or activity shall not violate this statute.

s the duly authorized representative of the appli- ne above certifications.	cant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with
ic above confineations.	
Business Name	Date
Name of Authorized Representative	Signature of Authorized Representative

\*All three (3) pages of this document must be included in all responses.

#### **HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS QUESTIONNAIRE**

Texas Local Government Code Section 262.0271 states the County may give preference to bidders that provide reasonable health insurance coverage to its employees, over a bidder that doesn't provide such insurance. Complete the questionnaire below if applicable. If not, check box #3.

Do you or your subcontractor(s) currently offer health insurance benefits to your employees?					
If so, please describe those health subcontractor(s) currently provide/o	insurance benefits that you or your offer to your employees.				
What percentage, if any, of your subcontractor's employees are currently enrolled in the health insurance benefits program?					
No. The bidder is not requesting t	the Health Insurance Benefits Preference.				
Checking Box #3 will not disqua selection process.	lify you from participating in this bid				
Susiness Name	Date				
lame of Authorized Representative	Signature of Authorized Representative				

\* This page must be included in all responses.



#### **COUNTY OF EL PASO**

County Purchasing Department 800 E. Overland, RM 300 El Paso, Texas 79901 (915) 546-2048 (915) 546-8180 Fax

RE: RFP 22-001, Life, Voluntary Life, and Vision Insurance for the County of El Paso

#### Dear Vendor:

The Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 requires all vendors and potential vendors who contract or seek to contract for the sale or purchase of property, goods, or services with any local government entity to complete and submit a Conflicts of Interest Questionnaire. Attached is a copy of the Questionnaire.

In filling out the Questionnaire, the following are the County Officers that will award the bid and the employees which will make a recommendation to the Commissioners' Court:

County Officers: County Judge Ricardo A. Samaniego

Commissioner Carlos Leon Commissioner David Stout Commissioner Iliana Holguin Commissioner Carl L. Robinson

County Employees: Debra Carrejo-Trull CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent

Jose Lopez, Jr., Assistant Purchasing Agent

Betsy Keller, County Administrator Elvia Jauregui, Purchasing Manager Araceli Hernandez, Formal Bid Buyer Blanca Guereca, Procurement Data Analyst Claudia Parra, Procurement Data Analyst

Edward Dion, County Auditor

Barbara Franco, Auditor First Assistant

Wallace Hardgrove, Budget & Financial Manager

Christina Ford, Division Chief

Eddie Sosa, First Assistant County Attorney Erich Morales, Assistant County Attorney Diana Shearer, Assistant County Attorney Kevin McCary, Assistant County Attorney Patricia Lopez, Assistant County Attorney

Lorena Rodriguez, Analyst

Sam Trujillo: Senior Deputy Human Resources Officer Michelle Cochrane: Deputy Human Resources Officer

Verenice Acosta: HR Manager Natalia Chaparro: HR Manager

Lorena Rodriguez: Contract Administrator Joanna Faudoa: Senior HR Generalist

Debbie lopez, HUB International (Director of Data Analyst) Randy McGraw HUB Internaltional (Senior Vice President)

Armando Arrieta HUB Internation (Consultant)

#### FORM CIQ CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE For vendor doing business with local governmental entity OFFICE USE ONLY This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session. This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who Date Received has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a). By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code. A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor. 1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity. Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.) Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed. Name of Officer 4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary. A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor? Yes B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity? Yes No Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more. 6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1). 7 Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity Date

Form provided by Texas Ethics Commission

www.ethics.state.tx.us

Revised 11/30/2015

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

A complete copy of Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code may be found at http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm. For easy reference, below are some of the sections cited on this form.

<u>Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a):</u> "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on:

- (A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity;
- (B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or
- (C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

#### Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A) and (B):

- (a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:
  - (2) the vendor:
    - (A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that
      - (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or
      - (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;
    - (B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:
      - (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or
      - (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

#### Local Government Code § 176.006(a) and (a-1)

- (a) Avendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:
  - (1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);
  - (2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or
  - (3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.
- (a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:
  - (1) the date that the vendor:
    - (A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or
    - (B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or
  - (2) the date the vendor becomes aware:
    - (A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);
    - (B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or
    - (C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.

Effective January 1, 2016, Texas Legislature adopted <u>House Bill 1295</u>, which states that a governmental agency may not enter into certain contracts with a business entity, unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties to the governmental entity. This Certificate of Interested Parties - Form 1295 must be submitted before the county can enter into the contract

- The Form 1295 must be submitted online at <a href="https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf\_info\_form1295.htm">https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf\_info\_form1295.htm</a>.
- Upon completion, you will be provided a verification printout.
- The printout must be notarized and then submitted to the County of El Paso for verification.

Upon the County's receipt of your notarized Form 1295, the contracting process can begin. Failure to complete and submit the Form 1295 will delay the contract from possibly being awarded and could result in loss of the contract

#### **Safety Record Questionnaire**

The following definitions and criteria shall be used to take into account the safety records of bidders:

Bidder – Includes any person who is an officer of, is in a management position with, or has an ownership interest in the firm, corporation, partnership, or institution, represented by the bidder or anyone acting for such firm, corporation, partnership or other entity which is submitting the response or proposal.

Worker Safety – refers to the working environment at the bidders' company, offices, jobsites, and any other place in which it does business. The term encompasses all factors that impact the safety, health, and well-being of employees. Work safety may include the prevention, enforcement, and/or remediation of environmental hazards, unsafe working conditions or processes, drug and alcohol abuse, and workplace violence. Workplace safety is monitored by state and national authorities such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Public Safety - involves protecting the public — safeguarding people from crimes, disaster, and other potential dangers and threats (including, without limitation, environmental hazards and safety threats).

Environmental Safety - Refers to pollution prevention as well as the prevention of other threats to the environment and protecting anyone that may be affected by pollution. It also includes the safe storage, use, disposal of various chemicals (including, without limitation, toxic chemicals) that may be used in workplaces, job sites, or other work areas.

Violation - Refers to any activity, occurrence, or condition that disregards established laws and regulations, results in non-compliance with, or results in a written complaint or other written claim from, a Governmental Authority with respect to applicable or governing law.

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1)	Within the past five (5) years of this Bid submittal, can the bidder identify any civil litigation, which resulted in final judgment against the Bidder, arising out of the performance of a construction contract within the State of Texas in which the Bidder was a named defendant in a lawsuit brought by or against the Owner. Do not include litigation which is limited solely to enforcement of mechanics' liens or stop notices. $\square$ Yes $\square$ No
2)	Within the past five (5) years of this Bid submittal, has the bidder received any final determinations by a court or governmental agency for violations of Federal, State, or local laws including, but not limited to, violations of environmental safety laws, public health and safety laws, the Occupational Safety and Health Act ("OSHA") or similar laws or regulations. $\square$ Yes $\square$ No
3)	Within the past five (5) years of this Bid submittal, can the bidder identify with any criminal convictions concerning any environmental safety, worker safety, or public safety laws. $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No
	ne bidder has indicated "Yes" to any question above, the bidder must provide with its bid omission the form titled <b>Self-Disclosure of Environmental Safety Violations</b> .
	ne bidder has indicated "No" to ALL questions above, the bidder must provide with its bid omission the form titled <i>Civil Litigation Certification</i> .
	Name:
	Date:

## **Civil Litigation Certification**

If the Bidder has no civil litigation history to report as described above, complete the following:					
I, (print name of own	er, officer, mana	ger, or licensee re	esponsible for	, certify that neither submission of Bid/Proposal)	
	(Bidder nar	ne as shown on E	Bid/Proposal)		
nor					
(name of res	sponsible managi	ing person license	ed by the Cont	ractors' State License Board)	
has been the sub	ject of a final ju	ıdgment in civil l	itigation as d	escribed above.	
I declare under p	enalty of perjur	y that the forego	oing is true ar	nd correct.	
Executed this	day	of	at		
	(	month and year)		(city and state)	
by				for submission of Bid/Proposal)	
(signature of a	wner officer ma	anager or license	a raenoneihla	for submission of Rid/Proposal)	

#### **Self-Disclosure of Environmental Safety Violations**

## Contact Information for Individual Submitting the Self-Disclosure First Name: Middle Name (or initial):\_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Is the individual submitting this self-disclosure authorized by the company to make such a disclosure and is this person an authorized signatory (having authority to perform policy or decision-making functions of the company)? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_No Facility/Site Information Facilities/sites involved with this environmental violation(s): Note: If more than one facility/site is involved with the environmental violation(s), please indicate the number of facilities/sites below and attach a separate sheet for each violation to your final submission with the physical address for each facility/site, and identify which facilities/sites have which violation(s). Facility/Site Physical Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Address: City: \_\_\_\_ State: Zip:

#### Describe Environmental Safety Violation

NOTE: Each safety violation should be described as completely as possible and include the following information:

- Nature and description of violation(s) and specific regulatory, permit and/or statutory provision violated (include state references where appropriate).
- Identify the name, title, and employer of each person who discovered the safety violation, and what they were doing when the violation was discovered.
- How the safety violation was discovered; i.e., describe the moment at which the person first realized (objectively reasonable basis) that the violation(s) may have occurred or did occur.
- Physical location of violation.

- Please provide the date of discovery of each safety violation disclosed.
- · How the safety violation was corrected and how any harm was remediated.
- Describe any environmental or human harm caused by the violation, and any measures undertaken to remediate such harm.
- Describe what steps were taken to prevent recurrence of the violation and provide the date that those measures were implemented. If the measures have not yet been implemented, provide the implementation schedule setting forth the dates of the anticipated actions.
- The name and court case identification number of each case.
- The jurisdiction in which it was filed.
- The outcome of the litigation, e.g., the cause number and date of any final judgment that was entered.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, nor have I withheld any relevant information in my statements.						
Executed this	day	of_ (month and year)	at	(city and state)		
by(signature of ov	vner, officer, m	anager, or licens	ee responsible	e for submission of Bid/Proposal)		

CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES					FORM <b>1295</b>		
	Complete Nos. 1 - 4 and 6 if the Complete Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6		OFFIC	E USE ONLY			
Name of business entity filing form, and the city, state and country of the business entity's place of business.							
2	Name of governmental entity or stat which the form is being filed.	e agency that is a party to the contract for					
3		ed by the governmental entity or state ago ds or services to be provided under the co			ntify the contract,		
4	Name of Interested Party	City, State, Country	Natu	ure of Interest (check applicable			
L	·	(place of business)	Co	ntrolling	Intermediary		
5	Check only if there is NO Interested	Party.					
6	6 AFFIDAVIT I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the above disclosure is true and correct.						
	Signature of authorized agent of contracting business entity  AFFIX NOTARY STAMP / SEAL ABOVE						
	Sworn to and subscribed before me, by the said				day		
	of, 20, to cert	ify which, witness my hand and seal of office.					
	Signature of officer administering oath	Printed name of officer administering oath		Title of office	er administering oath		
Г	ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY						

Form provided by Texas Ethics Commission

www.ethics.state.tx.us

Adopted 10/5/2015

#### COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS Check List

## RFP 22-001 Life, Voluntary Life, and Vision Insurance for the County of El Paso

## THIS CHECKLIST IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE Responses should be delivered to the County Purchasing Department by 2:00 p.m., Thursday, October 7, 2021. No in-person submittals are allowed. Vendors must mail via USPS or third-party carrier (i.e. Fed-Ex/UPS). The County of El Paso is not responsible for late deliveries of any kind or any reason. Did you visit our website (www.epcounty.com) for any addendums? Did you sign the Proposal Signature Page? Did you sign the "Certifications Regarding Lobbying, Debarment," Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements: Federal Debt Status, and Nondiscrimination Status And Implementing Regulations" document? If seeking preference, did you sign the "Health Insurance Benefits" Questionnaire"? Did you sign and complete the required "Conflict of Interest Questionnaire"? Did you sign and complete the required "Safety Records Policy"? Did you complete and sign the required "Ethics Training Affidavit Form"? Did you provide one original and two (2) electronic versions of the complete proposal (CD/DVD/Flash drive) in Word/PDF Format? Electronic copies must reflect original hard copy.