

STATE OF ALASKA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



BOND COUNSEL - ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (AHFC)

RFP 2023-0300-0067

ISSUED OCTOBER 13, 2022

TO PROVIDE BOND AND DISCLOSURE COUNSEL TO THE ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION AND ADVISE
ON FEDERAL AND STATE STATUTES IMPACTING THE CORPORATION

ISSUED BY:

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

PRIMARY CONTACT:

PATRICIA HULL

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PATRICIA.HULL@ALASKA.GOV

(907)465-4337

OFFERORS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RETURN THIS FORM.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: IF YOU RECEIVED THIS SOLICITATION FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA'S "ONLINE PUBLIC NOTICE" WEB SITE, YOU MUST REGISTER WITH THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER LISTED IN THIS DOCUMENT TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS. FAILURE TO CONTACT THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER MAY RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER.

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SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS

SEC. 1.01 PURPOSE OF THE RFP

The Department of Law is soliciting proposals for legal services to provide Bond and Disclosure counsel for the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and advise the corporation on federal and state statutes affecting its interests.

SEC. 1.02 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must be received no later than **10AM** prevailing Alaska Time on **NOVEMBER 7TH, 2022**. Late proposals or amendments will be disqualified and not opened or accepted for evaluation.

SEC. 1.03 PRIOR EXPERIENCE

In order for offers to be considered responsive, offerors must meet all of these minimum prior experience requirements:

- Lead attorney being proposed must have least five (5) years experience with the issuance of tax exempt bonds.
- Firm must be listed in the Bond Buyers Municipal Market Place or meet the qualifications for listing (see “attorney firm application – qualifications and documentation” at www.munimarketplace.com).
- Firm must currently provide bond and disclosure counsel services to a state or municipal client similar to AHFC and provide confirmation of same, including experience with tax-exempt revenue bonds, arbitrage and associated US Treasury regulations

An offeror's failure to meet these minimum prior experience requirements will cause their proposal to be considered non-responsive and rejected.

SEC. 1.04 REQUIRED REVIEW

Offerors should carefully review this solicitation for defects and questionable or objectionable material. Comments concerning defects and questionable or objectionable material should be made in writing and received by the procurement officer at least ten days before the deadline for receipt of proposals. This will allow time for the issuance of any necessary amendments. It will also help prevent the opening of a defective proposal and exposure of offeror's proposals upon which award could not be made.

SEC. 1.05 QUESTIONS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

All questions must be in writing and directed to the procurement officer. The interested party must confirm telephone conversations in writing.

Two types of questions generally arise. One may be answered by directing the questioner to a specific section of the RFP. These questions may be answered over the telephone. Other questions may be more complex and may require a written amendment to the RFP. The procurement officer will make that decision.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER: **PATRICIA HULL**– PHONE **907-465-4337** - TTY **800-770-8255**

SEC. 1.06 RETURN INSTRUCTIONS

Preference is for response via email. Submit the technical proposal and cost proposals as separate PDF documents and emailed to **03PROCUREMENT@ALASKA.GOV** clearly labeled, such as “Vendor A – Technical Proposal.pdf” and “Vendor A – Cost Proposal.pdf”. The emails must contain the RFP number 2023-0300-0067 and the vendor’s name in the subject line.

NOTE: The **maximum** size of a single email (including all text and attachments) that can be received by the state is **20mb (megabytes)**. If the email containing the proposal exceeds this size, the proposal must be sent in multiple emails that are each less than 20 megabytes and each email must comply with the requirements described above with the addition of the descriptor (“1 of X, 2 of X”)

Please note that email transmission is not instantaneous. Similar to sending a hard copy proposal, if you are emailing your proposal, the state recommends sending it enough ahead of time to ensure the email is delivered by the deadline for receipt of proposals.

It is the offeror’s responsibility to contact the issuing agency at **907-465-4337** to confirm that the proposal has been received. The state is not responsible for unreadable, corrupt, or missing attachments.

SEC. 1.07 ASSISTANCE TO OFFERORS WITH A DISABILITY

Offerors with a disability may receive accommodation regarding the means of communicating this RFP or participating in the procurement process. For more information, contact the procurement officer no later than ten days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

SEC. 1.08 AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS

Amendments to or withdrawals of proposals will only be allowed if acceptable requests are received prior to the deadline that is set for receipt of proposals. No amendments or withdrawals will be accepted after the deadline unless they are in response to the state's request in accordance with 2 AAC 12.290.

SEC. 1.09 AMENDMENTS TO THE RFP

If an amendment is issued before the deadline for receipt of proposals, it will be provided to all who were notified of the RFP and to those who have registered with the procurement officer after receiving the RFP from the State of Alaska Online Public Notice website.

After receipt of proposals, if there is a need for any substantial clarification or material change in the RFP, an amendment will be issued. The amendment will incorporate the clarification or change, and a new date and time established for new or amended proposals. Evaluations may be adjusted as a result of receiving new or amended proposals.

SEC. 1.10 RFP SCHEDULE

RFP schedule set out herein represents **the state’s best estimate** of the schedule that will be followed. If any component of this schedule, is delayed, the rest of the schedule may be shifted accordingly. All times are prevailing Alaska Time.

ACTIVITY	TIME	DATE
Issue Date / RFP Released		10/13/2022
Deadline for Receipt of Proposals / Proposal Due Date	10:00am	11/07/2022
Proposal Evaluations Complete		11/10/2022
Notice of Intent to Award		11/10/2022
Contract Issued		11/21/2022

This RFP does not, by itself, obligate the state. The state's obligation will commence when the contract is approved by the Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee. Upon written notice to the contractor, the state may set a different starting date for the contract. The state will not be responsible for any work done by the contractor, even work done in good faith, if it occurs prior to the contract start date set by the state.

SEC. 1.11 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS

Offerors may only submit one proposal for evaluation. In accordance with 2 AAC 12.830 alternate proposals (proposals that offer something different than what is asked for) will be rejected.

SEC. 1.12 NEWS RELEASES

News releases related to this RFP will not be made without prior approval of the project director.

SECTION 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SEC. 2.01 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) AHFC is a self-supporting public corporation with offices in 16 communities statewide. AHFC has contributed more than \$2 billion to the state in the form of direct dividends going into the General Fund (the state's funding source for all services and programs), providing funds to the state for capital (building and equipment) improvements; bonding for projects such as university student housing; purchasing state assets, and maintenance of state-owned property. See more at: <https://www.ahfc.us/>

Under the contract solicited through RFP 2023-0300-0067, the firm will provide bond and disclosure legal counsel to AHFC, and advise on federal and state statutes impacting the Corporation with respect to the authorization, sale, issuance, and delivery of debt securities in connection with the financing of its programs and/or projects. In addition, the firm will provide relevant services in the case of competitive sales including those applicable to Veterans' Mortgage Bonds as well as reviews of the Corporation's unrestricted assets and working capital projections, and other services not related to specific newly-issued debt financing transactions to be provided only upon request.

SECTION 3. SCOPE OF WORK & CONTRACT INFORMATION

SEC. 3.01 SCOPE OF WORK

The Department of **LAW IS SOLICITING FOR BOND AND DISCLOSURE COUNSEL ON BEHALF OF ITS CLIENT AGENCY THE ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION.** Selected counsel will provide all services normally provided by bond counsel with respect to the authorization, sale, issuance, and delivery of debt securities, and all services as requested in connection with the exercise by AHFC of its purpose and powers in connection with the financing of its programs and/or projects. Such services may include but not necessarily be limited to the following:

- A. Authorization, Sale, Issuance and Delivery of Debt Securities (Negotiated Sales).** Services to be provided related to the authorization, sale, issuance and delivery of debt securities are expected to include, but not be limited to, the following:
1. Confer with underwriters, underwriter's counsel, special tax counsel (if any), State Attorney General's office, Corporation staff and financial advisor, as necessary, in connection with the sale, delivery and issuance of debt.
 2. Monitor the schedule of activities during each financing to assist the Corporation in meeting established deadlines.
 3. Review and comment on all related security documents, including those prepared by counsel to the underwriter or other participants including, if applicable, the bond indenture, board resolution, investment agreement, bond purchase agreement, stand-by bond purchase agreement, insurance and indemnity agreement, or other form of credit enhancement, interest rate swap agreement or other derivative financial instruments.
 4. Draft and/or review all documents necessary to sell and issue the debt through public or private sale.
 5. Review the form and content of the preliminary and final official Statement or offering circular and recommend changes considered necessary or desirable to comply with all applicable requirements.
 6. If requested by the Corporation, assist in presentations to credit market participants including rating agencies, investors, investment analysts, underwriters, letter of credit banks, bond insurers, or other providers of credit enhancement.
 7. Advise the Corporation and other transaction participants upon request as to compliance with all legal requirements.
 8. Be available, as requested by phone or in person, at all Board meetings where action on a proposed transaction is to be considered
 9. Arrange for the bonds to be registered in book-entry form.
 10. Review the proposed arrangements for closing and delivery of the bonds and planned investment of bond proceeds.
 11. Review and comment on, at the request of the Corporation, investment agreement bid request forms, responses received to the requests, and form of the investment agreement.
 12. Make available for conference and consultation such key personnel as may be needed in order to fully perform the requested services in an efficient and expeditious manner.

13. Render final approving opinions with respect to the issuance of the debt.
14. Prepare certificates, render opinions, and provide accounting instructions regarding compliance with Federal tax requirements unless the Corporation has elected to utilize the services of special tax counsel.
15. Coordinate the preparation, execution, and delivery of all documents required to sell, deliver, and issue the debt.
16. Prepare and deliver to the corporation within thirty (30) days of the delivery date of the debt, the closing documents in electronic format

B. Competitive Sales. In addition to those relevant services described above, the following additional services will be provided in the case of competitive sales including those applicable to Veteran's Mortgage Bonds:

1. In the case of Veteran's Mortgage Bonds, coordinate with the State Bond Committee requirements for approval of the amount and timing of the proposed transaction. Draft required resolutions and approval letters.
2. In the case of Veteran's Mortgage Bonds, consult and confer with the State Bond Committee as necessary in connection with their consideration of the amount and timing of the bond issue.
3. Review and comment on the bidding terms and conditions recommended by the Corporation's financial advisor for inclusion in the Official Notice of Sale.
4. Review financing objectives of the Corporation and make specific recommendations as to the details of the bond structure. These may include security provisions, protective and other covenants included to achieve rating objectives and provide market benefit, redemption provisions, debt service reserves, and maximum bid discounts.
5. Prepare the text and supervise the production of the Official Statement and Official Notice of Sale to be used in connection with the offering of bonds. Arrange for the publication and distribution of the Official Notice of Sale or Summary Official Notice of Sale.
6. Prepare drafts and present to the rating agencies, sufficiently in advance of the date set for receipt of bids for each bond issue, all relevant documents to permit them to evaluate and rate the bonds.
7. Arrange, with the assistance of the financial advisor, for the production/execution of the bonds and, if applicable, delivery to The Depository Trust Company.
8. Review the results of the bid opening and advise the Corporation as to each bid's compliance with the terms of the Official Notice of Sale.

C. Unrestricted Assets and Working Capital Projections. Services which may be requested in connection with reviews of the Corporation's unrestricted assets and working capital projections include:

1. Assist in reviews of financial agreement covenants and other representations which may have been made in connections with such agreements regarding maintenance of minimum levels of equity, unrestricted assets, and net liquid investments.
2. Review and comment on legal issues related to the existing plans providing for transfers of unrestricted assets to the State of Alaska such as: the Dividend Plan, the 1994 State Payment Plan, and the 1995 State (Series) Transfer Plan or alternative plans, recognizing the Corporation's objective to: (i) maintain existing debt ratings (ii) comply with the

terms of existing financial agreements, and (iii) minimize any negative impact on the Corporation's access to capital markets.

3. Review legal aspects related to transfers to the State of Alaska, program consolidations, or asset purchases.

D. Other Services. Other services not related to specific newly-issued debt financing transactions and to be provided only upon request:

1. Review fiscal investment policies/procedures and related laws, regulations, requirements and agreements. Provide suggestions to improve compliance and safeguarding of assets.
2. Provide copies of all applicable Federal tax law changes reflected in code, regulations, rulings and announcements.
3. Draft and/or review various documents related to securities lending and short-term working capital financing arrangements including commercial paper programs, revolving credit facilities, and reverse repurchase agreement programs.
4. Advise the Corporation regarding applicable on-going disclosure requirements and draft or assist in the drafting of information designed to comply with such requirements or as may be desired for the improved marketability of the Corporation's debt securities.
5. Provide assistance and advice in connection with review or audit of a program or debt issuance by the Internal Revenue Services, or State of Alaska Division of Legislative Audit, Securities Exchange Commission, Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or other similar entity with review and regulatory functions.
6. Assist the Corporation in presentations to the Alaska State Legislature.
7. Advise the Corporation, review and/or draft program documents related to the administration of (i) Federal low-income housing tax credits, and (ii) mortgage credit certificates.

SEC. 3.02 CONTRACT TERM

Procurement Officer Note: Enter Appropriate Information.

The length of the contract will be from the date of award, approximately November 21, 2022, for a three (3)-year period through November 21, 2025, with the state reserving the option to renew for two (2) additional one-year periods (potentially through November 21, 2027).

Unless otherwise provided in this RFP, the State and the successful offeror agree that: (1) any extension of the contract excluding any exercised renewal options, will be considered as a month-to-month extension, and all other terms and conditions shall remain in full force and effect; and (2) the procurement officer will provide notice to the contractor of the intent to cancel such month-to-month extension at least 30 days before the desired date of cancellation. A month-to-month extension may only be executed by the procurement officer via a written contract amendment.

SEC. 3.03 CONTRACT TYPE

This contract is for professional services. The state will make payments based on itemized invoices approved by the project director.

SEC. 3.04 CONTRACT PAYMENT

No payment will be made until the contract is approved by the Attorney General or Attorney General's designee. Under no conditions will the state be liable for the payment of any interest charges associated with the cost of the contract. The state is not responsible for and will not pay local, state, or federal taxes. All costs associated with the contract must be stated in U.S. currency.

Any single contract payment of \$1 million or higher must be accepted by the contractor via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

SEC. 3.05 CONTRACT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS

Consumer Price Index (CPI): Contract prices will remain firm through **November 21, 2025**.

The contractor may then request price adjustments, in writing, 30 days prior to the contract renewal date. Requests must be in writing and must be received 30 days prior to the contract renewal date. If the contractor fails to request a CPI price adjustment 30 days prior to the contract renewal date, the adjustment will be effective 30 days after the state receives their written request.

Price adjustments will be made in accordance with the percentage change in the U.S. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for All Urban Consumers, All Items, Urban Alaska.

The price adjustment rate will be determined by comparing the percentage difference between the CPI in effect for the base year six-month average (January through June 2025); and each (January through June) thereafter. The percentage difference between those two CPI issues will be the price adjustment rate. No retroactive contract price adjustments will be allowed.

All price adjustments must be approved by the procurement officer prior to the implementation of the adjusted pricing. Approval shall be in the form of a contract amendment issued by the procurement officer.

SEC. 3.06 LOCATION OF WORK

By signature on their proposal, the offeror certifies that all services provided under this contract by the contractor and all subcontractors shall be performed in the United States.

If the offeror cannot certify that all work will be performed in the United States, the offeror must contact the procurement officer in writing to request a waiver at least 10 days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

The request must include a detailed description of the portion of work that will be performed outside the United States, where, by whom, and the reason the waiver is necessary.

Failure to comply with these requirements may cause the state to reject the proposal as non-responsive, or cancel the contract.

SEC. 3.07 SUBCONTRACTORS

Subcontractors will not be allowed.

SEC. 3.08 JOINT VENTURES

Joint ventures are acceptable. If submitting a proposal as a joint venture, the offeror must submit a copy of the joint venture agreement which identifies the principals involved and their rights and responsibilities regarding performance and payment.

SEC. 3.09 RIGHT TO INSPECT PLACE OF BUSINESS

At reasonable times, the state may inspect those areas of the contractor's place of business that are related to the performance of a contract. If the state makes such an inspection, the contractor must provide reasonable assistance.

SEC. 3.10 CONTRACT PERSONNEL

Any change of the project team members or subcontractors named in the proposal must be approved, in advance and in writing, by the project director or procurement officer. Changes that are not approved by the state may be grounds for the state to terminate the contract.

SEC. 3.11 INSPECTION & MODIFICATION - REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNACCEPTABLE DELIVERABLES

The contractor is responsible for the completion of all work set out in the contract. All work is subject to inspection, evaluation, and approval by the project director. The state may employ all reasonable means to ensure that the work is progressing and being performed in compliance with the contract. The project director or procurement officer may instruct the contractor to make corrections or modifications if needed in order to accomplish the contract's intent. The contractor will not unreasonably withhold such changes.

Substantial failure of the contractor to perform the contract may cause the state to terminate the contract. In this event, the state may require the contractor to reimburse monies paid (based on the identified portion of unacceptable work received) and may seek associated damages.

SEC. 3.12 CONTRACT CHANGES - UNANTICIPATED AMENDMENTS

During the course of this contract, the contractor may be required to perform additional work. That work will be within the general scope of the initial contract. When additional work is required, the project director will provide the contractor a written description of the additional work and request the contractor to submit a firm time schedule for accomplishing the additional work and a firm price for the additional work. Cost and pricing data must be provided to justify the cost of such amendments per AS 36.30.400.

The contractor will not commence additional work until the procurement officer has secured any required state approvals necessary for the amendment and issued a written contract amendment, approved by the Attorney General of the Department of Law or the Attorney General's designee.

SEC. 3.13 NONDISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Contractor agrees that all confidential information shall be used only for purposes of providing the deliverables and performing the services specified herein and shall not disseminate or allow dissemination of confidential information except as provided for in this section.

The contractor shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the contracting agency from and against any claim of, or liability for error, omission or negligent act of the contractor under this agreement. The contractor shall not be required to indemnify the contracting agency for a claim of, or liability for, the independent negligence of the contracting agency. If there is a claim of, or liability for, the joint negligent error or omission of the contractor and the independent negligence of the contracting agency, the indemnification and hold harmless obligation shall be apportioned on a comparative fault basis. "Contractor" and "contracting agency", as used within this and the following article, include the employees, agents and other contractors who are directly responsible, respectively,

to each. The term “independent negligence” is negligence other than in the contracting agency’s selection, administration, monitoring, or controlling of the contractor and in approving or accepting the contractor’s work.

SEC. 3.14 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Without limiting contractor's indemnification, it is agreed that contractor shall purchase at its own expense and maintain in force at all times during the performance of services under this agreement the following policies of insurance. Where specific limits are shown, it is understood that they shall be the minimum acceptable limits. If the contractor's policy contains higher limits, the state shall be entitled to coverage to the extent of such higher limits.

Certificates of Insurance must be furnished to the procurement officer prior to beginning work and must provide for a notice of cancellation, non-renewal, or material change of conditions in accordance with policy provisions. Failure to furnish satisfactory evidence of insurance or lapse of the policy is a material breach of this contract and shall be grounds for termination of the contractor's services. All insurance policies shall comply with and be issued by insurers licensed to transact the business of insurance under AS 21.

Workers' Compensation Insurance: The contractor shall provide and maintain, for all employees engaged in work under this contract, coverage as required by AS 23.30.045, and; where applicable, any other statutory obligations including but not limited to Federal U.S.L. & H. and Jones Act requirements. The policy must waive subrogation against the State.

Commercial General Liability Insurance: covering all business premises and operations used by the Contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance: covering all vehicles used by the contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

Professional Liability Insurance: covering all errors, omissions or negligent acts in the performance of professional services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 per claim /annual aggregate.

SEC. 3.15 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT

If the project director or procurement officer determines that the contractor has refused to perform the work or has failed to perform the work with such diligence as to ensure its timely and accurate completion, the state may, by providing written notice to the contractor, terminate the contractor's right to proceed with part or all of the remaining work.

This clause does not restrict the state's termination rights under the contract provisions of Appendix A contained in Attachment 5, *Standard AHFC Bond Counsel Contract* **SECTION 7. ATTACHMENTS.**

SECTION 4. PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT

SEC. 4.01 RFP SUBMITTAL FORMS

This RFP contains Submittal Forms, which must be completed by the offeror and submitted as their proposal. An electronic copy of the forms is posted along with this RFP. Offerors shall not re-create these forms, create their own forms, or edit the format structure of the forms unless permitted to do so.

Unless otherwise specified in this RFP, the Submittal Forms shall be the offeror's entire proposal. Do not include any marketing information in the proposal.

Any proposal that does not follow these requirements may be deemed non-responsive and rejected.

SEC. 4.02 CERTIFICATIONS, ORGANIZATION CAPACITY 20% ALASKA OFFEROR 10% (SUBMITTAL FORM A)

The offeror must complete and submit this Submittal Form. The form must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the offeror to the provisions of the RFP.

By signature on the form, the offeror certifies they comply with the following:

- a) the laws of the State of Alaska;
- b) the applicable portion of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;
- c) the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government;
- d) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government;
- e) all terms and conditions set out in this RFP;
- f) a condition that the proposal submitted was independently arrived at, without collusion, under penalty of perjury; and
- g) that the offers will remain open and valid for at least 90 days.

If any offeror fails to comply with [a] through [g] of this paragraph, the state reserves the right to disregard the proposal, terminate the contract, or consider the contractor in default.

The Submittal Form also requests the following information:

- a) The complete name and address of offeror's firm along with the offeror's Tax ID.
- b) Information on the person the state should contact regarding the proposal.
- c) Names of critical team members/personnel.
- d) Addenda acknowledgement.
- e) Conflict of interest statement.
- f) Federal requirements.
- g) Alaska preference qualifications.
- h) Length of time firm has been in business
- i) Headquarters and locations of other offices
- j) Number of attorneys overall
- k) Areas of legal specialization
- l) Names and contact information of three current bond counsel clients

An offeror's failure to address/respond/include these items may cause the proposal to be determined to be non-responsive and the proposal may be rejected.

SEC. 4.03 DEPARTMENT OF LAW CONFLICTS FORM (SUBMITTAL FORM B)

Complete the form to list all matters in which your firm represents a client adverse to the state. For purposes of this request, “the state” includes all state departments, agencies, public corporations, boards, commissions, and the University of Alaska. It is essential to know conflicts so ethics walls can be erected, as needed.

SEC. 4.04 COST PROPOSAL 20% (SUBMITTAL FORM C)

The cost proposal is comprised of a completed Submittal form C. and a roster of individuals who will bill under the contract with their hourly rates. For the purposes of proposal evaluation, the cost of the proposal is the sum of the maximum caps described on form C.

SEC. 4.05 EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS 50% (SUBMITTAL FORM D)

Offerors must complete Form D and provide required supporting documentation: a resume for each of the personnel assigned to the contract, and an organizational chart with names and titles.

SECTION 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION

SEC. 5.01 SUMMARY OF EVALUATION PROCESS

The state will use the following steps to evaluate and prioritize proposals:

- 1) Proposals will be assessed for overall responsiveness. Proposals deemed non-responsive will be eliminated from further consideration.
- 2) A proposal evaluation committee (PEC), made up of at least five state employees or public officials, will evaluate specific parts of the responsive proposals.
- 3) The Submittal Forms, from each responsive proposal, will be sent to the PEC. No cost information will be shared or provided to the PEC.
- 4) The PEC will independently evaluate and score the documents based on the degree to which they meet the stated evaluation criteria.
- 5) After independent scoring, the PEC will have a meeting, chaired by the procurement officer, where the PEC may have a group discussion prior to finalizing their scores.
- 6) The evaluators will submit their final individual scores to the procurement officer, who will then compile the scores and calculate awarded points as set out in Section 5.03.
- 7) The procurement officer will calculate scores for cost proposals as set out in Section 5.08 and add those scores to the awarded points along with factoring in any Alaska preferences.
- 8) The procurement officer may ask for best and final offers from offerors susceptible for award and revise the cost scores accordingly.
- 9) The state will then conduct any necessary negotiations with the highest scoring offeror and award a contract if the negotiations are successful.

SEC. 5.02 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on their overall value to state, considering both cost and non-cost factors as described below. Note: An evaluation may not be based on discrimination due to the race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability, or political affiliation of the offeror.

- 1) Analyze the firm's ownership, headquarters, branch or affiliate offices and length of time in business and how that would be of benefit the State and AHFC. Does the firm have the capacity to serve the needs of AHFC?
- 2) Availability of specialized staff, or other access to other resources relevant to the required services.
- 3) Analyze the firm's understanding, knowledge of, and experience with the various funding mechanisms listed in the contract's Scope of Work.
- 4) Analyze the listing of current and past clients for whom similar work was performed. How extensive is the applicable experience of the personnel designated?
- 5) If needed, contact the current clients to clarify if there is administrative capacity to monitor costs and fees; if communication with clients is clear and responsive, and if lines of authority work effectively.

- 6) Analyze resumes to consider the education, experience, and capabilities of all individuals who will be designated to provide services.
- 7) In particular, study the lead attorney who will be working directly with the Client and have overall responsibility. Are resumes complete and do they demonstrate backgrounds that would be desirable for individuals engaged in the work the project requires?

Overall Criteria		Weight
Responsiveness		Pass/Fail
Qualifications Criteria		
Organization and Resources	(Submittal Form A)	200
Experience and Qualifications	(Submittal Form D)	500
Cost Criteria		
Cost Proposal	(Submittal Form C)	200
Preference Criteria		
Alaska Offeror Preference (if applicable)		100
Total		1000

TOTAL EVALUATION POINTS AVAILABLE: 1000

SEC. 5.03 SCORING METHOD AND CALCULATION

The PEC will evaluate responses against the questions set out in Sections 5.04 through 5.07 and assign a single score for each section. Offerors' responses for each section will be rated comparatively against one another with each PEC member

After the PEC has scored each section, the scores for each section will be totaled and the following formula will be used to calculate the amount of points awarded for that section:

$$\frac{\text{Offeror Total Score}}{\text{Highest Total Score Possible}} \times \text{Max Points} = \text{Points Awarded}$$

SEC 5.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

1) Questions regarding the personnel:

- a) Do the individuals assigned to the project have experience on projects similar to those required by AHFC?
- b) Are resumes complete and do they demonstrate backgrounds that would be desirable for individuals engaged in work the scope requires?
- c) How extensive is the applicable education and experience of the personnel designated to work under the contract?

SEC 5.05 CONTRACT COST (COST PROPOSAL)

Overall, a minimum of **20%** of the total evaluation points for this RFP will be assigned to cost. After the procurement officer applies any applicable preferences, the offeror with the lowest total cost will receive the maximum number of points allocated to cost per 2 AAC 12.260(c). The point allocations for cost on the other proposals will be determined using the following formula:

$$[(\text{Price of Lowest Cost Proposal}) \times (\text{Maximum Points for Cost})] \div (\text{Cost of Each Higher Priced Proposal})$$

SEC 5.06 APPLICATION OF PREFERENCES

Certain preferences apply to all state contracts, regardless of their dollar value. The Alaska Bidder, Alaska Veteran, and Alaska Offeror preferences are the most common preferences involved in the RFP process. Additional preferences that may apply to this procurement are listed below. Guides that contain excerpts from the relevant statutes and codes, explain when the preferences apply and provide examples of how to calculate the preferences are available at the following website:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/dgs/pdf/pref1.pdf>

- Alaska Products Preference - AS 36.30.332
- Recycled Products Preference - AS 36.30.337
- Local Agriculture and Fisheries Products Preference - AS 36.15.050
- Employment Program Preference - AS 36.30.321(b)
- Alaskans with Disabilities Preference - AS 36.30.321(d)
- Alaska Veteran's Preference - AS 36.30.321(f)

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development keeps a list of qualified employment programs and individuals who qualify as persons with a disability. As evidence of a business' or an individual's right to the Employment Program or Alaskans with Disabilities preferences, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will issue a certification letter. To take advantage of these preferences, a business or individual must be on the appropriate Division of Vocational Rehabilitation list prior to the time designated for receipt of proposals. Offerors must attach a copy of their certification letter to the proposal. **An offeror's failure to provide this certification letter with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.**

SEC 5.07 ALASKA BIDDER PREFERENCE

An Alaska Bidder Preference of 5% will be applied to the price in the proposal. The preference will be given to an offeror who:

- 1) holds a current Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals;

- 2) submits a proposal for goods or services under the name appearing on the offeror's current Alaska business license;
- 3) has maintained a place of business within the state staffed by the offeror, or an employee of the offeror, for a period of six months immediately preceding the date of the proposal;
- 4) is incorporated or qualified to do business under the laws of the state, is a sole proprietorship and the proprietor is a resident of the state, is a limited liability company (LLC) organized under AS 10.50 and all members are residents of the state, or is a partnership under AS 32.06 or AS 32.11 and all partners are residents of the state; and
- 5) if a joint venture, is composed entirely of ventures that qualify under (1)-(4) of this subsection.

Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form

In order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference, the proposal must include the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form attached to this RFP. An offeror does not need to complete the Alaska Veteran Preference questions on the form if not claiming the Alaska Veteran Preference. An offeror's failure to provide this completed form with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.

SEC 5.08 ALASKA VETERAN PREFERENCE

An Alaska Veteran Preference of 5%, not to exceed \$5,000, will be applied to the price in the proposal. The preference will be given to an offeror who qualifies under AS 36.30.990(2) as an Alaska bidder and is a:

- A. sole proprietorship owned by an Alaska veteran;
- B. partnership under AS 32.06 or AS 32.11 if a majority of the partners are Alaska veterans;
- C. limited liability company organized under AS 10.50 if a majority of the members are Alaska veterans; or
- D. corporation that is wholly owned by individuals, and a majority of the individuals are Alaska veterans.

In accordance with AS 36.30.321(i), the bidder must also add value by actually performing, controlling, managing, and supervising the services provided, or for supplies, the bidder must have sold supplies of the general nature solicited to other state agencies, other government, or the general public.

Alaska Veteran Preference Certification

In order to receive the Alaska Veteran Preference, the proposal must include the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form attached to this RFP. An offeror's failure to provide this completed form with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.

SEC 5.09 ALASKA OFFEROR PREFERENCE

Per 2 AAC 12.260, if an offeror qualifies for the Alaska Bidder Preference, the offeror will receive an Alaska Offeror Preference. The preference will be 10% of the total available points, which will be added to the offeror's overall evaluation score.

Example:

Step 1

Determine the number of points available to qualifying offerors under this preference:

1000 Total Points Available in RFP x 10% Alaska Offeror preference = 100 Points for the preference

Step 2

Determine which offerors qualify as Alaska bidders and thus, are eligible for the Alaska Offeror preference. For the purpose of this example, presume that all proposals have been completely evaluated based on the evaluation criteria in the RFP. The scores at this point are:

Offeror #1	830 points	No Preference	0 points
Offeror #2	740 points	Alaska Offeror Preference	100 points
Offeror #3	800 points	Alaska Offeror Preference	100 points

Step 3

Add the applicable Alaska Offeror preference amounts to the offerors' scores:

Offeror #1	830 points
Offeror #2	840 points (740 points + 100 points)
Offeror #3	900 points (800 points + 100 points)

Offeror #3 is the highest scoring offeror and would get the award, provided their proposal is responsive and responsible.

SEC 5.10 offeror notification of selection

After the completion of contract negotiation, the procurement officer will issue a written Notice of Intent to Award and send copies of that notice to all offerors who submitted proposals. The notice will list the names of all offerors and identify the offeror selected for award.

SECTION 6. GENERAL PROCESS AND LEGAL INFORMATION

SEC. 6.01 INFORMAL DEBRIEFING

When the contract is completed, an informal debriefing may be performed at the discretion of the project director or procurement officer. If performed, the scope of the debriefing will be limited to the work performed by the contractor.

SEC. 6.02 ALASKA BUSINESS LICENSE AND OTHER REQUIRED LICENSES

Prior to the award of a contract, an offeror must hold a valid Alaska business license. However, in order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference and other related preferences, such as the Alaska Veteran Preference and Alaska Offeror Preference, an offeror must hold a valid Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. Offerors should contact the **Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing** for information on these licenses. Acceptable evidence that the offeror possesses a valid Alaska business license may consist of any one of the following:

- copy of an Alaska business license;
- certification on the proposal that the offeror has a valid Alaska business license and has included the license number in the proposal;
- a canceled check for the Alaska business license fee;
- a copy of the Alaska business license application with a receipt stamp from the state's occupational licensing office; or
- a sworn and notarized statement that the offeror has applied and paid for the Alaska business license.

You are not required to hold a valid Alaska business license at the time proposals are opened if you possess one of the following licenses and are offering services or supplies under that specific line of business:

- fisheries business licenses issued by Alaska Department of Revenue or Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
- liquor licenses issued by Alaska Department of Revenue for alcohol sales only,
- insurance licenses issued by Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Insurance, or
- Mining licenses issued by Alaska Department of Revenue.

Prior the deadline for receipt of proposals, all offerors must hold any other necessary applicable professional licenses required by Alaska Statute.

SEC. 6.03 STANDARD CONTRACT PROVISIONS

The contractor will be required to sign the Department of Law's Standard Agreement Form for Legal Services (form SAF.DOC/Appendix A) This form is attached with the RFP for your review. The contractor must comply with the contract provisions set out in this attachment. No alteration of these provisions will be permitted without prior written approval from the Department of Law, and the state reserves the right to reject a proposal that is non-compliant or takes exception with the contract terms and conditions stated in the Agreement. Any requests

to change language in this document (adjust, modify, add, delete, etc.), must be set out in the offeror's proposal in a separate document. Please include the following information with any change that you are proposing:

- 1) Identify the provision that the offeror takes exception with.
- 2) Identify why the provision is unjust, unreasonable, etc.
- 3) Identify exactly what suggested changes should be made.

SEC. 6.04 QUALIFIED OFFERORS

Per 2 AAC 12.875, unless provided for otherwise in the RFP, to qualify as an offeror for award of a contract issued under AS 36.30, the offeror must:

- 1) Add value in the contract by actually performing, controlling, managing, or supervising the services to be provided; or
- 2) Be in the business of selling and have actually sold on a regular basis the supplies that are the subject of the RFP.

If the offeror leases services or supplies or acts as a broker or agency in providing the services or supplies in order to meet these requirements, the procurement officer may not accept the offeror as a qualified offeror under AS 36.30.

SEC. 6.05 PROPOSAL AS PART OF THE CONTRACT

Part or all of this RFP and the successful proposal may be incorporated into the contract.

SEC. 6.06 ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The state reserves the right to add terms and conditions during contract negotiations. These terms and conditions will be within the scope of the RFP and will not affect the proposal evaluations.

SEC. 6.07 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By signature on their proposal, the offeror certifies that the offeror is not established and headquartered or incorporated and headquartered in a country recognized as Tier 3 in the most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report.

The most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report can be found at the following website: <https://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/>

Failure to comply with this requirement will cause the state to reject the proposal as non-responsive or cancel the contract.

SEC. 6.08 RIGHT OF REJECTION

Offerors must comply with all of the terms of the RFP, the State Procurement Code (AS 36.30), and all applicable local, state, and federal laws, codes, and regulations. The procurement

officer may reject any proposal that does not comply with all of the material and substantial terms, conditions, and performance requirements of the RFP.

Offerors may not qualify the proposal nor restrict the rights of the state. If an offeror does so, the procurement officer may determine the proposal to be a non-responsive counter-offer and the proposal may be rejected.

Minor informalities may be waived by the procurement officer. that:

- do not affect responsiveness;
- are merely a matter of form or format;
- do not change the relative standing or otherwise prejudice other offers;
- do not change the meaning or scope of the RFP;
- are trivial, negligible, or immaterial in nature;
- do not reflect a material change in the work; or
- do not constitute a substantial reservation against a requirement or provision;

The state reserves the right to refrain from making an award if it determines that to be in its best interest. **A proposal from a debarred or suspended offeror shall be rejected.**

SEC. 6.09 STATE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION COSTS

The state will not pay any cost associated with the preparation, submittal, presentation, or evaluation of any proposal.

SEC. 6.10 DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSAL CONTENTS

All proposals and other material submitted become the property of the State of Alaska and may be returned only at the state's option. AS 40.25.110 requires public records to be open to reasonable inspection. All proposal information, including detailed price and cost information, will be held in confidence during the evaluation process and prior to the time a Notice of Intent to Award is issued. Thereafter, proposals will become public information.

The Office of Procurement and Property Management (OPPM), or their designee recognizes that some information an offeror submits might be confidential under the United States or the State of Alaska Constitution, a federal statute or regulation, or a State of Alaska statute: i.e., might be confidential business information (CBI). *See, e.g.,* article 1, section 1 of the Alaska Constitution; AS 45.50.910 – 45.50.945 (the Alaska Uniform Trade Secrets Act); *DNR v. Arctic Slope Regional Corp.*, 834 P.2d 134, 137-39 (Alaska 1991). For OPPM or their designee to treat information an offeror submits with its proposal as CBI, the offeror must do the following when submitting their proposal: (1) mark the specific information it asserts is CBI; and (2) for each discrete set of such information, identify, in writing, each authority the offeror asserts make the information CBI. If the offeror does not do these things, the information will become public after the Notice of Intent to Award is issued. If the offeror does these things, OPPM or their designee will evaluate the offeror's assertion upon receiving a request for the information. If OPPM or their designee reject the assertion, they will, to the extent permitted by federal and State of Alaska law, undertake reasonable measures to give the offeror an opportunity to object to the disclosure of the information.

SEC. 6.11 ASSIGNMENT

Per 2 AAC 12.480, the contractor may not transfer or assign any portion of the contract without prior written approval from the procurement officer.

SEC. 6.12 DISPUTES

A contract resulting from this RFP is governed by the laws of the State of Alaska. If the contractor has a claim arising in connection with the agreement that it cannot resolve with the State by mutual agreement, it shall pursue the claim, if at all, in accordance with the provisions of AS 36.30.620 – AS 36.30.632. To the extent not otherwise governed by the preceding, the claim shall be brought only in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska and not elsewhere.

SEC. 6.13 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of the contract or agreement is declared by a court to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and provisions will not be affected; and, the rights and obligations of the parties will be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.

SEC. 6.14 SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Proposals must comply with Section 6.08 Right of Rejection. However, if the state fails to identify or detect supplemental terms or conditions that conflict with those contained in this RFP or that diminish the state's rights under any contract resulting from the RFP, the term(s) or condition(s) will be considered null and void. After award of contract:

If conflict arises between a supplemental term or condition included in the proposal and a term or condition of the RFP, the term or condition of the RFP will prevail; and

If the state's rights would be diminished as a result of application of a supplemental term or condition included in the proposal, the supplemental term or condition will be considered null and void.

SEC. 6.15 SOLICITATION ADVERTISING

Public notice has been provided in accordance with 2 AAC 12.220.

SEC. 6.16 SITE INSPECTION

The state may conduct on-site visits to evaluate the offeror's capacity to perform the contract. An offeror must agree, at risk of being found non-responsive and having its proposal rejected, to provide the state reasonable access to relevant portions of its work sites. Individuals designated by the procurement officer at the state's expense will make site inspection.

SEC. 6.17 CLARIFICATION OF OFFERS

In order to determine if a proposal is reasonably susceptible for award, communications by the procurement officer or the proposal evaluation committee (PEC) are permitted with an offeror to clarify uncertainties or eliminate confusion concerning the contents of a proposal. Clarifications may not result in a material or substantive change to the proposal. The evaluation by the procurement officer or the PEC may be adjusted as a result of a clarification under this section.

SEC. 6.18 DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFERORS

The state may conduct discussions with offerors in accordance with AS 36.30.240 and 2 AAC 12.290. The purpose of these discussions will be to ensure full understanding of the requirements of the RFP and proposal. Discussions will be limited to specific sections of the RFP or proposal identified by the procurement officer. Discussions will only be held with offerors who have submitted a proposal deemed reasonably susceptible for award by the procurement officer. Discussions, if held, will be after initial evaluation of proposals by the procurement officer or the PEC. If modifications are made as a result of these discussions they will be put in writing. Following discussions, the procurement officer may set a time for best and final proposal submissions from those offerors with whom discussions were held. Proposals may be reevaluated after receipt of best and final proposal submissions.

If an offeror does not submit a best and final proposal or a notice of withdrawal, the offeror's immediate previous proposal is considered the offeror's best and final proposal.

Offerors with a disability needing accommodation should contact the procurement officer prior to the date set for discussions so that reasonable accommodation can be made. Any oral modification of a proposal must be reduced to writing by the offeror.

SEC. 6.19 CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

After final evaluation, the procurement officer may negotiate with the offeror of the highest-ranked proposal. Negotiations, if held, shall be within the scope of the request for proposals and limited to those items which would not have an effect on the ranking of proposals. If the highest-ranked offeror fails to provide necessary information for negotiations in a timely manner, or fails to negotiate in good faith, the state may terminate negotiations and negotiate with the offeror of the next highest-ranked proposal. If contract negotiations are commenced, they will be held via video teleconference.

If the selected offeror

- fails to provide the information required to begin negotiations in a timely manner; or
- fails to negotiate in good faith; or
- indicates they cannot perform the contract within the budgeted funds available for the project; or
- if the offeror and the state, after a good faith effort, simply cannot come to terms,

the state may terminate negotiations with the offeror initially selected and commence negotiations with the next highest ranked offeror.

SEC. 6.20 FEDERALLY IMPOSED TARIFFS

Changes in price (increase or decrease) resulting directly from a new or updated federal tariff, excise tax, or duty, imposed after contract award may be adjusted during the contract period or before delivery into the United States via contract amendment.

- **Notification of Changes:** The contractor must promptly notify the procurement officer in writing of any new, increased, or decreased federal excise tax or duty that may result in either an increase or decrease in the contract price and shall take appropriate action as directed by the procurement officer.
- **After-imposed or Increased Taxes and Duties:** Any federal excise tax or duty for goods or services covered by this contract that was exempted or excluded on the contract award date but later imposed on the contractor during the contract period, as the result of legislative, judicial, or administrative action may result in a price increase provided:
 - a) The tax or duty takes effect after the contract award date and isn't otherwise addressed by the contract;
 - b) The contractor warrants, in writing, that no amount of the newly imposed federal excise tax or duty or rate increase was included in the contract price, as a contingency or otherwise.
- **After-relieved or Decreased Taxes and Duties:** The contract price shall be decreased by the amount of any decrease in federal excise tax or duty for goods or services under the contract, except social security or other employment [taxes](#), that the contractor is required to pay or bear, or does not obtain a refund of, through the contractor's fault, negligence, or failure to follow instructions of the procurement officer.

- **State's Ability to Make Changes:** The state reserves the right to request verification of federal excise tax or duty amounts on goods or services covered by this contract and increase or decrease the contract price accordingly.
- **Price Change Threshold:** No adjustment shall be made in the contract price under this clause unless the amount of the adjustment exceeds \$250.

SEC. 6.21 PROTEST

AS 36.30.560 provides that an interested party may protest the content of the RFP.

An interested party is defined in 2 AAC 12.990(a) (7) as "an actual or prospective bidder or offeror whose economic interest might be affected substantially and directly by the issuance of a contract solicitation, the award of a contract, or the failure to award a contract."

If an interested party wishes to protest the content of a solicitation, the protest must be received, in writing, by the procurement officer at least ten days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

AS 36.30.560 also provides that an interested party may protest the award of a contract or the proposed award of a contract.

If an offeror wishes to protest the award of a contract or the proposed award of a contract, the protest must be received, in writing, by the procurement officer within ten days after the date the Notice of Intent to Award the contract is issued.

A protester must have submitted a proposal in order to have sufficient standing to protest the proposed award of a contract. Protests must include the following information:

- the name, address, and telephone number of the protester;
- the signature of the protester or the protester's representative;
- identification of the contracting agency and the solicitation or contract at issue;
- a detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest including copies of relevant documents; and the form of relief requested.

Protests filed by telex or telegram are not acceptable because they do not contain a signature. Fax copies containing a signature are acceptable.

The procurement officer will issue a written response to the protest. The response will set out the procurement officer's decision and contain the basis of the decision within the statutory time limit in AS 36.30.580. A copy of the decision will be furnished to the protester by certified mail, fax or another method that provides evidence of receipt.

All offerors will be notified of any protest. The review of protests, decisions of the procurement officer, appeals, and hearings, will be conducted in accordance with the State Procurement Code (AS 36.30), Article 8 "Legal and Contractual Remedies."

SECTION 7. ATTACHMENTS

SEC. 7.01 ATTACHMENTS

- 1) RFP Submittal Form A – Certifications, Organizational Capacity, Alaska Bidder Questionnaire
- 2) RFP Submittal Form B – Department of Law conflicts Disclosure (not scored)
- 3) RFP Submittal Form C—Cost proposal
- 4) RFP Submittal Form D – Experience and Qualifications
- 5) Standard Department of Law Bond Counsel Contract for AHFC

SUBMITTAL FORM A – Offeror Information

PROJECT INFORMATION

RFP NUMBER: 2023-0300-0067
PROJECT NAME: Bond and Disclosure Counsel Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

OFFEROR INFORMATION

Company Name: _____
Address: _____
Tax ID: _____
Alaska Business
License #: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Provide contact information for the individual that can be contacted for clarification regarding this proposal:

Name _____
Title _____
Address _____
Email _____
Telephone _____

CRITICAL TEAM MEMBERS

Provide the names of all critical team members that will be assigned to this contract. Note: These individuals cannot be removed or replaced from this project, or their positions, unless approved in writing the project director or procurement officer.

Name of Position 1 _____
Name of Position 2 _____
Name of Position 3 _____
Name of Position 4 _____

ADDENDA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The offeror acknowledges receipt of the following amendments and has incorporated the requirements of such amendments into their proposal. Failure to identify and sign for all amendments may subject the offeror to disqualification. The offeror must list all amendments (by number), then initial and date to confirm that you have received and incorporated them into your proposal (add more rows as necessary).

Number	Initials & Date

Number	Initials & Date

Number	Initials & Date

CERTIFICATIONS

No	Criteria	Response*
1	The offeror is presently engaged in the business of providing the services & work required in this RFP.	True False
2	The offeror confirms that it has the financial strength to perform and maintain the services required under this RFP.	True False
3	The offeror accepts the terms and conditions set out in the RFP and agrees not to restrict the rights of the state.	True False
4	The offeror confirms that they can obtain and maintain all necessary insurance as required on this project.	True False
5	The offeror certifies that all services provided under this contract by the contractor and all subcontractors shall be performed in the United States.	True False
6	The offeror is not established and headquartered or incorporated and headquartered, in a country recognized as Tier 3 in the most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report.	True False
7	Offeror complies with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government.	True False
8	Offeror complies with the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government.	True False
9	Offeror complies with the applicable portion of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.	True False
10	The offeror can provide (if requested) financial records for the organization for the past three years.	True False
11	The offeror has not had any contracts terminated by the State of Alaska (within the past five years).	True False
12	The offeror certifies that it is not currently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for award by any public or federal entity.	True False
13	The offeror certifies that they do not have any governmental or regulatory action against their organization that might have a bearing on their ability to provide services to the state.	True False
14	The offeror certifies, within the last five years, they have not been convicted or had judgment rendered against them for: fraud, embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, false statements, or tax evasion.	True False
15	The offeror does not have any judgments, claims, arbitrations or suits pending/outstanding against your company in which an adverse outcome would be material to the company.	True False
16	The offeror is not (now or in the past) been involved in bankruptcy or reorganized proceeding.	True False
17	Offeror certifies they comply with the laws of the State of Alaska.	True False
18	Offeror confirms their proposal will remain valid and open for at least 90 days.	True False

** Failure to answer or answering "False" may be grounds for disqualification. For any "False" responses, provide clarification (up to 250 word maximum for each "False" clarification) below (add rows as necessary).*

Section	Clarification

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Indicate below whether or not the firm or any individuals that will work on the contract has a possible conflict of interest (e.g., currently employed by the State of Alaska or formerly employed by the State of Alaska within the past two years) and, if so, the nature of that conflict. The procurement officer reserves the right to consider a proposal non-responsive and reject it or cancel the award if any interest disclosed from any source could either give the appearance of a conflict or cause speculation as to the objectivity services to be provided by the offeror.

Does the offeror, or any individuals that will work on this contract, have a possible conflict of interest?

☐ Yes ☐ No

** Failure to answer may be grounds for disqualification.*

If "Yes", please provide additional information regarding the nature of that conflict:

In addition, using the attached **Submittal Form B**, list all legal matters in which the firm is adverse to the State of Alaska

FIRM CAPACITY

Date firm founded:

Headquarters and locations of other offices:

Number of attorneys overall:

Areas of legal specialization offered by your firm:

List names and contact information for three current bond counsel clients below

REFERENCE #1	
NAME OF ORGANIZATION	
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL	
TITLE	
PHONE NUMBER	
EMAIL	

REFERENCE #2	
NAME OF ORGANIZATION	
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL	
TITLE	
PHONE NUMBER	
EMAIL	

REFERENCE #3	
NAME OF ORGANIZATION	
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL	
TITLE	
PHONE NUMBER	
EMAIL	

ALASKA PREFERENCES

If you wish to claim any Alaska Preferences, please complete the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form that follows the signature section below.

SIGNATURE

This proposal must be signed by a company officer empowered to bind the company.

Printed Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

Signature _____



ALASKA BIDDER PREFERENCE CERTIFICATION

AS 36.30.321(A) / AS 36.30.990(2)

BUSINESS NAME: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Alaska Bidder Preference: Do you believe that your firm qualifies for the Alaska Bidder Preference?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Alaska Veteran Preference: Do you believe that your firm qualifies for the Alaska Veteran Preference?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please list any additional Alaska Preferences below that you believe your firm qualifies for.	
1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.

To qualify for and claim the Alaska Bidder Preference you must answer **YES** to all questions below in the Alaska Bidder Preference Questions section. To qualify for and claim the Alaska Veteran Preference, you must answer **YES** to these questions as well as answer **YES** to all the questions in the Alaska Veteran Preference section. A signed copy of this form must be included with your bid or proposal no later than the deadline set for receipt of bids or proposals.

If you are submitting a bid or proposal as a **JOINT VENTURE**, all members of the joint venture must complete and submit this form before the deadline set for receipt of bids or proposals. [AS 36.30.990\(2\)\(E\)](#)

If the procuring agency is unable to verify a response, the preference may not be applied. Knowingly or intentionally making false or misleading statements on this form, whether it succeeds in deceiving or misleading, constitutes misrepresentation per [AS 36.30.687](#) and may result in criminal penalties.

Alaska Bidder Preference Questions:

1) Does your business hold a current Alaska business license per [AS 36.30.990\(2\)\(A\)](#)?
☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, enter your current **Alaska business license number**: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

2) Is your business submitting a bid or proposal under the name appearing on the Alaska business license noted in **Question 1** per [AS 36.30.990\(2\)\(B\)](#)?
☐ YES ☐ NO

3) Has your business maintained a **place of business** within the state **staffed by the bidder or offeror** or an employee of the bidder or offeror for a period of six months immediately preceding the date of the bid or proposal per [AS 36.30.990\(2\)\(C\)](#)?
☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, please complete the following information:

A. Place of Business

Street Address: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

City: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

ZIP: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

“Place of business” is defined as a location at which normal business activities are conducted, services are rendered, or goods are made, stored, or processed; a post office box, mail drop, telephone, or answering service does not, by itself, constitute a place of business per [2 AAC 12.990\(b\)\(3\)](#).

Do you certify that the **Place of Business** described in **Question 3A** meets this definition?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

B. The bidder or offeror, or at least one employee of the bidder or offeror, must be a resident of the state under [AS 16.05.415\(a\)](#) per [2 AAC 12.990\(b\)\(7\)](#).

1) Do you certify that the bidder or offeror OR at least one employee of the bidder or offeror is physically present in the state with the intent to remain in Alaska indefinitely and to make a home in the state per [AS 16.05.415\(a\)\(1\)](#)?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

2) Do you certify that the resident(s) used to meet this requirement has maintained their domicile in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the deadline set for receipt of bids or proposals per [AS 16.05.415\(a\)\(2\)](#)?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

3) Do you certify that the resident(s) used to meet this requirement is claiming residency **ONLY** in the state of Alaska per [AS 16.05.415\(a\)\(3\)](#)?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

4) Do you certify that the resident(s) used to meet this requirement is **NOT** obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country per [AS 16.05.415\(a\)\(4\)](#)?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

4) Per [AS 36.30.990\(2\)\(D\)](#), is your business (**CHOOSE ONE**):

A. **Incorporated or qualified to do business under the laws of the state?**

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

If **YES**, enter your current **Alaska corporate entity number**: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

B. A **sole proprietorship** AND the proprietor is a resident of the state?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

C. A **limited liability company** organized under AS 10.50 **AND** all members are residents of the state?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

Please identify each member by name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

D. A **partnership** under former AS 32.05, AS 32.06, or AS 32.11 **AND** all partners are residents of the state?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

Please identify each member by name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Alaska Veteran Preference Questions:

1) Per [AS 36.30.321\(F\)](#), is your business (**CHOOSE ONE**):

A. A **sole proprietorship** owned by an Alaska veteran?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

B. A **partnership** under AS 32.06 or AS 32.11 **AND** a majority of the partners are Alaska veterans?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

- C. A **limited liability company** organized under AS 10.50 **AND** a majority of the members are Alaska veterans?
☐ YES ☐ NO
- D. A **corporation** that is wholly owned by individuals, **AND** a majority of the individuals are Alaska veterans?
☐ YES ☐ NO

Per [AS 36.30.321\(F\)\(3\)](#) “**Alaska veteran**” is defined as an individual who:

(A) Served in the

- (i) Armed forces of the United States, including a reserve unit of the United States armed forces; or
- (ii) Alaska Territorial Guard, the Alaska Army National Guard, the Alaska Air National Guard, or the Alaska Naval Militia; and

(B) Was separated from service under a condition that was not dishonorable.

Do you certify that the individual(s) indicated in **Question 1A, 1B, 1C, or 1D** meet this definition and can provide documentation of their service and discharge if necessary?

☐ YES ☐ NO

SIGNATURE

By signature below, I certify under penalty of law that I am an authorized representative of [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) and all information on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Printed Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

Signature _____

SUBMITTAL FORM B – Conflicts Disclosure

State of Alaska Department of Law Conflicts Disclosure

Please identify all matters in which your firm represents a client adverse to the state. For purposes of this request, "the state" includes all state departments, agencies, public corporations, boards, commissions, and the University of Alaska.

[illegible]

SUBMITTAL FORM C – Cost Proposal

RFP 2023-000-0067

INSTRUCTIONS: Price the following two issuance types with a do-not-exceed pricing cap. Also include a roster of employees who will bill under the contract and their hourly rates for inclusion in the contract.

Under the terms of the contract (*see Attachment 5 Standard AHFC Bond Counsel contract APPENDIX D Article 1.1*), AHFC will pay the Contrator hourly rates all-incusive of costs and fees up to the following maximum fee amounts per transaction type.

Should the time charged to a particular transaction not reach the established maximum, Contractor shall charge AHFC the lower fee .

For the purposes of proposal evaluation, the sum of the caps will be the **Cost Proposal Amount** and will be scored comparatively with the lowest cost sum receiving 200 points and all others scored in relation to that amount.

Issuance Types		Do not exceed Pricing Cap
1	First issue using substantially different security document	\$
2	Subsequent issues without significant changes to security documents	\$
	SUM (Cost used for purposes of proposal evaluation)	\$

SUBMITTAL FORM D – Experience and Qualifications

Name of Firm:

INSTRUCTIONS: Attach a resume for each individual who will bill under the contract and an organizational chart for that team. Starting in the space below and continuing in a narrative not to exceed five double-spaced pages, describe why the team is qualified to be awarded this contract and which qualifications in particular apply to the needs of AHFC.

STANDARD AGREEMENT FORM

1. Agency Contract Number	2. Billing Contact	3a. Appropriation 03	3b. Unit 2030	3c. Template W03527	
4. EN Doc Type and #	Project AHFC Bond & Disclosure Counsel		6. AK Business License #	Vendor Number	
This contract is between the State of Alaska,					
7. Department of Law		Division		hereafter the State and	
8. Contractor hereafter the Contractor					
Mailing Address					
<p>9.</p> <p>ARTICLE 1. Appendices: Appendices referred to in this contract and attached to it are considered part of it.</p> <p>ARTICLE 2. Performance of Service:</p> <p>2.1 Appendix A (General Provisions), Articles 1 through 14, governs the performance of services under this contract.</p> <p>2.2 Appendix B sets forth the liability and insurance provisions of this contract.</p> <p>2.3 Appendix C sets forth the services to be performed by the contractor.</p> <p>ARTICLE 3. Period of Performance: The period of performance for this contract begins <u>2022</u> and ends <u>2025</u>, with the State reserving the right to renew for two additional one-year periods.</p> <p>ARTICLE 4. Considerations:</p> <p>4.1 In full consideration of the contractor's performance under this contract, the State shall pay the contractor a sum not to exceed \$1,500,000 in accordance with the provisions of Appendix D.</p> <p>4.2 When billing the State, the contractor shall refer to the Agency Contract # <u> </u> and shall email the invoice to the address below with a courtesy copy in PDF format emailed to 03ContractPayments@alaska.gov</p>					
10. Department of Law		[Project director first.last @alaska.gov]			
11. CONTRACTOR		<p>13. CERTIFICATION: I certify that the facts herein and on supporting documents are correct, that this voucher constitutes a legal charge against funds and appropriations cited, that sufficient funds are encumbered to pay this obligation, or that there is a sufficient balance in the appropriation cited to cover this obligation. I am aware that to knowingly make or allow false entries or alternations on a public record, or knowingly destroy, mutilate, suppress, conceal, remove or otherwise impair the variety, legibility or availability of a public record constitutes tampering with public records punishable under AS 11.56.815-.820. Other disciplinary action may be taken up to and including dismissal.</p>			
Name of Firm					
Typed Name of Authorized Signator					Date
Signature above					
Title					
12. CONTRACTING AGENCY		Signature of Head of Contracting Agency		Date	
Department/Division Law/Civil-Public Corporations &		Date			
Signature of Project Director		Typed Name Tregarrick Taylor			
Typed or Printed Name of Project Director		Title Attorney General			
Title		Authorized by AS 36.30.130 RFP 2023-0300-0067			

NOTICE: This contract has no affect until signed by the head of contracting agency or designee.

APPENDIX A GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Definitions.

- 1.1 In this contract and appendices, "Project Director" or "Agency Head" or "Procurement Officer" means the person who signs this contract on behalf of the Requesting Agency and includes a successor or authorized representative.
- 1.2 "State Contracting Agency" means the department for which this contract is to be performed and for which the Commissioner or Authorized Designee acted in signing this contract.

Article 2. Inspections and Reports.

- 2.1 The department may inspect, in the manner and at reasonable times it considers appropriate, all the contractor's facilities and activities under this contract.
- 2.2 The contractor shall make progress and other reports in the manner and at the times the department reasonably requires.

Article 3. Disputes.

- 3.1 If the contractor has a claim arising in connection with the contract that it cannot resolve with the State by mutual agreement, it shall pursue the claim, if at all, in accordance with the provisions of AS 36.30.620 – 632.

Article 4. Equal Employment Opportunity.

- 4.1 The contractor may not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, or because of age, disability, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood when the reasonable demands of the position(s) do not require distinction on the basis of age, disability, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, or parenthood. The contractor shall take affirmative action to insure that the applicants are considered for employment and that employees are treated during employment without unlawful regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood. This action must include, but need not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training including apprenticeship. The contractor shall post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting out the provisions of this paragraph.
- 4.2 The contractor shall state, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees to work on State of Alaska contract jobs, that it is an equal opportunity employer and that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood.
- 4.3 The contractor shall send to each labor union or representative of workers with which the contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding a notice advising the labor union or workers' compensation representative of the contractor's commitments under this article and post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to all employees and applicants for employment.
- 4.4 The contractor shall include the provisions of this article in every contract, and shall require the inclusion of these provisions in every contract entered into by any of its subcontractors, so that those provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor. For the purpose of including those provisions in any contract or subcontract, as required by this contract, "contractor" and "subcontractor" may be changed to reflect appropriately the name or designation of the parties of the contract or subcontract.
- 4.5 The contractor shall cooperate fully with State efforts which seek to deal with the problem of unlawful discrimination, and with all other State efforts to guarantee fair employment practices under this contract, and promptly comply with all requests and directions from the State Commission for Human Rights or any of its officers or agents relating to prevention of discriminatory employment practices.
- 4.6 Full cooperation in paragraph 4.5 includes, but is not limited to, being a witness in any proceeding involving questions of unlawful discrimination if that is requested by any official or agency of the State of Alaska; permitting employees of the contractor to be witnesses or complainants in any proceeding involving questions of unlawful discrimination, if that is requested by any official or agency of the State of Alaska; participating in meetings; submitting periodic reports on the equal employment aspects of present and future employment; assisting inspection of the contractor's facilities; and promptly complying with all State directives considered essential by any office or agency of the State of Alaska to insure compliance with all federal and State laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the prevention of discriminatory employment practices.
- 4.7 Failure to perform under this article constitutes a material breach of contract.

Article 5. Termination.

The Project Director, by written notice, may terminate this contract, in whole or in part, when it is in the best interest of the State. In the absence of a breach of contract by the contractor, the State is liable only for payment in accordance with the payment provisions of this contract for services rendered before the effective date of termination.

Article 6. No Assignment or Delegation.

The contractor may not assign or delegate this contract, or any part of it, or any right to any of the money to be paid under it, except with the written consent of the Project Director and the Agency Head.

Article 7. No Additional Work or Material.

No claim for additional services, not specifically provided in this contract, performed or furnished by the contractor, will be allowed, nor may the contractor do any work or furnish any material not covered by the contract unless the work or material is ordered in writing by the Project Director and approved by the Agency Head.

Article 8. Independent Contractor.

The contractor and any agents and employees of the contractor act in an independent capacity and are not officers or employees or agents of the State in the performance of this contract.

Article 9. Payment of Taxes.

As a condition of performance of this contract, the contractor shall pay all federal, State, and local taxes incurred by the contractor and shall require their payment by any Subcontractor or any other persons in the performance of this contract. Satisfactory performance of this paragraph is a condition precedent to payment by the State under this contract.

Article 10. Ownership of Documents.

All designs, drawings, specifications, notes, artwork, and other work developed in the performance of this agreement are produced for hire and remain the sole property of the State of Alaska and may be used by the State for any other purpose without additional compensation to the contractor. The contractor

agrees not to assert any rights and not to establish any claim under the design patent or copyright laws. Nevertheless, if the contractor does mark such documents with a statement suggesting they are trademarked, copyrighted, or otherwise protected against the State's unencumbered use or distribution, the contractor agrees that this paragraph supersedes any such statement and renders it void. The contractor, for a period of three years after final payment under this contract, agrees to furnish and provide access to all retained materials at the request of the Project Director. Unless otherwise directed by the Project Director, the contractor may retain copies of all the materials.

Article 11. Governing Law; Forum Selection

This contract is governed by the laws of the State of Alaska. To the extent not otherwise governed by Article 3 of this Appendix, any claim concerning this contract shall be brought only in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska and not elsewhere.

Article 12. Conflicting Provisions.

Unless specifically amended and approved by the Department of Law, the terms of this contract supersede any provisions the contractor may seek to add. The contractor may not add additional or different terms to this contract; AS 45.02.207(b)(1). The contractor specifically acknowledges and agrees that, among other things, provisions in any documents it seeks to append hereto that purport to (1) waive the State of Alaska's sovereign immunity, (2) impose indemnification obligations on the State of Alaska, or (3) limit liability of the contractor for acts of contractor negligence, are expressly superseded by this contract and are void.

Article 13. Officials Not to Benefit.

Contractor must comply with all applicable federal or State laws regulating ethical conduct of public officers and employees.

Article 14. Covenant Against Contingent Fees.

The contractor warrants that no person or agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee except employees or agencies maintained by the contractor for the purpose of securing business. For the breach or violation of this warranty, the State may terminate this contract without liability or in its discretion deduct from the contract price or consideration the full amount of the commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

Article 15. Compliance.

In the performance of this contract, the contractor must comply with all applicable federal, state, and borough regulations, codes, and laws, and be liable for all required insurance, licenses, permits and bonds.

Article 16. Force Majeure:

The parties to this contract are not liable for the consequences of any failure to perform, or default in performing, any of their obligations under this Agreement, if that failure or default is caused by any unforeseeable Force Majeure, beyond the control of, and without the fault or negligence of, the respective party. For the purposes of this Agreement, Force Majeure will mean war (whether declared or not); revolution; invasion; insurrection; riot; civil commotion; sabotage; military or usurped power; lightning; explosion; fire; storm; drought; flood; earthquake; epidemic; quarantine; strikes; acts or restraints of governmental authorities affecting the project or directly or indirectly prohibiting or restricting the furnishing or use of materials or labor required; inability to secure materials, machinery, equipment or labor because of priority, allocation or other regulations of any governmental authorities.

APPENDIX B²
INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

Article 1. Indemnification

The Contractor shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the contracting agency from and against any claim of, or liability for error, omission or negligent act of the Contractor under this agreement. The Contractor shall not be required to indemnify the contracting agency for a claim of, or liability for, the independent negligence of the contracting agency. If there is a claim of, or liability for, the joint negligent error or omission of the Contractor and the independent negligence of the Contracting agency, the indemnification and hold harmless obligation shall be apportioned on a comparative fault basis. "Contractor" and "Contracting agency", as used within this and the following article, include the employees, agents and other contractors who are directly responsible, respectively, to each. The term "independent negligence" is negligence other than in the Contracting agency's selection, administration, monitoring, or controlling of the Contractor and in approving or accepting the Contractor's work.

Article 2. Insurance

Without limiting contractor's indemnification, it is agreed that contractor shall purchase at its own expense and maintain in force at all times during the performance of services under this agreement the following policies of insurance. Where specific limits are shown, it is understood that they shall be the minimum acceptable limits. If the contractor's policy contains higher limits, the state shall be entitled to coverage to the extent of such higher limits. Certificates of Insurance must be furnished to the contracting officer prior to beginning work and must provide for a notice of cancellation, non-renewal, or material change of conditions in accordance with policy provisions. Failure to furnish satisfactory evidence of insurance or lapse of the policy is a material breach of this contract and shall be grounds for termination of the contractor's services. All insurance policies shall comply with and be issued by insurers licensed to transact the business of insurance under AS 21.

2.1 Workers' Compensation Insurance: The Contractor shall provide and maintain, for all employees engaged in work under this contract, coverage as required by AS 23.30.045, and; where applicable, any other statutory obligations including but not limited to Federal U.S.L. & H. and Jones Act requirements. The policy must waive subrogation against the State.

2.2 Commercial General Liability Insurance: covering all business premises and operations used by the Contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

2.3 Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance: covering all vehicles used by the Contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

2.4 Professional Liability Insurance: covering all errors, omissions or negligent acts in the performance of professional services under this agreement. Limits required per the following schedule:

Contract Amount	Minimum Required Limits
Under \$100,000	\$300,000 per Claim / Annual Aggregate
\$100,000-\$499,999	\$500,000 per Claim / Annual Aggregate
\$500,000-\$999,999	\$1,000,000 per Claim / Annual Aggregate
\$1,000,000 or over	Refer to Risk Management

APPENDIX C

Article 1. Services to be performed by the Contractor

Article 1.1. On behalf of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), selected counsel will provide all services normally provided by bond counsel with respect to the authorization, sale, issuance, and delivery of debt securities, and all services as requested in connection with the exercise by AHFC of its purpose and powers in connection with the financing of its programs and/or projects. Such services may include but not necessarily be limited to the following:

A). Authorization, Sale, Issuance and Delivery of Debt Securities (Negotiated Sales). Services to be provided related to the authorization, sale, issuance and delivery of debt securities are expected to include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Confer with underwriters, underwriter's counsel, special tax counsel (if any), State Attorney General's office, Corporation staff and financial advisor, as necessary, in connection with the sale, delivery and issuance of debt.
2. Monitor the schedule of activities during each financing to assist the Corporation in meeting established deadlines.
3. Review and comment on all related security documents, including those prepared by counsel to the underwriter or other participants including, if applicable, the bond indenture, board resolution, investment agreement, bond purchase agreement, stand-by bond purchase agreement, insurance and indemnity agreement, or other form of credit enhancement, interest rate swap agreement or other derivative financial instruments.
4. Draft and/or review all documents necessary to sell and issue the debt through public or private sale.
5. Review the form and content of the preliminary and final official Statement or offering circular and recommend changes considered necessary or desirable to comply with all applicable requirements.
6. If requested by the Corporation, assist in presentations to credit market participants including rating agencies, investors, investment analysts, underwriters, letter of credit banks, bond insurers, or other providers of credit enhancement.
7. Advise the Corporation and other transaction participants upon request as to compliance with all legal requirements.
8. Be available, as requested by phone or in person, at all Board meetings where action on a proposed transaction is to be considered
9. Arrange for the bonds to be registered in book-entry form.
10. Review the proposed arrangements for closing and delivery of the bonds and planned investment of bond proceeds.
11. Review and comment on, at the request of the Corporation, investment agreement bid request forms, responses received to the requests, and form of the investment agreement.
12. Make available for conference and consultation such key personnel as may be needed in order to fully perform the requested services in an efficient and expeditious manner.
13. Render final approving opinions with respect to the issuance of the debt.
14. Prepare certificates, render opinions, and provide accounting instructions regarding compliance with Federal tax requirements unless the Corporation has elected to utilize the services of special tax counsel.

15. Coordinate the preparation, execution, and delivery of all documents required to sell, deliver, and issue the debt.
16. Prepare and distribute within thirty (30) days of the delivery date of the debt, up to twelve (12) sets of closing documents in both hard copy and electronic formats, three (3) of which are to be delivered to the Corporation.

B. Competitive Sales. In addition to those relevant services described above, the following additional services will be provided in the case of competitive sales including those applicable to Veteran's Mortgage Bonds:

1. In the case of Veteran's Mortgage Bonds, coordinate with the State Bond Committee requirements for approval of the amount and timing of the proposed transaction. Draft required resolutions and approval letters.
2. In the case of Veteran's Mortgage Bonds, consult and confer with the State Bond Committee as necessary in connection with their consideration of the amount and timing of the bond issue.
3. Review and comment on the bidding terms and conditions recommended by the Corporation's financial advisor for inclusion in the Official Notice of Sale.
4. Review financing objectives of the Corporation and make specific recommendations as to the details of the bond structure. These may include security provisions, protective and other covenants included to achieve rating objectives and provide market benefit, redemption provisions, debt service reserves, and maximum bid discounts.
5. Prepare the text and supervise the production of the Official Statement and Official Notice of Sale to be used in connection with the offering of bonds. Arrange for the publication and distribution of the Official Notice of Sale or Summary Official Notice of Sale.
6. Prepare drafts and present to the rating agencies, sufficiently in advance of the date set for receipt of bids for each bond issue, all relevant documents to permit them to evaluate and rate the bonds.
7. Arrange, with the assistance of the financial advisor, for the production/execution of the bonds and, if applicable, delivery to The Depository Trust Company.
8. Review the results of the bid opening and advise the Corporation as to each bid's compliance with the terms of the Official Notice of Sale.

C. Unrestricted Assets and Working Capital Projections. Services which may be requested in connection with reviews of the Corporation's unrestricted assets and working capital projections include:

1. Assist in reviews of financial agreement covenants and other representations which may have been made in connections with such agreements regarding maintenance of minimum levels of equity, unrestricted assets, and net liquid investments.
2. Review and comment on legal issues related to the existing plans providing for transfers of unrestricted assets to the State of Alaska such as the Dividend Plan, the 1994 State Payment Plan, and the 1995 State (Series) Transfer Plan or alternative plans, recognizing the Corporation's objective to (i) maintain existing debt ratings, (ii) comply with the terms of existing financial agreements, and (iii) minimize any negative impact on the Corporation's access to capital markets.
3. Review legal aspects related to transfers to the State of Alaska, program consolidations, or asset purchases.

D. Other Services. Other services not related to specific newly-issued debt financing transactions and to be provided only upon request:

1. Review fiscal investment policies/procedures and related laws, regulations, requirements and agreements. Provide suggestions to improve compliance and safe-guarding of assets.
2. Provide copies of all applicable Federal tax law changes reflected in code, regulations, rulings and announcements.

3. Draft and/or review various documents related to securities lending and short-term working capital financing arrangements including commercial paper programs, revolving credit facilities, and reverse repurchase agreement programs.
4. Advise the Corporation regarding applicable on-going disclosure requirements and draft or assist in the drafting of information designed to comply with such requirements or as may be desired for the improved marketability of the Corporation's debt securities.
5. Provide assistance and advice in connection with review or audit of a program or debt issuance by the Internal Revenue Services, or State of Alaska Division of Legislative Audit, Securities Exchange Commission, Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or other similar entity with review and regulatory functions.
6. Assist the Corporation in presentations to the Alaska State Legislature.
7. Advise the Corporation, review and/or draft program documents related to the administration of (i) Federal low-income housing tax credits, and (ii) mortgage credit certificates.

It is agreed between the parties that the State shall determine the scope of the services to be rendered by the Contractor. It is further agreed that the State may require a separate contract on any matter which, in its judgment, may be sufficiently complicated or prolonged to justify a separate contract.

Article 2. Contract Management

Article 2.1 The designated contact person for the Contractor is _____. The Contractor's services under this agreement shall be directed and managed from the contractor's _____ office. The Contractor may assign other consulting professionals to provide services under the contract after providing notice to, and obtaining approval from, the Project Director. All such individuals assigned to provide services under this Contract shall work under the direction and management of the individual listed above.

Article 2.2 The Contractor will maintain the involvement of those individuals identified in Article 2.1 above. In the event of an unforeseeable circumstance that requires substitution for any of those individuals, the Contractor shall notify the State in writing of the proposed substitution. The State reserves the right to accept or reject a proposed substitute. In addition, before substitution of any individual is effected, the State must approve the extent to which transitional time will be billed.

Article 2.3 At the discretion of the Project Director, the Contractor may be required to prepare an estimate of the time and costs necessary to complete any matter assigned under this contract.

Article 2.4 The contractor agrees to closely monitor costs incurred and fees to be charged for services provided under this agreement and to alert the Project Director before such costs and fees exceed the authorized contract amount. In the event the Contractor fails to notify the Project Director prior to incurring a cost overrun, the contractor shall assume liability for any excess costs and fees incurred up until the time at which the contractor notifies the project director of the overrun.

Article 2.5 The period of performance, scope, and amount of this agreement may be amended in writing at the discretion of the State. In addition, the parties to this agreement acknowledge that work may begin on the date shown in Article 3. ("Period of Performance") and that the foregoing date may precede the date of execution of this agreement because immediate performance is required to serve the best interest of the state.

Article 2.6 The Attorney General's Office shall be the primary point of contact for all substantive dealings with the media. In the event the Contractor is contacted by media representatives concerning this or other cases being handled on behalf of the state, the Contractor should decline any comment beyond confirming factual matters that are already a matter of public record and refer the individuals to the Project Director.

Article 2.7 **FOREIGN CONTRACTING:** By signature on this Contract, the Contractor certifies that all services provided under this contract by the contractor and all subcontractors shall be performed in the United States. Failure to comply with this requirement will cause the state to reject the bid or proposal as non-responsive, or cancel the contract.

Article 2.8 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** By signature on this contract, the contractor certifies that:

- 1) the contractor is not established and headquartered or incorporated and headquartered, in a country recognized as Tier 3 in the most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report; or 2) if the contractor is established and headquartered or incorporated and headquartered, in a country recognized as Tier 3 in the most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report, a certified copy of the contractor's policy against human trafficking must be submitted to the State of Alaska prior to contract award.

Article 3. General Litigation Policies

Article 3.1 The Contractor shall represent the State in a manner that is consistent with the State's philosophy of pursuing litigation in an aggressive and forthright manner while maintaining the overall objective of resolving litigation in the most expeditious and cost-effective manner.

The Contractor shall avoid taking extreme advocacy positions that are not likely to have a substantive impact on the litigation. Coercive, delaying or obstructive tactics are also to be avoided. In addition, the State discourages engaging in motion practice unless there is some clear, strategic advantage to be gained. Where appropriate, however, motions for judgment on the pleadings or for summary judgment pursuant to applicable rules should be employed to resolve or refine as many issues in dispute as possible.

Lengthy interrogatories or requests for extensive document production solely for the purpose of burdening another party are to be avoided. It is generally recognized that costly delays frequently result from abuses of the discovery process. The Contractor, in consultation with the Project Director, should consider available remedies when another party appears to be abusing the discovery process.

Article 3.2 The Contractor shall identify and consider early in the proceedings, and at each stage thereafter, the settlement possibilities of the dispute in order to achieve the greatest degree of cost-effectiveness. The Contractor should promptly report any and all settlement overtures received to the Project Director to permit his or her involvement in planning and negotiations.

Article 3.3 The Department of Law, Civil Division does not normally have the authority or responsibility for instituting, conducting or disposing of criminal proceedings. The department's policy is that the settlement of civil litigation may not, expressly or by implication, extend to the disposition of any criminal charges or recommendations with respect to such charges. In undertaking any settlement negotiations the Contractor shall not agree either to not disclose or not refer to law enforcement authorities any information relating to a possible criminal violation or investigation.

Article 3.4 The Contractor should be alert to and apprise the State of any opportunities for utilizing non-judicial dispute resolution approaches. Generally speaking, the State does not favor the use of arbitration or other forms of binding alternative dispute resolution; however, certain non-binding approaches, such as mediation or mini-trials, may result in a faster, less expensive resolution of disputes.

Article 3.5 In the event of any adverse ruling, the Contractor must notify the Project Director promptly in order that a decision may be made regarding possible appeals. No appeal may be taken without the prior approval of the Project Director, but the Contractor should protect the state's appeal rights pending a decision to appeal.

Article 3.6 The Project Director or the Attorney General's Office shall be the primary points of contact for all substantive dealings with the media. In the event the Contractor is contacted by media representatives concerning this or other cases being handled on behalf of the state, the Contractor should decline any comment beyond confirming factual matters that are already a matter of public record and refer the individuals to the Project Director.

Article 3.7 Prior to approaching employees of other government agencies for any purpose, including scheduling depositions or requesting documents, the Contractor shall notify the Project Director. In the event that such a contact or request for information is deemed to be of a sensitive nature, it may be coordinated directly by the Project Director.

APPENDIX D

Article 1. Consideration

Article 1.1 In full consideration of the Contractor's performance under this agreement, the State shall pay the Contractor for the professional services of the following professionals at these hourly rates.

NAME	TITLE	RATE
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Per the Contractor's proposal, the rates are all-inclusive of all expenses and costs associated with the bond counsel and disclosure counsel services.

AHFC will be charged at the hourly rates above up to the following maximum fee amounts per transaction type. If the time charged to a particular transaction should not reach the established maximum, Contractor shall charge AHFC the lower fee.

First issue using substantially different security document	\$ _____
Subsequent issues without significant changes to security documents	\$ _____

In addition, the State will reimburse the Contractor for the services of other consulting professionals or temporary personnel that may be employed to provide services under this agreement so long as the use of such additional personnel and their rates are approved in advance by the State's project director.

Article 1.2 The State agrees to reimburse the Contractor on a monthly or other periodic basis for reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred under this contract. No reimbursement shall be made for any administrative, surcharge, or other overhead recovery fee. **Unless otherwise noted,** reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses shall be limited to actual costs except that reimbursement for those specific services or expenses listed below shall be limited as follows:

<u>Service or Expense</u>	<u>Charge/Rate</u>
Reproduction	\$0.10 per page
Computerized Database Research	At cost as invoiced
Courier Services	
Automobile Messenger Deliveries	At cost as invoiced
Overnight Deliveries (such as UPS, Federal Express, Express Mail, DHL)	At cost as invoiced
Postage	At cost
Telephone	At cost as invoiced
Telecopier	\$0.75(local), \$1.50(domestic), \$2.25(international)
Travel and Lodging	
Hotel Accommodations	Not to exceed \$300.00/night
Air Fare	Not to exceed coach class
Cab Fare	At cost as invoiced
Meals & Incidental Expenses	Flat rate payment of \$60.00/day for each full day (midnight to midnight) of travel.

Reimbursement for any of the above shall be limited to actual costs. No reimbursement shall be made for any administrative, surcharge, or other overhead recovery fee. Reimbursement shall not be made for the purchase or lease of office space, furnishings, equipment, or software unless approved in advance by the Deputy Attorney General. Upon conclusion of this agreement, unless the Deputy Attorney General approves other arrangements, the ownership of any furnishings, equipment, or software purchased under this contract shall revert back to the State and those items returned to the Department of Law.

Reimbursement for secretarial overtime or other temporary administrative or clerical assistance may be authorized but only if required by the nature or timing of assignments made under this contract (e.g. large projects or court imposed deadlines) and not because of other client work or firm priorities.

Unless otherwise approved by the Project Director, reimbursement for airline travel costs under this contract shall be limited to coach class fares. Contractor will not bill the State for time in travel status, except for that time during which the individual has performed work on the State's matter while in travel status; in that situation the Contractor shall adhere to billing rates provided in Article 1.1 of this appendix.

Reimbursement of hotel costs shall be limited to a maximum of \$300.00 per night unless otherwise approved by the Project Director. The Contractor shall, when possible, use moderately priced hotels comparable to those used by Department of Law employees. Reimbursement for meals and other incidental expenses shall be made at the flat rate of \$60.00 per day for each full day (midnight to midnight) of travel along with partial payment of \$45.00 for the day of departure and \$45.00 for the day of return.

Article 1.3 Unless the contract is amended in writing, the total sum expended under this agreement shall not exceed \$1,500,000 over the life of the contract (potentially five years) including all out-of-pocket expenses.

Article 2. Billing Procedures

Article 2.1 The Contractor agrees to bill the State within thirty days of the end of the monthly billing period. All billing statements shall be sent directly to the state's designated Project Director with a pdf copy emailed to 03ContractPayments@alaska.gov

Article 2.2 The Contractor's billing statements shall be itemized to show the agency contract number, time spent, a task description and the date that tasks were performed by the name and hourly rate of the individual performing the work. All billing statements shall include an itemization of all costs and copies of invoices for travel and other out-of-pocket expenses.

Article 2.3 As a standard cost control practice, the State may conduct an audit of time and cost records of the Contractor, its employees and subcontractors. Any such audit may be conducted at the Contractor's offices or a place mutually agreed to by the Contractor and the Project Director.

Article 2.4 Billing rates are capped for the first three years of the Contract. If the State opts to renew the contract, the Contractor may then seek an adjustment to its billing rates, using the following process:

- a. notify the Project Director and obtain approval in writing at least sixty (60) days before activating any change in billing rates;
- b. specify the impact the rate adjustment would have on the existing workplan and budget; and
- c. limit the change in any individual billing rate to an amount that does not exceed the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the locale from which the services are being rendered, or obtain the approval of the Project Director for any increase above the CPI.

If billing rates are increased under this Article, the new rates shall be capped for one year following the date of the increase.