

Pamlico County Department of Social Services



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Proposal Opening Date: May 24, 2021 2:00 p.m. EDT

Pamlico County Human Services Building

828 Alliance Main Street

Bayboro, NC 28515

Scope of Work

Pamlico County Department of Social Services is soliciting sealed proposals for legal representation and related services. These services will be provided for the program areas of Child Support Enforcement, Children Services, Adult Protective Services and Program Integrity.

Details of Billing process and Time Frames:

Invoices need to be submitted on a monthly basis, itemized by date, by client, service provided, time spent, and cost of each unit of time in service provided under this agreement.

Area to be served/Delivery site(s):

Pamlico County and surrounding counties as deemed necessary by the before mentioned programs.

Reporting Requirements:

Contractor shall comply with audit requirements as described in N.C.G.S. § 143C-6-22 & 23 and OMB Circular- CFR Title 2 Grants and Agreements, Part 200, and shall disclose all information required by 42 USC 455.104, or 42 USC 455.105, or 42 USC 455.106.

Federal Certifications:

Individuals and Organizations receiving federal funds must ensure compliance with certain certifications required by federal laws and regulations. The contractor is hereby complying with Certifications regarding Nondiscrimination, Drug-Free Workplace Requirements, Environmental Tobacco Smoke, Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Lower Tier Covered Transactions, and Lobbying. These assurances and certifications are to be signed by the contractor's authorized representative.

Uniform Guidance Regulations:

1. Governing Law; Exclusive Venue. This Agreement shall be controlled by the laws of the State of North Carolina. Exclusive venue for any action, whether at law or in equity, shall be in a court of competent jurisdiction in Pamlico County, North Carolina.

2. E-Verify Certification. Contractor shall comply with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Further, if Contractor utilizes a subcontractor for any purpose under this Agreement, it shall require the subcontractor to comply with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

3. Federal Funds: If the source of funds for this Agreement is federal funds, the following federal provisions apply pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II (as may be applicable):

- A. Equal Employment Opportunity (41 C.F.R. Part 60);**
- B. Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 3141-3148);**
- C. Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (40 U.S.C. 3145);**
- D. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 3701-3708);**
- E. Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387);**
- F. Debarment and Suspension (Executive Orders 12549 and 12689);**
- G. Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352);**
- H. Procurement of Recovered Materials (2 C.F.R. § 200.322); and**
- I. Record Retention Requirements (2 CFR § 200.324)**

Further, to the extent any of the provisions of this "Federal Funds" paragraph conflicts with any other provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this paragraph shall control and take precedence.

Contract Time

Contract time period will be for 36 months or less.

Submittal Instructions

1. All submittals must be provided on the Response Form (Exhibit A) included with this RFP. A responsible officer or employee of the company must sign the proposal. Obligations assumed by such signature must be fulfilled.
2. Supplemental Information – All proposals must include the following requested information in the appropriate sections as defined below. Supplemental information shall be limited to not more than five (5) pages, 8 ½ x 11 printed front and back.
 - a. Company Information:
 - i) Provide an overview of your firm and its ownership/organizational structure, philosophy/culture and number of employees.
 - ii) Identify members of your staff that would be assigned to this contract.
 - b. Company Expertise/Experience. Include any previous experience with State and Federal reimbursement programs.
 - c. Other information to be provided:
 - a. Accreditations and Licenses
 - b. References – Proposal should include one (1) entity where your organization has provided services similar to those being requested by the COUNTY. Please include name, title, telephone number and email address of a contact person for each reference.
3. Proposers are required to submit a written proposal by May 24, 2021. Proposals may be submitted by mail, UPS or Fed Ex. Physical delivery shall be addressed as follows:
Pamlico County Human Services Building
Attn: Debbie Green, Director
828 Alliance Main Street
Bayboro, NC 28515
Responses must be received by the deadline regardless of time of transmission and/or mailing.
4. Proposals shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and clearly marked “RFP LEGAL REPRESENTATION”.

Evaluation Criteria

1. The proposals received will be evaluated based on the following criteria to determine each Vendor’s qualifications. The order does not indicate relative ranking.
 - a. Demonstration of competence and technical expertise. (30 Points)
 - b. Demonstrated record of responsiveness and quality of customer service. (25 points)
 - c. Rates – including the level of detail provided if needed. (15 points)
 - d. Responsiveness of the Vendor’s proposal to the RFP, including clarity and organization of response, clear presentation of Vendor’s experience and approach to ensuring the needs of Pamlico County Human Services are fully met. (30 points)
2. Final Evaluation and Selection
 - a. Pamlico County Human Services reserves the right to select a Vendor based solely on the submitted materials.
 - i) Pamlico County Human Services may select a short list of candidates who may be asked to make an oral presentation to be arranged at a mutually convenient time at the agency’s offices.
 - ii) Each selected finalist will be evaluated with consideration given to how they best meet the needs of Pamlico County Human Services and the basis of capabilities described in their written proposal and oral presentation.

General Terms and Condition Relationships of the Parties

Independent Contractor: The Contractor is and shall be deemed to be an independent contractor in the performance of this contract and as such shall be wholly responsible for the work to be performed and for the supervision of its employees. The Contractor represents that it has, or shall secure at its own expense, all personnel required in performing the services under this agreement. Such employees shall not be employees of, or have any individual contractual relationship with the County.

Subcontracting: The Contractor shall not subcontract any of the work contemplated under this contract without prior written approval from the County. Any approved subcontract shall be subject to all conditions of this contract. Only the subcontractors specified in the contract documents are to be considered approved upon award of the contract. The County shall not be obligated to pay for any work performed by any unapproved subcontractor. The Contractor shall be responsible for the performance of all of its subcontractors.

Assignment: No assignment of the Contractor's obligations or the Contractor's right to receive payment hereunder shall be permitted. However, upon written request approved by the issuing purchasing authority, the County may:

- (a) Forward the Contractor's payment check(s) directly to any person or entity designated by the Contractor, or
- (b) Include any person or entity designated by Contractor as a joint payee on the Contractor's payment check(s).

In no event shall such approval and action obligate the County to anyone other than the Contractor and the Contractor shall remain responsible for fulfillment of all contract obligations.

Beneficiaries: Except as herein specifically provided otherwise, this contract shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors. It is expressly understood and agreed that the enforcement of the terms and conditions of this contract, and all rights of action relating to such enforcement, shall be strictly reserved to the County and the named Contractor. Nothing contained in this document shall give or allow any claim or right of action whatsoever by any other third person. It is the express intention of the County and Contractor that any such person or entity, other than the County or the Contractor, receiving services or benefits under this contract shall be deemed an incidental beneficiary only.

Indemnity and Insurance

Indemnification: The Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County and any of their officers, agents and employees, from any claims of third parties arising out or any act or omission of the Contractor in connection with the performance of this contract.

Insurance: 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. As a minimum, the Contractor shall provide and maintain the following coverage and limits:

- (a) **Worker's Compensation** - The contractor shall provide and maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance as required by the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer's liability coverage with minimum limits of \$500,000.00, covering all of Contractor's employees who are engaged in any work under the contract. If any work is sublet, the Contractor shall require the subcontractor to provide the same coverage for any of his employees engaged in any work under the contract.
- (b) **Commercial General Liability** - General Liability Coverage on a Comprehensive Broad Form on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 Combined Single Limit. (Defense cost shall be in excess of the limit of liability.)
- (c) **Automobile Liability Insurance:** The Contractor shall provide automobile liability insurance with a combined single limit of \$500,000.00 for bodily injury and property damage; a limit of \$500,000.00 for uninsured/under insured motorist coverage; and a limit of \$2,000.00 for medical payment coverage. The Contractor shall provide this insurance for all automobiles that are:
 - (a) Owned by the Contractor and used in the performance of this contract;
 - (b) Hired by the Contractor and used in the performance of this contract; and
 - (c) Owned by Contractor's employees and used in performance of this contract ("non-owned vehicle insurance"). Non-owned vehicle insurance protects employers when employees use their personal vehicles for work purposes. Non-owned vehicle insurance supplements, but does not replace, the car-owner's liability insurance.

The Contractor is not required to provide and maintain automobile liability insurance on any vehicle – owned, hired, or non-owned -- unless the vehicle is used in the performance of this contract.

- (d) The insurance coverage minimums specified in subparagraph (a) are exclusive of defense costs.

- (e) The Contractor understands and agrees that the insurance coverage minimums specified in subparagraph (a) are not limits, or caps, on the Contractor's liability or obligations under this contract.
- (f) The Contractor may obtain a waiver of any one or more of the requirements in subparagraph (a) by demonstrating that it has insurance that provides protection that is equal to or greater than the coverage and limits specified in subparagraph (a). The County shall be the sole judge of whether such a waiver should be granted.
- (g) The Contractor may obtain a waiver of any one or more of the requirements in paragraph (a) by demonstrating that it is self-insured and that its self-insurance provides protection that is equal to or greater than the coverage and limits specified in subparagraph (a). The County shall be the sole judge of whether such a waiver should be granted.
- (h) Providing and maintaining the types and amounts of insurance or self-insurance specified in this paragraph is a material obligation of the Contractor and is of the essence of this contract.
- (i) The Contractor shall only obtain insurance from companies that are authorized to provide such coverage and that are authorized by the Commissioner of Insurance to do business in the State of North Carolina. All such insurance shall meet all laws of the State of North Carolina.
- (j) The Contractor shall comply at all times with all lawful terms and conditions of its insurance policies and all lawful requirements of its insurer.
- (k) The Contractor shall require its subcontractors to comply with the requirements of this paragraph.
- (l) The Contractor shall demonstrate its compliance with the requirements of this paragraph by submitting certificates of insurance to the County before the Contractor begins work under this contract.

Transportation of Clients by Contractor:

The contractor will maintain Insurance requirements if required as noted under Article 7 Rule R2-36 of the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

Default and Termination

Termination Without Cause: The County may terminate this contract without cause by giving 30 days written notice to the Contractor.

Termination for Cause: If, through any cause, the Contractor shall fail to fulfill its obligations under this contract in a timely and proper manner, the County shall have the right to terminate this contract by giving written notice to the Contractor and specifying the effective date thereof. In that event, all finished or unfinished deliverable items prepared by the Contractor under this contract shall, at the option of the County, become its property and the Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any satisfactory work completed on such materials, minus any payment or compensation previously made. Notwithstanding the foregoing provision, the Contractor shall not be relieved of liability to the County for damages sustained by the County by virtue of the Contractor's breach of this agreement, and the County may withhold any payment due the Contractor for the purpose of setoff until such time as the exact amount of damages due the County from such breach can be determined. In case of default by the Contractor, without limiting any other remedies for breach available to it, the County may procure the contract services from other sources and hold the Contractor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby. The filing of a petition for bankruptcy by the Contractor shall be an act of default under this contract.

Waiver of Default: Waiver by the County of any default or breach in compliance with the terms of this contract by the Provider shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent default or breach and shall not be construed to be modification of the terms of this contract unless stated to be such in writing, signed by an authorized representative of the County and the Contractor and attached to the contract.

Availability of Funds: The parties to this contract agree and understand that the payment of the sums specified in this contract is dependent and contingent upon and subject to the appropriation, allocation, and availability of funds for this purpose to the County.

Force Majeure: Neither party shall be deemed to be in default of its obligations hereunder if and so long as it is prevented from performing such obligations by any act of war, hostile foreign action, nuclear explosion, riot, strikes, civil insurrection, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, or other catastrophic natural event or act of God.

Survival of Promises: All promises, requirements, terms, conditions, provisions, representations, guarantees, and warranties contained herein shall survive the contract expiration or termination date unless specifically provided otherwise herein, or unless superseded by applicable Federal or State statutes of limitation.

Intellectual Property Rights

Copyrights and Ownership of Deliverables: All deliverable items produced pursuant to this contract are the exclusive property of the County. The Contractor shall not assert a claim of copyright or other property interest in such deliverables.

Federal Intellectual Property Bankruptcy Protection Act: The Parties agree that the County shall be entitled to all rights and benefits of the Federal Intellectual Property Bankruptcy Protection Act, Public Law 100-506, codified at 11 U.S.C. 365 (n) and any amendments thereto.

Compliance with Applicable Laws

Compliance with Laws: The Contractor shall comply with all laws, ordinances, codes, rules, regulations, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business, including those of federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction and/or authority.

Title VI, Civil Rights Compliance: In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Under the Food Stamp Act and USDA policy, discrimination is prohibited also on the basis of religion or political beliefs.

Equal Employment Opportunity: The Contractor shall comply with all federal and State laws relating to equal employment opportunity.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA): The Contractor agrees that, if the County determines that some or all of the activities within the scope of this contract are subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-91, as amended ("HIPAA"), or its implementing regulations, it will comply with the HIPAA requirements and will execute such agreements and practices as the County may require to ensure compliance.

- (a) **Data Security:** The Contractor shall adopt and apply data security standards and procedures that comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and rules.
- (b) **Duty to Report:** The Contractor shall report a suspected or confirmed security breach to the local Department of Social Services/Human Services Contract Administrator within twenty-four (24) hours after the breach is first discovered, provided that the Contractor shall report a breach involving Social Security Administration data or Internal Revenue Service data within one (1) hour after the breach is first discovered.
- (c) **Cost Borne by Contractor:** If any applicable federal, state, or local law, regulation, or rule requires the Contractor to give written notice of a security breach to affected persons, the Contractor shall bear the cost of the notice.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000:

The Contractor will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104)

Executive Order # 24: It is unlawful for any vendor, contractor, subcontractor or supplier of the state to make gifts or to give favors to any state employee. For additional information regarding the specific requirements and exemptions, contractors are encouraged to review Executive Order 24 and G.S. Sec. 133-32.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality: Any information, data, instruments, documents, studies or reports given to or prepared or assembled by the Contractor under this agreement shall be kept as confidential and not divulged or made available to any individual or organization without the prior written approval of the County. The Contractor acknowledges that in receiving, storing, processing or otherwise dealing with any confidential information it will safeguard and not further disclose the information except as otherwise provided in this contract.

Oversight

Access to Persons and Records: The State Auditor shall have access to persons and records as a result of all contracts or grants entered into by State agencies or political subdivisions in accordance with General Statute 147-

64.7. Additionally, as the State funding authority, the Department of Health and Human Services shall have access to persons and records as a result of all contracts or grants entered into by State agencies or political subdivisions.

Record Retention: Records shall not be destroyed, purged or disposed of without the express written consent of the Division. State basic records retention policy requires all grant records to be retained for a minimum of five years or until all audit exceptions have been resolved, whichever is longer. If the contract is subject to federal policy and regulations, record retention may be longer than five years since records must be retained for a period of three years following submission of the final Federal Financial Status Report, if applicable, or three years following the submission of a revised final Federal Financial Status Report. Also, if any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, disallowance action, or other action involving this Contract has been started before expiration of the five-year retention period described above, the records must be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the regular five-year period described above, whichever is later. The record retention period for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and MEDICAID and Medical Assistance grants and programs must be retained for a minimum of ten years.

Warranties and Certifications

Date and Time Warranty: The Contractor warrants that the product(s) and service(s) furnished pursuant to this contract ("product" includes, without limitation, any piece of equipment, hardware, firmware, middleware, custom or commercial software, or internal components, subroutines, and interfaces therein) that perform any date and/or time data recognition function, calculation, or sequencing will support a four digit year format and will provide accurate date/time data and leap year calculations. This warranty shall survive the termination or expiration of this contract.

Certification Regarding Collection of Taxes: G.S. 143-59.1 bars the Secretary of Administration from entering into contracts with vendors that meet one of the conditions of G.S. 105-164.8(b) and yet refuse to collect use taxes on sales of tangible personal property to purchasers in North Carolina. The conditions include: (a) maintenance of a retail establishment or office; (b) presence of representatives in the State that solicit sales or transact business on behalf of the vendor; and (c) systematic exploitation of the market by media-assisted, media-facilitated, or media-solicited means. The Contractor certifies that it and all of its affiliates (if any) collect all required taxes.

E-Verify

Pursuant to G.S. 143-48.5 and G.S. 147-33.95(g), the undersigned hereby certifies that the Contractor named below, and the Contractor's subcontractors, complies with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the NC General Statutes, including the requirement for each employer with more than 25 employees in North Carolina to verify the work authorization of its employees through the federal E-Verify system." E-Verify System Link: www.uscis.gov

Miscellaneous

Choice of Law: The validity of this contract and any of its terms or provisions, as well as the rights and duties of the parties to this contract, are governed by the laws of North Carolina. The Contractor, by signing this contract, agrees and submits, solely for matters concerning this Contract, to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of North Carolina and agrees, solely for such purpose, that the exclusive venue for any legal proceedings shall be the county in which the contract originated. The place of this contract and all transactions and agreements relating to it, and their situs and forum, shall be the county where the contract originated, where all matters, whether sounding in contract or tort, relating to the validity, construction, interpretation, and enforcement shall be determined.

Amendment: This contract may not be amended orally or by performance. Any amendment must be made in written form and executed by duly authorized representatives of the County and the Contractor.

Severability: In the event that a court of competent jurisdiction holds that a provision or requirement of this contract violates any applicable law, each such provision or requirement shall continue to be enforced to the extent it is not in violation of law or is not otherwise unenforceable and all other provisions and requirements of this contract shall remain in full force and effect.

Headings: The Section and Paragraph headings in these General Terms and Conditions are not material parts of the agreement and should not be used to construe the meaning thereof.

Time of the Essence: Time is of the essence in the performance of this contract.

Key Personnel: The Contractor shall not replace any of the key personnel assigned to the performance of this contract without the prior written approval of the County. The term "key personnel" includes any and all persons identified as

such in the contract documents and any other persons subsequently identified as key personnel by the written agreement of the parties.

Care of Property: The Contractor agrees that it shall be responsible for the proper custody and care of any property furnished to it for use in connection with the performance of this contract and will reimburse the County for loss of, or damage to, such property. At the termination of this contract, the Contractor shall contact the County for instructions as to the disposition of such property and shall comply with these instructions.

Sales/Use Tax Refunds: If eligible, the Contractor and all subcontractors shall: (a) ask the North Carolina Department of Revenue for a refund of all sales and use taxes paid by them in the performance of this contract, pursuant to G.S. 105-164.14; and (b) exclude all refundable sales and use taxes from all reportable expenditures before the expenses are entered in their reimbursement reports.

Advertising: The Contractor shall not use the award of this contract as a part of any news release or commercial advertising.

Exhibit A
Proposal Response Form
Legal Representation

TO: Debbie Green, Director
828 Alliance Main Street
Bayboro, NC 28515

The undersigned hereby proposes to furnish all associated costs to perform the services provided with this RFP and complying with the requirements contained herein.

The undersigned understands and agrees that Pamlico County Human Services reserves the right to select the proposal they deem best for Pamlico County Human Services, and that Pamlico County Human Services shall be the sole judge of which proposal is best.

A responsible officer or employee of the company must sign the proposal. Obligations assumed by such signature must be fulfilled.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Proposal Amount \$ per hour</u>
Attorney Fee	_____
Paralegal Fee	_____

Respectfully submitted this _____ day of _____, 2021

Firm: _____ By: _____

Address: _____ Signature: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Deadline for receiving proposals:
2:00 p.m, Monday, May 24, 2021

Please clearly mark your proposal”
“LEGAL REPRESENTATION”