



COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

RFP #25-3-ADM

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES

Date of Issue: October 29, 2024

Questions Due Date: November 8, 2024 (Friday) at 12:00 PM

Proposal Due Date: November 19, 2024 (Tuesday) at 2:00 PM

Direct all inquiries concerning this RFP to:

Sophia Murnahan

Purchasing Manager

Email: cumberlandpurchasing@cumberlandcountync.gov

Phone: 910-678-7743

Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP and any addenda issued hereto.

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1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners serves a population of approximately 330,000 citizens. Cumberland County is in the eastern region of North Carolina and home to Fort Liberty.

The County requires a company to provide strategic federal legislative services on its behalf. The County is searching for a firm to perform these services for 2025. The County will evaluate the work of the Company and determine whether to extend the engagement into future sessions. The Company shall work under the direction of the County Commissioners. The Company will actively and continuously engage with the federal delegation to assist the County in several key priority areas outlined in the Scope of Work and set by the commissioners.

2.0 PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS & REQUIREMENTS

2.1 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

The RFP is comprised of the base RFP document, any attachments, and any addenda released before contract award. All attachments and addenda released for this RFP in advance of any contract award are incorporated herein by reference. By submitting a proposal, the vendor agrees to meet all stated requirements in this section as well as any other specifications, requirements and terms and conditions stated in this RFP. If a vendor is unclear about a requirement or specification or believes a change to a requirement would allow for the County to receive a better proposal, the vendor is urged and cautioned to submit these items in the form of a question during the question-and-answer period in accordance with Section 2.3.

Vendors shall populate all attachments of this RFP that require the vendor to provide information and include an authorized signature where requested. Failure to include required documents and/or signatures, where requested, will result in rejection of submitted proposals.

2.2 PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

Proposals, subject to the conditions made a part hereof and the receipt requirements described below may be submitted by e-mail to: Sophia Murnahan at cumberlandpurchasing@cumberlandcountync.gov and the subject line MUST read “RFP #25-3-ADM Federal Legislative Consulting Services”.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All proposals must be received by the e-mail address listed above **on or before Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 2:00 PM as per the clock located in the Financial Services Department** regardless of the method of delivery. All risk of late arrival due to unanticipated delay, is entirely on the vendor. It is the sole responsibility of the vendor to have the proposal to the County department specified by the specified time and date of opening. Any proposal received after the proposal submission deadline will be rejected. Vendors are encouraged to review all addendums to ensure they do not include submission instruction changes. Such changes will be applied during bid compliance review.

All proposal addendums and/or corrections will be posted on the Cumberland County Vendor Self Service site <https://ccmunis.co.cumberland.nc.us/vss/Vendors/VBids/Default.aspx>. Vendors who submit a notice of intent to bid to cumberlandpurchasing@cumberlandcountync.gov will receive addendums by e-mail.

2.3 PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

Written questions shall be e-mailed to cumberlandpurchasing@cumberlandcountync.gov by **Friday, November 8, 2024, at 12:00 PM**. Vendors should enter “RFP #25-3-ADM Federal Legislative Consulting Services: Questions” as the subject for the e-mail. Questions will not be answered by phone. Question submittals should include a reference to the applicable RFP section.

Questions received prior to the submission deadline date, the County's response, and any additional terms deemed necessary by the County will be posted in the form of an addendum to the Cumberland County Vendor Self Service Site, <https://ccmunis.co.cumberland.nc.us/vss/Vendors/default.aspx> and shall become an Addendum to this RFP. **Vendors who submit an intent to bid will receive addendums by email.** Vendors shall rely *only* on written material contained in an Addendum to this RFP. **Vendors should not contact any other County employees, besides those listed above, during the bid process. Vendors who contact any other County employees may be disqualified.**

Any questions considered minute in nature or that point to an error in the RFP or that the County determines will produce information required in order for all vendors to submit a responsible proposal, may be answered at the County's discretion after the specified date and time. Such questions that are received after the deadline are not guaranteed to be answered and if the questions qualify as "minute in nature" shall be determined at the sole discretion of the County.

2.4 RFP TERMS & CONDITIONS

It shall be the vendor's responsibility to read the instructions, the County's terms and conditions, all relevant exhibits and attachments, and any other components made a part of this RFP and comply with all requirements and specifications herein. Vendors also are responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued in connection with this RFP.

Questions, issues, or exceptions regarding any term, condition, or other component within this RFP, must be submitted as questions in accordance with the instructions in Section 2.3 PROPOSAL QUESTIONS. Vendor's proposal shall constitute a firm offer.

If a vendor desires modification of the terms and conditions of this solicitation, it is urged and cautioned to inquire during the question period, in accordance with the instructions in this RFP, about whether specific language proposed as a modification is acceptable to or will be considered by the County. It is the County's sole discretion to accept or reject requested modifications and/or exceptions.

3.0 NOTICES TO VENDOR

3.1 PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

PROHIBITED COMMUNICATION: Each vendor submitting a proposal, including its representatives, subcontractors, and suppliers, is prohibited from having any communication with any employees or members of the board of commissioners of the County except those employees of the County's Department as designated in this RFP. A vendor who does not comply with this provision may be disqualified from award of a contract.

!IMPORTANT INFORMATION! **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** The proposal must not contain any information marked as "confidential" or as a "trade secret" or in any other manner as to indicate that it is information protected by the Trade Secrets Protection Act (the "Act") as set out in Article 24 of Chapter 66 of the North Carolina General Statutes, **unless the vendor has noticed the County Department of its intent to designate any information in the proposal as such and received permission from the County Department to do so in writing.** Vendor's notice to the County Department must be in writing and must describe the information for which confidentiality is requested and explain how the information is a "trade secret" as defined in G.S. § 66-152(3). If the County Department determines the information for which confidentiality is requested is a "trade secret" covered by the Act, it will notify the vendor how to mark the information in the proposal and will identify the measures that County will take to protect the confidentiality of the information. Vendor's submission of a proposal after receipt of this notice from the County Department shall be deemed to be acceptance of the County Department's statement of how it will maintain confidentiality. If the County Department determines the information for which confidentiality is requested is not a "trade secret" covered by the Act, it will notify vendor of that determination. Any proposal marked with any information as "confidential" or as a "trade secret" or in any other manner as to indicate that it is information protected by the Act in violation of this section shall be regarded as not responsive to the request for proposals and shall not be considered.

3.2 PROPOSAL COMPLIANCE

It is in the best interest of vendors to submit proposals that are clear, concise, and easily understood. Proposals should provide information essential for a straightforward and concise description of vendor capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP specifications.

Vendor may include any optional data not provided for elsewhere and considered to be pertinent to this bid as an addendum.

Vendors are urged and cautioned to read the RFP completely through as noncompliance with requirements may result in bid rejection. Section 4.0 requirements and request for information must be in the same order with the same titles as listed in Section 4.0. Vendor proposals should be easy to follow, and all sections should be easily identified.

The specifications included in this package describe the services that the County feels are necessary to meet the performance requirements of this RFP and shall be considered the minimum standards expected of the Proposer. However, the specifications are not intended to exclude potential bidders.

If the vendor is unable to meet any of the specifications as outlined therein, vendors are advised to submit questions and concerns regarding the specifications during the question-and-answer period described in Section 2.3.

If the vendor does not indicate or submit questions or concerns regarding the specifications, the County shall assume it is able to fully comply with these specifications. The County shall be the sole and final judge of compliance with all specifications.

The County further reserves the right to determine the acceptability or unacceptability of any and all alternatives or deviations.

3.3 PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS

The County shall review all responses to this RFP to confirm that they meet the specifications and requirements of the RFP. The County shall not be required to hold interviews; however, depending on the number of responses and the information contained in the responses, the County may decide to conduct interviews with firms of its choice. The County reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted.

The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

3.4 EVALUATION CRITERIA

All qualified proposals will be evaluated and award made based on considering the following criteria to result in an award most advantageous to the County:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Approach to providing services and accomplishing the required scope of work | 25 points |
| 2. Qualifications including background and experience | 25 points |
| 3. Cost effectiveness and value | <u>25 points</u> |
| | 75 points |

3.5 METHOD OF AWARD

RFP will be awarded based on best overall value method of award.

The County reserves the right to make separate awards to different vendors, to not award, or to cancel this RFP in its entirety without awarding a contract, if it is considered to be most advantageous to the County to do so.

4.0 SCOPE OF WORK & VENDOR'S PROPOSAL CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

4.1 SCOPE OF WORK

Cumberland County, North Carolina has issued an RFP for a federal lobbying company. The County requires a qualified firm or individual to provide federal lobbying services on behalf of the County to the legislative and executive branches of the federal government. The Company shall have an office in the Washington, D.C. area.

The Company will actively and continuously lobby Congress and the Administration to assist the County in several key areas including:

- Economic development
- Environmental quality
- Health and human services – mental health, public health, social services, veterans' services, housing, community development
- Justice and public safety
- School funding/public education
- Tax and finance policies, including unfunded mandates
- Water and sewer
- Other County Commissioner priorities.

The Company shall also:

- Act as the representative on behalf of the County to the federal government;
- Facilitate relationships between federal officials and County representatives;
- Confer with the County Manager and County staff on planning and program activity that has a bearing on the County to make the best use of federal programs;
- Maintain liaison with the County's Congressional delegation and assist the delegation in any matter which the County determines to be in its best interest;
- Establish and maintain working relationships with the executive and legislative branches of the federal government that will enhance the County's position with respect to financial assistance applications, regulatory procedures, legislation, budget authorizations and appropriations, and other area of interest to the County;
- Identify and notify the County in advance of opportunities for grants and funding for the key areas listed above;
- Contact federal agencies on the County's behalf when grant applications are under consideration by such agencies and take whatever steps are necessary to obtain favorable consideration of such applications;
- Review federal executive proposals, legislation under consideration, proposed and adopted administrative rules and regulations, federal credit assistance programs, and other federal developments for the purpose of advising the County of items that may have a bearing on the County's policies and programs;
- Represent the County at Washington, D.C. area conferences or meetings as requested;
- Counsel the County regarding appearances by local personnel before Congressional committees and administrative agencies and arrange for appointments and accommodations as necessary;

- Work with the County to plan legislative visits for the County's elected officials and staff members;
- Work with the County to plan visits with federal agencies for the County's elected officials and staff members;
- Secure and furnish detailed information as may be available on federal issues in which the County indicates an interest;
- Review and comment on proposals of the County, which are being prepared for submission to federal agencies, when requested to do so by the County Project Manager; and
- Assist in developing and implementing the County's federal legislative agenda.

4.2 VENDOR'S PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

The vendor's proposal must include the required information below. Failure to submit this information may render its proposal non-responsive. **Vendors are urged and cautioned to read the notices in Section 3.1. Noncompliance with the confidentiality requirements will result in a proposal being considered non-responsive.**

The County desires all proposals to be identical in format to facilitate comparison. While the County's format may represent departure from the Company's preference, the County requires strict adherence to the format. The proposal will be in the format described below:

- A.** Cover letter.
- B.** Approach to providing lobbying services and accomplishing the required scope of work.
- C.** Qualifications including background and experience.
- D.** Past and current clients.
- E.** Pricing

Companies are required to organize the information requested in this RFP in accordance with the format and instructions outlines above and detailed below. Failure to do so may result in the County, at its sole discretion, deeming the proposal non-responsive.

All proposals must be:

- No greater than five (5) pages, single spaced (Does not include the Cover Letter).

A. COVER LETTER

The Proposal must include a letter of transmittal attesting to its accuracy, signed by an individual authorized to execute binding legal documents. The cover letter shall provide the name, address, telephone and facsimile numbers of the Company along with the name, title, address, e-mail address, telephone and facsimile numbers of the executive that has the authority to contract with the County. The cover letter shall present the Company's understanding of the Project and a summary of the approach to perform the Services. The Company must also identify if it is certified as a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) through the State of NC. All addenda must be acknowledged in this letter.

B. APPROACH TO PROVIDING LOBBYING SERVICES AND ACCOMPLISHING THE REQUIRED SCOPE OF WORK

For each component of the Scope of Work described in Section Four, state how your company plans to provide the best approach to meeting stated goals. Describe the key individuals along with their qualifications, professional certifications and experience that would comprise your company's team for providing Lobbying Services. Identify any sub-consultants

who would be retained to provide services, the percentage of work assigned, and whether or not they are HUB certified. How many lobbyists would be assigned to the County?

C. QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDING BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

How many years has your company been in business? Provide a brief overview and history of your company. Describe your experience lobbying on behalf of local government issues, particularly those issues listed in the Scope of Services. Describe your firm's experience lobbying and/or employment with the NC General Assembly. Describe your working relationship with members of both political parties. Are you registered NC Lobbyists? Also, disclose any litigation that your company has been involved with during the past three (3) years for Lobbying Services.

D. PAST AND CURRENT CLIENTS

Provide a listing of current and past public sector (cities or counties) clients and the general services provided. Identify clients that are similar to Cumberland County (e.g.: in size, complexity, location). Provide contact information (i.e.: name, phone number, e-mail address) for those that will serve as a reference.

E. PRICING

Provide a detailed fee schedule of expenses. Express your administrative fee in a lump sum payable monthly over the course of the year. Expenses not specifically listed will not be considered. All Proposals must include a maximum not-to-exceed amount and separate price for travel and related (if applicable). Firm shall incur no travel or related expenses chargeable to the County without prior approval by an authorized County representative. The actual contract amount will be negotiated after the consultant has been selected and the scope of work finalized.

5.0 CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

5.1 IRAN DIVESTMENT ACT

As provided in N.C.G.S. 147-86.55-69, any person identified as engaging in investment activities in Iran, determined by appearing on the Final Divestment List created by the North Carolina State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-86.57(6) c, is ineligible to contract with the County of North Carolina or any political subdivision of the COUNTY.

5.2 E-VERIFY

CONTRACTOR shall comply with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the General Statutes. Further, if Contractor utilizes a subcontractor, CONTRACTOR shall require the subcontractor to comply with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the General Statutes.

5.3 DIVESTMENT FROM COMPANIES THAT BOYCOTT ISRAEL

The CONTRACTOR certifies that it has not been designated by the North Carolina State Treasurer as a company engaged in the boycott of Israel pursuant to N.C.G.S. 147-86.81. It is the responsibility of each CONTRACTOR to monitor compliance with this restriction. Contracts valued at less than \$1,000.00 are exempt from this restriction.

5.4 CONTRACT CHANGES

Contract changes, if any, over the life of the contract shall be implemented by contract amendments agreed to in writing by the COUNTY and CONTRACTOR.

5.5 CONTRACT TERM

The Contract shall have an initial term of one (1) year, beginning on the date of contract award (the "Effective Date"). The CONTRACTOR shall begin work under the Contract within five (5) business days of the Effective Date.

At the end of the Contract's current term, the COUNTY shall have the option, in its sole discretion, to renew the Contract on the same terms and conditions for up to a total of two additional one-year terms.

5.6 PRICING

Proposal price shall constitute the total cost for complete performance in accordance with the requirements and specifications herein, including all applicable charges handling, administrative and other similar fees. CONTRACTOR shall not invoice for any amounts not specifically allowed for in this RFP.

5.7 INVOICES

a) Invoices must be submitted to the following address: County Manager's Office

ATTN: Sally Shutt

PO Box 1829

Fayetteville, NC 28302-1829

Or by e-mail to sshutt@cumberlandcountync.gov

b) Any applicable taxes shall be invoiced as a separate item.

5.8 PAYMENT TERMS

The CONTRACTOR will be paid net thirty (30) calendar days after the CONTRACTOR'S invoice is approved by the COUNTY.

5.9 APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

The parties intend that contractual performances by either party beyond the first fiscal year after the execution of this agreement be contingent upon the continued funding and appropriation by the County Board of Commissioners. Therefore, the parties agree that services provided and payment due under this agreement will be provided upon a year-to-year basis contingent upon continued funding and appropriation. The fiscal year for Cumberland County begins on July 1 and ends June 30th.

5.10 FINANCIAL STABILITY

CONTRACTOR warrants that it has the financial capacity to perform and to continue perform its obligations under the contract; that CONTRACTOR has no constructive or actual knowledge of an actual or potential legal proceeding being brought against CONTRACTOR that could materially adversely affect performance of this Contract; and that entering into this Contract is not prohibited by any contract, or order by any court of competent jurisdiction.

5.11 INSURANCE:

Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage is a material obligation of the CONTRACTOR and is of the essence of this Contract. All such insurance shall meet all laws of the County of North Carolina. Such insurance coverage shall be obtained from companies that are authorized to provide such coverage and that are authorized by the Commissioner of Insurance to do business in North Carolina. The CONTRACTOR shall at all times comply with the terms of such insurance policies, and all requirements of the insurer under any such insurance policies, except as they may conflict with existing North Carolina laws or this Contract. The limits of coverage under each insurance policy maintained by the CONTRACTOR shall not be interpreted as limiting the CONTRACTOR'S liability and obligations under the Contract. During the term of the Contract, the CONTRACTOR at its sole cost and expense shall provide commercial insurance of such type and with such terms and limits as may be reasonably associated with the Contract.

5.12 GENERAL INDEMNITY

The CONTRACTOR shall hold and save the COUNTY, its officers, agents, and employees, harmless from liability of any kind, including all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any other person, firm, or corporation furnishing or supplying work, services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of this Contract, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm, or corporation that may be injured or damaged by the

CONTRACTOR in the performance of this Contract and that are attributable to the negligence or intentionally tortious acts of the CONTRACTOR provided that the CONTRACTOR is notified in writing within 30 days that the COUNTY has knowledge of such claims. The CONTRACTOR represents and warrants that it shall make no claim of any kind or nature against the COUNTY's agents who are involved in the delivery or processing of CONTRACTOR goods or services to the COUNTY. The representation and warranty in the preceding sentence shall survive the termination or expiration of this Contract.

5.13 ENTIRE CONTRACT

The contract formally entered into by the parties after the vendor is selected constitutes the entire understanding of the parties. In the event of a conflict between the COUNTY'S contract terms and the CONTRACTOR'S contract terms, the COUNTY'S terms shall be the overriding determining factor.

5.14 CONTRACT CANCELLATION

The COUNTY may terminate this contract at any time by providing 30 days' notice in writing from the COUNTY to the CONTRACTOR. If the contract is terminated by the COUNTY as provided in this section, the COUNTY shall pay for services satisfactorily completed by the CONTRACTOR, less any payment or compensation previously made.

5.15 LAWS AND ORDINANCES

The contract will be governed by North Carolina law.

5.16 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

CONTRACTOR shall comply with all laws, ordinances, codes, rules, regulations, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business and its performance in accordance with this contract, including those of federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction and/or authority.

5.17 CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIONS

CONTRACTOR warrants that qualified personnel shall provide services under this Contract in a professional manner. "Professional manner" means that the personnel performing the services will possess the skill and competence consistent with the prevailing business standards in the industry. CONTRACTOR agrees that it will not enter any agreement with a third party that may abridge any rights of the COUNTY under this Contract.

If any services, deliverables, functions, or responsibilities not specifically described in this Contract are required for CONTRACTOR'S proper performance, provision and delivery of the service and deliverables under this Contract, or are an inherent part of or necessary sub-task included within such service, they will be deemed to be implied by and included within the scope of the contract to the same extent and in the same manner as if specifically described in the contract. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, CONTRACTOR will furnish all of its own necessary management, supervision, labor, facilities, furniture, computer and telecommunications equipment, software, supplies and materials necessary for the CONTRACTOR to provide and deliver the Services and Deliverables.

CONTRACTOR certifies that it has not previously or currently:

- a. Had any criminal felony conviction, or conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude, including, but not limited to fraud, misappropriation or deception, of CONTRACTOR, its officers or directors, or any of its employees or other personnel to provide services on this project, of which CONTRACTOR has knowledge.
- b. Had any regulatory sanctions levied against CONTRACTOR or any of its officers, directors or its professional employees expected to provide services on this project by any governmental regulatory agencies within the past three years. As used herein, the term "regulatory sanctions" includes the revocation or suspension of any license or certification, the levying of any monetary penalties or fines, and the issuance of any written warnings.

- c. Had any civil judgments against CONTRACTOR during the three (3) years preceding submission of its proposal herein.

Any personnel or agent of the CONTRACTOR performing services under any contract arising from this RFP may be required to undergo a background check at the expense of the CONTRACTOR, if so requested by the COUNTY.

The COUNTY may, in its sole discretion, terminate the services of any person providing services under this Contract. Upon such termination, the COUNTY may request acceptable substitute personnel or terminate the contract services provided by such personnel.

Attachments to this RFP begin on the next page.

ATTACHMENT A: INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS

1. **READ, REVIEW AND COMPLY:** It shall be the vendor's responsibility to read this entire document, review all enclosures and attachments, and any addenda thereto, and comply with all requirements specified herein, regardless of whether appearing in these Instructions to vendors or elsewhere in this RFP document.
2. **LATE PROPOSALS:** Late proposals, regardless of cause, will not be opened or considered, and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be the vendor's sole responsibility to ensure delivery at the designated office by the designated time.
3. **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION:** The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive minor informality in proposals and to reject proposal with non-minor informalities, based on the sole discretion of the County.
4. **EXECUTION:** Failure to sign EXECUTION PAGE in the indicated space will render proposal non-responsive, and it shall be rejected.
5. **GIFTS:** Gifts and favors to the County of any kind in any amount are prohibited.
6. **SUSTAINABILITY:** To support the sustainability efforts of the County of Cumberland we solicit your cooperation in this effort. All copies of the proposal are printed double-sided.
7. **HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES:** Pursuant to General Statute 143-48 and Executive Order #150 (1999), the County invites and encourages participation in this procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled.
8. **INFORMAL COMMENTS:** The County shall not be bound by informal explanations, instructions or information given at any time by anyone on behalf of the County during the competitive process or after award. The County is bound only by information provided in this RFP and in formal Addenda issued through the State's IPS and the County's Vendor Self Service website.
9. **COST FOR PROPOSAL PREPARATION:** Any costs incurred by vendor in preparing or submitting offers are the Vendor's sole responsibility; the County of Cumberland will not reimburse any vendor for any costs incurred.
10. **VENDOR'S REPRESENTATIVE:** Each vendor shall submit with its proposal the name, address, and telephone number of the person(s) with authority to bind the firm and answer questions or provide clarification concerning the firm's proposal.
11. **SUBCONTRACTING:** The Contractor shall not assign or subcontract the work, or any part thereof, without the previous consent of Cumberland County, nor shall it assign, by power of attorney, operation of law, or otherwise, any moneys payable under the Contract without prior written consent of the County.

If the vendor proposes to subcontract work in this project, the subcontractor and the activity in this project are to be identified in the proposal.

All subcontractors must be approved by the County and must conform to and comply with the same terms, standards and specifications applicable to the contracting firm.

The vendor shall be fully responsible and accountable to the County for the acts and omissions of its subcontractors, and of persons directly or indirectly employed by him.
12. **INSPECTION AT VENDOR'S SITE:** The County reserves the right to inspect, at a reasonable time, the

equipment/item, plant or other facilities of a prospective vendor prior to Contract award, and during the Contract term as necessary for the County determination that such equipment/item, plant or other facilities conform with the specifications/requirements and are adequate and suitable for the proper and effective performance of the Contract.

13. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**: The vendor will take affirmative action in complying with all Federal and County requirements concerning fair employment and employment of people with disabilities, and concerning the treatment of all employees without regard to discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or disability.
14. **VENDOR REGISTRATION**: Vendors are not required to register as a vendor in our system in order to submit a bid; however, registration is recommended so that vendor information is available for future opportunities. New vendors can register by visiting the following URL: <https://ccmunis.co.cumberland.nc.us/vss/Vendors/default.aspx>.

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ATTACHMENT B: EXECUTION OF PROPOSAL

EXECUTION

In compliance with this Request for Proposal (RFP), and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned vendor offers and agrees to furnish and deliver any or all items/services upon which prices are proposed. By executing this proposal, the undersigned vendor certifies that this proposal is submitted competitively and without collusion, that it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible from covered transactions by any Federal or State department or agency. Furthermore, the undersigned vendor certifies that it and its principals are not presently listed on the Department of State Treasurer's Final Divestment List as per N.C.G.S 147-86.55-69.

The potential Contractor certifies and/or understands the following by placing an "X" in all blank spaces:

_____ The County has the right to reject any and all proposals or reject specific proposals with deviated/omitted information, based on the County's discretion if the omitted information is considered a minor deviation or omission. The County will not contact vendors to request required information/documentation that is missing from a proposal packet. Additionally, if the County determines it is in its best interest to do so, the County reserves the right to award to one or more vendors and/or to award only a part of the services specified in the RFP.

_____ This proposal was signed by an authorized representative of the Contractor.

_____ The potential Contractor has determined the cost and availability of all materials and supplies associated with performing the services outlined herein.

_____ All labor costs associated with this project have been determined, including all direct and indirect costs.

_____ The potential Contractor agrees to the conditions as set forth in this RFP with no exceptions.

_____ Selection of a contract represents a preliminary determination as to the qualifications of the vendor. Vendor understands and agrees that no legally binding acceptance offer occurs until the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, or its designee, executes a formal contract and/or purchase order.

Therefore, in compliance with the foregoing RFP, and subject to all terms and conditions thereof, the undersigned offers and agrees to furnish the services for the prices quoted within the timeframe required. Vendor agrees to hold firm offer through contract execution.

Failure to complete, execute/sign (E-signature or handwritten) proposal prior to submittal shall render the proposal invalid and it WILL BE REJECTED.

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| VENDOR: | | |
| STREET ADDRESS: | P.O. BOX: | ZIP: |
| CITY & COUNTY & ZIP: | TELEPHONE NUMBER: | TOLL FREE TEL. NO: |
| PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS ITEM #10): | | |
| PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING ON BEHALF OF VENDOR: | | FAX NUMBER: |
| VENDOR'S AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: | DATE: | EMAIL: |

ATTACHMENT C: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

Name of Vendor: _____

The undersigned hereby certifies that: [check all applicable boxes]

- ☐ The vendor is in sound financial condition and, if applicable, has received an unqualified audit opinion for the latest audit of its financial statements.

Date of latest audit: _____

- ☐ The vendor has no outstanding liabilities, including tax and judgment liens, to the Internal Revenue Service or any other government entity.
- ☐ The vendor is current in all amounts due for payments of federal and County taxes and required employment-related contributions and withholdings.
- ☐ The vendor is not the subject of any current litigation or findings of noncompliance under federal or County law.
- ☐ The vendor has no findings in any past litigation, or findings of noncompliance under federal or County law that may impact in any way its ability to fulfill the requirements of this Contract.
- ☐ He or she is authorized to make the foregoing statements on behalf of the vendor.

Note: This is a continuing certification and vendor shall notify the Contract Lead within 15 days of any material change to any of the representations made herein.

If any one or more of the foregoing boxes is NOT checked, vendor shall explain the reason in the space below:

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

[This Certification must be signed by an individual authorized to speak for the vendor]