

City of Myrtle Beach Request for Qualifications

RFQ 24-R0011 Opioid Remediation Planning Program

Issue Date: November 27, 2023



The City of Myrtle Beach will not be responsible for any errors, omissions, or misrepresentations regarding any plans or solicitation documents that are obtained from any source other than the City of Myrtle Beach. It is the Contractor's sole responsibility to verify the authenticity of all documents associated with this project. The Contractor will be liable for any losses, damages, costs, and/or expenses incurred by operating from plans or documents that are not obtained directly from the City of Myrtle Beach.

www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com/services/bids_and_purchasing/index.php

INTRODUCTION

The City of Myrtle Beach seeks to obtain qualifications of professional consultants to cultivate a coordinated alignment of regional stakeholders to comprehensively remediate the detrimental effects of the opioid crisis. This will include the identification of the demographic and geographic gaps in access to treatment intervention services and supportive resources, a subsequent regional master action plan inclusive of programmatic implementation, and establishment of essential infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

When discussing statistics related to the opioid epidemic, it is essential to recognize that while these statistics and data sets are shocking, these were not just numbers – they were people, each a member of society. They were someone’s child, parent, loved one, or friend. The opioid epidemic has been inundating communities and killing our loved ones since 1999. Overdoses have subsequently claimed the lives of more than 932,000 people and have grown exponentially in recent years. According to a CDC release, drug overdose deaths throughout the United States increased by a shocking 28.5% during a 12-month period, ending in April 2021 (CDC release: 11/17/2021).

Like many states, South Carolina has been increasingly impacted over the past several years. Recent data from 2019 – 2020 suggest that overdose deaths involving opioids in the state have increased far more than the national average. From 2019 to 2020, there was a 53.7% increase in the total number of overdose deaths and a 104.8% increase in overdose deaths involving fentanyl (Just Plain Killers.) During testimony in support of a South Carolina bill set to impose criminal sanctions for trafficking fentanyl, a grieving mother described fentanyl as a ‘weapon of mass destruction.’ Fentanyl has been plaguing and poisoning our community over the past few years, and the alarming data about the fatal effects locally, further supports a needed change to address the subsequent complex issues.

When compared to national, state, and regional data, the Horry County community has been disproportionately affected by opioids. According to the most recent data provided by the CDC and Just Plain Killers, opioid-related deaths made up 74% of overdose deaths throughout the nation. In comparison, opioid-related deaths within South Carolina made up over 80% of overdose deaths. In Horry County alone, opioid-related deaths made up over 8% of all opioid-related deaths throughout the entire state.

In 2020, Horry County had 197 individuals die from an overdose, which comprised 11% of the state’s total overdoses. Overdose deaths involving fentanyl in Horry County have increased by 42.8% from 2019 to 2020 (Just Plain Killers.) The City of Myrtle Beach alone has seen an alarming increase in overdose deaths. Out of the 16 zip codes within Horry County that cover a jurisdictional land mass and do not represent post office boxes, City of Myrtle Beach’s 29577 zip code totaled over 20% of all fatal overdoses in Horry County in 2021, and over 25% in 2022.

SCOPE OF WORK

This regional planning initiative has the dual purpose of a needs based assessment (inclusive of stakeholder engagement) and subsequent master action plan specifically tailored to remediate the uniquely detrimental effects of the opioid epidemic that have been plaguing the Horry County community. To achieve these goals, the consultant will:

1. Complete a community needs assessment to specifically identify:
 - a. Root causes of addiction and overdose within or communities.
 - b. Objectives for reducing harm related to the opioid epidemic.
 - c. Geographic areas and demographic populations with the greatest deficit of access to treatment intervention services and supportive resources.
 - d. Opportunities for expansion of established services and cross-system collaboration.
 - e. Duplication of efforts and gaps in resources.

Comprehensive qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis is expected. Minimum data collection must include the utilization and analysis of previously conducted community assessments, available data, and convening of two subject matter expert roundtables inclusive of individuals with lived experience in addiction, homelessness, and/or mental health.

2. Create a subsequent regional master action plan that will address the following:
 - a. Remediation of the above identified needs.
 - b. Inclusion of the development of multi-functional infrastructure, mobile units, and/or lacking programmatic implementation.
 - c. Utilization of approved opioid abatement strategies outlined by the South Carolina Recovery Fund (SCORF) Board.

DELIVERABLES/TIMETABLE

The Consultant will be required to produce a written report of all findings and a regional master plan with evidence-based recommendations. Both documents will become property of the City of Myrtle Beach. In addition, the Consultant may be required to give oral presentations to select governing bodies and community groups.

The needs-based assessment and subsequent regional master action plan must be completed within four and a half months, as the finalized plan must be submitted to the SCORF Board within six (6) months post-award.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Qualifications packets are to be organized in four (4) sections as described below:

Section 1 – Consultant Overview (20 points)

- Complete Consultant’s questionnaire (Exhibit A.)
- Include a statement of Consultant’s capacity to convey long-term objectives to community stakeholders.

Section 2 – Related Experience (40 points)

- Consultant should have significant knowledge and deep understanding of the current trifecta of social issues (chemical dependency, mental health, and homelessness). Provide a minimum of two (2) years of experience in completing large-scale community needs-based assessments.
- Provide documentation of education and research experience. At a minimum, a bachelor’s degree is required; although a master’s degree with significant applicable research experience, particularly in opioid addiction and evidence-based remediation strategies, is preferred.

Section 3 – Project Team (30 points)

- Include resume/biography of key individuals who will be working on this project.
- Include a high-level staffing plan identifying the time each individual will be dedicated to the project and the role that each individual will play in completing the scope of work.

Section 4 – References (10 points)

- Provide at least three (3) client references with name, title, company, current phone number, and active e-mail address. (The City reserves the right to contact other references in addition to those provided.)
- Provide three (3) examples of similar projects, including services provided, start/completion dates, community outcomes, etc.

Qualifications packet shall be no more than twenty (20) 8-1/2” x 11” double-sided pages (not including cover, index tabs.) Additional information may be submitted as an appendix to the qualifications packet, but do not

submit extraneous or promotional materials. The City of Myrtle Beach does not expressly state or imply any obligation to reimburse responding contractors in preparing submissions in response to this request.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Interested Consultants should submit six (6) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy on a thumb drive in a sealed envelope. Submit qualifications to:

City of Myrtle Beach Procurement Division
3231 Mr. Joe White Avenue
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Attention: Ann Sowers, Procurement Manager

Qualifications packet must be submitted by 2:00PM (local time) on Thursday, January 18, 2024. No e-mail submissions will be accepted. The City is not responsible for late or misdirected mail. Request for Qualifications is not subject to public opening. However, all information submitted in response to this RFQ will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and will be made available for public review upon request.

QUESTIONS

All communications concerning this RFQ shall be directed via e-mail to Ann Sowers, Procurement Manager. Respondents shall not contact any other staff at the City of Myrtle Beach, City of North Myrtle Beach, City of Conway, or Horry County (related parties.) Any communication to any related party may be just cause for disqualification.

Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing via e-mail to asowers@cityofmyrtlebeach.com. Official time of receipt of questions will be marked by the time the e-mail is received, and not by the time that it is sent. E-mail messages can take up to ten (10) minutes or more to be delivered to the intended recipient. All questions received by the deadline of 10:00AM (local time) on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 will be answered via addendum.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The City will identify a team of individuals to independently review and evaluate the qualifications received. After independent review, the team will work together to arrive at a final ranking of all submittals. Exhibit B shows the rubric that will be used to evaluate and compare all qualifications.

Following the scoring of RFQ submissions, interviews may be conducted with high-scoring candidates to determine which consultants are most qualified. However, the City reserves the right to advance directly to negotiations with one or more consultants if there is a subset of candidates that are deemed the most qualified or the best fit to achieve the goals of this project.

The City will then negotiate with the number one ranked consultant to determine if it is possible to come or enter into agreement. If the City determines that it is unable to come to an acceptable agreement, or if the City refuses to approve the number one ranked consultant, then the City shall negotiate with the number two ranked consultant. This process shall be followed until agreement can be reached.

The City reserves the right to waive technicalities or irregularities, accept the qualifications or reject any and all qualifications received, re-advertise the project, or to negotiate separately with any source whatsoever in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of the City.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

RFQ Release	Monday, November 27, 2023
Questions Due at 10:00AM (local time) to: asowers@cityofmyrtlebeach.com	Tuesday, December 12, 2023
Questions Answered	Thursday, December 21, 2023 by Close of Business
Responses Due	Thursday, January 18, 2024
Evaluation of Qualifications	Thursday, January 18, 2024 – Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Interviews (if requested by the City)	Week of February 5, 2024
Anticipated Award	Week of February 12, 2024

The City reserves the right to adjust dates as necessary.

Exhibit A – Consultant’s Questionnaire

Please provide a narrative of the following (attach additional pages as necessary):

What makes you/your agency uniquely qualified to provide a comprehensive community needs assessment?

Summarize your research or practical experience with unhoused individuals, mental health, and/or chemical dependency. If the above experience does not exist, please explain any research or practical experience in working with vulnerable populations.

Please describe your understanding of the scope of service and share your preliminary ideas on how you would accomplish the deliverables as the Community Facilitator.

Describe your experience conducting needs assessments including data collection and review, focus groups, and identifying existing services, gaps, and needs.

Include your experience in identifying resources or partnerships to address gaps and needs.

How will you engage both community members and stakeholders in Horry County to obtain the necessary information needed for a comprehensive assessment?

Exhibit B – Evaluation Rubric

Evaluator's Name: _____

Date of Evaluation: _____

Offeror's Name: _____

Category	Maximum Score	Assigned Score
<u>Contractor Overview</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultant Questionnaire• Ability to work with community stakeholders	20 points	
<u>Related Experience</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum of 2 years• Education levels	40 points	
<u>Project Team</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resumes• Staffing Plan	30 points	
<u>References</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project References• Project Samples	10 points	
Totals	100 points	

Comments: