

ROGUE VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, CENTRAL POINT, OREGON REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

U.S. EPA Brownfield Grant Application and Implementation Assistance

RFQ Release Date: August 7, 2020

Proposal Due Date: August 28, 2020

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Purpose of this Request for Proposals

The Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Central Point, Oregon (RVCOG), through this Request for Qualifications (RFQ), is seeking a qualified environmental consulting and/or planning firm to provide assistance with: (a) securing United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and potentially other federal or state grants for the assessment, cleanup, or redevelopment of brownfields properties within the coalition areas of Medford, Central Point, and Grants Pass Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB), and Jackson County's White City Urban Containment Boundary (UCB), portions of Josephine County (under consideration) and (b) implementation of environmental assessment, remedial planning, community outreach, and other environmental or planning components of grants for which funding is secured. The initial focus for the contract will be securing a U.S. EPA assessment grant as part of the U.S. EPA's annual Brownfields Grant Competition, for which it is anticipated grant applications will be due on/or around December 9, 2020. This solicitation is being issued in part to comply with Federal procurement standards outlined in CFR §31.36 that are applicable to hiring of consulting firms to assist communities with grants awarded by the U.S. EPA.

1.2 Background Information

Brownfields are defined by U.S. EPA as: *"real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant"*

The purpose of the U.S. EPA brownfields assessment grant is to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments (ESAs) at brownfield sites located within the coalition areas of Medford, Central Point, and Grant Pass Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB), and Jackson County's White City Urban Containment Boundary (UCB). RVCOG formed a coalition with Central Point, Medford, Grants Pass and Jackson County to address properties within their respective boundaries for an initial Community Wide Assessment Grant. Portions of Josephine County are being considered for inclusion in the grant application. The objectives of the project may expand at a later date to include actual cleanup of individual sites targeted for assessment, depending on the future availability of funding. The successful consultant will bring experience and insight to a partnership with RVCOG to obtain and implement these grants as well as explore other grants and brownfields initiatives as funds become available.

The number and location of brownfield sites within the potential coalition areas of Medford, Central Point, and Grant Pass Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB), and Jackson County's White City Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) is presently incomplete, as well as the economic impact of these sites in depressing property values and hindering redevelopment of high priority areas. One outcome of the U.S. EPA assessment grants, if secured, will be to refine and update (or create for Grants Pass and/or Josephine County) an inventory and other information related to these sites to allow for more effective planning by

the potential coalition members in furthering their assessment, cleanup if necessary, and redevelopment.

The grant will also include consideration of (but not be limited to) other potential elements of brownfield programs including Area Wide Planning, Remedial planning, and public outreach. The consultant/planning firm will work with the Coalition members to implement some or all of these elements if funding is awarded.

1.3 Type of Contract and Contract Term

RVCOG prefers to award a contract to one full-service firm to serve as a partner in successfully obtaining initial U.S. EPA brownfield grant funding and then achieving the goals within the subsequent U.S. EPA Cooperative Agreement (CA) and Work Plan. The contract period will begin after RVCOG contract approval on September 11th, 2020, and continue through the subsequent implementation period for any successful grants. The contract period may be extended at the option of RVCOG if additional grant funds are obtained.

1.4 Payment Procedures

Payments for grant preparation services will be on a lump sum basis, as outlined below in the Cost section. Payments for implementation of any successful grants will be made no more than monthly, for work specified and completed and in accordance with the budget developed and approved by RVCOG and the EPA.

2. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

2.1 Activities Required Under this Request for Qualifications

This RFQ is to solicit for a qualified consultant who is expected to provide a wide range of potential grant, assessment, and planning services to RVCOG. The scope of work to be performed by the successful consultant at a minimum is expected to include:

- Assisting RVCOG with the preparation of applications for U.S. EPA Community-Wide Assessment Grants for Petroleum (\$300,000) and Hazardous Substances (\$300,000) for FY2021.
- Provide assistance with revision and resubmittal of application(s) as part of the FY2021/2022+1 competition, if the one or more of the initial applications is unsuccessful.
- Provide assistance with development of U.S. EPA-required project work plan(s) for applications that are successful.
- Prepare and maintain schedules and budgets for assessment or cleanup activities.
- Conduct and oversee site assessment studies and prepare appropriate technical reports required by the U.S. EPA and Oregon DEQ in print and electronic format.
- Field investigations including sample collection and lab analysis.
- Interviews with neighboring property owners.
- Evaluation of cleanup options and risk assessment analysis and costs.
- Preparation of a written Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) in compliance with U.S. EPA regulations.
- Delivery to RVCOG completed Phase I and Phase II ESA reports, site investigation reports, response action plans and other environmental reports or plans required under the applicable Oregon environmental regulations.
- Project management, implementation, and/or technical oversight.
- Professional advice regarding environmental issues associated with land reuse/redevelopment.
- Provide regulatory and financial information as needed.
- Attend meetings of RVCOG and advisory committees as requested.

- Prepare presentations to provide information about the project's progress as requested.
- Assist with conductance of community-wide inventory of potential hazardous substance and petroleum brownfields sites.
- Develop preliminary budget, financing options and implementation plan for cleanup/reuse.
- Complete contaminant characterization and risk assessments as determined necessary following Phase II activities (as funds allow).
- Involve public and private opportunities for citizen participation throughout all phases of projects.
- Comprehensive community outreach program and public participation program.
- Implement site specific cleanup or remediation (if future funding becomes available through this or another grant funded program).
- Redevelopment planning and market research as related to environmental site reuse.

2.2 Project Budget

The total budget for each U.S. EPA brownfield assessment grant for assessment coalitions is \$600,000. RVCOG and the successful consultant will develop budgets for assessment activities at individual sites as the project progresses as specific sites are identified for assessment. The budget for any future related grants executed under this contract will be negotiated with the consultant if and when such funding becomes available. It will be RVCOG's option whether or not to utilize this contract for future brownfields grants beyond the initial U.S. EPA assessment grant application and implementation projects.

2.3 Project Management

The successful consultant, under the direction from RVCOG, will:

1. Work with RVCOG in writing the text for the grant application.
2. Compile any associated demographic data to bolster the grant application.
3. Assist RVCOG with solicitation of support from local stakeholders including letters as needed.
4. Review existing comprehensive plans as they relate to redevelopment within the Medford, Central Point, and Grant Pass UGBS and White City UCB and specific site reuse.
5. Facilitate community outreach activities as needed to enhance the grant application.
6. Coordinate any necessary activities with U.S. EPA Region 10 staff for U.S. EPA grant(s).

3. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 General Expectations

Consultants are asked to submit concise proposals describing their capacity and success within the U.S. EPA brownfield grant program as well as their ability to manage and implement these types of grant-funded projects on behalf of local units of government. The proposals should include a clear outline of how the firm would help RVCOG in preparing successful grant applications as well as the firm's ability to fully and effectively meet the requirements of assisting with implementation of grant(s) secured.

3.2 Proposals

Proposals should be prepared on standard size paper and limited to ten single sided (10) pages, exclusive of a maximum of five (5) resumes, limited to 2 pages each. Standard advertising brochures should not be included in the proposal. The proposal shall include the following information in the order presented below:

Business Organization. This section shall include the firm's name, areas of expertise, a brief

history of the firm, size, office locations, and business addresses. The name, address, and telephone number of a contact person and/or prospective project manager regarding the proposal shall be included.

Management Outline and Project Approach. A description of the project and how the consulting firm will work with RVCOG in preparing successful U.S. EPA brownfields assessment grant application(s) and subsequent implementation of said brownfields grants. This section shall include the applicant's approach to grant preparation, community outreach activities, planning, organization, and management. Each consulting firm shall provide a list of proposed key personnel.

Experience and Capabilities. The relevant management and technical experience and capabilities of the consulting firm shall be defined with respect to the following activities related to implementation of any successful grants:

A. Project Experience of Key Personnel:

- Experience preparing successful U.S. EPA brownfield grant applications
- Conducting Phase I and Phase II ESAs.
- Conducting environmental investigations and cleanups.
- Project experience in implementing U.S. EPA grant funded projects performed on behalf of local units of government.
- Development/redevelopment experience and market feasibility research.
- Redevelopment planning and community involvement activities related to brownfields properties.
- Performance of environmental inventories utilizing GIS in conjunction with U.S. EPA brownfields grants.
- Other areas of expertise relevant to the project (optional).

B. Regulatory and Scientific/Technical Knowledge:

- Knowledge and expertise pertaining to federal and state environmental grant programs and track record preparing successful grant applications.
- Knowledge and expertise pertaining to federal and state environmental statutes or associated regulations.
- Knowledge and expertise pertaining to EPA environmental and other Federal, laws, and regulations.
- Individual staff knowledge and technical experience relative to ESAs, brownfield projects, and contaminated site remediation.

C. Cost

Provide a lump sum cost to prepare a single U.S. EPA Community-Wide Assessment Grant in the amount of \$600,000; \$300,000 for Hazardous Substance Brownfields and \$300,000 for Petroleum Brownfields. This should include and itemize grant preparation fees and any applicable success fees for the grant application. In the event the grant application is not successful, the consultant shall provide a lump sum cost to participate in a debriefing with U.S. EPA and prepare a resubmittal of any unsuccessful grant applications for FY 2021/2022+1. The consultant shall also provide a current fee schedule including staff that would likely be involved in the grant implementation, the prices on which shall be fixed for a period of not less than 24 months.

All representative project descriptions provided shall include the location of the project, the name and phone number of a knowledgeable contact person, and other pertinent information. RVCOG may contact said persons to check on past performance records.

The selected consultant will be required to assume responsibility for all services offered in the proposal, including any services provided by subcontractors. Further, RVCOG will consider the consultant to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the contract. The consultant is responsible for adherence by the subcontractors to all provisions of the contract.

3.3 Questions and Clarifications

All inquiries, whether relating to the RFP process, administration, deadline, or award, or technical aspects of the services may be submitted in writing or email to the Project Manager, Greg Stabach by Monday, August 17th, 2020.

Contact Information:

Greg Stabach
Rogue Valley Council of Governments
155 North First Street/P.O. Box 3275
Central Point, OR. 97502
gstabach@rvcog.org

Answers to questions received will be posted to the RFP website (<http://rvcog.org/brownfield-rfp/>) by Wednesday, August 19th, 2020.

Clarification of proposals: RVCOG reserves the right to obtain clarification of any point in a Proposer's proposal or obtain additional information. Any request for clarification related to the RFQ shall be in writing or email, and a response shall be provided within 2 business days.

3.4 General Process

RVCOG will review and evaluate the proposals with the following criteria in mind: successful track record in obtaining grant funding; expertise related to relevant project components; firm and staff experience related to brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment planning; project approach; ability to facilitate public outreach activities; demonstrated ability to provide comprehensive and innovative environmental services; and cost. RVCOG reserves the right to accept or reject proposals on any basis it deems appropriate.

3.5 Terms and Conditions

The process of selecting organizations to provide consultation services for RVCOG's benefit requires the accumulation of comprehensive and accurate information to ensure that a knowledgeable, objective decision can be made as well as compliance with Federal procurement standards outlined in CFR §31.36 for the implementation portion of this proposal and subsequent successful grant applications.

RVCOG reserves the right to accept or reject all proposals or portions thereof without stated cause. RVCOG reserves the right to re-issue any RFQ or cancel the RFQ if none of the proposals are deemed satisfactory to RVCOG.

Upon selection of a finalist, RVCOG by its proper officials shall attempt to negotiate and reach a final

agreement with the finalist. If RVCOG, for any reason, is unable to reach a final agreement with this finalist; RVCOG then reserves the right to reject such finalist and negotiate a final agreement with another finalist who has the next most viable proposal. RVCOG may also elect to reject all proposals and re-issue a new RFQ.

RVCOG is not bound to accept the proposal with the lowest cost, but may accept the proposal that demonstrates the best ability to meet the needs of RVCOG. RVCOG reserves the right to waive any formalities, defects, or irregularities, in any proposal, response, and/or submittal where the acceptance, rejection, or waiving of such is in the best interests of RVCOG. RVCOG reserves the right to disqualify any proposal, before or after opening, upon evidence of collusion, intent to defraud, or any other illegal practice on the part of the Proposer.

3.6 Public Information

Information supplied by the Proposer to RVCOG is subject to the Oregon Public Records Law. Such information shall become public unless it falls within one of the exceptions in the statute, such as security information, trade secret information, or labor relations information. If the Proposer believes any information which is not public will be supplied in response to this RFQ, the vendor shall take reasonable steps to identify for RVCOG what data, if any, it believes falls within the exceptions. If the proposal data is not marked in such a way as to identify non-public data, RVCOG will treat the information as public and release it upon request. In addition, RVCOG reserves the right to make the final determination of whether data identified by the proposer as not public falls within the exceptions within the statute.

3.7 Proposal Time Schedule

The timeline for completion of this request for proposals is outlined below.

August 7, 2020	Formal announcement date for RFQ
August 17, 2020	Deadline for submittal of written questions
August 19, 2020	Deadline for answer to questions posted
August 28, 2020	Deadline for submittal of proposals
September 11, 2020	Notification of award of contract by RVCOG

3.8 Notification of Award

RVCOG plans to select a consultant and award the contract on September 11, 2020. Should either party fail to execute a contract within 30 days of notification of award, RVCOG reserves the right to rescind the award and select services from another interested firm.

3.9 Number of Proposals to Submit; Deadline, Mail, and Hand Delivery Addresses

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposal must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. PST on August 28, 2020.**

The mailing address is:

Rogue Valley Council of Governments
Attn: Greg Stabach

P.O. Box 3275
Central Point, Oregon 97502

The hand delivery address is:

Rogue Valley Council of Governments
Attn: Greg Stabach
155 North First Street
Central Point, Oregon 97502

4.0 Late Proposals

Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

4. VENDOR REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Contracting With Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

It is U.S. EPA policy to award a fair share of contracts to disadvantaged business firms. Accordingly, affirmative steps must be taken to ensure that disadvantaged businesses are utilized when possible as sources of supplies, equipment, and services. RVCOG will ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that at least the U.S. EPA "fair share" objectives for prime contracts and subcontracts are made available to organizations owned or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, women, and historically black colleges and universities. The consultant shall agree to support the U.S. EPA's disadvantaged business enterprise contract procurement program ensuring those businesses' participation in subcontracts.

Affirmative steps include the following as a minimum:

1. Including qualified disadvantaged businesses on solicitation lists;
2. Ensuring that disadvantaged businesses are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
3. When economically feasible, dividing total requirements into smaller tasks or quantities so as to permit disadvantaged business participation;
4. Where the requirement permits, establishing delivery schedules which will encourage participation by disadvantaged businesses;
5. Using the services and assistance of the Small Business Administration, the Office of Minority Business Enterprise of the Department of Commerce, and the Community Services Administration as required;
6. Consultants are encouraged to procure goods and services from disadvantaged businesses.

4.2 Equal Employment Opportunity

The Proposer agrees to comply with all federal, state, and local laws, resolutions, ordinances, rules, regulations, and executive orders pertaining to unlawful discrimination on account of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual preference, disability, or age. When required by law or requested by RVCOG, the Proposer shall furnish a written affirmative action plan.