

**Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority
Request for Qualifications from Attorneys
to serve as Bond Counsel**

For the Period February 21, 2018 through February 20, 2019

Introduction

The Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority ("ACMUA") is soliciting Qualification Statements from interested persons and/or firms for the provision of bond counsel services as more particularly described herein. Though a Request for Qualification process as described, persons and/or firms interested in assisting the ACMUA with the provision of such services must prepare and submit a Qualification Statement in accordance with the procedure and schedule in this RFQ. The ACMUA will review Qualification Statements only from those firms that submit a Qualification Statement which includes all the information required to be included as indicated. In its sole judgment, The ACMUA intends to qualify person(s) and/or firm(s) that (a) possesses the professional, financial and administrative capabilities to provide the proposed services, and (b) will agree to work under the compensation terms and conditions determined by the ACMUA to provide the greatest benefit to the ratepayers of Atlantic City, NJ. The successful Respondent will be awarded a one (1) year professional services contract. At the conclusion of the contract, the ACMUA, at its sole discretion, may automatically renew the contract for three (3) consecutive one (1) year periods. A rate proposal contained in the Respondent's Qualification Statement shall be for the first year only. The ACMUA may terminate the contract on thirty (30) days written notice if the Respondent has breached any material/service term hereof. The successful Respondent must have significant experience in providing legal services as Bond Counsel to New Jersey municipalities and/or other New Jersey public entities. The basic scope of services provided to the ACMUA shall include (1) preparation of bond resolutions; (2) preparation of note issues (bond anticipation notes, tax anticipation notes, emergency notes, etc.) with accompanying documentation and approving legal opinion; (3) preparation of bond issues with accompanying documentation and approving legal opinion; and (4) at the request of clients, legal research on municipal

authority law questions. Because bond resolutions constitute the basic authorization for both capital projects and the debt required to finance them, public finance attorneys are actively involved in providing expert advice as to the legality, under state and federal law, of proposed projects and the proper state law procedures for adoption of bond resolutions. The ACMUA will work closely with all necessary parties to make certain that funds are available for down payments (when required) and that all required supplemental debt statements and capital budget amendments are filed.

Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to and are used in this Request for Qualifications:

"ACMUA" - refers to the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority.

"Qualification Statement" - refers to the complete responses to this RFQ submitted by the Respondents.

"Qualified Respondent" - refers to those Respondents who (in the sole judgment of the ACMUA have satisfied the qualification criteria set forth in this RFQ.

"RFQ" - refers to this Request for Qualifications, including any amendments thereof or supplements thereto.

"Respondent" or "Respondents" - refers to the interested firm(s) that submit a Qualification Statement.

Procurement Process and Schedule

The selection of Qualified Respondents is not subject to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. The selection is subject to the "New Jersey Local Unit Pay-to-Play" Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44-20.4 et seq., however, the ACMUA has structured a procurement process that seeks to obtain the desired results described above, while establishing a competitive process to assure that each person and/or firm is provided an equal opportunity to submit a Qualification Statement in response to the RFQ.

Qualification Statements will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set forth in this RFQ, which will be applied in the same manner to each Qualification Statement received. Qualification Statements will be reviewed and evaluated by the ACMUA and its legal advisors (collectively, the "Review Team"). The Qualification Statements will be reviewed to determine whether the Respondent has met the minimum professional, administrative and financial areas described in this RFQ. Based upon the totality of the information contained in the Qualification Statement, including information about the reputation and experience of each Respondent, the ACMUA will (in its sole judgment) determine which Respondents are qualified. Each Respondent that meets the requirements of the RFQ (in the sole judgment of the ACMUA) will be designated as a Qualified Respondent and will be given the opportunity to participate in the selection process determined by the ACMUA. The RFQ process commences with the issuance of this RFQ. The steps involved in the process and the anticipated completion dates are set forth in Table 1, Procurement Schedule. The ACMUA reserves the right to, among other things, amend, modify or alter the Procurement Schedule upon notice to all potential Respondents.

All communications concerning this RFQ or the RFQ process shall be directed to the ACMUA's Designated Contact Person, in writing.

Designated Contact Person:
G. Bruce Ward, Executive Director
Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority
401 No. Virginia Avenue
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

Qualification Statements must be submitted to, and be received by, the ACMUA, via mail or hand delivery, by 11:00 a.m. on January 22, 2018. The date of January 9, 2018 was a typographical error on the Resolution. Qualification Statements will not be accepted by facsimile transmission or e-mail. Subsequent to issuance of this RFQ, the ACMUA (through the issuance of addenda to all firms that have received a copy of the RFQ) may modify, supplement or amend the provisions of this RFQ in order to respond to inquiries received from prospective Respondents or as otherwise deemed necessary or appropriate by (and in the sole judgment of) the ACMUA.

TABLE 1

Procurement Schedule Activity Dates

1. Receipt of Qualification Statements – January 22, 2018 by 11:00 a.m.
2. Appointment of ACMUA Bond Counsel on February, 21, 2018, or thereafter.

Professional Information and Qualifications

1. Name of Respondent;
2. Address of principal place of business and all other locations with corresponding telephone and fax numbers. Please note specifically which attorney(s) will be assigned to work with the ACMUA;
3. Description of Respondent's legal education, experience, qualifications, number of years with the Respondent and a description of their experience with projects similar to those described above;
4. Experience related to providing legal services as a bond counsel to New Jersey public entities;
5. At least four (4) municipal government references, three (3) of which must have knowledge of your service to public entities;
6. Examples of your record of success (or significant achievements) servicing public entities;
7. The Respondent's ability to provide the services in a timely fashion (including stating, familiarity and location of key staff).
8. Cost details, including the hourly rates of each of the individuals who will perform the services and the time estimates for each individual, all expenses, and where appropriate, total cost of "not to exceed" amount;
9. Evidence of compliance with New Jersey Affirmative Action requirements

(e.g. Certificate of Employee Information Report);

10. A copy of your New Jersey Business Registration Certificate;

11. A copy of any of any required professional federal and/or state licenses to perform the required activities;

12. A narrative statement of the Respondent's understanding of the ACMUA's needs and goals;

13. List all immediate relatives of Principal(s) of the Respondent who are ACMUA employees or elected officials of the City of Atlantic City. For purposes of the above, "immediate relative" means a spouse, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, child, stepchild, direct-line aunt or uncle, grandparent, grandchild, and in-laws by reason of relation;

14. List any judgments within the last three years in which the Respondent, or its members and/or employees, have been adjudicated liable for professional malpractice. If yes, please explain;

15. Whether the business organization is now or has been involved in any bankruptcy or re-organization proceedings in the last ten (10) years. If yes, please explain; and

16. A copy of a current certificate of insurance evidencing professional liability insurance, with limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) each claim/\$1,000,000 annual aggregate. The ACMUA reserves the right to request additional financial information from the Respondent in the event that said insurance policy contains either a deductible in excess of \$20,000.00 or any self-insured retention limits.

17. Any other information that the interested Respondent deems relevant.
Selection Criteria

The selection criteria used in awarding a contract or agreement for professionalservices as described herein shall include:

1. Qualifications of the individuals who will perform the tasks and the amounts of their respective participation;
2. Experience and references;
3. Ability to perform the task in a timely fashion, and familiarity with the subject matter;
4. Cost competitiveness;
5. Describe those portions of the Respondent's services, if any, that are sub-contracted out. Identify all subcontractors the Respondent anticipates using in connection with this project.
6. State whether Respondent normally employs union or non-union employees.

Submission Requirements

Please submit one original and three (3) copies of the Qualification Statement to the Designated Contact Person set forth below on or before 11:00 AM on January 12, 2018:

G. Bruce Ward, Executive Director
Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority
401 No. Virginia Avenue
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

Qualification Statements will not be accepted by facsimile transmission or email.

APPENDIX

A. LETTER OF QUALIFICATION

(Note: To be typed on Respondent's Letterhead. No modifications may be made to this letter) [insert date]

Attn:

G. Bruce Ward, Executive Director
Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority
401 No. Virginia Avenue
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

Dear Mr. Ward:

The undersigned have reviewed our Qualification Statement submitted in response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued by the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority ("ACMUA") dated December 20, 2017 in connection with the ACMUA's professional service need(s).

We affirm that the contents of our Qualification Statement (which Qualification Statement is incorporated herein by reference) are accurate, factual and complete to the best of our knowledge and belief and that the Qualification Statement is submitted in good faith upon express understanding that any false statement may result in the disqualification of (Name of Respondent).

(Respondent shall sign and complete the spaces provided below. If a joint venture, appropriate officers of each company shall sign.)

(Signature of Chief Executive Officer)

(Typed name and Title)

(Type Name of Firm)*

APPENDIX

B. LETTER OF INTENT

(Note: To be typed on Respondent's Letterhead. No modifications may be made to this letter) [insert date]

Attn:

G. Bruce Ward, Executive Director
Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority
401 No. Virginia Avenue
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

Dear Mr. Ward:

The undersigned, as Respondent, has (have) submitted the attached Qualification Statement in response to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), issued by the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority ("ACMUA") dated 20, 2017 in connection with the ACMUA's professional service need(s)

(Name of Respondent) HEREBY STATES:

1. The Qualification Statement contains accurate, factual and complete information.
2. (Name of Respondent) agrees (agrees) to participate in good faith in the procurement process as described in the RFQ and to adhere to the ACMUA's procurement schedule.
3. (Name of Respondent) acknowledges (acknowledge) that all costs incurred by it (them) in connection with the preparation and submission of the Qualification Statement and any proposal prepared and submitted in response to the RFP, or any negotiation which results there from shall be borne exclusively by the Respondent.

4. (Name of Respondent) hereby declares (declare) that the only persons participating in this Qualification Statement as Principals are named herein and that no person other than those herein mentioned has any participation in this Qualification Statement or in any contract to be entered into with respect thereto. Additional persons may subsequently be included as participating Principals, but only if acceptable to the ACMUA.

5. (Name of Respondent) declares that this Qualification Statement is made without connection with any other person, firm or parties who has submitted a Qualification Statement, except as expressly set forth below and that it has been prepared and has been submitted in good faith and without collusion or fraud.

6. (Name of Respondent) acknowledges and agrees that the ACMUA may modify, amend, suspend and/or terminate the procurement process (in its sole judgment). In any case, the Borough shall not have any liability to the Respondent for any costs incurred by the Respondent with respect to the procurement activities described in this RFQ.

7. (Name of Respondent) acknowledges that any contract executed with respect to the provision of [insert services] must comply with all applicable affirmative action and similar laws. Respondent hereby agrees to take such actions as are required in order to comply with such applicable laws.

(Respondent shall sign and complete the space provided below. If a joint venture, appropriate officers of each company shall sign.)

(Signature of Chief Executive Officer)

(Typed Name and Title)

(Type Name of Firm)*

Dated: _____