



Community Action Opportunities

Uniform Guidance Request for Proposal for Annual Audit Services

For the fiscal year ending

June 30, 2019

Inquiries and proposals should be directed to:

Name: Darren Waugh

Title: Finance Director

Address: 25 Gaston Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Phone (828) 210-0572

Email: darren.waugh@communityactionopportunities.org

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General Information

A. Purpose

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is to contract for a financial and compliance audit for the year ending June 30, 2019. The proposal includes options for four additional years.

B. Who May Respond

Only licensed certified public accountants may respond to this RFP.

C. Instructions on Proposal Submission

1. Closing Submission Date: Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on April 30, 2019
2. Inquiries: Inquiries concerning this RFP should be directed to Darren Waugh, Finance Director, (828) 210-0572 or darren.waugh@communityactionopportunities.org
3. Conditions of Proposal: All costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal responding to this RFP will be the responsibility of the Offeror and will not be reimbursed by Community Action Opportunities, Inc.
4. Instructions to Prospective Contractors:

Your proposal should be addressed as follows:

Name: Darren Waugh
Title: Finance Director
Entity: Community Action Opportunities, Inc.
Address: 25 Gaston Street
Asheville, NC 28801

It is important that the Offeror's proposal be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked in the lower left-hand corner with the following information:

Request for Proposal
4:30 p.m. April 30, 2019
Sealed Proposal
For Audit Services

5. Electronic or Hard Copy Submissions: Proposals can be submitted electronically to the following email address: joyce.smith@communityactionopportunities.org by the closing submission date noted above.

Proposals may also be submitted by hard copy to the following mailing address: 25 Gaston Street Asheville, NC 28801 by the closing submission date noted above.

Failure to do so may result in premature disclosure of your proposal.

It is the responsibility of the Offeror to ensure that the proposal is received by Community Action Opportunities, Inc. by the date and time specified above.

Late proposals will not be considered.

6. Right to Reject: Community Action Opportunities, Inc. reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP. A contract for the accepted proposal will be based on the factors described in this RFP.
7. Small and/or Minority-Owned Businesses: Efforts will be made by Community Action Opportunities, Inc. to utilize small businesses and minority-owned businesses. An Offeror qualifies as a small business firm if it meets the definition of "small business" as established by the Small Business Administration (13 CFR 121.201).
8. Presentations: At the discretion of Community Action Opportunities, Inc., Offerors submitting proposals may be requested to make oral presentations as part of the evaluation process. Reasonable advance notice will be provided to selected Offeror. Not all Offerors submitting a proposal will be asked to participate in oral presentations.
9. Notification of Award:
 - a. The Agency may request in person or video conference interviews with those interviews being conducted during the week of May 20 - 24 , 2019.
 - b. Notification and final negotiations with successful audit firm will occur on May 28, 2019.
 - c. Upon conclusion of final negotiations with the successful audit firm, all Offerors submitting proposals in response to this Request for Proposal will be informed, in writing, of the name of the successful audit firm.

E. Description of Entity and Records to Be Audited

Community Action Opportunities, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that serves eight (8) counties in North Carolina. Community Action Opportunities, Inc. is a private, nonprofit corporation and has been determined to be exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is governed by an eighteen (18) member volunteer board of directors. Administrative offices and all records are located at 25 Gaston Street, Asheville, North Carolina

Community Action Opportunities, (the Agency) incorporated in 1964 in North Carolina as a non-profit Community Action Agency. The Agency's tax determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service designates the organization as a 501(c)(3) public charity. The Agency's mission is to serve families who live on low income and eliminate social barriers to economic prosperity.

The Agency's fiscal year-end is June 30. The Agency's annual revenues are approximately ten (10) million dollars in standard federal and state funding. The Agency employs over 120 individuals, (120 full-time and 35 part-time) at 27 sites. Within six (6) months of the fiscal year-end, The Agency is required to complete and submit to grantors, an audited financial statement.

The Agency uses Serenic Navigator for non-profits, a fully integrated accounting software based on Microsoft Dynamics NAV.

The Agency negotiates an annual cost rate agreement with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Cost Allocation. This rate agreement provides the Agency with provisional rates used to allocate Indirect Management and General and fringe benefit costs. The Agency also indirectly allocates other expenses, including but not limited to: Information Technology, space, fleet operations and intra-departmental costs for supplies and other routine items.

F. Options

At the discretion of Community Action Opportunities, Inc., this audit contract can be extended for four additional one-year periods. The cost for the option periods will be agreed on by Community Action Opportunities, Inc. and the Offeror. It is anticipated that the cost for the optional years will be based on the same approximate cost per thousand dollars of audited expenditures as the contract for the initial year.

Specification Schedule

A. Scope of a Financial and Compliance Audit

The purpose of this RFP is to obtain the services of a public accounting firm, whose principal officers are independent certified public accountants, certified or licensed by a regulatory authority of a state or other political subdivision of the United States, hereinafter referred to as the "Offeror," to perform a financial and compliance audit of Community Action Opportunities, Inc.

B. Description of Programs/Contracts/Grants

Included with this request is a copy of the Agency's latest annual report. The report should give the offeror a good understanding of the Agency and its programs and contracts.

C. Performance

Community Action Opportunities, Inc.'s records should be audited through June 30, 2019

The Offeror is required to prepare audit reports in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and must comply with all federal and state regulations

D. Delivery Schedule

The Offeror is to transmit one copy of the draft audit report to Community Action Opportunities, Inc.'s Executive Director. The draft audit report is due on December 2, 2019.

The Offeror shall deliver final audit reports in the form of bound, unbound and digital formats to Community Action Opportunities, Inc.'s Board of Directors no later than December 13, 2019.

Reports may be submitted earlier than the schedule above. However, if the Offeror fails to make delivery of the audit reports within the time schedule specified herein, or if the Offeror delivers audit reports that do not conform to all of the provisions of this contract, Community Action Opportunities, Inc. may, by written notice of default to the Offeror, terminate the whole or any part of this contract. Under certain extenuating circumstances, the contracting agent may extend this schedule upon written request of the Offeror with sufficient justification.

E. Price

The Offeror's proposed price should be submitted separately. Specifically, include a not-to-exceed total fee, a fee per service (audit services, tax services, etc.), and average hourly billing rates by position. Any out-of-pocket expenses should also be indicated. The pricing information should be in a separate, sealed envelope. The agency is requesting that this quote include but stated separate the fee for preparation and submittal of the Federal Form 990 .

F. Payment

Payment will be made when Community Action Opportunities, Inc. has determined that the total work effort has been satisfactorily completed. Should Community Action Opportunities, Inc. reject a report, Community Action Opportunities, Inc.'s authorized representative will notify the Offeror in writing of such rejection, giving the reason(s). The right to reject a report shall extend throughout the term of this contract and for 90 days after the Offeror submits the final invoice for payment.

Progress payments will be allowed to the extent that Community Action Opportunities, Inc. can determine satisfactory progress is being made.

Upon delivery of the final reports to Community Action Opportunities, Inc. and their acceptance and approval, the Offeror may submit a bill for the balance due on the contract for the audit.

G. Audit Review

All audit reports prepared under this contract will be reviewed by Community Action Opportunities, Inc. and its funding sources to ensure compliance with the General Accounting Office's (GAO) *Government Auditing Standards* and other appropriate audit guides.

H. Exit Conference

An exit conference with Community Action Opportunities, Inc.'s representatives and the Offeror's representatives will be held at the conclusion of the fieldwork. Observations and recommendations must be summarized in writing and discussed with *Community Action Opportunities, Inc.* It should include internal control and program compliance observations and recommendations.

I. Work papers

1. Upon request, the Offeror will provide a copy of the work papers pertaining to any questioned costs determined in the audit. The work papers must be concise and provide the basis for the questioned costs as well as an analysis of the problem.
2. The work papers will be retained for at least three years from the end of the audit period.
3. The work papers will be available for examination by authorized representatives of the cognizant federal or state audit agency, the GAO, and Community Action Opportunities, Inc.

J. Confidentiality

The Offeror agrees to keep the information related to all contracts in strict confidence. Other than the reports submitted to Community Action Opportunities, Inc., the Offeror agrees not to publish, reproduce, or otherwise divulge such information in whole or in part, in any manner or form, or authorize or permit others to do so, taking such reasonable measures as are necessary to restrict access to the information, while in the Offeror's possession, to those employees on the Offeror's staff who must have the information on a "need to know" basis.

The Offeror agrees to immediately notify, in writing, Community Action Opportunities, Inc.'s authorized representative in the event the Offeror determines or has reason to suspect a breach of this requirement.

K. AICPA Professional Standards

The AICPA Professional Standards state:

Ethics Interpretation 501-3 – Failure to follow standards and/or procedures or other requirements in governmental audits.

Engagements for audits of government grants, government units or other recipients of government monies typically require that such audits be in compliance with government auditing standards, guides procedures, statutes, rules and regulations, in addition to generally accepted auditing standards. If a member has accepted such an engagement, and undertakes an obligation to follow specified government auditing standards, guides, procedures, statutes, rules and regulations, in addition to generally accepted auditing standards, he is obligated to follow such requirements.

Failure to do so is an act discreditable to the profession in violation of Rule 501, unless the member discloses in his report the fact that such requirements were not followed and the reasons therefore.

Technical Qualifications

The Offeror, in its proposal, shall, as a minimum, include the following:

A. Prior Auditing Experience

The Offeror should describe its prior auditing experience, including the names, addresses, contact persons, and telephone numbers of prior organizations audited. Experience should include the following categories:

1. Prior experience auditing Community Action Agencies or similar organizations.
2. Prior experience auditing similar programs operated by Community Action Opportunities, Inc.
3. Prior experience auditing nonprofit organizations

B. Value-Added Services Beyond the Audit

The Offeror should include an explanation of other services that can and have been provided to organizations similar to Community Action Opportunities, Inc.. Value-added services provide efficiencies and improved compliance that contribute to the continued success of Community Action Opportunities, Inc. Value-added services can include consulting and training services as well as industry-specific products.

C. Organization, Size, and Structure

The Offeror should describe its organization, size (in relation to audits to be performed), and structure. Description should include:

1. Size of the Offeror, including number of employees and physical site locations.
2. Explanation of independence.
3. Any conflicts of interest that exist.
4. Results of peer review.
5. Explanation if the Offeror is a small or minority-owned business or women's business enterprise.

D. Staff Qualifications

The Offeror should describe the qualifications of staff to be assigned to the audits. Descriptions should include:

1. Audit team makeup.
2. Overall supervision to be exercised.
3. Prior experience of the individual audit team members. Include résumés of only the staff to be assigned to the audits. Include education, position in firm, and years with the firm, industry-specific experience, and training on the recent Uniform Guidance.

E. Audit Approach to the Engagement

The Offeror should describe its approach of the work to be performed, including audit procedures, estimated hours, and other pertinent information.

F. Certifications

The Offeror must sign and include, as an attachment to its proposal, the Certifications enclosed with this RFP. The publications listed in the Certifications will not be provided to potential Offerors by Community Action Opportunities, Inc. because Community Action Opportunities, Inc. desires to contract only with an Offeror who is already familiar with these publications.

Proposal Evaluation

A. Submission of Proposals

If submitted by hard copy, all proposals shall include 5 copies of the Offeror's technical qualifications, 5 copies of the pricing information (in a separate, sealed envelope), and 5 copies of the signed Certifications. These documents will become part of the contract.

B. Nonresponsive Proposals

Proposals may be judged nonresponsive and removed from further consideration if any of the following occur:

1. The proposal is not received in a timely manner in accordance with the terms of this RFP.
2. The proposal does not follow the specified format.
3. The proposal does not include the Certifications.
4. The proposal is not adequate to form a judgment by the reviewers that the proposed undertaking would comply with the *Government Auditing Standards* of the U.S. Comptroller General.

C. Proposal Evaluation

Evaluation of each proposal will be scored on the following six factors. In compliance with 2 CFR Part 200.319 – Competition, no geographic preferences will be given in the evaluation of this proposal, since the section states, “The non-Federal entity must conduct procurements in a manner that **prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed state or local geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals**, except in those cases where applicable Federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference.”

1. Prior audit experience	Point Range
a. Prior experience auditing (<i>type of entity</i>)	0 – 15
b. Prior experience auditing similar programs funded by <i>Community Action Opportunities, Inc.</i>	0 – 10
c. Prior experience auditing nonprofit organizations	0 – 5

Community Action Opportunities, Inc. will contact prior audited organizations to verify the experience provided by the Offeror.

2. Value-Added Services Beyond the Audit	0 – 5
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3. Organization, size, and structure of Offeror's firm (consider size in relation to audits to be performed)

- a. Adequate size of the firm 0 – 2
- b. Proper independence 0 – 2
- c. No conflicts of interest 0 – 2
- d. Results of peer review 0 – 2
- e. Minority-owned/small business/women's business enterprise 0 – 2

4. Qualifications of staff to be assigned to the audits to be performed. This will be determined from résumés submitted. Include education, position in firm, and years and types of experience.

- a. Prior experience of the individual audit team members 0 – 15
- b. Overall supervision to be exercised 0 – 5

5. Offeror's audit approach to the engagement

- a. Adequate coverage 0 – 10
- b. Realistic time estimates of each audit step 0 – 5

6. Price 0 – 20

Maximum Points 100

D. Review Process

In compliance with Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200.319 – Competition, Community Action Opportunities, Inc. has conducted this procurement in a manner that prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed state or local geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals, except in those cases where applicable federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference.

Community Action Opportunities, Inc. may, at its discretion, request presentations by or meetings with any or all Offerors to clarify or negotiate modifications to the Offerors' proposals.

However, Community Action Opportunities, Inc. reserves the right to make an award without further discussion of the proposals submitted. Therefore, proposals should be submitted initially on the most favorable terms, from both technical and price standpoints, that the Offeror can propose.

Community Action Opportunities, Inc. contemplates award of the contract to the responsible Offeror with the highest total points.

Certifications

On behalf of the Offeror:

1. The individual signing certifies that he/she is authorized to contract on behalf of the Offeror.
2. The individual signing certifies that the Offeror is not involved in any agreement to pay money or other consideration for the execution of this agreement, other than to an employee of the Offeror.
3. The individual signing certifies that the prices in this proposal have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement, for the purpose of restricting competition.
4. The individual signing certifies that the prices quoted in this proposal have not been knowingly disclosed by the Offeror prior to an award to any other Offeror or potential Offeror.
5. The individual signing certifies that there has been no attempt by the Offeror to discourage any potential Offeror from submitting a proposal.
6. The individual signing certifies that the Offeror is a properly licensed certified public accountant or a public accountant licensed on or before (*date of licensing*).
7. The individual signing certifies that the Offeror meets the independence standards of the *Government Auditing Standards*.
8. The individual signing certifies that he/she is aware of and will comply with the GAO's continuing education requirement of 80 hours of continuing education every two years and those 24 hours of the 80 hours of education will be in subjects directly related to the government environment and to government auditing for individuals.
9. The individual signing certifies that he/she is aware of and will comply with the GAO requirement of an external quality control (peer) review at least once every three years.
10. The individual signing certifies that he/she has read and understands the following publications relative to the proposed audits:
 - a. *Government Auditing Standards* (Yellow Book)
 - b. *Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance")
 - c. *Audits of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AICPA Audit Guide)
 - d. *Audits of State and Local Governments* (AICPA Audit Guide)
11. The individual signing certifies that he/she has read and understands all of the information in this Request for Proposal, including the information on the programs/grants/contracts to be audited.

12. The individual signing certifies that the Offeror, and any individuals to be assigned to the audit, does not have a record of substandard audit work and has not been debarred or suspended from doing work with any federal, state, or local government.

13.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

(Offeror's Firm Name)

(Signature of Offeror's Representative)

(Printed Name and Title of Individual Signing)