



Department of Commerce

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP NO. SBRLF19

NOTE: *If you download this RFP from the Department of Commerce website, you are responsible for sending your name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number to the RFP Coordinator in order for your organization to receive any RFP amendments or bidder questions/agency answers.*

PROJECT TITLE: Creating a Small Business Revolving Loan Fund

PROPOSAL DUE DATE: March 22nd 2019 at 5:00pm, Pacific Time, Olympia, Washington, USA.

ESTIMATED TIME PERIOD FOR CONTRACT: April 18th 2019 – April 18th 2021

The Agency reserves the right to extend the contract for up to two additional one-year periods at the sole discretion of the Agency.

CONSULTANT ELIGIBILITY: This procurement is open to those consultants that satisfy the minimum qualifications stated herein and that are available for work in Washington State.

CONTENTS OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

1. Introduction
2. General Information for Consultants
3. Proposal Contents
4. Evaluation and Award
5. Exhibits
 - A. Certifications and Assurances
 - B. Service Contract with General Terms and Conditions

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Purpose and Background.....	3
1.2 Objective and Scope of Work.....	3
1.3 Minimum Qualifications	4
1.4 Funding	4
1.5 Period of Performance	4
1.6 Current or Former State Employees.....	4
1.7 Definitions.....	4
1.8 ADA	5
2. General Information for Consultants	6
2.1 RFP Coordinator	6
2.2 Estimated Schedule of Procurement Activities	6
2.3 Submission of Proposals	7
2.4 Proprietary Information/Public Disclosure.....	7
2.5 Revisions to the RFP	7
2.6 Minority & Women-Owned Business Participation.....	8
2.7 Acceptance Period	8
2.8 Complaint	8
2.9 Responsiveness.....	9
2.10 Most Favorable Terms	9
2.11 Contract and General Terms & Conditions	9
2.12 Costs to Propose	9
2.13 No Obligation to Contract.....	9
2.14 Rejection of Proposals	9
2.15 Commitment of Funds.....	9
2.16 Electronic Payment.....	9
2.17 Insurance Coverage	10
3. Proposal Contents	11
3.1 Letter of Submittal	11
3.2 Technical Proposal.....	12
3.3 Management Proposal	12
3.4 Cost Proposal.....	14
4. Evaluation and Contract Award	15
4.1 Evaluation Procedure	15
4.2 Evaluation Weighting and Scoring	15
4.3 Notification to Proposers	15
4.4 Debriefing of Unsuccessful Proposers	15
4.5 Protest Procedure	16
5. RFP Exhibits	18
Exhibit A Certifications and Assurances	
Exhibit B Diverse Business Inclusion Plan	
Exhibit C Service Contract Format including General Terms and Conditions	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Washington State Department of Commerce hereafter called "COMMERCE," is initiating this Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from firms interested in participating on a project to create a Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) up to \$1,000,000 targeted at the life sciences and health IT industry sector.

The landscape for such companies is competitive and involves great financial risk to early-stage companies. The intention of creating a Small Business RLF is to help such businesses reach a greater investment phase. Money awarded during the convertible note stage can be used for a range of expenditures to create greater stability and highlight the value of the business to investors.

This RFP is open to proposals for a supplemental support plan or a separate proposal for funding of up to \$200,000 that would go directly to the consultant to provide supportive services to benefit small businesses in Washington State within the life sciences and health IT sectors. Such services must entail start-up and small business assistance. As an example, this may include, but is not limited to, consulting services, educational programming, grant writing assistance, business strategy planning, technical support as well as mentoring and networking opportunities. Many small businesses lack such resources in the early stage of their development and greatly benefit from a range of such services. The supportive service proposal is not limited to providing assistance to just the businesses selected in the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund program. It can be used to provide assistance to any Washington-state small business within the life science and health IT sectors.

This RFP response may propose up to \$1,000,000 for the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund Individual responses may also propose to split up the total amount with \$200,000 to go to an organization focused on supporting small businesses in the life science and health IT sectors in Washington State. An organization can bid on up the full \$1,000,000 or it can bid on only one part of the RFP. Organizations can also partner together for the supportive business assistance proposal. In any scenario the total amount of funds awarded will not exceed \$1,000,000. For example, a response proposing to use \$800,000 for the revolving loan fund and \$200,000 for the supportive services component would be acceptable. A response proposing \$1,000,000 for the loan fund and \$200,000 for the supportive services component, totaling \$1,200,000 would be considered non responsive and disqualified.

COMMERCE intends to award *one/multiple* contract(s) to provide the services described in this RFP.

1.2. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The intention of this RFP is twofold: To create a Small Business Revolving Loan Fund to Washington State small businesses and start-ups within the life sciences and health IT sectors to support them during the early-stage investment phase. If/when the business is able to repay the loan, that money would be returned to the same Fund to then be used to support other small businesses in need of assistance during the early stages of their development. This money would help stabilize and grow the selected businesses as well as support them in accessing additional capital. Qualifying small businesses must not exceed an investment phase greater than \$5 million.

The selected consultant shall create a plan for development of the Small Business RLF, including a system for reporting to be completed by loan recipients and metrics for tracking success of the program.

This RFP also allows for applications up to \$200,000 to a Washington-based organization to fund supportive services that directly assist small businesses within the life sciences and health IT sectors. This includes but is not limited to consulting services, educational programming, grant writing assistance, business strategy planning, technical support, market research, patent searches as well as mentoring and networking opportunities. The proposal must outline how these services will support start-ups and small businesses and how the money will be spent.

The selected organization(s) will be required to provide quarterly reports to Commerce.

1.3 MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum qualifications include:

- Licensed to do business in the State of Washington or submit a statement of commitment that it will become licensed in Washington within thirty (30) calendar days of being selected as the Apparently Successful Contractor.
- For the revolving loan fund proposal, at least 10 years of experience working within the life science and/or health IT sectors is required.
- For the revolving loan fund proposal, experience with management of convertible notes or a grant program to research institutions, NGOs or businesses within Washington State.
- For the revolving loan fund proposal, experience with internal intellectual property management and investment.
- For the RLP and/or supportive services proposals, experience working with small businesses within Washington State within the life science and/or health IT sectors.
- For the supportive services proposal, the organization must have at least one year of experience with providing such services. Examples include, but are not limited to, consulting services, educational programming, grant writing assistance, business strategy planning, technical support, market research, patent searches as well as mentoring and networking opportunities

1.4 FUNDING

COMMERCE has budgeted an amount not to exceed \$1 million for this project. Proposals in excess of \$1 million will be considered non-responsive and will not be evaluated.

Any contract awarded as a result of this procurement is contingent upon the availability of funding.

1.5 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance of any contract resulting from this RFP is tentatively scheduled to begin on or about April 18th 2019 and to end on April 18th 2021. Amendments extending the period of performance, if any, shall be at the sole discretion of the COMMERCE.

COMMERCE reserves the right to extend the contract for two one-year periods.

1.6 CONTRACTING WITH CURRENT OR FORMER STATE EMPLOYEES

Specific restrictions apply to contracting with current or former state employees pursuant to chapter 42.52 of the Revised Code of Washington. Proposers should familiarize themselves with the requirements prior to submitting a proposal that includes current or former state employees.

1.7 DEFINITIONS

Definitions for the purposes of this RFP include:

Apparent Successful Contractor: The consultant selected as the entity to perform the anticipated services, subject to completion of contract negotiations and execution of a written contract.

Consultant: Individual or company interested in the RFP and that may or does submit a proposal in order to attain a contract with the AGENCY.

Contractor: Individual or company whose proposal has been accepted by COMMERCE and is awarded a fully executed, written contract.

COMMERCE or AGENCY: The Department of Commerce is the agency of the state of Washington that is issuing this RFP.

Proposal: A formal offer submitted in response to this solicitation.

Proposer: Individual or company that submits a proposal in order to attain a contract with COMMERCE.

Request for Proposals (RFP): Formal procurement document in which a service or need is identified but no specific method to achieve it has been chosen. The purpose of an RFP is to permit the consultant community to suggest various approaches to meet the need at a given price.

1.8 ADA

COMMERCE complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Consultants may contact the RFP Coordinator to receive this Request for Proposals in Braille or on tape.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CONSULTANTS

2.1. RFP COORDINATOR

The RFP Coordinator is the sole point of contact in COMMERCE for this procurement. All communication between the Consultant and COMMERCE upon release of this RFP shall be with the RFP Coordinator, as follows:

Name	Jaclyn Perez
E-Mail Address	Jaclyn.Perez@commerce.wa.gov
Phone Number	(360) 725-4049

Any other communication will be considered unofficial and non-binding on COMMERCE. Consultants are to rely on written statements issued by the RFP Coordinator. Communication directed to parties other than the RFP Coordinator may result in disqualification of the Consultant.

2.2. ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES

Issue Request for Proposals	February 27, 2019
Question & answer period	February 27th-March 8, 2019
Answers to Q&A period posted no later than	March 11 th 2019
Proposals due	March 22 nd 2019
Evaluate proposals	March 23 rd -29 th 2019
Announce "Apparent Successful Contractor" and send notification via e-mail to unsuccessful proposers	April 5 th 2019
Hold debriefing conferences (if requested)	April 8 th -10 th 2019
Negotiate contract	April 5 th -17 th 2019
Begin contract work	April 18th 2019

COMMERCE reserves the right to revise the above schedule.

2.3 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

ELECTRONIC PROPOSALS:

The proposal must be **received by the RFP Coordinator** no later than 5:00pm, Pacific Time, in Olympia, Washington, on March 22nd 2019.

Proposals must be submitted electronically as an attachment to an e-mail to the RFP Coordinator, at the e-mail address listed in Section 2.1. Attachments to e-mail shall be in Microsoft Word format or PDF. Zipped files cannot be received by COMMERCE and cannot be used for submission of proposals. The cover submittal letter and the Certifications and Assurances form must have a scanned signature of the individual within the organization authorized to bind the Consultant to the offer. COMMERCE does not assume responsibility for problems with Consultant's e-mail. If COMMERCE email is not working, appropriate allowances will be made.

Proposals may not be transmitted using facsimile transmission.

Consultants should allow sufficient time to ensure timely receipt of the proposal by the RFP Coordinator. Late proposals will not be accepted and will be automatically disqualified from further consideration, unless COMMERCE e-mail is found to be at fault. All proposals and any accompanying documentation become the property of COMMERCE and will not be returned.

2.4 PROPRIETARY INFORMATION/PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Proposals submitted in response to this competitive procurement shall become the property of COMMERCE. All proposals received shall remain confidential until the Apparent Successful Contractor is announced; thereafter, the proposals shall be deemed public records as defined in Chapter 42.56 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW).

Any information in the proposal that the Consultant desires to claim as proprietary and exempt from disclosure under the provisions of Chapter 42.56 RCW, or other state or federal law that provides for the nondisclosure of your document, must be clearly designated. The information must be clearly identified and the particular exemption from disclosure upon which the Consultant is making the claim must be cited. Each page containing the information claimed to be exempt from disclosure must be clearly identified by the words "Proprietary Information" printed on the lower right hand corner of the page. Marking the entire proposal exempt from disclosure or as Proprietary Information will not be honored.

If a public records request is made for the information that the Consultant has marked as "Proprietary Information," COMMERCE will notify the Consultant of the request and of the date that the records will be released to the requester unless the Consultant obtains a court order enjoining that disclosure. If the Consultant fails to obtain the court order enjoining disclosure, COMMERCE will release the requested information on the date specified. If a Consultant obtains a court order from a court of competent jurisdiction enjoining disclosure pursuant to Chapter 42.56 RCW, or other state or federal law that provides for nondisclosure, COMMERCE shall maintain the confidentiality of the Consultant's information per the court order.

A charge will be made for copying and shipping, as outlined in RCW 42.56. No fee shall be charged for inspection of contract files, but twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the RFP Coordinator is required. All requests for information should be directed to the RFP Coordinator.

2.5 REVISIONS TO THE RFP

In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, addenda will be provided via e-mail to all individuals who have made the RFP Coordinator aware of their interest. Addenda will also be published on Washington's Electronic Bid System (WEBS). The website can be located at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/webs/>. For this purpose, the published questions and answers and any other pertinent information shall be provided as an addendum to the RFP and will be placed on the website.

Such addenda will also be published on an Agency page, located at <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/current-opportunities/>.

If you downloaded this RFP from the Agency website located at www.commerce.wa.gov, you are responsible for sending your name, e-mail address, and telephone number to the RFP Coordinator in order for your organization to receive any RFP addenda.

COMMERCE also reserves the right to cancel or to reissue the RFP in whole or in part, prior to execution of a contract.

2.6 DIVERSE BUSINESS INCLUSION PLAN

Responders will be required to submit a Diverse Business Inclusion Plan with their proposal. In accordance with legislative findings and policies set forth in RCW 39.19, the state of Washington encourages participation in all contracts by firms certified by the office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE), set forth in RCW 43.60A.200 for firms certified by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, and set forth in RCW 39.26.005 for firms that are Washington Small Businesses. Participation may be either on a direct basis or on a subcontractor basis. However, no preference on the basis of participation is included in the evaluation of Diverse Business Inclusion Plans submitted, and no minimum level of minority- and women-owned business enterprise (MWBE), Washington Small Business, or Washington State certified Veteran Business participation is required as a condition for receiving an award. Any affirmative action requirements set forth in any federal governmental rules included or referenced in the contract documents will apply.

COMMERCE has the following agency goals:

- 10% participation by Minority Owned Business
- 6% participation by Women Owned Business
- 5% participation by Veteran Owned Business
- 5% participation by Small Businesses

2.7 ACCEPTANCE PERIOD

Proposals must provide 60 days for acceptance by COMMERCE from the due date for receipt of proposals.

2.8 COMPLAINT PROCESS

Vendors may submit a complaint to COMMERCE based on any of following:

- a) The solicitation unnecessarily restricts competition;
- b) The solicitation evaluation or scoring process is unfair; or
- c) The solicitation requirements are inadequate or insufficient to prepare a response.

A complaint may be submitted to COMMERCE at any time prior to 5 days before the bid response deadline. The complaint must meet the following requirements:

- a) The complaint must be in writing;
- b) The complaint must be sent to the RFP coordinator in a timely manner;
- c) The complaint should clearly articulate the basis for the complaint; and
- d) The complaint should include a proposed remedy.

The RFP coordinator will respond to the complaint in writing. The response to the complaint and any changes to the solicitation will be posted on WEBS. The Director of COMMERCE will be notified of all complaints and will be provided a copy of COMMERCE'S response. The complaint may not be raised again during the protest period. COMMERCE'S action or inaction in response to the complaint will be final. There will be no appeal process.

2.9 RESPONSIVENESS

All proposals will be reviewed by the RFP Coordinator to determine compliance with administrative requirements and instructions specified in this RFP. The Consultant is specifically notified that failure to comply with any part of the RFP may result in rejection of the proposal as non-responsive.

COMMERCE also reserves the right at its sole discretion to waive minor administrative irregularities.

2.10 MOST FAVORABLE TERMS

COMMERCE reserves the right to make an award without further discussion of the proposal submitted. Therefore, the proposal should be submitted initially on the most favorable terms which the Consultant can propose. There will be no best and final offer procedure. COMMERCE does reserve the right to contact a Consultant for clarification of its proposal.

The Apparent Successful Contractor should be prepared to accept this RFP for incorporation into a contract resulting from this RFP. Contract negotiations may incorporate some, or all, of the Consultant's proposal. It is understood that the proposal will become a part of the official procurement file on this matter without obligation to COMMERCE.

2.11 CONTRACT GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

The apparent successful contractor will be expected to enter into a contract which is substantially the same as the sample contract and its general terms and conditions attached as Exhibit C. In no event is a Consultant to submit its own standard contract terms and conditions in response to this solicitation. The Consultant may submit exceptions as allowed in the Certifications and Assurances form, Exhibit A to this solicitation. All exceptions to the contract terms and conditions must be submitted as an attachment to Exhibit A, Certifications and Assurances form. COMMERCE will review requested exceptions and accept or reject the same at its sole discretion.

2.12 COSTS TO PROPOSE

COMMERCE will not be liable for any costs incurred by the Consultant in preparation of a proposal submitted in response to this RFP, in conduct of a presentation, or any other activities related to responding to this RFP

2.13 NO OBLIGATION TO CONTRACT

This RFP does not obligate the state of Washington or COMMERCE to contract for services specified herein.

2.14 REJECTION OF PROPOSALS

COMMERCE reserves the right at its sole discretion to reject any and all proposals received without penalty and not to issue a contract as a result of this RFP.

2.15 COMMITMENT OF FUNDS

The Director of COMMERCE or delegate is the only individual who may legally commit COMMERCE to the expenditures of funds for a contract resulting from this RFP. No cost chargeable to the proposed contract may be incurred before receipt of a fully executed contract.

2.16 ELECTRONIC PAYMENT

The state of Washington prefers to utilize electronic payment in its transactions. The successful contractor will be provided a form to complete with the contract to authorize such payment method.

2.17 INSURANCE COVERAGE

The Contractor is to furnish COMMERCE with a certificate(s) of insurance executed by a duly authorized representative of each insurer, showing compliance with the insurance requirements set forth within the contract.

The Contractor shall, at its own expense, obtain and keep in force insurance coverage which shall be maintained in full force and effect during the term of the contract. The Contractor shall furnish evidence in the form of a Certificate of Insurance that insurance shall be provided, and a copy shall be forwarded to COMMERCE within fifteen (15) days of the contract effective date. Standard insurance requirements are included within the sample contract and its special terms and conditions attached as Exhibit C.

3. PROPOSAL CONTENTS

ELECTRONIC PROPOSALS:

Proposals must be written in English and submitted electronically to the RFP Coordinator in the order noted below:

1. Letter of Submittal, including signed Certifications and Assurances (Exhibit A to this RFP)
2. Technical Proposal
3. Management Proposal
4. Cost Proposal
5. Diverse Business Inclusion Plan (Exhibit B to this RFP)

Proposals must provide information in the same order as presented in this document with the same headings. This will not only be helpful to the evaluators of the proposal, but should assist the Consultant in preparing a thorough response.

Items marked “mandatory” must be included as part of the proposal for the proposal to be considered responsive, however, these items are not scored. Items marked “scored” are those that are awarded points as part of the evaluation conducted by the evaluation team.

3.1. LETTER OF SUBMITTAL (MANDATORY)

The Letter of Submittal and the attached Certifications and Assurances form (Exhibit A to this RFP) must be signed and dated by a person authorized to legally bind the Consultant to a contractual relationship, e.g., the President or Executive Director if a corporation, the managing partner if a partnership, or the proprietor if a sole proprietorship. Along with introductory remarks, the Letter of Submittal is to include by attachment the following information about the Consultant and any proposed subcontractors:

- A. Name, address, principal place of business, telephone number, and fax number/e-mail address of legal entity or individual with whom contract would be written.
- B. Name, address, and telephone number of each principal officer (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, etc.)
- C. Legal status of the Consultant (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, etc.) and the year the entity was organized to do business as the entity now substantially exists.
- D. Federal Employer Tax Identification number or Social Security number and the Washington Uniform Business Identification (UBI) number issued by the state of Washington Department of Revenue. If the Consultant does not have a UBI number, the Consultant must state that it will become licensed in Washington within thirty (30) calendar days of being selected as the Apparently Successful Contractor.
- E. Location of the facility from which the Consultant would operate.
- F. Identify any state employees or former state employees employed or on the firm’s governing board as of the date of the proposal. Include their position and responsibilities within the Consultant’s organization. If following a review of this information, it is determined by COMMERCE that a conflict of interest exists, the Consultant may be disqualified from further consideration for the award of a contract.
- G. Please identify how you meet the minimum qualifications – identify how you meet each of the minimum qualifications.

3.2. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (SCORED)

The Technical Proposal must contain a comprehensive description of services including the following elements:

- A. Project Approach/Methodology:** Include a complete description of the Consultant's proposed approach and methodology for the project. This section should convey Consultant's understanding of the proposed project.
- B. Work Plan:** Include all project requirements and the proposed tasks, services, activities, etc. necessary to accomplish the scope of the project defined in this RFP. This section of the technical proposal must contain sufficient detail to convey to members of the evaluation team the Consultant's knowledge of the subjects and skills necessary to successfully complete the project. Include any required involvement of COMMERCE staff. The Consultant may also present any creative approaches that might be appropriate and may provide any pertinent supporting documentation.
- C. Project Schedule:** Include a project schedule indicating when the elements of the work will be completed. Project schedule must ensure that any deliverables requested are met.
- D. Outcomes and Performance Measurement:** Describe the impacts/outcomes the Consultants propose to achieve as a result of the delivery of these services including how these outcomes would be monitored, measured and reported to the state agency.
- E. Risks:** The Consultant must identify potential risks that are considered significant to the success of the project. Include how the Consultant would propose to effectively monitor and manage these risks, including reporting of risks to the COMMERCE contract manager.
- F. Deliverables:** Fully describe deliverables to be submitted under the proposed contract. Deliverables must support the requirements set forth in Section 1.2, Objectives and Scope of Work.

3.3. MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

A. Project Management (SCORED)

- 1. **Project Team Structure/Internal Controls:** Provide a description of the proposed project team structure and internal controls to be used during the course of the project, including any subcontractors. Provide an organizational chart of your firm indicating lines of authority for personnel involved in performance of this potential contract and relationships of this staff to other programs or functions of the firm. This chart must also show lines of authority to the next senior level of management. Include who within the firm will have prime responsibility and final authority for the work.
- 2. **Staff Qualifications/Experience:** Identify staff, including subcontractors, who will be assigned to the potential contract, indicating the responsibilities and qualifications of such personnel, and include the amount of time each will be assigned to the project. Provide resumes for the named staff, which include information on the individual's particular skills related to this project, education, experience, significant accomplishments and any other pertinent information. The Consultant must commit that staff identified in its proposal will actually perform the assigned work. Any staff substitution must have the prior approval of the AGENCY.

B. Experience of the Consultant (SCORED)

- 1. Indicate the experience the Consultant and any subcontractors have in the following areas:

- a. Licensed to do business in the State of Washington or submit a statement of commitment that it will become licensed in Washington within thirty (30) calendar days of being selected as the Apparently Successful Contractor.
 - b. For the revolving loan fund proposal, at least 10 years of experience working within the life science and/or health IT sectors is required.
 - c. For the revolving loan fund proposal, experience with management of convertible notes or a grant program to research institutions, NGOs or businesses within Washington State.
 - d. For the revolving loan fund proposal, experience with internal intellectual property management and investment.
 - e. For the RLP and/or supportive services proposals, experience working with small businesses within Washington State within the life science and/or health IT sectors.
 - f. For the supportive services proposal, the organization must have at least one year of experience with providing such services. Examples include, but are not limited to, consulting services, educational programming, grant writing assistance, business strategy planning, technical support, market research, patent searches as well as mentoring and networking opportunities
2. Indicate other relevant experience that indicates the qualifications of the Consultant, and any subcontractors, for the performance of the potential contract.
 3. Include a list of contracts the Consultant has had during the last five years that relate to the Consultant's ability to perform the services needed under this RFP. List contract reference numbers, contract period of performance, contact persons, telephone numbers, and fax numbers/e-mail addresses.

C. Related Information (MANDATORY)

1. If the Consultant or any subcontractor contracted with the state of Washington during the past 24 months, indicate the name of the agency, the contract number and project description and/or other information available to identify the contract.
2. If the Consultant's staff or subcontractor's staff was an employee of the state of Washington during the past 24 months, or is currently a Washington State employee, identify the individual by name, the agency previously or currently employed by, job title or position held and separation date.
3. If the Consultant has had a contract terminated for default in the last five years, describe such incident. Termination for default is defined as notice to stop performance due to the Consultant's non-performance or poor performance and the issue of performance was either (a) not litigated due to inaction on the part of the Proposer, or (b) litigated and such litigation determined that the Proposer was in default.
4. Submit full details of the terms for default including the other party's name, address, and phone number. Present the Consultant's position on the matter. COMMERCE will evaluate the facts and may, at its sole discretion, reject the proposal on the grounds of the past experience. If no such termination for default has been experienced by the Consultant in the past five years, so indicate.

D. References (MANDATORY)

List names, addresses, telephone numbers, and fax numbers/e-mail addresses of three (3) business references for the Consultant and three (3) business references for the lead staff person for whom work has been accomplished and briefly describe the type of service provided. Do not include current COMMERCE staff as references. By submitting a proposal in response to this Work Request, the vendor and team members grant permission to COMMERCE to contact these references and others, who from COMMERCE'S perspective, may have pertinent information. COMMERCE may or may not, at COMMERCE'S discretion, contact references. COMMERCE may evaluate references at COMMERCE'S discretion.

E. OMWBE Certification (OPTIONAL AND NOT SCORED)

Include proof of certification issued by the Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) if certified minority-owned firm and/or women-owned firm(s) will be participating on this project. For information: <http://www.omwbe.wa.gov>.

3.4. COST PROPOSAL

The maximum fee for this contract must be \$1 million or less to be considered responsive to this RFP.

The evaluation process is designed to award this procurement not necessarily to the Consultant of least cost, but rather to the Consultant whose proposal best meets the requirements of this RFP. However, Consultants are encouraged to submit proposals which are consistent with state government efforts to conserve state resources.

A. Identification of Costs (SCORED)

Identify all costs in U.S. dollars including expenses to be charged for performing the services necessary to accomplish the objectives of the contract. The Consultant is to submit a fully detailed budget including staff costs and any expenses necessary to accomplish the tasks and to produce the deliverables under the contract. Consultants are required to collect and pay Washington state sales and use taxes, as applicable.

Costs for subcontractors are to be broken out separately. Please note if any subcontractors are certified by the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises.

B. Computation

The score for the cost proposal will be computed by dividing the lowest cost bid received by the Consultant's total cost. Then the resultant number will be multiplied by the maximum possible points for the cost section.

4. EVALUATION AND CONTRACT AWARD

4.1. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Responsive proposals will be evaluated strictly in accordance with the requirements stated in this solicitation and any addenda issued. The evaluation of proposals shall be accomplished by an evaluation team(s), to be designated by COMMERCE, which will determine the ranking of the proposals.

COMMERCE, at its sole discretion, may elect to invite the top-scoring firms as finalists for an oral presentation.

The RFP Coordinator may contact the Consultant for clarification of any portion of the Consultant's proposal.

4.2. EVALUATION WEIGHTING AND SCORING

The following weighting and points will be assigned to the proposal for evaluation purposes:

Technical Proposal – 35%	35 points
Project Approach/Methodology	10 points (maximum)
Quality of Work Plan	5 points (maximum)
Project Schedule	5 points (maximum)
Project Deliverables	15 points (maximum)
Management Proposal – 65%	65 points
Project Team Structure and	
Internal Controls	15 points (maximum)
Staff Qualifications/Experience	20 points (maximum)
Experience of the Consultant	30 points (maximum)
TOTAL	100 POINTS

COMMERCE reserves the right to award the contract to the Consultant whose proposal is deemed to be in the best interest of COMMERCE and the state of Washington.

4.3. NOTIFICATION TO PROPOSERS

COMMERCE will notify the Apparently Successful Contractor of their selection in writing upon completion of the evaluation process. Individuals or firms whose proposals were not selected for further negotiation or award will be notified separately by e-mail.

4.4. DEBRIEFING OF UNSUCCESSFUL PROPOSERS

Any Consultant who has submitted a proposal and been notified that they were not selected for contract award may request a debriefing. The request for a debriefing conference must be received by the RFP Coordinator within three (3) business days after the Unsuccessful Consultant Notification is e-mailed or faxed to the Consultant. Debriefing requests must be received by the RFP Coordinator no later than 5:00 PM, local time, in Olympia, Washington on the third business day following the transmittal of the Unsuccessful Consultant Notification. The debriefing must be held within three (3) business days of the request.

Discussion at the debriefing conference will be limited to the following:

- Evaluation and scoring of the firm's proposal;

- Critique of the proposal based on the evaluation;
- Review of proposer's final score in comparison with other final scores *without* identifying the other firms or reviewing their proposals.

Comparisons between proposals or evaluations of the other proposals will not be allowed. Debriefing conferences may be conducted in person or on the telephone and will be scheduled for a maximum of one hour.

4.5. PROTEST PROCEDURE

Protests may be made only by Consultants who submitted a response to this solicitation document and who have participated in a debriefing conference. Upon completing the debriefing conference, the Consultant is allowed five (5) business days to file a protest of the acquisition with the RFP Coordinator. Protests must be received by the RFP Coordinator no later than 5:00 PM, local time, in Olympia, Washington on the fifth business day following the debriefing. Protests may be submitted by e-mail or facsimile, but must then be followed by the document with an original signature.

Consultants protesting this procurement shall follow the procedures described below. Protests that do not follow these procedures shall not be considered. This protest procedure constitutes the sole administrative remedy available to Consultants under this procurement.

All protests must be in writing, addressed to the RFP Coordinator, and signed by the protesting party or an authorized Agent. The protest must state the RFP number, the grounds for the protest with specific facts and complete statements of the action(s) being protested. A description of the relief or corrective action being requested should also be included.

Only protests stipulating an issue of fact concerning the following subjects shall be considered:

- A matter of bias, discrimination or conflict of interest on the part of an evaluator;
- Errors in computing the score;
- Non-compliance with procedures described in the procurement document or COMMERCE policy.

Protests not based on procedural matters will not be considered. Protests will be rejected as without merit if they address issues such as: 1) an evaluator's professional judgment on the quality of a proposal, or 2) COMMERCE'S assessment of its own and/or other agencies needs or requirements.

Upon receipt of a protest, a protest review will be held by COMMERCE. The COMMERCE Director or an employee delegated by the Director who was not involved in the procurement will consider the record and all available facts and issue a decision within ten (10) business days of receipt of the protest. If additional time is required, the protesting party will be notified of the delay.

In the event a protest may affect the interest of another Consultant that also submitted a proposal, such Consultant will be given an opportunity to submit its views and any relevant information on the protest to the RFP Coordinator.

The final determination of the protest shall:

- Find the protest lacking in merit and uphold COMMERCE'S action; or
- Find only technical or harmless errors in COMMERCE'S acquisition process and determine COMMERCE to be in substantial compliance and reject the protest; or
- Find merit in the protest and provide COMMERCE options which may include:
 - Correct the errors and re-evaluate all proposals, and/or
 - Reissue the solicitation document and begin a new process, or

- Make other findings and determine other courses of action as appropriate.

If COMMERCE determines that the protest is without merit, COMMERCE will enter into a contract with the apparently successful contractor. If the protest is determined to have merit, one of the alternatives noted in the preceding paragraph will be taken.

5. RFP EXHIBITS

Exhibit A Certifications and Assurances

Exhibit B Diverse Business Inclusion Plan

Exhibit C Service Contract Format with General Terms and Conditions

CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES

I/we make the following certifications and assurances as a required element of the proposal to which it is attached, understanding that the truthfulness of the facts affirmed here and the continuing compliance with these requirements are conditions precedent to the award or continuation of the related contract:

1. I/we declare that all answers and statements made in the proposal are true and correct.
2. The prices and/or cost data have been determined independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement with others for the purpose of restricting competition. However, I/we may freely join with other persons or organizations for the purpose of presenting a single proposal.
3. The attached proposal is a firm offer for a period of 60 days following receipt, and it may be accepted by COMMERCE without further negotiation (except where obviously required by lack of certainty in key terms) at any time within the 60-day period.
4. In preparing this proposal, I/we have not been assisted by any current or former employee of the state of Washington whose duties relate (or did relate) to this proposal or prospective contract, and who was assisting in other than his or her official, public capacity. If there are exceptions to these assurances, I/we have described them in full detail on a separate page attached to this document.
5. I/we understand that COMMERCE will not reimburse me/us for any costs incurred in the preparation of this proposal. All proposals become the property of COMMERCE, and I/we claim no proprietary right to the ideas, writings, items, or samples, unless so stated in this proposal.
6. Unless otherwise required by law, the prices and/or cost data which have been submitted have not been knowingly disclosed by the Proposer and will not knowingly be disclosed by him/her prior to opening, directly or indirectly, to any other Proposer or to any competitor.
7. I/we agree that submission of the attached proposal constitutes acceptance of the solicitation contents and the attached sample contract and general terms and conditions. If there are any exceptions to these terms, I/we have described those exceptions in detail on a page attached to this document.
8. No attempt has been made or will be made by the Proposer to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition.
9. I/we grant COMMERCE the right to contact references and other, who may have pertinent information regarding the ability of the Consultant and the lead staff person to perform the services contemplated by this RFP.
10. If any staff member(s) who will perform work on this contract has retired from the State of Washington under the provisions of the 2008 Early Retirement Factors legislation, his/her name(s) is noted on a separately attached page.

We (*circle one*) **are** / **are not** submitting proposed Contract exceptions. (See Section 2.12, Contract and General Terms and Conditions.) If Contract exceptions are being submitted, I/we have attached them to this form.

On behalf of the Consultant submitting this proposal, my name below attests to the accuracy of the above statement. We are submitting a scanned signature of this form with our proposal.

Signature of Proposer

Title

Date

DIVERSE BUSINESS INCLUSION PLAN

Do you anticipate using, or is your firm, a State Certified Minority Business?	Y/N
Do you anticipate using, or is your firm, a State Certified Women's Business?	Y/N
Do you anticipate using, or is your firm, a State Certified Veteran Business?	Y/N
Do you anticipate using, or is your firm, a Washington State Small Business?	Y/N

If you answered No to all of the questions above, please explain:

Please list the approximate percentage of work to be accomplished by each group:

Minority	___%
Women	___%
Veteran	___%
Small Business	___%

Please identify the person in your organization who will manage your Diverse Inclusion Plan responsibility:

Name: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

INSERT APPROPRIATE CONTRACT
TEMPLATE HERE