



# Request for Proposal #2026-RFP-276

## Aspire Program Application Support

Event	Date	Time
<b>Bidder's Electronic Question Due Date</b> (Refer to <a href="#">Section 1.3.1</a> of this RFP for more information.)	06/26/26	2:00 PM ET
<b>Pre-Proposal Conference</b> (Refer to <a href="#">Section 1.3.2</a> of this RFP for more information.)	N/A	N/A
<b>Site Visit</b> (Refer to <a href="#">Section 1.3.3</a> of this RFP for more information.)	N/A	N/A
<b>Proposal Submission Date</b> (Refer to <a href="#">Section 1.3.6</a> of this RFP for more information.)	07/21/26	2:00 PM ET

Dates are subject to change. All changes will be reflected in Addenda to the RFP posted on the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's website.

Designation	Status	Category
<b>Small Business Set-Aside</b>	Not Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Entire Contract <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>
	Partial Contract <input type="checkbox"/>	II <input type="checkbox"/>
	Subcontracting Only <input type="checkbox"/>	III <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Set-Aside</b>	Not Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Entire Contract <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Partial Contract <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Subcontracting Only <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**RFP Issued By:**

New Jersey Economic Development Authority  
Procurement  
36 West State Street, PO Box 990  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0990  
Main Reception Desk–Telephone: 609-858-6700

**Date:** 6/12/2026

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## **1.0 INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS**

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (“Authority”, “NJEDA”) to solicit Proposals for Aspire Program Application Support.

### **1.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT**

The Aspire Program Application Support consultant provides the Aspire Programs team with support in reviewing and validating market studies and/or development cost estimates. The purpose of this RFP is to solicit Proposals for qualifying consulting firms with experience in real estate development, underwriting, and cost estimation submitted as part of NJEDA Aspire Program applications for residential (including mixed-income and affordable housing), commercial, and film studio projects. The Consultant will ensure that all costs are reasonable, appropriately supported, and compliant with program guidelines and requirements.

The intent of this RFP is to award up to six (6) Contracts with an initial term of two (2) years with two (2) one-year (1) extension options, to qualifying Consultants if deemed necessary by the Authority and dependent upon funding, to the responsible Bidder(s) whose Proposal(s), conforming to this RFP are most advantageous to the Authority, price and other factors considered.

In accordance with applicable law, the Authority reserves the right to award in total or in part and reject any and all Proposals when it is determined to be in the best interest of the Authority, price and other factors considered.

The Authority’s Contract for Professional Services, please refer to Exhibit A, are in addition to the Terms and Conditions set forth in this RFP and should be read in conjunction with them unless the RFP specifically indicates otherwise.

### **1.2 BACKGROUND**

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority serves as the State’s principal agency for driving economic growth. The Authority is committed to making New Jersey a national model for inclusive and sustainable economic development by focusing on key strategies to help build strong and dynamic communities, create good jobs for New Jersey residents and provide pathways to a stronger and fairer economy. Through partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders, the Authority creates and implements initiatives to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in the State and strengthen New Jersey’s long-term economic competitiveness.

Since its inception in 1974, the Authority has provided billions of dollars in assistance to numerous projects within the State. These projects have created almost half a million jobs. In 2024 alone, the NJEDA made 2,815 awards totaling \$1.8 billion across more than 60 programs.

The Aspire Program is a tax credit incentive administered by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) to support residential, mixed-use, commercial, and industrial real estate development projects that generate economic benefits for the State of New Jersey. Established under the New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020 (ERA), the program provides gap financing to projects that demonstrate a financing shortfall and would not be economically feasible without State support.

Eligible projects must meet statutory program requirements, including location within designated incentive areas, minimum developer equity participation, and applicable project size or cost thresholds depending on project type and location. For commercial projects, applicants must also demonstrate that the project will result in a net positive economic benefit to the State.

As part of the application process, developers submit detailed financial analyses, development budgets, and supporting documentation for NJEDA review. To support program administration and ensure that public resources are allocated effectively, NJEDA periodically engages external Consultants to provide independent analysis of development costs, market conditions, and financial feasibility associated with projects seeking Aspire support.

### 1.3 KEY EVENTS

#### 1.3.1 ELECTRONIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

The Authority will electronically accept written questions and inquiries from all potential Bidders via the web at [EDAProcurementQA@njeda.gov](mailto:EDAProcurementQA@njeda.gov) by the date and time shown on Page 1 of this RFP. Phone calls and/or faxes shall not be accepted.

The subject line of the e-mail should state:

QUESTIONS-2026-RFP-276 – Aspire Program Application Support

- A. Questions should be directly tied to the RFP and asked in consecutive order, from beginning to end, following the organization of the RFP and should begin by referencing the RFP page number and section number to which it relates;
- B. A Bidder must not contact the Authority's requesting department or any other staff/board member directly, in person, by telephone or by e-mail concerning this RFP **prior to the final award**. Any contact made outside of emailing inquiries via [EDAProcurementQA@njeda.gov](mailto:EDAProcurementQA@njeda.gov) will result in disqualification of the Bidder's Proposal;
- C. All Questions received and Answers given in response to this RFP will be answered in the form of an Addendum. Addenda, if any, will be posted on the Authority's website, <https://www.njeda.gov/bidding/> as a separate file attachment, or incorporated into a revised, posted RFP, after the posted cut-off date for electronic questions and inquiries indicated on the RFP cover sheet; and
- D. Any Amendment to this RFP will become part of this solicitation and part of any Contract awarded as a result of this RFP.

#### 1.3.1.1 EXCEPTIONS TO THE AUTHORITY'S CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Questions regarding the Authority's Contract for Professional Services, please refer to Exhibit A, and exceptions or modifications to its mandatory requirements **must be requested by the Bidder during this Electronic Question and Answer Period** and should contain the Bidder's suggested changes and the reason(s) for the suggested changes. The Authority shall be under no obligation to grant or accept any requested changes (i.e., exceptions taken) to the specimen form of the Contract and will post all answers in the Addendum. Exceptions and/or modifications to the terms of the RFP and/or Contract submitted with the Proposal, subsequent to the expiration of the Question and Answer Period, will result in the rejection of the Bidder's Proposal.

#### 1.3.2 PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

Not applicable.

#### 1.3.3 SITE VISIT

Not applicable.

### **1.3.4 PROJECTED MILESTONE DATES**

The following dates are provided to Interested Bidders for planning purposes only. These are estimated timeline dates and do not represent a firm date commitment by which the Authority will take action:

Pre-Proposal Conference:	Not Applicable
Q&A Period Ends:	Thursday, 06/26/2026 @2:00pm ET
If required, Addendum:	On or about Tuesday, 07/07/2026
Proposals Due:	On or before Tuesday, 07/21/2026 @2:00pm ET
Estimated Contract Start:	On or about 10/05/2026

### **1.3.5 TIMELY SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

In order to be considered for award, the Proposal must be received by the Authority at the appropriate location by the required time. Proposals not received prior to the Proposal opening deadline, as indicated on the RFP cover sheet, shall be rejected. If the Proposal opening deadline has been revised, the new RFP opening deadline will be shown on a posted RFP Amendment.

### **1.3.6 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL – ELECTRONIC OR HARD COPY**

In order to be evaluated and considered for award, the Proposal must be received by the Authority at the appropriate location and by the required time indicated on the cover sheet, either electronically or hard copy.

#### **1.3.6.1 ELECTRONIC PROPOSAL SUBMISSION (STRONGLY PREFERRED)**

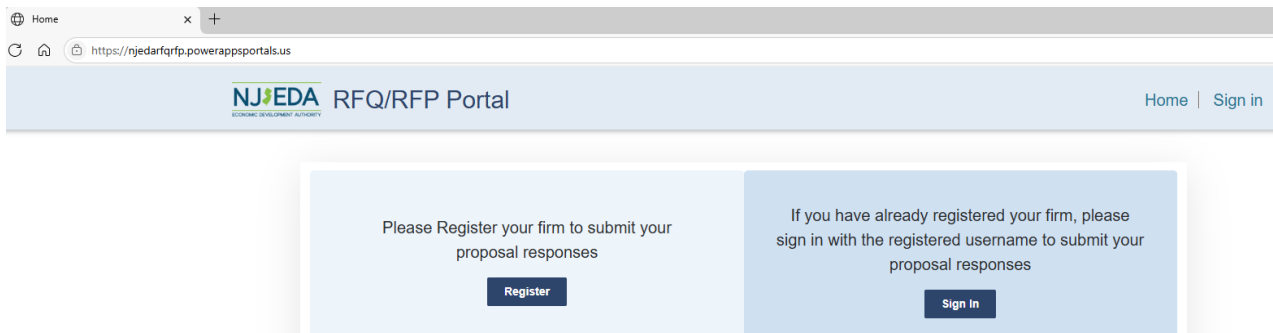
Bidders should submit a complete, ELECTRONIC Proposal, in “read only” PDF file format using Adobe Acrobat Reader software that must be accessible and viewable by Authority evaluators. Bidders should ensure the submitted file(s) do not contain password-protection.

The subject line of the RFP submission and any attachments are all to be clearly labeled.

EACH electronically uploaded file (Proposal, Attachment Submittals, etc.) submission, should follow the following format:

“(Bidder’s Company Name) - Bid Submission-2026-RFP-276 Aspire Program Application Support, and the (file/document title)”

Each electronic Proposal document must be uploaded via the NJEDA’s RFQ/RFP portal, available at <https://njedarfgrfp.powerappsportals.us> or available at <https://www.njeda.gov/bidding/>. Please note, the portal requires a one-time registration (Bidders select a unique Username and Password) which will record the Bidder’s contact information. For reference, a sample image of the portal appears below:



**It is highly recommended that the Bidder initiate the upload of the Proposal a minimum of four (4) hours prior to the Proposal submission due date/time on the front cover to allow some time to identify and troubleshoot any issues that may arise when using the Procurement Portal application. Technical inquiries may be directed to [EDAProcurementQA@njeda.gov](mailto:EDAProcurementQA@njeda.gov).**

**NOTE: Any bids received after the date and time specified shall not be considered. All Proposal submissions, once opened, become the property of the Authority and cannot be returned to the Bidder. If a Bidder uploads multiple documents, the NJEDA will only consider the last version of the document uploaded, provided it is uploaded by the stated deadline.**

### **1.3.6.2 ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to written policy, the Authority allows documents to be signed electronically and hereby agrees to be bound by such electronic signatures. Bidders submitting Proposals electronically, as signatory to the documents, may sign the forms listed in Section 4.2.3 (Required Compliance Documentation) of this solicitation, electronically, and agree to be bound by the electronic signatures. The Authority will accept the following types of electronic signatures: (1) Within Microsoft Word, an individual can go to the “Insert” ribbon at the top of the screen, then within the “Text” section go to the “Signature Line” and enter the information, which creates a security procedure/record attributable to the person signing when transmitted via e-mail or other electronic transfer or; (2) Within Adobe Acrobat DC, go to the “Fill & Sign” “Stamps-Dynamics” or “Certificates” within the “Tools” ribbon and enter the information, which creates a security procedure/record attributable to the person signing when transmitted via e-mail or other electronic transfer; or (3) Digital signatures from Adobe Acrobat DC or produced via similar signature authenticating program (i.e., DocuSign or similar software), which creates a security procedure/record attributable to the person signing.

By submitting an electronic signature, the Bidder is agreeing to be bound by the electronic signature.

Scanned physical signatures will also be accepted, provided that the forms are otherwise properly completed.

This practice applies only to Proposals submitted electronically and the forms listed above. Both electronic signatures and scanned physical signatures will also be accepted, provided that the forms are otherwise properly completed.

### **1.3.6.3 HARD COPY PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

If submitting a hard copy Proposal, a sealed Proposal must be delivered by the required date and time indicated on the cover sheet, in order to be considered for award to the following:

Madison Hanrahan  
Procurement Officer

NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
36 WEST STATE STREET  
PO BOX 990  
TRENTON NEW JERSEY 08625-0990

The exterior of all Proposal packages is to be clearly labeled with the Proposal title, bid opening date and time, and the Bidder's Name and Address:

2026-RFP-276 - Aspire Program Application Support  
Tuesday, 07/21/2026 @2:00pm ET

Submit one (1) ink signed, original hard copy Proposal with all the required documentation and signatures in ink, and one (1) copy marked "COPY".

Bidders submitting Proposals in hard copy format must provide forms with original, physical signatures; otherwise the Proposal may be deemed non-responsive.

Proposals submitted by facsimile will not be considered.

**ANY PROPOSAL NOT RECEIVED ON TIME AT THE LOCATION INDICATED, WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REJECTED. THE AUTHORITY WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LATE POSTAL OR DELIVERY SERVICE. THE POSTMARK DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED IN HONORING THE BID DATE RECEIPT AND TIME.**

The Authority shall not be responsible for any delivery/postal service's failure to deliver in a timely manner. A Bidder using U.S. Postal Service regular or express mail services should allow additional time to ensure timely receipt of Proposals since the U.S. Postal Service does not deliver directly to the Authority.

Directions to the Authority's Trenton location can be found at the following web address: <https://www.njeda.gov/about/> at the bottom of the screen under the "Locations" section of the website.

Any Proposal received after the date and time specified shall not be considered, whether submitted electronically or in hard copy.

#### **1.4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

##### **1.4.1 ADDENDA: REVISIONS TO THIS RFP**

In the event that it becomes necessary to clarify or revise this RFP, such clarification or revision will be by Addendum. Any Addendum to this RFP will become part of this RFP and part of any Contract awarded as a result of this RFP.

ALL RFP ADDENDA WILL BE ISSUED ON THE AUTHORITY'S WEB SITE. TO ACCESS ADDENDA, THE BIDDER MUST LOCATE THIS PROPOSAL NUMBER AT <https://www.njeda.gov/bidding/> - "Business Support Administrative Goods and Services - Bidding Opportunities".

There are no designated dates for release of Addenda. Therefore all interested Bidders should check the Authority's "Bidding Opportunities" website on a daily basis from time of RFP issuance through the Proposal submission opening.

**It is the sole responsibility of the Bidder to be knowledgeable of all Addenda related to this procurement.**

#### 1.4.2 BIDDER RESPONSIBILITY

The Bidder assumes sole responsibility for the complete effort required in submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP. No special consideration will be given after Proposals are opened because of a Bidder's failure to be knowledgeable as to all requirements of this RFP solicitation.

#### 1.4.3 COST LIABILITY

The Authority assumes no responsibility and bears no liability for costs incurred by a Bidder in the preparation and submittal of a Proposal in response to this RFP solicitation.

#### 1.4.4 CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL – OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

The Authority, as an instrumentality of the State of New Jersey, is subject to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 et seq.), as amended and including all applicable regulations and policies and applicable case law, including the common law right to know. Subsequent to the Proposal submission opening, all information submitted by Bidder in response to a solicitation is considered public information, notwithstanding any disclaimers to the contrary submitted by a Bidder. When the RFP contains a negotiation component, the Proposal will not be subject to public disclosure until a conditional Notice of Award is issued.

As part of its Proposal, a Bidder may designate any data or materials it asserts are exempt from public disclosure under OPRA and/or the common law, explaining the basis for such assertion. The location in the Proposal of any such designation should be clearly stated in a cover letter.

A Bidder shall not designate any price lists and/or catalogs submitted as exempt from public disclosure.

Any proprietary and/or confidential information in the Bidder's Proposal will be redacted by the Authority. A Bidder may designate specific information as not subject to disclosure pursuant to the exceptions to OPRA found at N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1, when the Bidder has a good faith legal and/or factual basis for such assertion. The Authority reserves the right to make the determination as to what is proprietary or confidential, and will advise the Bidder accordingly. **The Authority will not honor any attempt by a Bidder to designate its entire Proposal as proprietary, confidential and/or to claim copyright protection for its entire Proposal.** Copyright law does not prohibit access to a record which is otherwise available under OPRA. In the event of any challenge to the Bidder's assertion of confidentiality with which the Authority does not concur, the Bidder shall be solely responsible for defending its designation, but in doing so, all costs and expenses associated therewith shall be the responsibility of the Bidder. The Authority assumes no such responsibility or liability.

#### 1.4.5 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT

On the date and time Proposals are due under the RFP, only the names and addresses of the Bidder(s) submitting Proposals will be publicly announced and the contents of the Proposals shall remain proprietary and/or confidential, pursuant to Negotiation and Best and Final Offer (BAFO) Section 7.8, until the Conditional/Notice of Intent to Award is issued.

NOTE: All Proposal submissions, once publicly opened, become the property of the Authority and cannot be returned to the Bidder.

#### 1.4.6 PROPOSAL ERRORS – BEFORE & AFTER BID OPENING

A Bidder(s) may request to withdraw its Proposal as described below:

A Bidder(s) may request that its Proposal be withdrawn prior to the Proposal submission opening. Such request must be made, in writing, via e-mail to the Procurement Department at email: [EDAProcurementQA@njeda.gov](mailto:EDAProcurementQA@njeda.gov), with a reference to company name, RFP number, RFP Title, a Proposal identifier if one was applied, Proposal submission date, and method of Proposal submission (i.e., electronic version or hard copy delivery). The written withdrawal request must be signed and submitted by a duly authorized representative of the Proposing entity to be valid.

In the event the Bidder requests to withdraw its Proposal in person, a business card and proper identification must be presented. If the withdrawal request is granted, Proposals so requested to be withdrawn may be returned to the Bidder unopened.

If the withdrawal request is granted, the Bidder(s) may submit a revised Proposal as long as the Proposal is received prior to the announced date and time for Proposal submission and at the place specified.

If, after the Proposal submission opening but before Contract award, a Bidder(s) discovers an error in its Proposal, the Bidder(s) may make a written request to the Procurement Department for authorization to withdraw its Proposal from consideration for award. Evidence of the Bidder's good faith in making this request shall be used in making the determination. The factors that will be considered are that the mistake is so significant that to enforce the Contract resulting from the Proposal would be unconscionable; that the mistake relates to a material feature of the Contract; that the mistake occurred notwithstanding the Bidder's exercise of reasonable care; and that the Authority will not be significantly prejudiced by granting the withdrawal of the Proposal. After the Proposal submission opening, while pursuant to the provisions of this section, the Bidder may request to withdraw the Proposal and the Authority may, in its sole discretion allow the Bidder to withdraw it, the Authority also may take notice of repeated or unusual requests to withdraw by a Bidder(s) and take those prior requests to withdraw into consideration when evaluating the Bidder(s) future bids or Proposals.

If during a Proposal evaluation process an obvious pricing error made by a potential Contract awardee is found, the Authority shall issue written notice to the Bidder(s). The Bidder(s) will have five (5) days after receipt of the notice to confirm its pricing. If the Bidder fails to respond, its Proposal shall be considered withdrawn, and no further consideration shall be given it.

If it is discovered that there is an arithmetic disparity between the unit price and the total extended price, the unit price shall prevail. If there is any other ambiguity in the pricing other than a disparity between the unit price and extended price and the Bidder's intention is not readily discernible from other parts of the Proposal, the Procurement Department may seek clarification from the Bidder(s) to ascertain the true intent of the Proposal.

#### **1.4.7 JOINT VENTURE**

The Authority will **NOT** consider Proposals submitted by joint ventures, in the performance of the Work for this RFP.

Bidders shall note that any and all reference to "joint venture(s)", "joint venture partner(s)"/"joint venture partnership(s)" in any documents included as a part of the RFP specifications, exhibits or attachments shall be read as though the words are stricken and removed.

#### **1.4.8 SUBCONTRACTORS/SUBCONSULTANTS**

For purposes of this RFP, the Authority will consider Proposals submitted which may employ the use of Subcontractors and/or subconsultants to satisfy the requirements and deliverables required of the resulting Contract.

See Bidder's Checklist – Subcontractor Utilization Form, complete and submit, if applicable.

The Awarded Vendor shall be fully responsible to the Authority for the acts and omissions of its Subcontractors and/or subconsultants, and of persons either directly or indirectly employed by them, as the Awarded Vendor is responsible for the acts and omissions of persons directly employed by the Awarded Vendor.

The Awarded Vendor shall cause appropriate provisions to be inserted in all subcontracts relative to the Work to bind Subcontractors to the Awarded Vendor by the terms of the Contracts Documents in so far as applicable to the Work of Subcontractors and to give the Awarded Vendor the same power as regards terminating any subcontract that the Authority may exercise over the Awarded Vendor under any provision of the Contract Documents.

Bidders should note that the Awarded Vendor retains the sole and absolute responsibility for the management and supervision of all Subcontractors to a high quality of service. Such Subcontractors must possess a valid "Business Registration Certificate", as further detailed in "Section 4.2.4.5 Compliance – Business Registration Certificate" of this RFP. Additionally, the Awarded Vendor assumes sole and absolute responsibility for all payments and monies due to its Subcontractors.

Nothing contained in this RFP and subsequent Contract shall create any contractual relation between any Subcontractor and the Authority.

#### **1.4.9 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Bidder must indicate and detail any Conflict of Interest that exists with either their personnel or any Subcontracting personnel being utilized for these services. Such conflicts include a direct, familial, or personal monetary interest or any previous or existing personal/professional relationships with the Authority and any personnel assigned to work on the Authority's account, regarding these requisite services.

If such a Conflict of Interest exists with any vendor personnel or any Subcontracting personnel being utilized for these services, the Bidder must disclose such potential conflicts in the Proposal. Should a conflict(s) be found to exist, whether real or perceived, the Authority, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether it is a conflict(s) and the individual(s) involved are to be immediately removed.

#### **1.4.10 PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCES AND REJECTIONS**

The Authority's staff reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals, if deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority, to schedule interviews with no Bidders, all Bidders, or only the most highly qualified Bidders, as determined by the Authority; or to request clarifications of any portion of the Proposal received. Further, the Authority's staff reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive minor elements of non-compliance of any entity's Proposal, regarding the requirements outlined in this RFP. Prior to Proposal opening, the Authority retains the discretion to modify, expand, or delete any portion of this RFP. The Authority further retains the discretion to terminate this RFP process at any time.

## **2.0 DEFINITIONS**

### **2.1 GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions will be part of any Contract awarded or order placed as a result of this RFP.

**Addendum** – Written clarification or revision to this RFP issued by the Authority.

**All-Inclusive Hourly Rate** – An hourly rate comprised of all direct and indirect costs including, but not limited to: overhead, fee or profit, clerical support, travel expenses, per diem, safety equipment, materials, supplies, managerial support and all documents, forms, and reproductions thereof. This rate also includes portal-to-portal expenses as well as per diem expenses such as food.

**Amendment** – An alteration or modification of the terms of a Contract between the Authority and the Awarded Vendor(s). An amendment is not effective until approved in writing by the Authority.

**Authority** – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

**Awarded Vendor** - An individual or business entity awarded a Contract in response to this RFP.

**Best and Final Offer or BAFO** – Pricing timely submitted by a Bidder upon invitation by the Authority after Proposal opening, with or without prior discussion or negotiation.

**Bid or Proposal** – Bidder's timely response to the RFP including, but not limited to, the technical Proposal, fully completed Fee Schedule, and any licenses, forms, certifications, or other documentation required by the RFP.

**Bidder** – An individual or business entity submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP.

**Board of Directors** – Responsible for the management of all New Jersey Economic Development Authority operations.

**Business Day** – Any weekday, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, Authority legal holidays, and State-mandated closings unless otherwise indicated.

**Calendar Day** – Any day, including Saturdays, Sundays, State legal holidays, and State-mandated closings unless otherwise indicated.

**Contract** – The Contract for Professional Services – Exhibit A, this RFP, any addendum to this RFP, and the Bidder's Proposal submitted in response to this RFP, as accepted by the Authority.

**Consultant** – An individual or business entity awarded a Contract in response to this RFP.

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** – The Individual, or his/her designee, who has authority as the Chief Contracting Officer for the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

**Designated Contract Manager** – Individual responsible for the overall management and administration of the Contract and the relationship with the Contractor (Awarded Vendor).

**Director** – The Director of Procurement, New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

**Disabled Veterans' Business** – means a business which has its principal place of business in the State, is independently owned and operated and at least 51% of which is owned and controlled by

persons who are disabled veterans or a business which has its principal place of business in this State and has been officially verified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a service disabled veteran-owned business for the purposes of department contracts pursuant to federal law. N.J.S.A. 52:32-31.2.

**Disabled Veterans' Business Set-Aside Contract** – means a Contract for goods, equipment, construction or services which is designated as a Contract with respect to which bids are invited and accepted only from disabled veterans' businesses, or a portion of a Contract when that portion has been so designated. N.J.S.A. 52:32-31.2.

**Evaluation Committee** – A committee established, or Authority staff member assigned by the requesting department, to review and evaluate Proposals submitted in response to this RFP and to recommend a Contract award to the CEO and/or the Board of Directors.

**Firm Fixed Price** – A price that is all-inclusive of direct cost and indirect costs, including, but not limited to, direct labor costs, overhead, fee or profit, clerical support, equipment, materials, supplies, managerial (administrative) support, all documents, reports, forms, travel, reproduction and any other costs. No additional fees or costs shall be paid by the Authority unless there is a change in the Scope of Work.

**Joint Venture** – A business undertaking by two or more entities to share risk and responsibility for a specific project.

**May** – Denotes that which is permissible, not mandatory.

**Must** – Denotes that which is a mandatory requirement. Failure to meet a mandatory material requirement will result in the rejection of a Proposal as non-responsive

**No Charge** – The Bidder will supply an item on a price line free of charge.

**Procurement** – The Department of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority responsible for the tasks and activities associated with procurement.

**Project** – The undertaking or services that are the subject of this RFP.

**Request for Proposal (RFP)** – This series of documents, which establish the bidding and Contract requirements and solicits Proposals to meet the needs of the Authority, as identified herein, and includes the Request for Proposal, Sample Contract, fee/price schedule, attachments and addenda.

**Retainage** – The amount withheld from the Contractor's (Awarded Vendor's) payment that is retained and subsequently released upon satisfactory completion of performance milestones by the Awarded Vendor.

**Revision** – A response to a BAFO request or a requested clarification of the Proposal.

**Shall** – Denotes that which is a mandatory requirement. Failure to meet a mandatory material requirement will result in the rejection of a Proposal as non-responsive.

**Should** – Denotes that which is recommended, not mandatory.

**Small Business** – Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:13-1.2, "small business" means a business that meets the requirements and definitions of "small business" and has applied for and been approved by the New Jersey Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services, Small Business Registration and M/WBE Certification Services Unit as (i) independently owned and operated, (ii) incorporated or registered in and has its principal place of business in the State of New Jersey; (iii) has 100 or fewer full-time employees; and has gross revenues falling in one (1) of the three (3) following categories: For

goods and services – (A) 0 to \$500,000 (Category I); (B) \$500,001 to \$5,000,000 (Category II); and (C) \$5,000,001 to \$12,000,000, or the applicable federal revenue standards established at 13 CFR 1221.201, whichever is higher (Category III); For construction services: (A) 0 to \$3,000,000 (Category IV); (B) gross revenues that do not exceed 50 percent of the applicable annual revenue standards established at 13 CFR 121.201 (Category V); and (C) gross revenues that do not exceed the applicable annual revenue standards established at CFR 121.201 (Category VI).

**Small Business Set-Aside Contract** – means (1) a Contract for goods, equipment, construction or services which is designated as a Contract with respect to which bids are invited and accepted only from small businesses, or (2) a portion of a Contract when that portion has been so designated. N.J.S.A. 52:32-19.

**State** – The State of New Jersey.

**Subcontractor/Subconsultant** – An entity having an arrangement with an Authority Contractor (the Awarded Vendor), whereby the Authority Contractor uses the products and/or services of that entity to fulfill some of its obligations under its Authority Contract, while retaining full responsibility for the performance of all of its (the Awarded Vendor's) obligations under the Contract, including payment to the Subcontractor/Subconsultant. The Subcontractor/Subconsultant has no legal relationship with the Authority, only with the Contractor.

**Subtasks** – Detailed activities that comprise the actual performance of a task.

**Task** – A discrete unit of work to be performed.

**TOR (Task Order Request)** – A Contract that provides for the issuance of Task Order Requests for the performance of tasks or services that were anticipated, but not specified within the original scope of work. When tasks or services are necessary, a TOR is a written description of the task or service for which proposals and quotes for the TOR will be solicited.

**Transaction** - The payment or remuneration to the Contractor (Awarded Vendor) for services rendered or products provided to the Authority pursuant to the terms of the Contract, including but not limited to the following: purchase orders, invoices, hourly rates, firm fixed price, commission payments, progress payments and contingency payments.

**Unit Cost or Unit Price** – All inclusive, firm fixed price charged by the Bidder for a single unit identified on a price line.

**Will** – Denotes that which is a mandatory requirement. Failure to meet a mandatory material requirement will result in the rejection of a Proposal as non-responsive.

### 2.1.1 CONTRACT-SPECIFIC DEFINITIONS

**Pro Formas** – Financial models that forecasts a project's expected performance over time. For real estate developments, Pro Formas typically include assumptions on revenues, operating expenses, financing, and returns and are used to evaluate feasibility, funding gaps, and the appropriate level of subsidy

**Absorption Projections** – Estimates of the rate at which space will be leased or sold over time. These projections assess market demand and timing, helping determine how quickly a project will stabilize and begin generating steady income.

**Capitalization Rates** – A metric used to estimate the value of an income-producing property, calculated as Net Operating Income (NOI) divided by property value and are commonly used to assess valuation and exit assumptions in a pro forma.

**Vacancy Rates** – The percentage of total rentable space that is unoccupied or not generating income at a given time.

**Projected Growth** – Assumptions regarding future increases in key variables such as rental rates, operating expenses, and property values. These projections are typically based on market trends and are critical for forecasting long-term performance and returns.

**Sensitivity Analyses** – Analytical techniques used to test how changes in key assumptions (e.g., rents, costs, interest rates, lease-up timing) impact a project's financial outcomes.

### **3.0 SCOPE OF WORK – REQUIREMENTS OF THE AWARDED VENDOR**

The NJEDA desires to engage multiple qualified consulting firms with experience in real estate development, underwriting, and cost estimation to review and validate market studies and/or development cost estimates submitted as part of NJEDA Aspire Program applications for residential (including mixed-income and affordable housing), commercial, and film studio projects. The Consultants will ensure that all costs are reasonable, appropriately supported, and compliant with program guidelines and requirements.

#### **3.1 REVIEW OF COST ESTIMATES**

- A. Analyze development budgets to assess appropriate classification and allocation of costs under standard categories based on general real estate development conventions (e.g., hard costs, soft costs, contingency, FF&E, etc.).
- B. Assess the consistency of submitted costs with current market and sub-level market conditions, comparable development, and regional pricing benchmarks.
- C. Identify any discrepancies, overstated costs, or unsupported line items.
- D. Review any allocations related to public infrastructure, environmental remediation, and other components eligible for Aspire support.
- E. Ensure costs are consistent with project scope, location, and construction type.
- F. Utilize regional and national cost databases (e.g., RSMeans, Marshall & Swift) to industry benchmark estimates.
- G. Provide professional judgment on the reasonableness of line-item and total project costs.

#### **3.2 REVIEW OF MARKET STUDIES, DEVELOPMENT PRO FORMAS, AND RATES OF RETURN**

- A. Complete market and feasibility analyses of commercial and residential projects seeking assistance primarily under EDA tax incentive programs, and others, as appropriate.
- B. Develop acceptable rates of return, analytical metrics, market data, and other standards primarily for EDA tax incentive programs, and others, as appropriate.
- C. Assess the reasonableness and appropriateness of project feasibility, including rent comparability, demand, and Absorption Projections.
- D. Analyze project Pro Formas and make reasonable determination.
- E. Evaluate key pricing assumptions used in the applicant's model including Capitalization Rates, Vacancy Rates, and Projected Growth in rents, real estate taxes, and operating expenses.
- F. Conduct Sensitivity Analyses to identify the most impactful assumptions and assess how variations in model inputs influence risk.
- G. Review appropriateness of market & sub-level area and demographic data and provide reporting support as needed.
- H. Other similar tasks as required.

### **3.3 SITE VISIT(S) AND DOCUMENT REVIEW (AS NEEDED)**

- A. Conduct site visits to verify existing conditions and inform the reasonableness of estimates (as necessary).
- B. Review supporting documents (drawings, contractor estimates, bid documents, etc.) provided by applicants.

### **3.4 WRITTEN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Provide written reports summarizing findings and conclusions for each project reviewed.
- B. Include red-flag items, recommended adjustments, and a statement as to whether estimates appear reasonable and supportable.
- C. Deliver findings in a format suitable for NJEDA internal review and submission requirements.

### **3.5 MEETINGS AND CONSULTATION**

- A. Participate in meetings with NJEDA staff and Aspire applicants (as needed) to discuss findings and respond to questions.
- B. Provide guidance to NJEDA staff on trends, anomalies, or systemic issues seen across multiple applications.

### **3.6 ONGOING ADVISORY SUPPORT (OPTIONAL)**

- A. Be available for consultation on an as-needed basis for updates, clarifications, or additional analyses.

### **3.7 TASK ORDER REQUEST (TOR)**

During the term of the Contract, the Authority may issue a Task Order Request (TOR). The Authority will provide to the Awarded Vendor(s) a TOR packet consisting of a Task Order Request (Exhibit B1), a Conflict of Interest Certification Statement (Exhibit B2), and a Task Order Response (Exhibit B3). The Authority is under no obligation to solicit responses to the TOR and/or retain Awarded Vendor(s) for any TOR-based request.

There is no guaranteed minimum number of TOR requests the Authority may issue throughout the term of the Contract and any extensions thereto. There is no guarantee Awarded Vendor(s) will be awarded a TOR throughout the duration of the Contract.

Upon receipt from the Awarded Vendor of Exhibit B3 and once the completed Exhibit B3 is accepted by the Authority, the Authority will issue the selected Awarded Vendor(s) written notice to proceed. No work may begin until the Authority issues a written notice to proceed to the Awarded Vendor.

Please reference Section 5.0 (Method of Operation) in this document for additional information.

## **4.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION – REQUIREMENTS OF THE BIDDER**

Failure to submit information as indicated below may result in the Proposal being deemed non-responsive.

### **4.1 GENERAL**

Proposals that conflict with those terms and conditions contained in this RFP or the Authority's Contract for Professional Services, Exhibit A, as may be amended by addenda, or that diminish the Authority's rights under any Contract resulting from the RFP will result in the entire Proposal being rejected and will render a Proposal non-responsive. It is incumbent upon the Bidder to identify and remove its conflicting proposed terms and conditions prior to Proposal submission.

If Bidder intends to propose terms and conditions that conflict with any Authority terms and conditions, those Bidder proposed terms and conditions shall only be considered if submitted and agreed to pursuant to the electronic question and answer procedure. Bidders shall not submit exceptions or modifications as part of the Proposal.

A Bidder may submit additional terms as part of its Proposal. Additional terms are Bidder-proposed terms or conditions that do not conflict with the scope of work required in this Bid Solicitation, the terms and conditions of this Bid Solicitation, or the Standard Terms and Conditions or the Authority's Contract for Professional Services, Exhibit A.

The Proposal including Bidder proposed additional terms may be accepted, rejected, or negotiated, in whole or in part, at the Authority's sole discretion.

The Bidder is advised to thoroughly read and follow all instructions contained in this RFP, including the instructions on the RFP's Signatory Page, in preparing and submitting its Proposal.

Use of URLs in a Proposal should be kept to a minimum and may not be used to satisfy any material term of an RFP.

#### **4.1.1 NON-COLLUSION**

By submitting a Proposal and signing the Signatory Page, the Bidder certifies as follows:

- A. The price(s) and amount of its Proposal have been arrived at independently and without consultation, communication or agreement with any other Bidder or potential Bidder;
- B. Neither the price(s) nor the amount of its Proposal, and neither the approximate price(s) nor approximate amount of this Proposal, have been disclosed to any other entity or person who is a Bidder or potential Bidder, and they will not be disclosed before the Proposal submission;
- C. No attempt has been made or will be made to induce any entity or person to refrain from bidding on this Contract, or to submit a Proposal higher than this Proposal, or to submit any intentionally high or noncompetitive Proposal or other form of complementary Proposal;
- D. The Proposal of the entity is made in good faith and not pursuant to any agreement or discussion with, or inducement from, any entity or person to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive Proposal; and
- E. The Bidder, its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, and employees are not currently under investigation by any governmental agency and have not in the last four (4) years been

convicted or found liable for any act prohibited by state or federal law in any jurisdiction, involving conspiracy or collusion with respect to bidding on any public Contract.

The forms discussed herein for Business Support Administrative Services Bidding Opportunities and required for submission of a Proposal in response to this RFP are available on the Authority's website at <https://www.njeda.gov/bidding/> see RFP Bidder Checklist – 2026-RFP-276 Aspire Program Application Support, unless noted otherwise.

## 4.2 PROPOSAL CONTENT AND SUBMISSION ORDER

Submit a Proposal in three (3) volumes (i.e., upload separate electronic volumes; or, if submitting in hard-copy, submit in separate folders or binders). One (1) volume must contain the **mandatory** compliance documentation. One volume must contain only the **mandatory** Fee Schedule. The additional volume(s) must contain, at a minimum, the **mandatory** portions of the Technical Proposal. If the Proposal is extra large in size, submitting multiple additional volumes for the Technical Proposal is permissible.

**If a Bidder's Proposal does not conform to the requirements and fails to provide all mandatory submissions by the date and time of bid opening, the Bidder's Proposal will be rejected as being non-responsive for non-compliance of mandatory requirements.**

### Technical Proposal Volume

Technical Proposal. Please reference Section 4.2.1 in this RFP. Do not include pricing in this Volume.

### Pricing Volume

Fee Schedule. Please reference Section 4.2.2 in this RFP.

### Compliance Volume

Please reference all Subsections in Section 4.2.3 in this RFP and also reference the Bidder's Checklist attachment accompanying this RFP for items that are **mandatory submissions** and those that are required **prior to** Contract Award.

#### 4.2.1 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (MANDATORY SUBMISSION WITH PROPOSAL)

The Bidder must set forth its understanding of the requirements of this RFP and its ability to successfully complete the Contract. In the Proposal submission, it is mandatory that the Bidder shall describe its approach and plans for accomplishing the work outlined in the Scope of Work, Section 3.0.

The Technical Proposal should, at a minimum, contain the information below and preferably be submitted in the following order:

- I. Cover Letter (Optional);
- II. Management Overview and Technical Approach to Achieve the Scope of Work;
- III. Organization Chart, if applicable and not a sole proprietor;
- IV. Key Team Member List, if applicable and not a sole proprietor;
- V. Resumes of Key Team Members;
- VI. References of Key Team Members; and
- VII. Description and Documentation of Bidder's Prior Experience and Qualifications.

The Bidder should include the level of detail it determines necessary to assist the Evaluation Committee in its review of the Bidder's Proposal.

**I. Cover Letter (Optional)**

All Bidders should submit a cover letter, which includes the full company name and address of the entity performing the services described in this RFP, and the name, e-mail address and telephone number for the individual who will be the primary contact person for the responding Bidder for this engagement. Also indicate the state of incorporation, whether the Bidder is operating as an individual proprietorship, partnership, or corporation, including the identification of any and all Subcontractors/Sub-consultants.

**II. Management Overview and Technical Approach to Achieve the Scope of Work**

- A. The Bidder shall set forth its overall technical approach and plans to meet the requirements of the RFP in a narrative format, in order to convince the Authority that the Bidder understands the objectives that the engagement is intended to meet, the nature of the required work and the level of effort necessary to successfully complete the engagement. This narrative should convince the Authority that the Bidder's general approach and plans to undertake and complete the engagement are appropriate to the tasks and subtasks involved;
- B. The Bidder shall provide a discussion/rationale for why the Bidder's approach(s) will best meet the needs of the Authority; and
- C. The Bidder shall also set forth a detailed work plan that will accomplish the requirements of the Scope of Work, indicating how each task in Section 3.0 will be accomplished, including an outline of a proposed meeting schedule with Authority staff and timeline for key milestones and ability to complete the Scope of Work within the maximum timeline.

**III. Organization Chart, if applicable (not required for a sole proprietor)**

If key team members are proposed, provide an organization chart that includes the individual(s) and job title(s) for this engagement. For the purposes of this engagement, a key team member is identified as having a responsible role in the successful completion of the services requested pursuant to this RFP.

If the Bidder will utilize Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), who are technically and/or professionally qualified for this engagement, the Bidder should list these additional professional resources in its Proposal and include the individual(s) and job title(s) for this engagement on the Organization Chart.

Note: If the Proposal submission includes a key team member that is a Subcontractor(s) and/or Subconsultant(s), the Organization Chart must clearly indicate that they are a Subcontractor(s) and/or Subconsultant(s), and submit a completed Subcontractor/Subconsultant Utilization form (See Bidder's Checklist).

**IV. Key Team Member List, if applicable (not required for a sole proprietor)**

If key team members are being proposed, list each individual, who will be utilized for this Contract by name and job title.

**Note:** If the Proposal submission includes a key team member that is a Subcontractor(s) and/or Subconsultant(s), the Organization Chart must clearly indicate that they are a Subcontractor(s) and/or Subconsultant(s), and submit a completed Subcontractor/ Subconsultant Utilization form (See Bidder's Checklist).

## **V. Resumes/Bios of Key Team Members**

If key team members are being proposed, a resume/bio for each individual should be included. If resumes are included, please reference the evaluation criteria section in this RFP, Section 7.7.1 for the Resume requirements.

## **VI. References**

If key team members are being proposed, and resumes are submitted, an individual's resume should include at least three (3) client references applicable to the Scope of Work, including contact names, job title, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. If resumes are included, please reference the evaluation criteria section in this RFP, Section 7.7.1 for the Reference requirements.

## **VII. Description and Documentation of Bidder's Prior Experience and Qualifications**

- A. The Bidder shall clearly state its skills and experience in a manner that demonstrates its capability to complete the Scope of Work, Section 3.0;
- B. Provide a narrative description, detailing the Bidder's experience as a real estate development, underwriting, and cost estimation consulting firm, or experience working with real estate development, underwriting, and cost estimation consulting firms. Information in the narrative description should be supported by evidence or information that can be independently verified by the Authority;
- C. Provide information from projects the organization has previously worked on, and in what role/capacity. For each project that is listed, indicate the scope, the location of the project(s), and the beginning and end dates of the project(s). If applicable, highlight projects in which members of the proposed project team have worked together;
- D. If applicable, submit any information/examples of services provided that are similar in size or scope, or show demonstrated experience working with real estate development, underwriting, and cost estimation consulting firms in New Jersey or other states;
- E. Provide a listing of three (3) client references, which includes contact names, titles and telephone numbers for which the organization has provided services. The beginning and ending dates of the provided services must be included.
- F. If the Bidder is submitting a Proposal that includes a Subcontractor(s), detail the Subcontractor's specific role for this project, how they will interface with the Bidder's staff and complete a Subcontractor/Subconsultant Utilization Form. See Bidder's Checklist.

### **4.2.1.1 POTENTIAL PROBLEMS**

The Bidder must set forth a summary of any and all problems that the Bidder anticipates during the term of the Contract. For each problem identified, the Bidder should provide its proposed approach.

### **4.2.2 FEE SCHEDULE (MANDATORY SUBMISSION WITH PROPOSAL)**

The Bidder must submit its pricing using the format set forth on the Fee Schedule accompanying this RFP. Bidders are NOT permitted to alter or change the provided Fee Schedule format/category designations. Any additional or supplemented versions of the Authority-supplied Fee Schedule will not be accepted and will result in the Bidder's Proposal being deemed non-responsive.

If the Bidder will supply an item on a price line free of charge, the Bidder must indicate "No Charge" on the Authority-supplied Fee Schedule accompanying this RFP solicitation. The use of any other identifier may result in the Bidder's Proposal being deemed non-responsive.

#### **4.2.2.1 DELIVERY TIME AND COSTS**

- A. Unless otherwise noted elsewhere in the RFP, all prices for items in Proposals shall be submitted Freight on Board (F.O.B.) Destination. Proposals submitted other than F.O.B. Destination may not be considered. Regardless of the method of quoting shipments, the Awarded Vendor shall assume all costs, liability and responsibility for the delivery of merchandise in good condition to the Authority; and
- B. F.O.B. Destination does not cover "spotting" but does include delivery inside the Authority unless otherwise specified. No additional charges will be allowed for any additional transportation costs resulting from partial shipments made at the Contractor's (Awarded Vendor's) convenience when a single shipment is ordered.

#### **4.2.2.2 COLLECT ON DELIVERY (C.O.D.) TERMS**

C.O.D. terms are not acceptable as part of a Proposal and will be cause for rejection of a Proposal.

#### **4.2.2.3 PRICE ADJUSTMENT**

Pricing shall remain firm throughout the term of the Contract and any extensions, thereto.

#### **4.2.3 REQUIRED COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTATION**

Unless otherwise specified, forms must contain an original, physical signature, or an electronic signature pursuant to Section 1.3.6.2 of this RFP solicitation.

SEE BELOW and BIDDER's CHECKLIST for Compliance Documentation required to be submitted WITH the Proposal **(MANDATORY FORM WITH PROPOSAL)**. ALL other Compliance Documentation, not deemed "Mandatory Form With Proposal", are required prior to Contract award; however, it is preferred and encouraged that Bidders submit ALL Compliance Documentation with the Proposal, if possible. A Bidder who fails to submit requested information within seven (7) business days of a written request by the Authority will be deemed non-responsive and will preclude the award of a Contract to said Bidder.

#### **4.2.4 FORMS, REGISTRATIONS, AND CERTIFICATIONS TO BE FULLY COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL**

##### **4.2.4.1 SIGNATORY PAGE (SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL)**

The Signatory Page accompanying this RFP must be signed, completed and should be included with the Quote/Proposal. This form must be provided prior to Contract award. The Signatory Page **must include the signature** of an authorized representative of the Bidder. If the Bidder is a limited partnership, a Signatory Page must be signed by each general partner. Failure to comply will result in rejection of the Proposal as non-responsive and preclude the award of a Contract to said Bidder.

Note: A Bidder's written signature on the Signatory Page will NOT serve as a certifying signature on any other Mandatory Compliance forms required. Each mandatory compliance document must be individually signed.

##### **4.2.4.2 OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM (MANDATORY FORM WITH PROPOSAL)**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2, in the event the Bidder is a corporation, partnership or limited liability company, the Bidder must complete an Ownership Disclosure Form. A current completed Ownership Disclosure Form must be received prior to or accompany the submitted Proposal. A Bidder's failure to submit the completed form with its Proposal will result in the rejection of the Proposal as non-responsive and preclude the award of a Contract to said Bidder. If any ownership change has occurred within the last six (6) months, a new Ownership Disclosure Form must be completed and submitted with the Proposal.

NOTE: If the Bidder is a partnership or a limited liability corporation, an Ownership Disclosure form must be completed by each general partner. Failure to comply may result in rejection of the Proposal.

#### **4.2.5 FORMS, REGISTRATIONS, AND CERTIFICATIONS THAT MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED AND REQUIRED PRIOR TO CONTRACT AWARD**

##### **4.2.5.1 DISCLOSURE OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN FORM**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-58, the Bidder must utilize the Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran form to certify that neither the Bidder, nor one of its parents, subsidiaries, and/or affiliates (as defined in N.J.S.A. 52:32-56(e)(3)), is listed on the Department of the Treasury's List of Persons or Entities Engaging in Prohibited Investment Activities in Iran and that neither the Bidder, nor one of its parents, subsidiaries, and/or affiliates, is involved in any of the investment activities set forth in N.J.S.A. 52:32-56(f). If the Bidder is unable to so certify, the Bidder shall provide a detailed and precise description of such activities as directed on the form. A Bidder's failure to submit the completed and signed form before Contract award will be deemed non-responsive and preclude the award of a Contract to said Bidder.

NOTE: If the Bidder is a partnership or a limited liability corporation partnership, each Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran form must be signed by a general partner. Failure to comply may preclude the award of a Contract.

##### **4.2.5.2 DISCLOSURE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS INVOLVING BIDDER FORM**

The Bidder must submit the Disclosure of Investigations and Other Actions Involving Bidder Form, prior to the award of a Contract, to provide a detailed description of any investigation, litigation, including administrative complaints or other administrative proceedings, involving any public sector clients during the past five (5) years, including the nature and status of the investigation, and, for any litigation, the caption of the action, a brief description of the action, the date of inception, current status, and, if applicable, disposition. The Bidder's inclusion of the Disclosure of Investigations and Other Actions Involving Bidder form with the Proposal is requested and advised. If a Bidder does not submit the form with the Proposal, the Bidder must comply within seven (7) business days of a request by the Authority or the Authority may deem the Proposal non-responsive.

##### **4.2.5.3 BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATION (BRC)**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:32-44(b), a Bidder and its named Subcontractors must have a valid Business Registration Certificate ("BRC") issued by the Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services, prior to the award of a Contract. To facilitate the Proposal evaluation and Contract award process, it is requested and advised the Bidder should submit a copy of its valid BRC and those of any named Subcontractors with its Proposal.

A Bidder otherwise identified by the Authority as a responsive and responsible Bidder, inclusive of any named Subcontractors, but that was not business registered at the time of submission of its Proposal must be so registered and in possession of a valid BRC by a deadline to be specified in

writing by the Authority. A Bidder who fails to comply with this requirement by the deadline specified by the Authority will be deemed ineligible for Contract award. Under any circumstance, the Authority will rely upon information available from computerized systems maintained by the State as a basis to verify independently compliance with the requirement for business registration. <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/revenue/busregcert.shtml>.

A Bidder receiving a Contract award as a result of this procurement and any Subcontractors named by that Bidder will be required to maintain a valid business registration with the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services for the duration of the executed Contract, inclusive of any Contract extensions.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:49-4.1, a business organization that fails to provide a copy of a business registration as required pursuant to section 1 of P.L. 2001, c.134 (N.J.S.A. 52:32-44 et al.) or subsection e. or f. of section 92 of P.L. 1977, c. 110 (N.J.S.A. 5:12-92), or that provides false information of business registration under the requirements of either those sections, shall be liable for a penalty of \$25 for each day off violation, not to exceed \$50,000 for each business registration copy not properly provided under a Contract with a contracting agency or under a casino service industry enterprise Contract.

#### **4.2.5.4 SOURCE DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATION**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-13.2, all of the Authority's Contracts shall be performed within the United States. Pursuant to the statutory requirements, prior to an award of a Contract primarily for services, the intended Awarded Vendor of an Authority Contract must disclose the location by country where services, including subcontracted services, will be performed. Prior to the award of Contract, the Bidder must complete and submit the Source Disclosure Form accompanying this RFP. The Bidder's inclusion of the completed Source Disclosure form with the Proposal is requested and advised. If a Bidder does not submit the form with the Proposal, the Bidder must comply within seven (7) business days of a request by the Authority or the Authority may deem the Proposal non-responsive.

If any of the services cannot be performed within the United States, the Bidder shall state with specificity the reasons why the services cannot be so performed. The Authority shall determine whether sufficient justification has been provided by the Bidder to form the basis of his or her certification that the services cannot be performed in the United States.

The Source Disclosure Form is located on the Authority's website at <https://www.njeda.gov/bidding/>.

#### **4.2.5.4.1 BREACH OF CONTRACT**

A SHIFT TO PROVISION OF SERVICES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES DURING THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT SHALL BE DEEMED A BREACH OF CONTRACT. If, during the term of the Contract, the Awarded Vendor or Subcontractor, who had upon Contract award declared that services would be performed in the United States, proceeds to shift the performance of any of the services outside the United States, the Awarded Vendor shall be deemed to be in breach of its Contract. Such Contract shall be subject to termination for cause, unless such shift in performance was previously approved by the Authority.

#### **4.2.5.5 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq., prior to the award of a Contract, businesses must submit an active copy of a New Jersey Certificate of Employee Information Report or a copy of a Federal Letter of Approval verifying it is operating under a federally approved or sanctioned Affirmative Action program. This is satisfied by submitting the information referenced in this RFP Section 4.2.5.5.

Intended awardee(s) not in possession of either a New Jersey Certificate of Employee Information Report or a Federal Letter of Approval should reference the AA-302 Frequently Asked Questions document for additional information and must submit payment to either renew an expired or missing Certificate or complete an initial submission.

All of this information, including the instructions for requesting and paying for a duplicate or renewal Certificate, is available at the New Jersey Department of Treasury's website Public Contracts Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Compliance Monitoring:  
[https://www.nj.gov/treasury/contract\\_compliance/index.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/treasury/contract_compliance/index.shtml).

Bidders may also reference the Bidder's Checklist for this RFP, which provides a direct link to the EEO Compliance and Monitoring requirements..

Or alternatively, intended awardees have an option for mailed submission and payment by check, following the filing instructions at:  
[https://www.nj.gov/treasury/contract\\_compliance/index.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/treasury/contract_compliance/index.shtml).

#### **4.2.5.6 SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE SET-ASIDE**

In accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 17:13 and N.J.A.C. 17:14, as amended, the Authority participates in goal-based Small Business contracting to develop a Set-Aside business plan for Small Business Enterprises (SBEs). The Authority encourages the participation of SBE firms certified with the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services for the services subject to this RFP.

Businesses must apply to be certified with the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services Business Certification Program and evidence of application or certification is to be submitted with the Proposal by the Proposal Submission Due Date.

Information regarding SBE certification can be obtained by contacting the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services at (609) 292-2146 or at their offices at 33 West State Street, PO Box 820, Trenton, NJ 08625-0820 or on-line, via the State's Business website at:  
<https://www.njportal.gov/DOR/SBERegistry/>.

Bidders please reference the Contractor Set-Aside/Demographic Information form listed in the RFP Bidder's Checklist, which is to be completed and submitted prior to Contract award. Bidder

#### **4.2.5.7 DISABLED VETERANS' BUSINESS SET-ASIDE**

Pursuant to the Set-Aside provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:32-31.1 et seq. and the Authority's goal-based contracting initiatives, the Authority encourages the participation of Disabled Veterans' Businesses certified with the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services for the services subject to this RFP. Businesses must apply to be certified as a Disabled Veterans' Business with the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services Business Certification Program and evidence of application or certification is to be submitted with the Proposal by the Proposal Submission Due Date.

Information regarding Disabled Veterans' Business certification can be obtained by contacting the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services at (609) 292-2146 or at their offices at 33 West State Street, PO Box 820, Trenton, NJ 08625-0820 or on-line, via the State's Business website at:  
<https://www.njportal.gov/DOR/SBERegistry/>.

Bidders please reference the Contractor Set-Aside/Demographic Information form listed in the RFP Bidder's Checklist, which is to be completed and submitted prior to Contract award.

#### **4.2.5.8 SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATION**

Information regarding certification of a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Veteran-Owned Business (VOB), and LGBTQ+ Business can be obtained by contacting the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services at (609) 292-2146 or at their offices at 33 West State Street, PO Box 820, Trenton, NJ 08625-0820 or on-line, via the State's Business website at: <https://www.njportal.gov/DOR/SBERegistry/>.

#### **4.2.5.9 REQUIREMENTS OF TWO-YEAR CHAPTER 51, EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 333 (2023) VENDOR CERTIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NON-PUBLICLY ADVERTISED CONTRACTS.**

##### **A. For Contracts Awarded Pursuant to a Fair and Open Process**

Pursuant to P.L.2005, c.51, as amended by the Elections Transparency Act, P.L.2023, c.30, codified at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 to 20.25 ("Chapter 51"), and Executive Order No. 333 (2023), the Authority's contracts awarded pursuant to a fair and open process do **not** require a certification or disclosure of any solicitation or contribution of money, or pledge of contribution, including in-kind contributions.

##### **B. For Contracts Awarded Pursuant to a Non-Publicly Advertised Process**

Pursuant to P.L.2005, c.51, as amended by the Elections Transparency Act, P.L.2023, c.30, codified at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 to 20.25 ("Chapter 51"), and Executive Order No. 333 (2023), the Authority shall not enter into a Contract to procure services or any material, supplies or equipment, or to acquire, sell, or lease any land or building from any Business Entity, where the value of the transaction exceeds \$17,500, if that Business Entity has solicited or made any contribution of money, or pledge of contribution, including in-kind contributions, to a Continuing Political Committee or to a candidate committee and/or election fund of any candidate for or holder of the public office of Governor during certain specified time periods.

1. Prior to awarding any Contract or agreement to any Business Entity, the Business Entity proposed as the intended awardee of the Contract shall submit the Two-Year Chapter 51/Executive Order No. 333 (2023) Vendor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contributions for Non-Publicly Advertised Contracts form.
  - i. The required form and instructions shall be provided to the intended awardee for completion and submission. Upon receipt of a Notice of Intent to Award a Contract, the intended awardee shall submit to the Authority, in care of the Procurement department, the Certification and Disclosure(s) within five (5) business days of the Authority's request. Failure to submit the required forms will preclude award of a Contract under this RFP, as well as future Contract opportunities. The form is also available at: <https://www.njeda.gov/Bidding/>.
2. Further, the Contractor (Awarded Vendor) is required, on a continuing basis, to report any contributions it makes during the term of the Contract, and any extension(s) thereof, at the time any such contribution is made.

#### **4.2.5.10 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE**

The Contractor (Awarded Vendor) is advised of its responsibility to file an annual disclosure statement on political contributions with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.27 (P.L. 2005, c. 271, 3 as amended) if in a calendar year the Contractor (Awarded Vendor) receives one (1) or more Contracts valued at \$50,000.00 or more. It is the Contractor's (Awarded Vendor's) responsibility to determine if filing is necessary. Failure to file can result in the imposition of penalties by ELEC. Additional information about this

requirement is available from ELEC by calling 1(888) 313-3532 or on the internet at <https://www.elec.state.nj.us/>.

#### **4.2.5.11 PUBLIC LAW 2018, CHAPTER 9 – DIANE B. ALLEN EQUAL PAY ACT**

Effective July 1, 2018, Bidders and Contractors (Awarded Vendors) are advised that pursuant to the Diane B. Allen Equal Pay Act, (P.L. 2018, ch. 9), any employer entering into a Contract with the State of New Jersey or an instrumentality of the State (such as the Authority) providing “qualifying services” or “public works” within the meaning of that Act is required to file the report required therein, with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development upon commencement of the Contract. Information about the Act and the reporting requirement is available at: <https://nj.gov/labor/equalpay/equalpay.html>. Construction projects that are subject to the Prevailing Wage Act are affected by this statute (falling within the definition of “public work”). Additionally, any Contract that the Authority enters into for “services” imposes reporting requirements by awarded Bidders and Contractors (Awarded Vendor) (falling within the definition of “qualifying services”). Information on the reporting requirement for such “qualifying services” is also available at: <https://nj.gov/labor/equalpay/equalpay.html>. **Goods/Products Contracts are not impacted by the statute.**

#### **4.2.5.12 NEW JERSEY STATE W-9**

Prior to an award of a Contract, the Awarded Vendor shall provide the Authority with a properly completed New Jersey State W-9 form available at <https://www.njeda.gov/bidding>.

#### **4.2.5.13 INSURANCE CERTIFICATE(S)**

Prior to the award of a Contract, the Awarded Vendor shall provide the Authority with current certificate(s) of insurance for all coverages required by the terms of this Contract and specify the insurance certificate is identified with the unique Contract awarded as a result of this RFP. Refer to Section 7 of the Authority's Standard Contract, Exhibit A, accompanying this RFP.

#### **4.2.5.14 SUBCONTRACTOR UTILIZATION FORM**

All Bidders intending to use a Subcontractor(s) must complete a Subcontractor Utilization Form, which is to be submitted with the Proposal.

If the Contract is a small business subcontracting set-aside, the Bidder certifies that in engaging Subcontractors and/or Subconsultants, it shall make a good faith effort to achieve the subcontracting set-aside goals, and shall attach to the Subcontractor Utilization Form documentation of such efforts.

For a Proposal that does NOT include the use of Subcontractors and/or Subconsultants, by signing the Signatory Page, the Bidder is automatically certifying that in the event the award is granted to the Bidder's firm and the Awarded Vendor later determines at any time during the term of the Contract to engage Subcontractors and/or Subconsultants to provide certain goods and/or services, the Awarded Vendor shall submit a Subcontractor Utilization Form for approval by the Authority in advance of any such engagement of Subcontractors and/or Subconsultants.

Bidders please reference the Bidder's Checklist for additional information about the Subcontractor Utilization Form.

#### **4.2.5.15 CERTIFICATION OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES IN RUSSIA OR BELARUS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1**

A Bidder must certify prior to executing a newly awarded Contract it is in compliance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1 (P.L. 2022, c.3), which was signed by Governor Murphy on March 9, 2022, and prohibits government dealings with businesses associated with Belarus or Russia. The certification is satisfied by submitting the form referenced in this section. Please reference Bidder's Checklist.

Under this law, "engaged in prohibited activities in Russia or Belarus" means (1) companies in which the Government of Russia or Belarus has any direct equity share; (2) having any business operations commencing after March 9, 2022 that involve Contracts with or the provision of goods or services to the Government of Russia or Belarus; (3) being headquartered in Russia or having its principal place of business in Russia or Belarus, or (4) supporting, assisting, or facilitating the Government of Russia or Belarus in their campaigns to invade the sovereign country of Ukraine, either through in-kind support or for profit. The full text of the law is available on the Legislature's webpage at <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/S1889/bill-text?f=PL22&n=3>

A Bidder's failure to submit the completed and signed form before Contract award will be deemed non-responsive and preclude the award of a Contract to said Bidder.

NOTE: If the Bidder is a partnership or a limited liability corporation partnership, each Disclosure of Investment Activities in Russia and Belarus form must be signed by a general partner. Failure to comply may preclude the award of a Contract.

## **5.0 METHOD OF OPERATION**

When services are required that are within the Scope of Services, the DCM or designee will determine whether to solicit some or all the Awarded Vendors.

The Awarded Vendor will be required to respond to each TOR describing its strategy in completing the services required as follows:

During the term of the Contract, the Authority may issue a TOR (Exhibit B1) to the Awarded Vendor(s), specific as to the above Section 3.7 pertaining to the utilization on Aspire Program Application Support. The Authority's Designated Contract Manager (DCM) or Designee will provide a TOR Request (Exhibit B1), to specify the task/project, including any required deadlines and/or required compliance for the services. The TOR will state to whom at the Authority the response should be addressed.

The Awarded Vendor(s) will be required to respond to each TOR as follows:

A. Review the TOR to determine if a conflict of interest exists for the task/project, then return to the Authority's DCM or designee within two (2) business days of the receipt of the TOR packet, the Conflict of Interest Certification Statement (Exhibit B2), to be fully completed and signed by the Awarded Vendor to certify that no conflict of interest exists; and

B. If no conflict exists, the Awarded Vendor(s) must return to the Authority's DCM or designee within five (5) business days of the receipt of the TOR packet a Vendor Response, (Exhibit B3). Vendors must provide responses that directly address the specific requirements and how the goals of the TOR will be accomplished. Any cost estimate included in Exhibit B3, shall be prepared in accordance with the Awarded Vendor's contracted Fee Schedule for 2026-RFP-276:

1. The Awarded Vendor(s) Response/TOR Proposal will then either be accepted or the Authority will further negotiate the cost, Scope of Work, and time needed to complete the task/project.
2. Any supplement or addition to hours or positions/titles that differs from the contracted Fee Schedule for 2026-RFP-276 - (i.e. supplementing a subcontractor or substituting a staff employee, including pricing for same) are subject to the final approval of the Authority's DCM or designee, at his/her sole discretion.

C. The Awarded Vendor, if selected for a TOR task/project, shall provide any required compliance within five (5) business days of written notice to proceed.

### **5.1 SELECTION OF AWARDED VENDORS**

#### **5.1.1 MINI EVALUATION**

A. As to the requested services, the Authority will conduct a mini-evaluation among the pool of Awarded Vendors in order to select the vendor for the TOR. The DCM or designee will:

1. issue a TOR detailing the goals of the specific task/project and any task/project specific requirements that must be addressed in the TOR response;
2. determine which Awarded Vendors to solicit from the pool when services are required in one of the following ways:

a. The DCM or designee will solicit all the Awarded Vendors

3. review and evaluate Awarded Vendor(s)/Qualified Firm(s)' responses based upon the strength of the underlying TOR Response/TOR Proposal in relation to the requested services and required expertise.

## **6.0 SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **6.1 PRECEDENCE OF SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The Contract awarded as a result of this RFP shall consist of this RFP, addenda to this RFP, the Bidder's Proposal, any best and final offer and the Authority's Contract for Professional Services-Exhibit A.

Unless specifically stated within this RFP, any Special Contractual Terms and Conditions of the RFP take precedence over the Authority's Standard Contract – Exhibit A, accompanying this RFP.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this RFP, including the Authority's Standard Contract – Exhibit A, and any addendum to this RFP, the addendum shall govern.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this RFP, including any addendum to this RFP, or the Authority's Contract for Professional Services – Exhibit A and the Bidder's Proposal, the RFP and/or the addendum and the Authority's Contract for Professional Services – Exhibit A shall govern.

### **6.2 CONTRACT TERM AND EXTENSION OPTION**

The term of the Contract shall be for two (2) years with the possibility of two (2) one-year (1) extension options, which is at the sole discretion of the Authority and dependent upon funding, at the same terms, conditions, and pricing in effect during the Contract term or rates more favorable to the Authority.

### **6.3 CONTRACT TRANSITION**

In the event that a new Contract has not been awarded prior to the Contract expiration date, as may be extended herein, the Authority reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to extend the Agreement on a month-to-month basis beyond the expiration or termination, until a replacement is engaged to provide the requisite services. It shall be incumbent upon the Awarded Vendor to continue the Contract under the same terms and conditions until a new Contract can be completely operational. At no time shall this transition period extend more than 180 days beyond the expiration date of this Agreement, including any extensions exercised.

### **6.4 CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

Any changes or modifications to the terms of the Contract shall be valid only when they have been reduced to writing with the Designated Contract Manager's recommendation and written approval from the Procurement Department.

### **6.5 AWARDED VENDOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Awarded Vendor shall have sole responsibility for the complete effort specified in the Contract. If the RFP permits subcontracting, payment will be made only to the Awarded Vendor. The Awarded Vendor shall have sole responsibility for all payments due any Subcontractor.

The Awarded Vendor is responsible for the professional quality, technical accuracy and timely completion and submission of all deliverables, services or commodities required to be provided under the Contract. The Awarded Vendor shall, without additional compensation, correct or revise any errors, omissions, or other deficiencies in its deliverables and other services. The approval of deliverables furnished under this Contract shall not in any way relieve the Awarded Vendor of responsibility for the technical adequacy of its work. The review, approval, acceptance or payment

for any of the services shall not be construed as a waiver of any rights that the Authority may have arising out of the Awarded Vendor's performance of this Contract.

#### **6.6 SUBSTITUTION OF STAFF**

The Awarded Vendor shall forward all requests to substitute staff to the Authority for consideration and approval. The request may be as simple as naming an alternate/back-up individual for each position / individual identified in the Bidder's organization chart which is designated to perform work against the resulting Contract. No substitute personnel are authorized to begin work until the Awarded Vendor has received written approval to proceed from the Authority's Designated Contract Manager.

If it becomes necessary for the Awarded Vendor to substitute any management, supervisory or key personnel, the Awarded Vendor shall identify the substitute personnel and the work to be performed. The Awarded Vendor must provide detailed justification documenting the necessity for the substitution. Resumes must be submitted evidencing that the individual(s) proposed as substitute(s) have qualifications and experience equal to or better than the individual(s) originally proposed or currently assigned. No substitute personnel are authorized to begin work until the Awarded Vendor has received verbal/written approval to proceed from the Authority's Designated Contract Manager.

The Authority reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to recommend and make changes to the Awarded Vendor's overall approach to address these advisory needs, if deemed necessary. For instance, the Authority's Designated Contract Manager may determine that the Awarded Vendor's staff employee assigned to perform the requisite services may not be meeting the acceptable levels of performance and a replacement staff employee is needed to better meet the needs of the Authority.

#### **6.7 SUBSTITUTION OR ADDITION OF SUBCONTRACTOR(S)/SUBCONSULTANT(S)**

The Awarded Vendor shall forward a written request to substitute or add a Subcontractor/Subconsultant or to substitute its own staff for a Subcontractor/Subconsultant to the Authority's Designated Contract Manager for consideration. If the Designated Contract Manager approves the request, the Designated Contract Manager will forward the request to the Procurement Department for final approval. No substituted or additional Subcontractor(s)/Subconsultant(s) are authorized to begin work until the Awarded Vendor has received written approval from the Procurement Department.

If it becomes necessary for the Awarded Vendor to substitute a Subcontractor/Subconsultant, add a Subcontractor/Subconsultant, or substitute its own staff for a Subcontractor/Subconsultant, the Awarded Vendor will identify the proposed new Subcontractor/Subconsultant or staff member(s) and the work to be performed. The Awarded Vendor must provide detailed justification documenting the necessity for the substitution or addition.

The Awarded Vendor must provide detailed resumes of its proposed replacement staff or of the proposed Subcontractor's/Subconsultant's management, supervisory, and other key personnel that demonstrate knowledge, ability and experience relevant to that part of the work which the Subcontractor/Subconsultant is to undertake.

The qualifications and experience of the replacement(s) must equal or exceed those of similar personnel proposed by the Awarded Vendor in its Proposal.

#### **6.8 OWNERSHIP OF MATERIAL**

All data, technical information, materials gathered, originated, developed, prepared, used or obtained in the performance of the Contract, including, but not limited to, all reports, surveys, plans, charts, literature, brochures, mailings, recordings (video and/or audio), pictures, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, software computer programs and accompanying documentation and print-outs, notes and memoranda, written procedures and documents, regardless of the state of completion, which are prepared for or are a result of the services required under this Contract shall be and remain the property of the Authority and shall be delivered to the Authority upon thirty (30) Days' notice by the Authority. With respect to software computer programs and/or source codes developed for the Authority, except those modifications or adaptations made to the Bidder's or Contractor's (Awarded Vendor's) Background IP as defined below, the work shall be considered "work for hire", i.e., the Authority, not the Contractor (Awarded Vendor) or Subcontractor, shall have full and complete ownership of all software computer programs and/or source codes developed. To the extent that any of such materials may not, by operation of the law, be a work made for hire in accordance with the terms of this Contract, Contractor (Awarded Vendor) or Subcontractor hereby assigns to the Authority all right, title and interest in and to any such material, and the Authority shall have the right to obtain and hold in its own name and copyrights, registrations and any other proprietary rights that may be available.

Should the Bidder anticipate bringing pre-existing intellectual property into a work-for-hire, the intellectual property must be identified in the Proposal. Otherwise, the language in the first paragraph of this section prevails. If the Bidder identifies such intellectual property ("Background IP") in its Proposal, then the Background IP owned by the Bidder on the date of the Contract, as well as any modifications or adaptations thereto, remain the property of the Bidder. Upon Contract award, the Bidder or Contractor (Awarded Vendor) shall grant the Authority a nonexclusive, perpetual royalty free license to use any of the Bidder's/Contractor's (Awarded Vendor's) Background IP delivered to the Authority for the purposes contemplated by the Contract.

## **6.9 SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

### **6.9.1 DATA CONFIDENTIALITY**

All financial, statistical, personnel, customer and/or technical data supplied by the Authority to the Awarded Vendor are confidential (Authority Confidential Information). The Awarded Vendor must secure all data from manipulation, sabotage, theft or breach of confidentiality. The Awarded Vendor is prohibited from releasing any financial, statistical, personnel, customer and/or technical data supplied by the Authority that is deemed confidential. Any use, sale, or offering of this data in any form by the Awarded Vendor, or any individual or entity in the Awarded Vendor's charge or employ, will be considered a violation of this Contract and may result in Contract termination and the Awarded Vendor's suspension or debarment from Authority contracting. In addition, such conduct may be reported to the State Attorney General for possible criminal prosecution.

The Awarded Vendor shall assume total financial liability incurred by the Awarded Vendor associated with any breach of confidentiality.

When requested, the Awarded Vendor and all project staff including its Subcontractor(s) must complete and sign confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements provided by the Authority. The Awarded Vendor may be required to view yearly security awareness and confidentiality training modules, or other training methods provided by the Authority. Where required, it shall be the Awarded Vendor's responsibility to ensure that any new staff sign the confidentiality agreement and complete the security awareness and confidentiality training modules within one month of the employees' start date.

The Authority reserves the right to obtain, or require the Awarded Vendor to obtain, at the Awarded Vendor's expense, criminal history background checks from the New Jersey State Police for all Awarded Vendor and project staff (to protect the Authority from losses resulting from Awarded

Vendor employee theft, fraud or dishonesty). If the Authority exercises this right, the results of the background check(s) must be made available to the Authority for consideration before the employee is assigned to work on the Authority's project. Prospective employees with positive criminal backgrounds for cyber-crimes will not be approved to work on Authority Projects. Refer to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-12, An Introduction to Computer Security: The NIST Handbook, Section 10.1.3, Filling the Position – Screening and Selecting.

#### **6.9.1.1 AWARDED VENDOR'S CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

- A. The obligations of the Authority under this provision are subject to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act ("OPRA"), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq., the New Jersey common law right to know, and any other lawful document request or subpoena;
- B. By virtue of this Contract, the parties may have access to information that is confidential to one another. The parties agree to disclose to each other only information that is required for the performance of their obligations under this Contract. Awarded Vendor's Confidential Information, to the extent not expressly prohibited by law, shall consist of all information clearly identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and anything identified in Awarded Vendor's Proposal as Background IP ("Awarded Vendor Confidential Information"). Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the terms and pricing of this Contract are subject to disclosure under OPRA, the common law right to know, and any other lawful document request or subpoena;
- C. A party's Confidential Information shall not include information that: (a) is or becomes a part of the public domain through no act or omission of the other party; (b) was in the other party's lawful possession prior to the disclosure and had not been obtained by the other party either directly or indirectly from the disclosing party; (c) is lawfully disclosed to the other party by a third party without restriction on the disclosure; or (d) is independently developed by the other party;
- D. The Authority agrees to hold Awarded Vendor's Confidential Information in confidence, using at least the same degree of care used to protect its own Confidential Information;
- E. In the event that the Authority receives a request for Awarded Vendor Confidential Information related to this Contract pursuant to a court order, subpoena, or other operation of law, the Authority agrees, if permitted by law, to provide Awarded Vendor with as much notice, in writing, as is reasonably practicable and the Authority's intended response to such order of law. Awarded Vendor shall take any action it deems appropriate to protect its documents and/or information;
- F. In addition, in the event Awarded Vendor receives a request for Authority Confidential Information pursuant to a court order, subpoena, or other operation of law, Awarded Vendor shall, if permitted by law, provide the Authority with as much notice, in writing, as is reasonably practicable and Awarded Vendor's intended response to such order of law. The Authority shall take any action it deems appropriate to protect its documents and/or information; and
- G. Notwithstanding the requirements of nondisclosure described in these Sections 5.9.1 and 5.9.1.1, either party may release the other party's Confidential Information (i) if directed to do so by a court or arbitrator of competent jurisdiction, (ii) pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena or other lawful document request, (iii) in the case of the Authority, if the Authority determines the documents or information are subject to disclosure and Awarded Vendor does not exercise its rights as described in Section 5.9.1.1(E), or if Awarded Vendor is unsuccessful in defending its rights as described in Section 5.9.1.1(E), or (iv) in the case of Awarded Vendor, if Awarded Vendor determines the documents or information are subject

to disclosure and the Authority does not exercise its rights described in Section 5.9.1.1(F), or if the Authority is unsuccessful in defending its rights as described in Section 5.9.1.1(F).

## **6.9.2 DATA SECURITY STANDARDS**

Data Security: The Awarded Vendor at a minimum must protect and maintain the security of data traveling its network in accordance with generally accepted industry practices.

- A. Any Personally Identifiable Information must be protected. All data must be classified in accordance with the State's Asset Classification and Control policy, 08-04-NJOIT at <https://www.state.nj.us/it/whatwedo/policylibrary/>. Additionally, data must be disposed of in accordance with the State's Information Disposal and Media Sanitation policy, 09-10-NJOIT at <https://www.state.nj.us/it/whatwedo/policylibrary/>; and
- B. Data usage, storage, and protection is subject to all applicable federal and State statutory and regulatory requirements, as amended from time to time, including, without limitation, those for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Personally Identifiable Information (PII), Tax Information Security Guidelines for Federal, State, and Local Agencies (IRS Publication 1075), New Jersey State tax confidentiality statute, N.J.S.A. 54:50-8, New Jersey Identity Theft Prevention Act, N.J.S.A. 56:11-44 et seq., the federal Drivers' Privacy Protection Act of 1994, Pub.L.103-322, and the confidentiality requirements of N.J.S.A. 39:2-3.4. Awarded Vendor must also conform to Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard;

Data Transmission: The Awarded Vendor must only transmit or exchange State of New Jersey data with other parties when expressly requested in writing and permitted by and in accordance with requirements of the State of New Jersey. The Awarded Vendor must only transmit or exchange data with the State of New Jersey or other parties through secure means supported by current technologies. The Awarded Vendor must encrypt all data defined as personally identifiable or confidential by the State of New Jersey or applicable law, regulation or standard during any transmission or exchange of that data.

Data Storage: All data provided by the State of New Jersey or State data obtained by the Awarded Vendor in the performance of the Contract must be stored, processed, and maintained solely in accordance with a project plan and system topology approved by the Designated Contract Manager. No State data shall be processed on or transferred to any device or storage medium including portable media, smart devices and/or USB devices, unless that device or storage medium has been approved in advance in writing by the Designated Contract Manager. The Awarded Vendor must encrypt all data at rest defined as personally identifiable information by the State of New Jersey or applicable law, regulation or standard. The Awarded Vendor must not store or transfer State of New Jersey data outside of the United States.

Data Scope: All provisions applicable to State data include data in any form of transmission or storage, including but not limited to: database files, text files, backup files, log files, XML files, and printed copies of the data.

Data Re-Use: All State data must be used expressly and solely for the purposes enumerated in the Contract. Data must not be distributed, repurposed or shared across other applications, environments, or business units of the Awarded Vendor. No State data of any kind must be transmitted, exchanged or otherwise passed to other Awarded Vendors or interested parties except on a case-by-case basis as specifically agreed to in writing by the Designated Contract Manager.

Data Breach: Unauthorized Release Notification: The Awarded Vendor must comply with all applicable State and Federal laws that require the notification of individuals in the event of unauthorized release of personally identifiable information or other event requiring notification. In the event of a breach of any of the Awarded Vendor's security obligations or other event requiring

notification under applicable law ("Notification Event"), the Awarded Vendor must assume responsibility for informing the Designated Contract Manager within 24 hours and all such individuals in accordance with applicable law and to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the State of New Jersey, its officials, and employees from and against any claims, damages, or other harm related to such Notification Event. All communications must be coordinated with the State of New Jersey.

End of Contract Handling: Upon termination/expiration of this Contract the Awarded Vendor must first return all State data to the State in a usable format as defined in the RFP, or in an open standards machine-readable format if not. The Awarded Vendor must then erase, destroy, and render unreadable all Awarded Vendor copies of State data according to the standards enumerated in accordance with the State's most recent Information Disposal and Media Sanitation policy, currently the 09-10-NJOIT form at <https://www.state.nj.us/it/whatwedo/policylibrary/> and certify in writing that these actions have been completed within 30 days after the termination/expiration of the Awarded Vendor within seven (7) days of the request of an agent of the State whichever shall come first.

#### **6.10 NEWS RELEASES**

The Awarded Vendor is not permitted to issue news releases pertaining to any aspect of the services being provided under this Contract without the prior written consent of the Authority.

#### **6.11 ADVERTISING**

The Awarded Vendor shall not use the Authority's name, logos, images, or any data or results arising from this Contract as a part of any commercial advertising without first obtaining the prior written consent of the Authority.

#### **6.12 LICENSES AND PERMITS**

The Awarded Vendor shall obtain and maintain in full force and effect all required licenses, permits, and authorizations necessary to perform this Contract. The Awarded Vendor shall supply the Authority with evidence of all such licenses, permits and authorizations. This evidence shall be submitted subsequent to the Contract award. All costs associated with any such licenses, permits and authorizations must be considered by the Bidder in its Proposal.

#### **6.13 CLAIMS AND REMEDIES**

##### **6.13.1 CLAIMS**

All claims asserted against the Authority by the Contractor (Awarded Vendor) shall be subject to the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:1-1 et seq. and/or the New Jersey Contractual Liability Act, N.J.S.A. 59:13-1 et seq.

##### **6.13.2 REMEDIES**

Nothing in the Contract shall be construed to be a waiver by the Authority of any warranty, expressed or implied, of any remedy at law or equity, except as specifically and expressly stated in a writing executed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

##### **6.13.3 REMEDIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH MATERIAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS**

In the event that the Awarded Vendor fails to comply with any material Contract requirements, the Authority may take steps to terminate the Contract in accordance with the Authority's Contract For

Professional Services, Exhibit A, authorize the delivery of Contract items by any available means, with the difference between the price paid and the defaulting Awarded Vendor's price either being deducted from any monies due the defaulting Awarded Vendor or being an obligation owed the Authority by the defaulting Awarded Vendor, or take any other action or seek any other remedies available at law or in equity.

#### **6.14 ADDITIONAL WORK AND/OR SPECIAL PROJECTS**

The Awarded Vendor shall not begin performing any additional work or special projects without first obtaining the Designated Contract Manager's recommendation and written approval from the Procurement Department.

In the event of additional work and/or special projects, the Awarded Vendor must present a written Proposal to perform the additional work to the Designated Contract Manager. The Proposal should provide justification for the necessity of the additional work. The relationship between the additional work and the base Contract work must be clearly established by the Awarded Vendor in its Proposal.

The Awarded Vendor's written Proposal must provide a detailed description of the work to be performed broken down by task and subtask. The Proposal should also contain details on the level of effort, including hours, labor categories, etc., necessary to complete the additional work.

The written Proposal must detail the cost necessary to complete the additional work in a manner consistent with the Contract. The written price schedule must be based upon the hourly rates, unit costs or other cost elements submitted by the Awarded Vendor in the Awarded Vendor's original Proposal submitted in response to this RFP. Whenever possible, the price schedule should be a firm, fixed price to perform the required work. The firm fixed price should specifically reference and be tied directly to costs submitted by the Awarded Vendor in its original Proposal. A payment schedule, tied to successful completion of tasks and subtasks, must be included.

Upon receipt and approval of the Awarded Vendor's written Proposal, the Designated Contract Manager shall forward same to the Procurement Department for written approval. Complete documentation, confirming the need for the additional work, must be submitted. Documentation forwarded by the Designated Contract Manager to the Procurement Department must include all other required Authority approvals.

No additional work and/or special project may commence without the Procurement Department's written approval. In the event the Awarded Vendor proceeds with additional work and/or special projects without the Authority's written approval, it shall be at the Awarded Vendor's sole risk. The Authority shall be under no obligation to pay for work performed without the Procurement Department's written approval.

#### **6.15 INDEMNIFICATION**

The indemnification provisions set forth in the Authority's Contract for Professional Services, Exhibit A, shall prevail.

#### **6.16 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS**

The Awarded Vendor shall maintain records for products and/or services delivered against the Contract for a period of five (5) years from the date of final payment unless a longer period is required by law. Such records shall be made available to the State, including the Office of the State Comptroller, for audit and review.

#### **6.17 FORM OF COMPENSATION - INVOICING/PAYMENT**

The Awarded Vendor shall submit electronic invoices to the Authority (unless a request is made by the Awarded Vendor to an alternate billing structure/timeframe at the Initial Meeting), per the Scope of Work/Fee Schedule, once the authorized, completed work is approved by the Authority's Designated Contract Manager. Invoices must be submitted to [apinvoices@njeda.gov](mailto:apinvoices@njeda.gov) and the Contract Manager.

Invoices submitted for payment will be paid by check and must include / consider all the following:

- A. Invoices should be submitted for services rendered no later than ninety (90) days from the date the service was provided / performed. The Awarded Vendor is strongly encouraged to inform its Subcontractor(s) of this policy, as they will be required to comply similarly;
- B. Payments will only be made to the Awarded Vendor. In the event "Specialized Services" are required and approved by the Authority in advance; the Awarded Vendor shall be responsible for assuring the compliance of any Subcontractor(s) with all terms and conditions of this RFP and assumes the sole and absolute responsibility for any payments due to any Subcontractor(s) under the subcontract(s), should the Authority approve in advance such services;
- C. An invoice number, the amount due, date/dates of service, the Authority's purchase order number, if applicable, and a remittance address. The payment to the Awarded Vendor will usually be in check form.
- D. A description of the project task or subtask services for the invoice timeframe;
- E. If applicable, each itemized position / title assigned to perform the work for the project, including number of hours billed for each position; and
- F. If applicable, copies of timesheets for employees assigned to do the work referenced in the invoice.

The Authority, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to require additional information, documentation and / or justification upon receipt of an invoice for payment and prior to approving such invoice for payment.

The Authority considers the Awarded Vendor to be the sole point of contact regarding contractual matters and the Awarded Vendor will be required to assume sole responsibility for the complete "Scope of Work / Deliverables" and any additional services, as indicated in the RFP.

## **7.0 PROPOSAL EVALUATION**

### **7.1 RIGHT TO WAIVE**

The Authority reserves the right to waive minor irregularities or omissions in a Proposal. The Authority also reserves the right to waive a requirement provided that:

- A. the requirement is not mandated by law;
- B. all of the otherwise responsive Proposals failed to meet the requirement; and
- C. in the sole discretion of the Authority, the failure to comply with the requirement does not materially affect the procurement or the Authority's interests associated with the procurement.

### **7.2 RIGHT OF FINAL PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE**

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, or to award in whole or in part if deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority to do so. The Authority shall have the power to award orders or contracts to the Bidder best meeting specifications and conditions.

### **7.3 RIGHT TO INSPECT BIDDER'S FACILITIES**

The Authority reserves the right to inspect the Bidder establishment before making an award, for the purposes of ascertaining whether the Bidder has the necessary facilities for performing the Contract.

The Authority may also consult with clients of the Bidder during the evaluation of bids. Such consultation is intended to assist the Authority in making a Contract award which is most advantageous to the Authority.

### **7.4 RIGHT TO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION**

The Authority reserves the right to request all information which may assist it in making a Contract award, including factors necessary to evaluate the Bidder financial capabilities to perform the Contract. Further, the Authority reserves the right to request a Bidder to explain, in detail, how the Proposal price was determined.

### **7.5 PROPOSAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Proposals may be evaluated by a cross-functional Evaluation Committee composed of the Authority's staff, management, NJEDA Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and possibly other state agencies and/or industry experts, who may assist with the evaluation but will not be voting members. Only Authority staff will evaluate, score and rank Proposals received in response to this RFP, and the criteria established herein.

### **7.6 ORAL PRESENTATION AND/OR CLARIFICATION OF PROPOSAL**

After the submission of Proposals, unless requested by the Authority as noted below, Bidder contact with the Authority is still not permitted.

After the Proposals are reviewed, one, some or all of the Bidders may be asked to clarify certain aspects of their Proposals. A request for clarification may be made in order to resolve minor

ambiguities, irregularities, informalities or clerical errors. Clarifications cannot correct any deficiencies or material omissions or revise or modify a Proposal, except to the extent that correction of apparent clerical mistakes results in a modification.

The Bidder may be required to give an oral presentation to the Authority concerning its Proposal.

Bidder may not attend the oral presentations of their competitors.

It is within the Authority's discretion whether to require the Bidder(s) to give an oral presentation or require the Bidder(s) to submit written responses to questions regarding its Proposal. Action by the Authority in this regard should not be construed to imply acceptance or rejection of a Proposal. The Procurement department will be the sole point of contact regarding any request for an oral presentation or clarification.

## **7.7 EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The following evaluation criteria categories, not necessarily listed in order of significance, will be used to evaluate Proposals received in response to this RFP. The evaluation criteria categories may be used to develop more detailed evaluation criteria to be used in the evaluation process.

### **7.7.1 QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE EVALUATION CRITERIA**

1. **Personnel:** The qualifications and experience of the Bidder's management, supervisory, and key personnel assigned to the Contract, including the candidates recommended for each of the positions/roles required.
  1. **If key personnel are identified and required in Section 3.0 of this RFP,** the Bidder **must** submit a resume for each key position and the Bidder's resumes **should** include: Name of Proposed Person, Current Position/Description of Role, Previous Relevant Position(s)/Description(s) of Role(s), and three (3) business references associated with any of the named relevant positions. Business references should include a Contact Name, Job Title, Daytime Telephone Number and an E-mail Address.
2. **Experience of entity:** The Bidders documented experience in successfully completing contracts of a similar size and scope in relation to the work required by this RFP, based, in part, on the Bidder's submitted narratives and references.
  1. **If references for contracts of similar size and scope are required in Section 3.0 of this RFP,** the Bidder **must** submit business references for each relevant contract. Business references **should** include a Contract Name/Description of Contract, Contact Name, Job Title, Daytime Telephone Number and an E-mail Address.
3. **Ability of the entity to complete the Scope of Work based on its Technical Proposal:** The Bidders demonstration that the Bidder understands the requirements of the Scope of Work and presents an approach that would permit successful performance of the technical requirements of the Contract. Bidder's turnaround timeframes are critical and will be closely evaluated for both content and completion timeframes.

### **7.7.2 BIDDER'S FEE SCHEDULE**

For evaluation purposes, Bidder's pricing will be ranked and weighted according to the lowest total price for all services and products, per the Fee Schedule accompanying this RFP.

Hourly rates, per the Fee Schedule, will be used for any additional work that might be required during the Contract time frame, not specified in the original Scope of Work.

1. Bidders shall not alter this Fee Schedule and must provide pricing for all sections. Failure to submit pricing for all sections or altering the form will result in the Proposal being rejected as nonresponsive.
2. Bidders shall not indicate fees/charges other than those included on this Fee Schedule. If the Bidder intends to assess additional fees it should address this by submitting an inquiry during the Question and Answer period for this RFP.
3. If Bidder will supply an item on a price line free of charge, the Bidder must indicate "No Charge" on the Authority-supplied Fee Schedule accompanying this RFP solicitation. The use of any other identifier may result in the Bidder's Proposal being deemed non-responsive. A cell left blank will be considered "No Charge".

### **7.7.3 PROPOSAL DISCREPANCIES**

In evaluating Proposals, discrepancies between words and figures will be resolved in favor of words. Discrepancies between unit prices and totals of unit prices will be resolved in favor of unit prices. Discrepancies in the multiplication of units of work and unit prices will be resolved in favor of the unit prices. Discrepancies between the indicated total of multiplied unit prices and units of work and the actual total will be resolved in favor of the actual total. Discrepancies between the indicated sum of any column of figures and the correct sum thereof will be resolved in favor of the correct sum of the column of figures.

### **7.7.4 EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSALS**

After the Evaluation Committee completes its evaluation, it recommends to the Authority an award to the responsible Bidder(s) whose Proposal, conforming to this RFP, is most advantageous to the Authority. The process considers and assesses price, technical criteria, and other factors during the evaluation process before a recommendation is made. The Authority may accept, reject or modify the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee. Whether or not there has been a negotiation process as outlined in Section 7.8 below, the Authority reserves the right to negotiate price reductions with the selected Bidder(s).

## **7.8 NEGOTIATION AND BEST AND FINAL OFFER (BAFO)**

### **7.8.1 NEGOTIATIONS**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:34-12(f), the advertised RFP will indicate any terms the Authority is willing to negotiate. In that event, the Authority after evaluating Quotes, may enter into negotiations with one (1) Bidder or multiple Bidders. The primary purpose of negotiations is to maximize the State's ability to obtain the best value based on the mandatory requirements, evaluation criteria, and cost. Multiple rounds of negotiations may be conducted with one (1) Bidder or multiple Bidders. Negotiations will be structured by Authority to safeguard information and ensure that all Bidders are treated fairly.

Negotiations will be conducted only in those circumstances where it is deemed by the Authority to be in the State's best interests and to maximize the State's ability to obtain the best value. Therefore, the Bidder is advised to submit its best technical and price Quote in response to this RFP since the State may, after evaluation, make a Contract award based on the content of the initial submission.

### **7.8.2 BEST AND FINAL OFFER (BAFO)**

The Authority may invite one (1) Bidder or multiple Bidders to submit a Best and Final Offer (BAFO). Said invitation will establish the time and place for submission of the BAFO. Any BAFO that does not result in more advantageous pricing to the State will not be considered, and the State will evaluate the Bidder's most advantageous previously submitted pricing.

The Authority may conduct more than one (1) round of BAFO in order to attain the best value for the State.

BAFOs will be conducted only in those circumstances where it is deemed to be in the State's best interests and to maximize the State's ability to get the best value. Therefore, the Bidder is advised to submit its best technical and price Quote in response to this RFQ since the State may, after evaluation, make a Contract award based on the content of the initial submission.

If the Authority contemplates BAFOs, Quote prices will not be publicly read at the Quote opening. Only the name and address of each Bidder will be publicly announced at the Quote opening.

### **7.9 PROTEST OF RECOMMENDED AWARD**

Any Bidder may protest a vendor selection (an award) by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. For a protest to be timely, it must be submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer within ten (10) business days of receipt of the notification that the Bidder was not selected. In order to be considered complete, a protest must: (i) identify the Bidder that is submitting the protest, (ii) identify the Contract award that is being protested, (iii) specify all grounds for the protest (including all arguments, materials and/or documents that support the protest); and, (iv) indicate whether an oral presentation is requested, and if so, the reason for the oral presentation. A Hearing Officer will be designated by the Authority's Managing Director Legal Affairs. The designated Hearing Officer will review all timely and complete Vendor protests and will have sole discretion to determine if an oral presentation by the protester is necessary to reach an informed decision on the matter(s) of the protest.

A Hearing Officer Report will be submitted to the Authority's Board or Chief Executive Officer designee, for review to make a final decision on the protest for the award of the Contract, which will be the final Authority decision, that is appealable to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey.

It is the Authority's intent not to award the Contract until it has completed all of the review procedures described above. If, however, in the Authority's sole discretion, it is determined that such an award is necessary to support the uninterrupted and efficient business operations of the Authority the Contract may be awarded.

## **8.0 CONTRACT AWARD**

Contract award(s) shall be made in whole or in part, with reasonable promptness by written notice to the highest ranked responsible Bidder, whose proposal, conforming to this RFP, is most advantageous to the Authority, price, and other factors considered, as determined by the Authority, in its sole discretion. Any or all proposals may be rejected when the Authority determines that it is in the public interest to do so.

It is the policy of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority that to be considered for award, a Bidder must achieve or exceed an overall score of three ("3") indicating a rating of "Good", on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest rating. The Authority shall be under no obligation to make an award to an entity which does not achieve this minimum scoring threshold.

Award of a Contract for the services outlined in this RFP will be subject to the selected entity entering into the "Contract for Professional Service", attached to this RFP as Exhibit A. Bidders are encouraged to carefully review the specimen Contract and should indicate any exceptions taken to the form of Contract during the "Questions and Answers Period."

The Bidder is cautioned that it shall not impose conditions under which it will conduct business with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority by submitting its own separate and distinct company "Standard Terms and Conditions", engagement letters, agreement(s) or forms in response to this section requirement. The Bidder shall not submit its "Standard Terms and Conditions" or submit material revisions and/or exceptions to the "Contract for Professional Services" with the proposal as it will result in the proposal being deemed non-responsive.

**IMPORTANT:** In the event the Bidder takes exception to one (1) or more points within the Contract; it shall submit its "exceptions" in the form of a question to be submitted for consideration during the "Questions and Answers Period" established for this solicitation. The Authority shall not consider any questions, exceptions or requests for changes to be made to the specimen Contract at any time during the RFP process, unless submitted during the "Questions and Answers Period".

The Authority shall be under no obligation to grant or accept any requested changes (i.e. exceptions taken) to the specimen form of the Contract (Exhibit A) during the "Questions and Answers Period."

Any proposal submitted in response to this RFP will be considered a firm Offer by the responding Bidder to perform the Scope of Work, as outlined in the RFP and specimen Contract. By submitting an Offer in response to this RFP, the responding Bidder agrees to hold its Offer open for at least one hundred twenty (120) days after the response due date. Any provision in a submitted Offer that attempts to limit or condition the time that an Offer is open for consideration by the Authority will not be binding on the Authority.

Accordingly, any proposals submitted will indicate an acceptance by Bidders of the form of Specimen Contract.

Acceptance of a proposal and award of a Contract is subject to the approval of the Authority's Board.

## **9.0 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION**

### **9.1 AUTHORITY'S DESIGNATED CONTRACT MANAGER**

The Authority's Designated Contract Manager is the employee responsible for the overall management and administration of the Contract.

The Authority's Designated Contract Manager for this project will be identified at the time of execution of Contract. At that time, the Awarded Vendor will be provided with the Authority's Designated Contract Manager's name, department, address, telephone number, fax phone number, and e-mail address.

#### **9.1.1 AUTHORITY'S DESIGNATED CONTRACT MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Authority's Designated Contract Manager will be responsible for organizing the Initial Meeting, if applicable, engaging the Awarded Vendor, assuring that a Purchase Order(s) are issued to the Awarded Vendor, directing the Awarded Vendor to perform the work of the Contract, approving the deliverables and approving payment vouchers. The Authority's Designated Contract Manager is the person that the Awarded Vendor will contact after the Contract is executed for answers to any questions and concerns about any aspect of the Contract. The Authority's Designated Contract Manager is responsible for coordinating the use of the Contract and resolving minor disputes between the Awarded Vendor and any component part of the Authority's Designated Contract Manager's Department.

If the Contract has multiple users, then the Authority's Designated Contract Manager shall be the central coordinator of the use of the Contract for all departments, while other employees engage and pay the Awarded Vendor. All persons that use the Contract must notify and coordinate the use of the Contract with the Authority's Designated Contract Manager.