

New Mexico Educational Retirement Board

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

**Request for Financial and Compliance
Audit Services**



RFP# 26-352-0217-02619

RFP Release Date: February 17, 2026

Proposal Due Date: March 23, 2026

ELECTRONIC-ONLY PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The purpose of the Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit sealed proposals to establish a contract through competitive negotiations for the procurement of financial and compliance audit services. The New Mexico Educational Retirement Board (“NMERB” or the Agency) is requesting proposals from qualified independent public accounting (IPA) firms that have:

1. The demonstrated experience and knowledge to audit the Agency's annual pension plan financial statements and the related notes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, with the option to extend for three successive one-year terms.
2. The firm must have the demonstrated experience and knowledge of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 67 and GASB 68 to audit the Agency's annual Schedule of Employer Allocations and related schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, with the option to extend for three successive one-year terms.
3. The firm must also have the demonstrated experience and knowledge required to review the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report document for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, with the option to extend for three successive one-year terms.
4. The independent public accounting firm must be included in the 2026 Approved Firm List as issued by the New Mexico Office of the State Auditor. An IPA on the list of approved firms is approved to perform government audits until the list of approved firms is published for the following year. The list of approved firms is updated on an annual basis.

These services will be performed pursuant to the Audit Act (Section 12-6-1 et seq. NMSA 1978) which states that “the financial affairs of every agency shall be thoroughly examined and audited each year by the state auditor, personnel of the state auditor’s office designated by the state auditor or independent auditors approved by the state auditor.” (Section 12-6-3 NMSA 1978). Further, audits of New Mexico governmental agencies “shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and rules issued by the state auditor.” (Section 12-6-3 NMSA 1978).

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to select an IPA (offeror) to perform comprehensive annual financial and compliance audit services.

B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The management of the NMERB is vested in a nine-member Board of Trustees. The Board stands in a fiduciary relationship to the members covered under the Educational Retirement Act.

Administrative management of the Fund is vested in the Executive Director who is appointed by the Board of Trustees to advise the Trustees on all matters pertaining to the retirement system, contractual obligations, and employment of the staff needed for operations.

The Educational Retirement Act (ERA) is the statutory authority for the retirement system for the employees of New Mexico's public schools, charter schools, colleges, universities, and selected state agencies. The Plan was established in 1957 and operates under the authority of NM Statutes, Section 22-11-1 et seq., NMSA 1978 as amended. NMERB and its staff administer the Act. Revenues, all of which are non-reverting to the State General Fund, are derived from earnings on Educational Retirement Board investments and employer and member contributions.

The Agency is currently using the State's SHARE system as its primary financial accounting system. Member and employer records are maintained in a pension administration software application. NMERB personnel will prepare the annual financial statements, notes to the financial statements and all required supplementary information. NMERB personnel will prepare the annual Schedule of Employer Allocations and Pension Amounts, notes to these financial statements and all required supplementary information.

In compliance with requirements of the GASB - Statement 68, NMERB publishes an annual report containing pension information for approximately 222 participating employers enabling them to meet their annual financial reporting needs.

The NMERB is headquartered in Santa Fe, New Mexico and provides retirement benefit services to more than 169,000 members and 222 public educational employers. The Fund's assets were valued in excess of \$18.0 billion as of June 30, 2025.

C. SCOPE OF PROCUREMENT

The NMERB is seeking to establish a professional services contract with a qualified offeror to perform comprehensive financial and compliance audit services. The initial agreement will end one (1) year from the date of award, with the option to extend

for three successive one-year terms. In no case will the contract, including all amendments thereof, exceed a total of four (4) years in duration.

The resulting contract will be a single award.

This procurement will result in a contractual agreement between two parties; the procurement may ONLY be used by those two parties exclusively.

D. PROCUREMENT MANAGER

NMERB has assigned a Procurement Manager who is responsible for the conduct of this procurement whose name, address, telephone number and e-mail address are listed below:

Name: Felicia Sena, Procurement Manager

Telephone: (505) 531-6751

Email: Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov

1. **Any inquiries or requests** regarding this procurement must be submitted, in writing, to the Procurement Manager. Offerors may contact **ONLY** the Procurement Manager regarding this procurement. Other state employees or Evaluation Committee members do not have the authority to respond on behalf of the SPD.
2. **Protests of the solicitation or award must be submitted in writing to the Protest Manager identified in Section II.B.13.** As a Protest Manager has been named in this Request for Proposals, pursuant to §13-1-172 NMSA 1978 and 1.4.1.82 NMAC, **ONLY** protests delivered directly to the Protest Manager in writing and in a timely fashion will be considered to have been submitted properly and in accordance with statute, rule and this Request for Proposals. Protests submitted or delivered to the Procurement Manager will **NOT** be considered properly submitted.

E. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals in response to this RFP must be submitted via email to the Procurement Manager. If your submission is too large to send via email, please contact the procurement manager to inquire about other means to submit your proposal.

F. DEFINITION OF TERMINOLOGY

This section contains definitions of terms used throughout this procurement document, including appropriate abbreviations:

1. “**Agency**” means the State Purchasing Division of the General Services Department or that State Agency sponsoring this Procurement.
2. “**Award**” means the final execution of the contract document.
3. “**Business Hours**” means weekdays (Monday – Friday) 8:00 AM thru 5:00 PM MST/MDT, whichever is in effect on the date given.
4. “**Close of Business**” means weekdays (Monday – Friday) 5:00 PM MST/MDT, whichever is in effect on the date given.

5. “**Confidential**” means confidential financial information concerning Offeror’s organization and data that qualifies as a trade secret in accordance with the Uniform Trade Secrets Act §§57-3-A-1 through 57-3A-7 NMSA 1978,. See also NMAC 1.4.1.45. The following items may **not** be labelled as confidential: Offeror’s submitted Cost response, Staff/Personnel Resumes/Bios (excluding personal information such as personal telephone numbers and/or home addresses), and other submitted data that is **not** confidential financial information or that qualifies under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act.
6. “**Contract**” means any agreement for the procurement of items of tangible personal property, services or construction.
7. “**Contractor**” means any business having a contract with a state agency or local public body.
8. “**Determination**” means the written documentation of a decision of a procurement officer including findings of fact required to support a decision. A determination becomes part of the procurement file to which it pertains.
9. “**Desirable**” – the terms ”may,” ”can,” ”should,” ”preferably,” or ”prefers” identify a desirable or discretionary item or factor.
10. “**Electronic Submission**” means a successful submittal of Offeror’s proposal in accordance with procedures stated in this Request for Proposals.
11. “**Electronic Version/Copy**” means a digital format consisting of text, images or both, readable on computers or other electronic devices, which includes all content that the Original document contains. The electronic version/copy CANNOT be emailed.
12. “**Evaluation Committee**” means a body appointed to perform the evaluation of Offerors’ proposals.
13. “**Evaluation Committee Report**” means a report prepared by the Procurement Manager and the Evaluation Committee to support the Committee’s recommendation for contract award. It will contain scores and written evaluations of all responsive Offeror proposals.
14. “**Final Award**” means, in the context of this Request for Proposals and all its attendant documents, that point at which the final required signature on the contract(s) resulting from the procurement has been affixed to the contract(s) thus making it fully executed.
15. “**Finalist**” means an Offeror who meets all the mandatory specifications of this Request for Proposals and whose score on evaluation factors is sufficiently high to merit further consideration by the Evaluation Committee, as explained in Section II.B.8.
16. “**Hourly Rate**” means the proposed fully loaded maximum hourly rates that include travel, per diem, fringe benefits and any overhead costs for contractor personnel, as well as subcontractor personnel if appropriate.

17. “**IT**” means Information Technology.
18. “**Mandatory**” – the terms ”must,” ”shall” ”will,” ”is required,” or ”are required,” identify a mandatory item or factor. Failure to meet a mandatory item or factor may result in the rejection of the Offeror’s proposal.
19. “**Minor Irregularities**” means anything in the proposal that does not affect the price, quality and/or quantity, or any other mandatory requirement.
20. “**Multiple Source Award**” means an award of a contract for one or more items of tangible personal property, services or construction to more than one Offeror.
21. “**Offeror**” is any person, corporation, or partnership who chooses to submit a proposal.
22. “**Price Agreement**” means a definite quantity contract or indefinite quantity contract which requires the contractor to furnish items of tangible personal property, services or construction to a state agency or a local public body which issues a purchase order, if the purchase order is within the quantity limitations of the contract, if any.
23. “**Procurement Manager**” means any person or designee authorized by a state agency or local public body with the responsibility, authority, and resources to conduct the RFP procurement, make written determinations regarding the RFP procurement, and/or enter into or administer contracts as a result of the RFP procurement.
24. “**Procuring Agency**” means all State of New Mexico agencies, commissions, institutions, political subdivisions and local public bodies allowed by law to procure items of tangible personal property, services or construction from the agreement(s) awarded as a result of this RFP.
25. “**Project**” means a temporary process undertaken to solve a well-defined goal or objective with clearly defined start and end times, a set of clearly defined tasks, and a budget. The project terminates once the project scope is achieved and project acceptance is given by the project executive sponsor.
26. “**Redacted**” means a version/copy of the Offeror’s proposal with the information considered proprietary or confidential (as defined by §§57-3A-1 to 57-3A-7 NMSA 1978 and NMAC 1.4.1.45 and summarized herein and outlined in Section II.C.8 of this RFP) blacked-out BUT NOT omitted or removed.
27. “**Request for Proposals (RFP)**” means all documents, including those attached or incorporated by reference, used for soliciting proposals.
28. “**Responsible Offeror**” means an Offeror who submits a responsive proposal and who has furnished, when required, information and data to prove that his financial resources, production or service facilities, personnel, service reputation and experience are adequate

to make satisfactory delivery of the services, or items of tangible personal property described in the proposal.

29. **“Responsive Offer”** or means an offer which conforms in all material respects to the requirements set forth in the request for proposals. Material respects of a request for proposals include, but are not limited to price, quality, quantity or delivery requirements.
30. **“Sealed”** means, in terms of electronic submission, an Offeror’s proposal and all accompanying documents has been completely and successfully emailed to the procurement manager prior to the submission deadline stated in the RFP.
31. **“Single Source Award”** means an award of contract for items of tangible personal property, services or construction to only one Offeror.
32. **“SPD”** means State Purchasing Division of the New Mexico State General Services Department.
33. **“Staff”** means any individual who is a full-time, part-time, or an independently contracted employee with the Offerors’ company.
34. **“State (the State)”** means the State of New Mexico.
35. **“State Agency”** means any department, commission, council, board, committee, institution, legislative body, agency, government corporation, educational institution or official of the executive, legislative or judicial branch of the government of this state. “State agency” includes the Purchasing Division of the General Services Department and the State Purchasing Agent but does not include local public bodies.
36. **“State Purchasing Agent”** means the Director of the Purchasing Division of the General Services Department.
37. **“Statement of Concurrence”** means an affirmative statement from the Offeror indicating its response to a required Section IV specification agreeing to comply and concur with the stated requirement(s). This statement shall be included in Offerors proposal, pursuant to Section III.C.1. (E.g. “We concur,” “Understands and Complies,” “Comply,” “Will Comply if Applicable,” etc.)
38. **“Unredacted”** means a version/copy of the proposal containing all complete information; including any that the Offeror would otherwise consider confidential, such copy for use only for the purposes of evaluation.
39. **“Written”** means typed in standard 8 ½ x 11 inch document format, by common electronic means (such as Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF, etc.). A larger size document is permissible for charts, spreadsheets, etc.

G. PROCUREMENT LIBRARY

A procurement library has been established at <https://www.erb.nm.gov/requests-for-proposals/>. Offerors are encouraged to review the material contained in the Procurement Library. The library contains information listed below:

[Procurement Regulations 1.4.1 NMAC](#)

[Educational Retirement Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 22-11-1 to -55.](#)

Electronic version of RFP, Questions & Answers, RFP Amendments, etc.

II. CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE PROCUREMENT

This section of the RFP contains the schedule of events, the descriptions of each event, and the conditions governing this procurement.

A. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The Procurement Manager will make every effort to adhere to the following schedule:

| Action | Responsible Party | Due Dates |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Issue RFP | Agency | February 16, 2026 |
| 2. Acknowledgement of Receipt Form | Potential Offerors | March 2, 2026 |
| 3. Deadline to submit Written Questions | Potential Offerors | March 5, 2026 |
| 4. Response to Written Questions | Procurement Manager | March 10, 2026 |
| 5. Submission of Proposal | Potential Offerors | March 23, 2026 |
| 6.* Proposal Evaluation | Evaluation Committee | March 27-31, 2026 |
| 7.* Selection of Finalists | Evaluation Committee | April 3, 2026 |
| 8.* Oral Presentation(s) | Finalist Offerors | April 6, 2026 |
| 9.* Best and Final Offers | Finalist Offerors | April 9, 2026 |
| 10.* Finalize Contractual Agreements | Agency/Finalist Offerors | April 10-14, 2026 |
| 11.* Contract Awards | Agency/ Finalist Offerors | April 15, 2026 |
| 12.* Protest Deadline | Offerors | April 30, 2026 |

* Dates indicated in Events 6 through 12 are estimates only, and may be subject to change without necessitating an amendment to the RFP.

B. EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

The following paragraphs describe the activities listed in the Sequence of Events shown in Section II.A., above.

1. Issue RFP

This RFP is being issued on behalf of the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board on the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events.

2. Acknowledgement of Receipt Form

Potential Offerors may e-mail the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form APPENDIX A), to the Procurement Manager, Felicia Sena at Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov, to have their organization placed on the procurement Distribution List. The form must be returned to the Procurement Manager by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST) on the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events.

The procurement distribution list will be used for the distribution of written responses to questions, and/or any amendments to the RFP. Failure to return the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form does not prohibit potential Offerors from submitting a response to this RFP. However, by not returning the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form, the potential Offeror's representative shall not be included on the distribution list, and will be solely responsible for obtaining from the Procurement Library (Section I.G.) responses to written questions and any amendments to the RFP.

3. Deadline to Submit Written Questions

Potential Offerors may submit written questions to the Procurement Manager as to the intent or clarity of this RFP until 3:00 pm (MST) as indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events. All written questions must be addressed to the Procurement Manager as declared in Section I.D. Questions shall be clearly labeled and shall cite the Section(s) in the RFP or other document which form the basis of the question.

4. Response to Written Questions

Written responses to the written questions will be provided via e-mail, on or before the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events, to all potential Offerors who timely submitted an Acknowledgement of Receipt Form (Section II.B.2 and APPENDIX A).

The Questions and Answers will be posted to: <https://www.erb.nm.gov/requests-for-proposals/>

5. Submission of Proposal

Only **electronic** proposal submission is allowed. **Do not** submit hard copies until further notice.

ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PROCUREMENT MANAGER OR DESIGNEE NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM MST ON THE DATE INDICATED IN SECTION II.A, SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. NO LATE PROPOSAL CAN BE ACCEPTED. The date and time of receipt will be recorded on each proposal. Such electronic submissions will be considered sealed in accordance with statute.

Proposals must be submitted electronically via email to the Procurement Manager. Multiple emails may be sent if a file is too large to send in one email. The Procurement Manager will acknowledge receipt of the RFP through email. If you do not receive an email acknowledgement or if your file is too large to send via email, contact the Procurement Manager for further guidance. Proposals submitted by facsimile or other electronic means will not be accepted.

Proposals will be opened and reviewed to verify the submission met the minimum requirements by the Procurement Manager and a witness within 24 hours of the deadline.

A log will be kept of the names of all Offeror organizations that submitted proposals. Pursuant to §13-1-116 NMSA 1978, the contents of proposals shall not be disclosed to competing potential Offerors during the negotiation process. The negotiation process is deemed to be in effect until the contract is awarded pursuant to this Request for Proposals. Awarded in this context means the final required state agency signature on the contract(s) resulting from the procurement has been obtained.

6. Proposal Evaluation

An Evaluation Committee will perform the evaluation of proposals. This process will take place as indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events, depending upon the number of proposals received. During this time, the Procurement Manager may initiate discussions with Offerors who submit responsive or potentially responsive proposals for the purpose of clarifying aspects of the proposals. However, proposals may be accepted and evaluated without such discussion. Discussions SHALL NOT be initiated by the Offerors.

7. Selection of Finalists

The Evaluation Committee will select, and the Procurement Manager will notify the finalist Offerors as per schedule Section II.A, Sequence of Events or as soon as possible thereafter. A schedule for Oral Presentation, if any, will be determined at this time.

8. Oral Presentations

Finalist Offerors, as selected per Section II.B.7 above, may be required to conduct an oral presentation at a venue to be determined as per schedule Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. If Oral Presentations are held, Finalist Offerors may be required to make their presentations through electronic means (Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.). The Agency will provide Finalist Offerors with an agenda and applicable details (such as, scheduled presentation date and time, time limits, etc.); including an invitation to the event. Whether or not Oral Presentations will be held is at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

9. Best and Final Offers

Finalist Offerors may be asked to submit revisions to their proposals for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers by as per schedule Section II. A., Sequence of Events or as soon as possible. Best and final offers may also be clarified and amended at finalist Offeror's oral presentation.

10. Finalize Contractual Agreements

After approval of the Evaluation Committee Report, any contractual agreement(s) resulting from this RFP will be finalized with the most advantageous Offeror(s), taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in this RFP, as per Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. The most advantageous proposal may or may not have received the most points. In the event mutually agreeable terms cannot be reached with the apparent most advantageous Offeror in the timeframe specified, the State reserves the right to finalize a contractual agreement with the next most advantageous Offeror(s) without undertaking a new procurement process.

11. Contract Awards

The award is subject to appropriate Department and State approval. Upon receipt of the signed contractual agreement, the Agency Procurement office will award as per Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter.

12. Protest Deadline

Any protest by an Offeror must be timely submitted and in conformance with §13-1-172 NMSA 1978 and applicable procurement regulations. As a Protest Manager has been named in this Request for Proposals, pursuant to §13-1-172 NMSA 1978 and 1.4.1.82 NMAC, ONLY protests delivered directly to the Protest Manager in writing and in a timely fashion will be considered to have been submitted properly and in accordance with statute, rule and this Request for Proposals. The 15 calendar day protest period shall begin on the day following the notice of award of contract(s) and will end at 5:00 pm MST/MDT on the 15th day. Protests must be written and must include the name and address of the protestor and the request for proposal number. It must also contain a statement of the grounds for protest including appropriate supporting exhibits and it must specify the ruling requested from the party listed below. The protest must be directed to:

Jacob Maule
Jacob.Maule@erb.nm.gov

PROTESTS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Acceptance of Conditions Governing the Procurement

Offerors must indicate their acceptance to be bound by the Conditions Governing the Procurement, Section II.C, and Evaluation, Section V, by completing and signing the Letter of Transmittal form, pursuant to the requirements in Section II.C.30, located in APPENDIX E.

2. Incurring Cost

Any cost incurred by the potential Offeror in preparation, transmittal, and/or presentation of any proposal or material submitted in response to this RFP shall be borne solely by the Offeror. Any cost incurred by the Offeror for set up and demonstration of the proposed equipment and/or system shall be borne solely by the Offeror.

3. Prime Contractor Responsibility

Any contractual agreement that may result from this RFP shall specify that the prime contractor is solely responsible for fulfillment of all requirements of the contractual agreement with a State Agency which may derive from this RFP. The State Agency entering into a contractual agreement with a vendor will make payments to only the prime contractor.

4. Subcontractors/Consent

The use of subcontractors is allowed. The prime contractor shall be wholly responsible for the entire performance of the contractual agreement whether or not subcontractors are used. Additionally, the prime contractor must receive approval, in writing, from the agency awarding any resultant contract, before any subcontractor is used during the term of this agreement.

5. Amended Proposals

An Offeror may submit an amended proposal before the proposal due date. Such amended proposals must be complete replacements for a previously submitted proposal and must be clearly identified as such in the transmittal letter. **Agency personnel will not merge, collate, or assemble proposal materials.**

6. Offeror's Rights to Withdraw Proposal

Offerors will be allowed to withdraw their proposals at any time prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. The Offeror must submit a written withdrawal request addressed to the Procurement Manager and signed by the Offeror's duly authorized representative.

The approval or denial of withdrawal requests received after the deadline for receipt of the proposals is governed by the applicable procurement regulations, 1.4.1.5 & 1.4.1.36 NMAC.

7. Proposal Offer Firm

Responses to this RFP, including proposal prices for services, will be considered firm for one-hundred twenty (120) days after the due date for receipt of proposals or ninety (90) days after the due date for the receipt of a best and final offer, if the Offeror is invited or required to submit one.

8. Disclosure of Proposal Contents

The contents of all submitted proposals will be kept confidential until the final award has been completed by the Agency. At that time, all proposals and documents pertaining to the proposals will be available for public inspection, *except* for proprietary or confidential material as follows:

- a. ***Proprietary and Confidential information is restricted to:***
 1. confidential financial information concerning the Offeror's organization; and
 2. information that qualifies as a trade secret in accordance with the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, §§57-3A-1 through 57-3A-7 NMSA 1978.
- b. An additional but separate redacted version of Offeror's proposal, as outlined and identified in Section III.B.2.a, shall be submitted containing the blacked-out proprietary or confidential information, in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential version of Offeror's proposal.

IMPORTANT: The price of products offered or the cost of services proposed **SHALL NOT** be designated as proprietary or confidential information.

If a request is received for disclosure of proprietary or confidential materials, the Agency shall examine the request and make a written determination that specifies which portions of the proposal should be disclosed. Unless the Offeror takes legal action to prevent the disclosure, the proposal will be so disclosed. The proposal shall be open to public inspection subject to any continuing prohibition on the disclosure of proprietary or confidential information.

9. No Obligation

This RFP in no manner obligates the State of New Mexico or any of its Agencies to the use of any Offeror's services until a valid written contract is awarded and approved by appropriate authorities.

10. Termination

This RFP may be canceled at any time and any and all proposals may be rejected in whole or in part when the Agency determines such action to be in the best interest of the State of New Mexico.

11. Sufficient Appropriation

Any contract awarded as a result of this RFP process may be terminated if sufficient appropriations or authorizations do not exist. Such terminations will be affected by sending written notice to the contractor. The Agency's decision as to whether sufficient appropriations and authorizations are available will be accepted by the contractor as final.

12. Legal Review

The Agency requires that all Offerors agree to be bound by the General Requirements contained in this RFP. Any Offeror's concerns must be promptly submitted in writing to the attention of the Procurement Manager.

13. Governing Law

This RFP and any agreement with an Offeror which may result from this procurement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

14. Basis for Proposal

Only information supplied in writing by the Procurement Manager or contained in this RFP shall be used as the basis for the preparation of Offeror proposals.

15. Contract Terms and Conditions

The contract between an agency and a contractor will follow the format specified by the Agency and contain the terms and conditions set forth in the Draft Contract (APPENDIX C). However, the contracting agency reserves the right to negotiate provisions in addition to those contained in this RFP Draft Contract (APPENDIX C) with any Offeror. The contents of this RFP, as revised and/or supplemented, and the successful Offeror's proposal will be incorporated into and become part of any resultant contract.

The Agency discourages exceptions from the contract terms and conditions as set forth in the RFP Draft Contract (APPENDIX C). Such exceptions may cause a proposal to be rejected as nonresponsive when, in the sole judgment of the Agency (and the Evaluation Committee), the proposal appears to be conditioned on the exception, or correction of what is deemed to be a deficiency, or an unacceptable exception is proposed which would require a substantial proposal rewrite to correct.

Should an Offeror object to any of the terms and conditions as set forth in the RFP Draft Contract (APPENDIX C) strongly enough to propose alternate terms and conditions in spite of the above, the Offeror must propose **specific** alternative language. The Agency may or may not accept the alternative language. General references to the Offeror's terms and conditions or attempts at complete substitutions of the Draft Contract are not acceptable to the Agency and will result in disqualification of the Offeror's proposal.

Offerors must provide a brief discussion of the purpose and impact, if any, of each proposed change followed by the specific proposed alternate wording.

If an Offeror fails to propose any alternate terms and conditions during the procurement process (the RFP process prior to selection as successful Offeror), no proposed alternate terms and conditions will be considered later during the negotiation process. **Failure to propose alternate terms and conditions during the procurement process (the RFP process prior to selection as successful Offeror) is an explicit agreement by the Offeror that the contractual terms and conditions contained herein are accepted by the Offeror.**

16. Offeror's Terms and Conditions

Offerors must submit with the proposal a complete set of any additional terms and conditions they expect to have included in a contract negotiated with the Agency. See Section II.C.15 for requirements.

17. Contract Deviations

Any additional terms and conditions, which may be the subject of negotiation (such terms and conditions having been proposed during the procurement process, that is, the RFP process prior to selection as successful Offeror), will be discussed only between the Agency and the Offeror selected and shall not be deemed an opportunity to amend the Offeror's proposal.

18. Offeror Qualifications

The Evaluation Committee may make such investigations as necessary to determine the ability of the potential Offeror to adhere to the requirements specified within this RFP. The Evaluation Committee will reject the proposal of any potential Offeror who is not a Responsible Offeror or fails to submit a Responsive Offer as defined in §13-1-83 and §13-1-85 NMSA 1978.

19. Right to Waive Minor Irregularities

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to waive minor irregularities, as defined in Section I.F.19. The Evaluation Committee also reserves the right to waive mandatory requirements, provided that **all** of the otherwise responsive proposals failed to meet the same mandatory requirements and the failure to do so does not otherwise materially affect the procurement. This right is at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

20. Change in Contractor Representatives

The Agency reserves the right to require a change in contractor representatives if the assigned representative(s) is (are) not, in the opinion of the Agency, adequately meeting the needs of the Agency.

21. Notice of Penalties

The Procurement Code, §§13-1-28 through 13-1-199 NMSA 1978, imposes civil, and misdemeanor and felony criminal penalties for its violation. In addition, the New Mexico criminal statutes impose felony penalties for bribes, gratuities and kickbacks.

22. Agency Rights

The Agency in agreement with the Evaluation Committee reserves the right to accept all or a portion of a potential Offeror's proposal.

23. Right to Publish

Throughout the duration of this procurement process and contract term, Offerors and contractors must secure from the agency written approval prior to the release of any information that pertains to the potential work or activities covered by this procurement and/or agency contracts deriving from this procurement. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in disqualification of the Offeror's proposal or removal from the contract.

24. Ownership of Proposals

All documents submitted in response to the RFP shall become property of the State of New Mexico. If the RFP is cancelled, all responses received shall be destroyed by the Agency or SPD.

25. Confidentiality

Any confidential information provided to, or developed by, the contractor in the performance of the contract resulting from this RFP shall be kept confidential and shall not be made available to any individual or organization by the contractor without the prior written approval of the Agency.

The Contractor(s) agrees to protect the confidentiality of all confidential information and not to publish or disclose such information to any third party without the procuring Agency's written permission.

26. Electronic mail address required

A large part of the communication regarding this procurement will be conducted by electronic mail (e-mail). Offeror must have a valid e-mail address to receive this correspondence. (See also Section II.B.5, Response to Written Questions).

27. Use of Electronic Versions of this RFP

This RFP is being made available by electronic means. In the event of conflict between a version of the RFP in the Offeror's possession and the version maintained by the agency, the Offeror acknowledges that the version maintained by the agency shall govern. Please refer to: <https://www.erb.nm.gov/requests-for-proposals/>

28. New Mexico Employees Health Coverage

- A. If the Offeror has, or grows to, six (6) or more employees who work, or who are expected to work, an average of at least 20 hours per week over a six (6) month period during the term of the contract, Offeror must agree to have in place, and agree to maintain for the term of the contract, health insurance for those employees if the expected annual value in the aggregate of any and all contracts between Contractor and the State exceed \$250,000 dollars.
- B. Offeror must agree to maintain a record of the number of employees who have (a) accepted health insurance; (b) decline health insurance due to other health insurance coverage already in place; or (c) decline health insurance for other reasons. These records are subject to review and audit by a representative of the state.
- C. Offeror must agree to advise all employees of the availability of State publicly financed health care coverage programs by providing each employee with, as a minimum, the following web site link to additional information: <https://bewellnm.com>.

- D. For Indefinite Quantity, Indefinite Delivery contracts (price agreements without specific limitations on quantity and providing for an indeterminate number of orders to be placed against it); these requirements shall apply the first day of the second month after the Offeror reports combined sales (from state and, if applicable, from local public bodies if from a state price agreement) of \$250,000.

29. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form

Offeror must complete, sign, and return the Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form (APPENDIX B) as a part of their proposal. This requirement applies regardless whether a covered contribution was made or not made for the positions of Governor and Lieutenant Governor or other identified official. **Failure to complete and return the signed, unaltered form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

30. Letter of Transmittal

Offeror's proposal must be accompanied by the Letter of Transmittal Form located in APPENDIX E, which must be **signed** by the individual authorized to contractually obligate the company, identified in #2 below.

Provide the following information:

1. Identify the submitting business entity; Name, Mailing Address, Phone Number, Federal Tax ID Number (TIN), and New Mexico Business Tax ID Number (BTIN, formerly CRS);
2. Identify the Name, Title, Telephone, and E-mail address of the person authorized by the Offeror's organization to (A) contractually obligate the business entity providing the Offer, (B) negotiate a contract on behalf of the organization; and/or (C) provide clarifications or answer questions regarding the Offeror's proposal content (*A response to B and/or C is only necessary if the responses differs from the individual identified in A*);
3. Identify any subcontractor/s that may be utilized in the performance of any resultant contract award;
4. Identify any other entity/-ies (such as State Agency, reseller, etc., that is not a subcontractor identified in #3) that may be used in the performance of this awarded contract; and
5. The individual identified in #2 above, must sign and date the form, attesting to the veracity of the information provided, and acknowledging (a) the organization's acceptance of the Conditions Governing the Procurement stated in Section II.C.1, (b) the organizations acceptance of the Section V Evaluation Factors, and (c) receipt of any and all amendments to the RFP.

Failure to submit the signed Letter of Transmittal Form located in Appendix E will result in Offeror's disqualification.

31. Disclosure Regarding Responsibility

- A. Any prospective Contractor and any of its Principals who enter into a contract greater than sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) with any state agency or local public body for professional services, tangible personal property, services or construction agrees to disclose whether the Contractor, or any principal of the Contractor's company:
1. is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for award of contract by any federal entity, state agency or local public body;
 2. has within a three-year period preceding this offer, been convicted in a criminal matter or had a civil judgment rendered against them for:
 - a. the commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) contract or subcontract;
 - b. violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes related to the submission of offers; or
 - c. the commission in any federal or state jurisdiction of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violation of Federal criminal tax law, or receiving stolen property;
 3. is presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by any (federal state or local) government entity with the commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph A of this disclosure;
 4. has, preceding this offer, been notified of any delinquent Federal or state taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000.00 of which the liability remains unsatisfied. Taxes are considered delinquent if the following criteria apply.
 - a. The tax liability is finally determined. The liability is finally determined if it has been assessed. A liability is not finally determined if there is a pending administrative or judicial challenge. In the case of a judicial challenge of the liability, the liability is not finally determined until all judicial appeal rights have been exhausted.
 - b. The taxpayer is delinquent in making payment. A taxpayer is delinquent if the taxpayer has failed to pay the tax liability when full payment was due and required. A taxpayer is not delinquent in cases where enforced collection action is precluded.
 - c. Have within a three-year period preceding this offer, had one or more contracts terminated for default by any federal or state agency or local public body.)
- B. Principal, for the purpose of this disclosure, means an officer, director, owner, partner, or a person having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity or related entities.
- C. The Contractor shall provide immediate written notice to the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement if, at any time during the term of this Agreement, the Contractor learns that the Contractor's disclosure was at any time erroneous or became erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- D. A disclosure that any of the items in this requirement exist will not necessarily result in

termination of this Agreement. However, the disclosure will be considered in the determination of the Contractor's responsibility and ability to perform under this Agreement. Failure of the Contractor to furnish a disclosure or provide additional information as requested will render the Offeror nonresponsive.

- E. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render, in good faith, the disclosure required by this document. The knowledge and information of a Contractor is not required to exceed that which is the normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- F. The disclosure requirement provided is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when making an award and is a continuing material representation of the facts during the term of this Agreement. If during the performance of the contract, the Contractor is indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by any government entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any offenses named in this document the Contractor must provide immediate written notice to the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement. If it is later determined that the Contractor knowingly rendered an erroneous disclosure, in addition to other remedies available to the Government, the State Purchasing Agent or Central Purchasing Officer may terminate the involved contract for cause. Still further the State Purchasing Agent or Central Purchasing Officer may suspend or debar the Contractor from eligibility for future solicitations until such time as the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the State Purchasing Agent or Central Purchasing Officer.

32. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences

To ensure adequate consideration and application of §13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended), **Offeror must submit a copy of its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Preference Certificate or its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference with its proposal.** Certificates for preferences must be obtained through the New Mexico Department of Taxation & Revenue
<http://www.tax.newmexico.gov/Businesses/in-state-veteran-preference-certification.aspx>.

In accordance with §13-1-21(H) NMSA 1978, an agency shall not award any combination of New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences.

In accordance with §13-1-21(J) NMSA 1978, the New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences shall not apply if the expenditures for this RFP includes federal funds.

III. RESPONSE FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION

A. NUMBER OF RESPONSES

Offerors shall submit only one proposal in response to this RFP.

B. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION ONLY Responses

Proposals in response to this RFP must be submitted via email to the Procurement Manager:

The Offeror need only submit one single electronic copy of each portion of its proposal (Technical and Cost) as outlined below.

Proposals must be submitted in the manner outlined below. Technical and Cost portions of Offerors proposal **must** be submitted in separate documents as indicated below in this section and **must** be prominently identified as “Technical Proposal” or “Cost Proposal”.

a) **Technical Proposals** – One (1) ELECTRONIC document must be organized in accordance with **Section III.C Proposal Format**. All information for the Technical Proposal **must be combined into a single file/document**. The Technical Proposals **SHALL NOT** contain any cost information.

i. **Confidential Information:** If Offeror’s proposal contains confidential information, as defined in Section I.F.5 and detailed in Section II.C.8, Offeror **must** submit **two (2) separate ELECTRONIC technical documents**

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- One (1) ELECTRONIC version of the requisite proposals identified in Section III.B.1.a above as **unredacted** (def. Section I.F.38) versions for evaluation purposes; and
- One (1) **redacted** (def. Section I.F.26) ELECTRONIC for the public file, in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential version of Offeror’s proposal. Redacted versions **must** be clearly marked as “REDACTED” or “CONFIDENTIAL” on the first page of the electronic file.

b) **Cost Proposals** – One (1) ELECTRONIC version of the proposal containing **ONLY the Cost Proposal**. All information **must be combined into a single file/document**.

The ELECTRONIC proposal submission **must be emailed** by the submission deadline in Section II.B.5.

*It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure all documents are submitted electronically via email to the Procurement Manager by the deadline set forth in this RFP. A submission that is not both: (1) fully complete; and (2) received, via email to the Procurement Manager by the deadline, will be deemed late. In accordance with statute and rule, **NO LATE OFFER CAN BE ACCEPTED.***

Any proposal that does not adhere to the requirements of this Section and **Section III.C.1 Proposal Content and Organization** may be deemed non-responsive and rejected on that basis.

C. PROPOSAL CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION

All proposals must be submitted as follows:

Organization of files/envelopes for electronic copy proposals:

Direct reference to pre-prepared or promotional material may be used if referenced and clearly marked. Promotional material must be minimal. The proposal must be organized and indexed in the following format and must contain, at a minimum, all listed items in the sequence indicated.

Technical Proposal – DO NOT INCLUDE ANY COST INFORMATION IN THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.

1. Signed Letter of Transmittal
2. Signed Campaign Contribution Form
3. Table of Contents
4. Proposal Summary (Optional)
5. Response to Contract Terms and Conditions (from Section II.C.15)
6. Offeror's Additional Terms and Conditions (from Section II.C.16)
7. Response to Specifications (**except Cost information which shall be included ONLY in Cost Proposal/Binder 2**)
 - a. Organizational Experience
 - a. Detailed statement of relevant experience
 - b. On-site Manager and other on-site personnel
 - c. Resumes
 - d. External Quality Control Review
 - e. Technical Plan
 - f. Questions regarding data protection

- b. Organizational References
 - c. Financial Stability (Financial information considered confidential, as defined in Section I.F., and detailed in Section II.C.8, should be placed in the **Confidential Information** file, per Section II.B, as applicable)
 - d. New Mexico Preferences (if applicable)
8. Other Supporting Material (if applicable)

Cost Proposal:

1. Completed Cost Response Form (APPENDIX D)

Within each section of the proposal, Offerors should address the items in the order indicated above. All forms provided in this RFP must be thoroughly completed and included in the appropriate section of the proposal. **Any and all discussion of proposed costs, rates or expenses must occur ONLY in the Cost Proposal.**

A Proposal Summary may be included in Offeror's Technical Proposal, to provide the Evaluation Committee with an overview of the proposal; however, this material will not be used in the evaluation process unless specifically referenced from other portions of the Offeror's proposal. **DO NOT INCLUDE COST INFORMATION IN THE PROPOSAL SUMMARY.**

IV. SPECIFICATIONS

A. DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK

1. Scope of Work

The Contractor shall conduct a financial and compliance audit of the Agency for Fiscal Year 2026 in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, the Audit Act, Sections 12-6-1 through 12-6-15, NMSA 1978, and the Audit Rule (Section 2.2.2.1 NMAC *et seq.*).

2. Other Provisions

Special audit work on the Governmental Accounting Standards Board 68 Schedules of Employer Allocations Report, as required by NMAC Section 2.2.2.10.Z. The auditor will proofread the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (excluding the Actuarial Section), which is drafted by the Agency, and provide comments on each section in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

B. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. Organizational Experience

Offeror **must**:

a) Statement of Experience

Offeror must provide a detailed statement of relevant experience with state and local government fiscal and compliance audits. The experience of all proposed subcontractors must be described. The narrative **must** thoroughly describe how the Offeror has supplied expertise for similar contracts and must include the extent of their experience, expertise, and knowledge as a provider of state and local government fiscal and compliance audits. In addition, the offeror must specifically identify experience in auditing public pension funds in excess of \$5 billion. Emphasis should be given to offeror's experience and knowledge of GASB 68 and the intended plan to audit the Agency's annual Schedule of Employer Allocations and related schedules. Experience with GASB 72, Fair Value Measurement and Application should also be highlighted.

b) On-site Manager and other on-site personnel

Offeror must provide the names and profiles of the on-site manager and other personnel whom the offeror will use to perform the audit.

c) Resumes

Resumes shall include education, position in the firm, total years, and types of experience relevant to performance of this contract, and a listing of continuing professional education (CPE) courses completed in the last three (3) years. Specific experience with GASB 68 and GASB 72 should be included.

Offerors must meet the continuing professional education requirements contained in Section 2.2.2.14 of the Audit Rule.

d) External Quality Control Review

Offeror shall provide a copy of the offeror's last external quality control review, including a copy of the corresponding management letter. The external quality control review must include the date the review was performed and the names of the reviewers.

e) Technical Plan

The offeror must propose a technical plan for performing the audit. The technical plan shall include the start and end dates and an estimate of time to complete major segments of the audit (planning, interim field work, fieldwork, and reporting). The offeror should describe its plans for using agency staff throughout the audit engagement.

f) Questions regarding data protection and due diligence, Agency will require answers to data protection and due diligence questions on a semi-annual basis:

- a. Does the offeror routinely perform penetration tests utilizing a qualified third-party vendor, and if so, how often are tests performed and when was the last test performed?
- b. Describe your firm's disaster recovery plan as it relates to the equipment, software, data, and personnel that would be used in providing the services required by NMERB.
- c. What technical prevention measures are in place to secure and monitor your network?
- d. Is multi-factor authentication utilized for network remote access? If so, what type of authentication?
- e. Is there a formal security incident response program in place, and if so, how often is the incident response program tested?

- f. Describe employee training programs of your organization including software, security, and technology training that would be used in providing the services required by NMERB.
- g. Does the offeror routinely perform IT risk assessments and /or IT audits from a qualified third-party vendor?
- h. How is data protected in transit between the offeror and Agency, and then between the offeror and end user? Additionally, how is data at rest protected on servers and backup media?
- i. Have you had a SOC 2 audit conducted, and are you willing to share that report with NMERB?
- j. Describe your organization's risk management process including how issues are identified and how responses are executed.
- k. Do you anticipate any significant changes in your organizational ownership, staffing, or products and services offered? If so, describe these anticipated changes and their impact on NMERB.
- l. Does your organization have a written code of conduct or set of standards for professional behavior? If so, how are they monitored and enforced?
- m. Over the past five years, has your organization, your parent organization or any of its affiliates or any officer or principal been involved in any business litigation or regulatory proceedings? If so, provide an explanation and indicate the status of the action.

2. Organizational References

Offeror must provide a list of a minimum of three (3) external references from similar projects/programs performed for private, state or large local government clients within the last three (3) years.

Offeror shall include the following Business Reference information as part of its proposals:

- a) Client name;
- b) Project description;
- c) Project dates (starting and ending);
- d) Technical environment (i.e., Software applications, Internet capabilities, Data communications, Network, Hardware);

- e) Staff assigned to reference engagement that will be designated for work per this RFP; and
- f) Client project manager name, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.

Offeror is required to submit APPENDIX F, Organizational Reference Questionnaire (“Questionnaire”), to the business references it lists. **The business references must submit the Questionnaire directly to the designee identified in APPENDIX F. The business references must not return the completed Questionnaire to the Offeror.** It is the Offeror’s responsibility to ensure the completed forms are submitted on or before the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events, for inclusion in the evaluation process.

Organizational References that are not received or are not complete, may adversely affect the Offeror’s score in the evaluation process. Offerors are encouraged to specifically request that their Organizational References provide detailed comments.

C. BUSINESS SPECIFICATIONS

1. Financial Stability

Offerors must submit copies of the most recent years independently audited financial statements and the most current 10K, as well as financial statements for the preceding three years, if they exist. The submission must include the audit opinion, the balance sheet, and statements of income, retained earnings, cash flows, and the notes to the financial statements. If independently audited financial statements do not exist, Offeror must state the reason and, instead, submit sufficient information (e.g., D & B report).

2. Letter of Transmittal Form

The Offeror’s proposal **must** be accompanied by the Letter of Transmittal Form located in APPENDIX E. The form **must** be completed and must be signed by the person authorized to obligate the company. **Failure to respond to ALL items, as indicated in Section II.C.30 and APPENDIX E, and to return a signed, unaltered form will result in Offeror’s disqualification.**

3. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form

The Offeror must complete an unaltered Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form and submit a signed copy with the Offeror's proposal. This must be accomplished whether or not an applicable contribution has been made. (See APPENDIX B). **Failure to complete and return the signed, unaltered form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

4. Cost

Offerors must complete the Cost Response Form in APPENDIX D. Offerors must propose an hourly composite rate and breakdown of hours and costs for each of the four (4) years. The hourly composite rate should include the following elements:

- a. Personnel services, fringe benefits, overhead costs for contractor personnel as well as subcontract personnel, and
- b. Travel and lodging expenses
- c. New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax

All charges listed on APPENDIX D must be justified and evidence of need documented in the proposal.

5. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences

To ensure application of § 13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended), an Offeror **MUST** submit a copy, in this section, of its valid New Mexico/Native Resident Preference Certificate or its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference Certificate, as issued by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department.

6. Time Frame

The audit needs to be completed and the required number of copies of the audit report delivered to the Office of the State Auditor by the deadline established in the State Audit Rule, or sooner.

7. Agency Support

The Agency will assign staff to facilitate the contractor. Such staff will assist the contractor in obtaining pertinent information, setting up meetings and otherwise facilitating the work. This Agency support does not relieve the contractor of the primary responsibility of completion of the audit.

8. Facilities

For the purpose of performance of the audit, the Agency will make every effort to provide space for up to three personnel and the use of a telephone and a copy machine.

9. New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax (Should be included in the Cost Response Binder)

The successful offeror shall be compensated for New Mexico gross receipts taxes owed on audit services rendered under this RFP.

V. EVALUATION

A. EVALUATION POINT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of evaluation factors with point values assigned to each. These weighted factors will be used in the evaluation of individual potential Offeror proposals

| Evaluation Factors <i>(Correspond to Sections IV.B and IV.C)</i> | Points Available |
|---|-------------------------|
| B. Technical Specifications | |
| B. 1.a. Statement of Experience | 300 |
| B. 1.b. On-site Manager and other Personnel | 125 |
| B. 1.c. Resumes | 100 |
| B. 1.d. External Quality Control Review | 50 |
| B. 1.e. Technical Plan | 200 |
| B. 1.f. Questions regarding protection of data | 50 |
| B.2. Organizational References | 75 |
| B.3. Oral Presentations (Optional) | |
| C. Business Specifications | |
| C.1. Financial Stability | Pass/Fail |
| C.2. Letter Of Transmittal | Pass/Fail |
| C.3. Signed Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form | Pass/Fail |
| C.4. Cost | 100 |
| TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE | 1,000 |
| C.5. New Mexico / Native American Resident Preference | 80 |
| C.5. New Mexico / Native American Resident Veteran Preference Points per Section IV C.7 | 100 |

Table 1: Evaluation Point Summary

B. EVALUATION FACTORS

B.1.a Statement of Experience (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of the response of the engagements cited and the perceived validity of the response. Lack of response will be awarded zero (0) points. Evaluation criteria will be based on IV.B.

B.1.b On-Site Manager and other personnel (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of the response of the engagements cited and the perceived validity of the response. Lack of response will be awarded zero (0) points. Evaluation criteria will be based on IV.B.

B.1.c Resumes (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the relevant experience of each team member assigned to the engagement. Lack of response will be awarded zero (0) points. Evaluation criteria will be based on IV.B.

B.1.d External Quality Control Review (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of the response of the engagements cited and the perceived validity of the response. Lack of response will be awarded zero (0) points. Evaluation criteria will be based on IV.B.

B.1.e Technical Plan (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of the response of the engagements cited and the perceived validity of the response. Lack of response will be awarded zero (0) points. Evaluation criteria will be based on IV.B.

B.1.f Questions regarding data protection (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of the response of the engagements cited and the perceived validity of the response. Lack of response will be awarded zero (0) points. Evaluation criteria will be based on IV.B.

1. B.2 Organizational References (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based upon an evaluation of the responses to a series of questions as per Appendix F. Points will be awarded for each individual response up to 1/3 of the total points for this category. Lack of a response will be awarded zero (0) points. Evaluation criteria will be based on IV.B.

The Evaluation Committee may contact any or all business references for validation of information submitted. If this step is taken, the Procurement Manager and the Evaluation Committee must all be together on a conference call with the submitted reference so that the Procurement Manager and all members of the Evaluation Committee receive the same information. Additionally, the Agency reserves the right to consider any and all information available to it (outside of the Organizational Reference information required herein), in its evaluation of Offeror responsibility per Section II.C.18.

2. B.3 Oral Presentation (Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the quality, organization, and effectiveness of communication of the information presented, as well as the professionalism of the presenters and technical knowledge of the proposed staff. Prior to Oral Presentation, Agency will provide the Offeror a presentation agenda. (If no Oral Presentations are required all Offerors will receive the same amount of total points for this evaluation factor).

3. C.1 Financial Stability (See Table 1)

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

4. C.2 Letter of Transmittal (See Table 1)

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

5. C.3 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form (See Table 1)

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

6. C.4 Cost (See Table 1)

The evaluation of each Offeror’s cost proposal will be conducted using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Lowest Responsive Offeror's Cost}}{\text{Each Offeror's Cost}} \times \text{Available Award Points}$$

7. C.5. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences

Percentages will be determined based upon the point-based system outlined in § 13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended).

A. New Mexico Resident Business Preference / Native American Resident Preference

If an Offeror has provided a copy of its New Mexico Resident Preference Certificate or Native American Resident Preference Certificate, the points awarded will be calculated as 8% of the total points available in this RFP.

B. New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference

If an Offeror has provided a copy of its New Mexico Resident Veteran Preference Certificate or Native American Resident Veteran Preference Certificate the points awarded will be calculated as 10% of the total points available in this RFP.

C. EVALUATION PROCESS

1. All Offeror proposals will be reviewed for compliance with the requirements and specifications stated within the RFP. Proposals deemed non-responsive will be eliminated from further consideration.

2. The Procurement Manager may contact the Offeror for clarification of the response as specified in Section II. B.7.
3. Responsive proposals will be evaluated on the factors in Section IV, which have been assigned a point value in Section V. The responsible Offerors with the highest scores may be selected as finalist Offerors, based upon the proposals submitted. In accordance with §13-1-117 NMSA 1978, the responsible Offerors whose proposals are most advantageous to the State taking into consideration the Evaluation Factors in Section V will be recommended for award (as specified in Section II.B.12). Please note, however, that a serious deficiency in the response to any one factor may be grounds for rejection regardless of overall score.

APPENDIX A

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM

APPENDIX A

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Financial and Compliance Audit Services

RFP# 26-352-0217-02619

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM

This optional Acknowledgement of Receipt Form establishes a distribution list to be used for the distribution of written responses to questions, and/or any amendments to the RFP. Failure to return the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form does not prohibit potential Offerors from submitting a response to this RFP. However, by not returning the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form, the potential Offeror's representative shall not be included on the distribution list, and will be solely responsible for obtaining from the Procurement Library (Section I.G.) responses to written questions and any amendments to the RFP.

The information below will be used for all correspondence related to the Request for Proposal. Only one contact per Offeror is permitted.

ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

TITLE: _____ PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Submit Acknowledgement of Receipt Form to:

To: Felicia Sena

E-mail: Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov

Subject Line: Financial and Compliance RFP# 26-352-0217-02619

APPENDIX B

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM

Pursuant to the Procurement Code, Sections 13-1-28, *et seq.* NMSA 1978 and § 13-1-191.1 NMSA 1978 (2006), as amended by Laws of 2007, Chapter 234, a prospective contractor subject to this section shall disclose all campaign contributions given by the prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor to an applicable public official of the state or a local public body during the two years prior to the date on which a proposal is submitted or, in the case of a sole source or small purchase contract, the two years prior to the date on which the contractor signs the contract, if the aggregate total of contributions given by the prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor to the public official exceeds two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) over the two-year period. A prospective contractor submitting a disclosure statement pursuant to this section who has not contributed to an applicable public official, whose family members have not contributed to an applicable public official or whose representatives have not contributed to an applicable public official shall make a statement that no contribution was made.

A prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor shall not give a campaign contribution or other thing of value to an applicable public official or the applicable public official's employees during the pendency of the procurement process or during the pendency of negotiations for a sole source or small purchase contract.

Furthermore, a solicitation or proposed award for a proposed contract may be canceled pursuant to Section [13-1-181](#) NMSA 1978 or a contract that is executed may be ratified or terminated pursuant to Section [13-1-182](#) NMSA 1978 if a prospective contractor fails to submit a fully completed disclosure statement pursuant to this section; or a prospective contractor or family member or representative of the prospective contractor gives a campaign contribution or other thing of value to an applicable public official or the applicable public official's employees during the pendency of the procurement process.

The state agency or local public body that procures the services or items of tangible personal property shall indicate on the form the name or names of every applicable public official, if any, for which disclosure is required by a prospective contractor.

THIS FORM MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND MUST BE FILED BY ANY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR WHETHER OR NOT THEY, THEIR FAMILY MEMBER, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE HAS MADE ANY CONTRIBUTIONS SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE.

The following definitions apply:

“**Applicable public official**” means a person elected to an office or a person appointed to complete a term of an elected office, who has the authority to award or influence the award of the contract for which the prospective contractor is submitting a competitive sealed proposal or who has the

authority to negotiate a sole source or small purchase contract that may be awarded without submission of a sealed competitive proposal.

“Campaign Contribution” means a gift, subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or other thing of value, including the estimated value of an in-kind contribution, that is made to or received by an applicable public official or any person authorized to raise, collect or expend contributions on that official’s behalf for the purpose of electing the official to statewide or local office. “Campaign Contribution” includes the payment of a debt incurred in an election campaign, but does not include the value of services provided without compensation or unreimbursed travel or other personal expenses of individuals who volunteer a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or political committee, nor does it include the administrative or solicitation expenses of a political committee that are paid by an organization that sponsors the committee.

“Family member” means a spouse, father, mother, child, father-in-law, mother-in-law, daughter-in-law or son-in-law of (a) a prospective contractor, if the prospective contractor is a natural person; or (b) an owner of a prospective contractor;

“Pendency of the procurement process” means the time period commencing with the public notice of the request for proposals and ending with the award of the contract or the cancellation of the request for proposals.

“Prospective contractor” means a person or business that is subject to the competitive sealed proposal process set forth in the Procurement Code [Sections [13-1-28](#) through [13-1-199](#) NMSA 1978] or is not required to submit a competitive sealed proposal because that person or business qualifies for a sole source or small purchase contract.

“Representative of a prospective contractor” means an officer or director of a corporation, a member or manager of a limited liability corporation, a partner of a partnership or a trustee of a trust of the prospective contractor.

DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR:

Contribution Made By: _____

Relation to Prospective Contractor: _____

Date Contribution(s) Made: _____

Amount(s) of Contribution(s) _____

Nature of Contribution(s) _____

Purpose of Contribution(s) _____

(Attach extra pages if necessary)

Signature

Date

Title (position)

--OR--

NO CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE AGGREGATE TOTAL OVER TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250) WERE MADE to an applicable public official by me, a family member or representative.

Signature

Date

Title (Position)

APPENDIX C

DRAFT CONTRACT

The Agreement included in this Appendix C represents the contract the Agency intends to use to make an award. The State of New Mexico and the Agency reserve the right to modify the Agreement prior to, or during, the award process, as necessary.

The contract template can be found at the following website under Contract and Amendment Templates titled Contract Boilerplate Form.

<https://www.generalservices.state.nm.us/state-purchasing/contracts-review-bureau/>

APPENDIX D

COST RESPONSE FORM

| Services Provided | Hours Year 1 | Cost Year 1 | Hours Year 2 | Cost Year 2 | Hours Year 3 | Cost Year 3 | Hours Year 4 | Cost Year 4 |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
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Year 1: (xx/xx/xxxx thru xx/xx/xxxx) Price: \$ _____

Includes all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, configuration, installation, training, taxes, and profit to provide the Services described in Section IV, (as amended by any current RFP amendments for the period specified above)

Option Year 2: (xx/xx/xxxx thru xx/xx/xxxx) Price: \$ _____

Includes all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, configuration, installation, training, taxes, and profit to provide the Services described in Section IV, (as amended by any current RFP amendments for the period specified above)

Option Year 3: (xx/xx/xxxx thru xx/xx/xxxx) Price: \$ _____

Includes all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, configuration, installation, training, taxes, and profit to provide the Services described in Section IV, (as amended by any current RFP amendments for the period specified above)

Option Year 4: (xx/xx/xxxx thru xx/xx/xxxx) Price: \$ _____

Includes all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, configuration, installation, training, taxes, and profit to provide the Services described in Section IV, (as amended by any current RFP amendments for the period specified above)

APPENDIX E

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL FORM

APPENDIX E

Letter of Transmittal Form

Please complete this form in its entirety. Failure to **sign and/or submit** this form will result in the disqualification of Offeror's proposal.

RFP # 26-352-0217-02619

1. Identify the following information for the submitting organization:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Offeror Name | |
| Mailing Address | |
| Telephone | |
| FED TIN# | |
| NM BTIN# | |

2. Identify the individual(s) authorized by the organization to (A) contractually obligate, (B) negotiate, and/or (C) clarify/respond to queries on behalf of this Offeror:

| | A Contractually Obligate | B Negotiate* | C Clarify/Respond to Queries* |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Name | | | |
| Title | | | |
| E-mail | | | |
| Telephone | | | |

* If the individual identified in Column A also performs the functions identified in Columns B & C, then no response is required for those Columns. If separate individuals perform the functions in Columns B and/or C, they must be identified.

3. Will any subcontractor/s be used in the performance of any resultant contract? (Select one):

No.
 Yes. Identify subcontractor/s: _____

4. Will any other entity/-ies (such as a State Agency, reseller, etc., that is not a subcontractor identified in #3 above) be used in the performance of any resultant contract? (Select one)

No.
 Yes. Identify entity/-ies: _____

By signing the form below, the Authorized Signatory attests to the accuracy and veracity of the information provided on this form, and explicitly acknowledges the following:

- On behalf of the submitting-organization identified in item #1, above, I accept the Conditions Governing the Procurement, as required in Section II.C.1. of this RFP;
- I concur that submission of our proposal constitutes acceptance of the Evaluation Factors contained in Section V of this RFP; and
- I acknowledge receipt of any and all amendments to this RFP, if any.

Sign: _____ Date: _____
(Must be signed by the individual identified in item #2.A, above.)

APPENDIX F

ORGANIZATIONAL REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

The State of New Mexico, as a part of the RFP process, requires Offerors to list a minimum of three (3) organizational references in their proposals. The purpose of these references is to document Offeror's experience relevant to the Section IV.A, Detailed Scope of Work in an effort to evaluate Offeror's ability to provide goods and/or services, performance under similar contracts, and ability to provide knowledgeable and experienced staffing.

Offeror is required to send the following Organizational Reference Questionnaire to each business reference listed in its proposal, as per Section IV.B.2. The business reference, if it chooses to respond, is required to submit its response to the Organizational Reference Questionnaire directly to: Felicia Sena, Procurement Manager, Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov no later than 3:00 p.m. MST on March 23, 2026, for inclusion in the evaluation process. The Questionnaire and information provided will become a part of the submitted proposal. Businesses/Organizations providing references may be contacted for validation of content provided therein.

RFP # 26-352-0217-02619
ORGANIZATIONAL REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR:

(Name of Offeror)

This form is being submitted to your company for completion as a reference for the organization listed above. Submit this Questionnaire to the State of New Mexico, New Mexico Educational Retirement Board via e-mail to:

Name: Felicia Sena, Procurement Manager
 Email: Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov

Forms must be submitted no later than 3:00 P.M. MST on March 23, 2026, and **must not** be returned to the organization requesting the reference. References are **strongly encouraged** to provide comments in response to organizational ratings.

For questions or concerns regarding this form, please contact the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board **Procurement Manager** at Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov. When contacting the Procurement Manager, include the Request for Proposal number provided at the top of this page.

| | |
|--|--|
| Organization providing reference | |
| Contact name and title/position | |
| Contact telephone number(s) | |
| Contact e-mail address | |
| Project/Service description | |
| Project/Service dates (start and end dates) | |
| Technical environment for the project your providing a reference (i.e., Software applications, Internet capabilities, Data communications, Network, Hardware); | |

QUESTIONS:

1. In what capacity have you worked with [Offeror name] in the past?
2. How would you describe [Offeror name]'s knowledge and expertise?
3. How would you describe [Offeror name] flexibility relative to changes in the project scope and timelines?
4. How satisfied are you with the materials/documentation produced by [Offeror name]?
5. How would you describe the dynamics/interaction between [Offeror name]'s personnel and your staff?
6. By name, please identify who are/were [Offeror name]'s principal representatives involved in your project. How would you describe your satisfaction with each representative, individually? Please provide a brief comment on the skills, knowledge, behaviors, or other factors on which you based your satisfaction.
7. How satisfied are/were you with the services rendered and/or products developed by [Offeror name]? Please provide a brief explanation as to why you were or were not satisfied.
8. With which aspect(s) of [Offeror name]'s services are/were you most satisfied? Please provide a brief explanation as to why you were satisfied.
9. With which aspect(s) of [Offeror name]'s services are/were you least satisfied? Please provide a brief explanation as to why you were dissatisfied.
10. Would you recommend [Offeror name]'s services to your organization again? Why or why not?
11. Is there any other information you wish to share regarding [Offeror name]?