



Sullivan County Purchasing Department

Request For Qualifications

RFQ 2023-7171023 (MR)

for

Architectural & Engineering Services for Middle School STEM / Career Exploration Labs

Formal submittals must be received
by 2:00 p.m., on October 12, 2023

Submit Qualifications to:
Sullivan County Purchasing Department
Michelle Ramey, Chief Deputy Purchasing Agent
3411 Hwy 126, Suite 201
Blountville, TN 37617

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1. **PUBLIC NOTICE**

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Sealed Request for Qualifications for the following will be received by the Sullivan County Purchasing Agent until 2:00 P.M., Eastern Time, **October 12, 2023**. The names of the responding firms will be publicly announced and recorded by the Sullivan County Purchasing Agent. All proposals will be considered for award or rejection at a later date.

PROJECT: ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM/
CAREER EXPLORATION LABS

Documents for the above referenced items are available on the Sullivan County's Vendor Registry website at <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Vendor/Selection/SubscriptionSelection?buyerSource=sullivan-county-tn-vendor-registration>. All questions regarding this request must be submitted via email to Michelle Ramey, Chief Deputy Purchasing Agent at michelle.ramey@sullivancountyttn.gov, no later than **October 3, 2023**, end of business day. All questions will be answered in an addendum which will be issued on **October 6, 2023**.

Funding for design services is being provided by the Innovative School Model (ISM) Grant with funds administered by the Tennessee Department of Education.

By submission of a signed submittal, the submitter certifies total compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and all regulations promulgated thereunder. Qualified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) are encouraged to submit.

No submitted proposals may be withdrawn for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the scheduled closing time of the receipt of submittals. All submittals shall be signed, sealed, and addressed to the Sullivan County Purchasing Agent, 3411 Hwy 126, Suite 201, Blountville, Tennessee 37617 and marked "RFQ#2023-7171023 (MR) ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM/ CAREER EXPLORATION LABS". Four (4) sets of proposals must be submitted with an additional electronic copy submitted on a USB drive. Sullivan County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids received, to waive any informalities in bidding and to re-advertise.

PUB 1T: 09/13/2023

2. STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Offices of the Sullivan County Purchasing Agent on behalf of the Sullivan County Department of Education is requesting Statements of Qualifications from qualified Architectural & Engineering firms to provide professional design services for multiple Middle School STEM / Exploration Lab renovation projects as listed in the Scope of Work. Interested firms are invited to submit qualification proposals for consideration. Sullivan County reserves the right to award this Request for Qualifications to multiple firms.

Sullivan County will review all complete proposals received by the deadline. As required by law, Sullivan County will select the best qualified firm(s). The selection process will be based on a review of the firm's qualifications, project experience, client references, and in some cases, interviews. Fee proposal will be requested from the selected firm(s) as the final step in the process.

An AIA Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect will be executed between Sullivan County and the selected firm(s).

Any cost incurred in preparation of Request for Qualification Proposals, attendance to meetings and/or interview will solely be the responsibility of the interested firm.

This procurement will follow the qualifications-based competitive proposal procedures of the Brooks Act. As such, no fee structure is to be included in the Request for Qualification.

By submission of a response to the Request for Qualifications, the firm certifies total compliance with TITLE VI and TITLE VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and all regulations promulgated thereunder.

Any agreement resulting from this Request for Qualifications process shall be governed by all state and local laws.

3. PROJECT FUNDING

All potential projects listed in the Scope of Work will be funded with Innovative School Model (ISM) grant with funds administered by the Tennessee Department of Education. Contracts for professional design engineering services will be awarded to the firm that provides the most responsive/ responsible proposal. All State and Local regulations must be followed for each of the projects listed in the Scope of Work.

BACKGROUND

a. Sullivan County, Tennessee

Sullivan County, Tennessee is located in the hills of Northeast Tennessee. Sullivan County, Tennessee is part of the Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol, TN-VA Metropolitan Statistical Area, and a component of the Tri-Cities region. Population of Sullivan County was 158,348 in 2019. Sullivan County is the second-oldest county in the State of Tennessee.

b. Sullivan County Department of Education

The Sullivan County Department of Education serves approximately 9,500+ students, kindergarten through 12th grade. The School System includes two High Schools, three Middle Schools, and ten Elementary Schools. In addition to K-12, Sullivan County provides pre-kindergarten at seven elementary schools. Students with special needs receive pre-kindergarten experiences at five elementary schools. Special Education services are provided to approximately 1,700 students ages 6-21.

4. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. All proposals shall be submitted sealed, plainly marked "**RFQ #2023-7171023 (MR) - ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM/ CAREER EXPLORATION LABS**" to the Sullivan County Purchasing Department at the following address:

Sullivan County Purchasing
3411 Hwy 126, Suite 201
Blountville, TN 37617

2. **Questions:** Prospective proposers will have an opportunity to submit questions regarding this Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Questions must be submitted via e-mail to Michelle Ramey, Chief Deputy Purchasing Agent via michelle.ramey@sullivancountyttn.gov no later than **October 3, 2023, by end of business day**. Responses to the questions will be issued as an addendum no later than **October 6, 2023** and will be posted on the Sullivan County Vendor Registry site through the following link: <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Vendor/Selection/SubscriptionSelection?buyerSource=sullivan-county-tn-vendor-registration>. In no case will verbal communication override written communications or documentation.
3. **Acceptance of Proposal:** Request for proposals and amendments thereto, if received by the Sullivan County Purchasing Department after the date and time specified for opening, will not be considered. It will be the responsibility of the Proposer to see that their proposal is received by the Sullivan County Purchasing Department by the specified time and date. There will be no exceptions!! Date of postmark will not be considered. Facsimile or electronic proposals will not be accepted. Changes shown on the outside of an envelope or package will not be acceptable.

4. **Award or Rejection:** Sullivan County reserves the right to award by project or total proposal; to reject any and/or all proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any informality if it is determined to be in the best interest of Sullivan County.
5. **Signature:** All proposals must be signed by an authorized, responsible officer or employee having the authority to enter into contracts. Obligations assumed by such signature must be fulfilled. The original proposal, which has been signed, shall be considered the official copy of the RFQ by Sullivan County.
6. **No Contact Policy:** From the period beginning on the date of the issuance of the Request for Qualifications any contact initiated by a proposer with any Sullivan County Representative concerning this proposal is strictly prohibited, unless such contact is made with the Purchasing Department Representative listed herein or with said Representative's authorization. Any unauthorized contact may cause the disqualification of the proposer from this Purchasing Transaction.
7. **Protest Policy:** Any protest to a bid award by Sullivan County shall be submitted in writing to the Purchasing Agent with a copy to the Sullivan County Mayor and delivered not later than seven (7) calendar days from the date of the county's award decision. Such protest must include a protest bond in the amount of \$350 (cashier's check payable to the Sullivan County Trustee or Cash) submitted to the Purchasing Agent before the County will consider the protest. This protest bond will serve as a guarantee by the protester of the validity and accuracy of the protest. If the protest is denied by the County Mayor, the bond will be retained to cover costs associated with the protest. The steps for dispute resolution may include:
 - A meeting with the Purchasing Agent, the requisitioning department's manager, and representatives from the disputing party to discuss and resolve the complaint.
 - Information from the aforementioned meeting will be forwarded to the County Attorney for review.
 - A written decision letter stating the reasons for the decision will be prepared by the Purchasing Agent and submitted in writing to the protestor and all parties involved.
 - Purchases will not be allowed under this procurement until a final decision is rendered.
 - In the event that purchases must be made before a final decision is rendered, the emergency purchase procedure will be used.
8. **Conflict of Interest:** Proposer, by submitting the enclosed Compliance Affidavit with the submittal, is certifying that no gratuity of any kind and no part of the total contract amount provided herein shall be paid directly or indirectly to any officer or employee of Sullivan County as wages, compensations, or gifts in exchange for acting as officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to Proposer in connection with any goods provided or work contemplated or performed relative to the agreement. A breach of ethical standards could result in civil or criminal sanction and/or debarment or suspension from being a supplier, contractor, or subcontractor under County contracts.

9. **Non-Collusion:** Vendors, by submitting the enclosed Compliance Affidavit, certify that the enclosed proposal is not the result of, or affected by, any unlawful act of collusion with any other person or company engaged in the same line of business or commerce, or any other fraudulent act punishable under Tennessee or United States Law. In addition, Sullivan County reserves the right to disqualify any submittal, before or after opening, upon evidence of collusion with the intent to defraud or any other such illegal practices conducted by any responding firm. Any remedies in the firm's response, including agreement, license agreement, terms, conditions, literature, etc. that may be considered an agreement to waive the legal rights of the citizens of Sullivan County shall be considered cause for rejection. In the County's sole judgment, failure to properly identify a conflict of interest may result in disqualification of a proposer or subsequent termination of the contract. During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees to provide a drug free workplace.
10. **Indemnification:** The vendor shall guarantee and certify by submitting a response to this solicitation that if successful, they shall indemnify and defend the county against any and all claims or legal actions arising as a result of their performance of the contract, whether or not such claims relate to damages or alleged damages sustained by physical injury to contractors personnel, subcontractors, County employees or other persons, or against any lawsuits arising from alleged or actual patent infringements, and shall hold the County, its various departments, employees, and any and all persons or entities acting on its behalf harmless from the same.
11. **Force Majeure:** In the event that the performance of any obligation under this contract, by either party, is prevented due to acts of God, exchange controls, export or import controls, government restriction, wars, hostilities, blockades, civil disturbances, revolutions, strikes, terrorist attacks, lockouts, pandemics, epidemics, plague, outbreaks of infectious disease, including but not limited to COVID-19, any other public health crisis, including stay at home orders, group size restrictions, travel restrictions, or employee restrictions, issued by the Governor or a public health authority, such as Sullivan County Regional Health Department, or recommendation of the Center for Disease Control or the National Institutes of Health to limit the spread of COVID-19, or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of a party, such party will not be responsible to the other party for failure or delay in performance of its obligations under this Contract. Each party will promptly notify the other party of such Force Majeure condition and make good faith efforts to ensure goods or services are provided as per the contract. However, if Force Majeure conditions occur and both parties mutually agree, this contract may be cancelled. If cancelled, neither party will be considered in breach of contract. If funds have been paid for products or services that have not been received, the vendor will send the County a refund within thirty (30) days of the cancellation.
12. **Iran Divestment:** Pursuant to the Iran Divestment Act Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-106 requires the State of Tennessee Chief Purchasing Officer to publish, using creditable information freely available to the public, a list of persons it determines engage in investment activities in Iran, as described in §12-12-106. Inclusion on this list

makes a person ineligible to contract with Sullivan County; if a person ceases its engagement in investment activities in Iran, it may be removed from the list. The State of Tennessee list is available here:

<http://tennessee.gov/generalservices/article/Public-Information-Library>

Submission of this bid/quote/proposal, each vendor and each person signing on behalf of any vendor certifies, and in the case of a joint bid/quote/proposal, each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that each vendor is not on the list created pursuant to § 12-12-106

13. **Eligibility:** The vendor is eligible for employment on public contracts because no convictions or guilty pleas or pleas of nolo contendere to violations of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, mail fraud or state criminal violations with an award from the State of Tennessee or any political subdivision thereof have occurred.
14. **Title VI & VII of The Civil Rights Act:** It is the policy of Sullivan County Government that all its services and activities be administered in conformance with the requirements of Title VI & VII. By submission of the RFQ, the responding firm certifies compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights of 1964, as amended, and all regulations promulgated thereof.
15. **Taxes:** Sullivan County is exempt from sales tax. Certificates of tax exemption will be provided to the selected firm, upon request.
16. **Rejection of Proposals:** Sullivan County shall reject any proposal that is determined to be non-responsive. Sullivan County reserves the right to reject the proposal of any Proposer who previously failed to perform adequately for Sullivan County or any other governmental agency.
17. **Mistake in Proposals:** Proposers have the right to request withdrawal of their proposals from consideration due to error by giving notice not later than forty-eight (48) hours after qualification proposals are opened.
18. **Addenda:** In the event that it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFQ, written addenda will be issued. All addenda will be numbered in sequence, dated as of the date of issue, and sent via fax or email to all prospective proposers. The proposer shall acknowledge receipt of each addendum by signing in the space provided on the issued addendum and by submitting all addenda with their proposal.
19. **Disclosure:** RFQ proposals will not be publicly opened; only the names of the responding firms will be publicly announced and recorded by the Sullivan County Purchasing Agent. RFQ submittals will become the property of Sullivan County and will remain confidential until the selection processes have been concluded. During the selection processes, Sullivan County shall hold the contents of all correspondence, agenda, memoranda, discussions, or any other medium which could disclose any aspect of the firm's proficiency in strict confidence, sharing only with the panel responsible for evaluating the qualifications. Upon conclusion of the selection

process, all documents pertinent to the RFQ submittals will constitute public records and will be subject to public inspection under Tennessee law.

20. **Proposal:** One (1) original, three (3) additional copies and one (1) electronic version (formatted according to previously mentioned standards) are due no later than the date indicated as the closing date and time of this RFQ.
21. **Waiving of Informalities:** Sullivan County reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities in the proposal when it is in the best interest of Sullivan County.
22. **Related Costs:** Sullivan County is not responsible for any costs incurred by any vendor pursuant to the Request for Qualifications. The proposer shall be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the preparation and submission of its proposal.
23. **Insurance Requirements:** Prior to beginning these Services, Proposer shall, at Proposer's expense, obtain, keep in force during the term of this Agreement the following minimum amounts of insurance:
 - a. General Liability - occurrence basis bodily injury, personal injury and property damage - \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate;
 - b. Automobile liability - owner, hired, and non-owned bodily injury and property damage - \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence;
 - c. Workmen's compensation with statutory limits and employer's liability insurance with minimum limits of \$500,000, to provide for the payment of employees of Proposer employed on or in connection with the work and/or to their dependents, of worker's compensation benefits, including when required, occupational disease benefits in accordance with the U. S. Longshoremen's and Harbor Worker's Compensation Act and the Jones Act. With the prior approval of Sullivan County, Proposer may substitute different types of coverage for those specified as long as the total amount of required protection is not reduced.
 - d. Professional Liability – Errors and Omissions \$1,000,000 per occurrence and aggregate.

Sullivan County shall be named as additional insured on the certificates of insurance (General Liability and Automobile Liability) for such policies, and a certified copy of such certificates shall be provided to Sullivan County by Proposer prior to the start of Services. Proposer shall provide Sullivan County, upon its request, a certified copy of any insurance policy required by this Agreement. Any failure or non-coverage by such policy or the limit of any such insurance shall not limit the liability of Proposer to Sullivan County. The policy, or policies, shall contain a provision that such policy or policies may not be cancelled without thirty (30) days prior written notice of such

cancellation to Sullivan County. Insurance required hereunder shall be companies reasonably acceptable to Sullivan County.

24. **Compliance with all Laws:** Contractor is assumed to be familiar with and agrees to observe and comply with all state, and local laws, statutes, ordinances, and regulations, in any manner affecting the provision of goods and/or services, and all instructions and prohibitive orders issued regarding this work and shall obtain all necessary permits.
25. **Governing Law:** All contracts or purchase orders issued for this award will be governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee. Arbitration is not permitted and if a dispute arises between the parties concerning any aspect of the contract and/or purchase order and it cannot be resolved by mutual agreement, any party may resort to resolution of the dispute by litigation in the state or federal courts for Sullivan County Tennessee. The parties waive their right to jury trial. Mandatory and exclusive venue and jurisdiction for any disputes shall be in state or federal courts Sullivan County Tennessee.
26. **Breach of Contract:** A party shall be deemed to have breached the contract if any of the following occurs:
 - Failure to provide products or services that conform to the contract requirements.
 - Failure to maintain/submit any report require hereunder.
 - Failure to perform in full or in part any of the other conditions of the contract.
 - Violation of any warranty.
27. **Contract Termination for Cause:** If the contractor fails to properly perform is obligations under this contract in a timely or proper manner, or if the contractor violates any terms of this contract, the county shall have the right to terminate the contract and withhold payments in excess of fair compensation for completed services. In the event the contact is terminated for due cause by the county, the county shall have the option of awarding the contract to the next proposer or proposing again.
28. **Contract Termination for Convenience:** The County may, by written notice to the contractor, terminate this contract without cause for any reason. Said termination shall not be deemed a Breach of Contract by the County. The County must give notice of termination to the vendor at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of termination. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive compensation for satisfactory, authorized service completed as of the termination date, but in no event shall the County be liable to the Contractor for compensation for any service which has not been rendered. Upon such termination, the vendor shall have no right to any actual general, special, incidental, consequential, or any other damages whatsoever of any description or amount.
29. **Licenses:** The Contractor must be a licensed professional as required by the State of Tennessee for any services in this contract requiring such licensure. Additionally, all

sub-consultants/contractors employed by the prime consultant/contractor for the performance of the services requested in this RFQ must be licensed as professional service firms in the State of Tennessee if said sub-consultants/contractors will perform services that are considered professional in nature.

30. **No Benefit for Third Parties:** The services to be performed by the Contractor pursuant to the Agreement with the County are intended solely for the benefit of the County, and no benefit is conferred hereby, nor is any contractual relationship established herewith, upon or with any person or entity not a party to the agreement. No such person or entity shall be entitled to rely on the Contractor's performance of its services hereunder, no right to assert a claim against the County or the Contractor, its officers, employees, agents, or contractors shall accrue to the Contractor or to any subcontractors, independently retained professional consultant, supplier, fabricator, manufacturer, lender, tenant, insurer, surety, or any other third party as a result of this agreement or the performance or non-performance of the Contractor's services hereunder.
31. **Access to Third Party Contract Records:** All Contractors are required to retain all books, records, and other documents relative to the agreement for three (3) years after final payment and all other pending matters are closed. Contractors must agree that the County, State Agency, Comptroller General or any other Governmental entity may have full access to review any books, documents, papers, and records that directly pertain to all negotiated contracts. If an investigation or audit is in progress, records shall be maintained until the matter is closed.
32. **Non-Reliance of Parties:** Parties explicitly agree that they have not relied upon any earlier or outside representations other than what has been included in the Agreement. Furthermore, neither party has been induced to enter into this Agreement by anything other than the specific written terms set forth herein.
33. **ADA Compliance:** With regard to the services performed under this Agreement, Consultant will comply with all applicable requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq., ("ADA"). Consultant agrees that it will defend, indemnify, and hold the County harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or causes of action which arise out of any negligent and/or intentional act or omission by the Consultant, its employees, agents or representatives which violates the ADA. Consultant agrees that the County will not be responsible for any costs or expenses arising from Consultant's failure to comply with the ADA.
34. **Non-Boycott of Israel:** Concerning the Non-Boycott of Israel Act (TCA 12-4-1 et seq.), by submission of this bid/quote/proposal, each person signing on behalf certifies, and in the case of joint bid/quote/proposal, each party thereto certifies as to is own organization, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that each supplier is not boycotting Israel pursuant to § 12-4-1 and will not during the term of any award. Note: Applicable only to contracts of \$250,000.00 or more and to suppliers with 10 or more employees.

5. SCOPE OF WORK

a. Services Provided

Services provided would include Architectural & Engineering design services for the renovation of classrooms into STEM/ Career Exploration Labs. Renovations at each location include installation of electrical, lighting, flooring, wall finish & cabinetry. The following is a general outline of services that may be required as appropriate for each specific project:

I. Design Services

1. Meet with Owner to establish project schedule(s) for each project, define objectives, and develop project plan for each project. Project Plan/ Schedule must include the bid process, pre-bid meeting, deadline for questions, bid opening, award, pre-construction meeting, project start date and completion date.
2. Develop design drawings and specifications which include any mechanical, electrical, and piping as needed.
3. Facilitate meetings as needed with Sullivan County Purchasing, Sullivan County Department of Education Personnel and Facility Maintenance Personnel.
4. Provide a schematic cost estimate and conceptual project schedule.
5. Facilitate meetings with Sullivan County Purchasing and Sullivan County Department of Education Staff to design documents, drawings, and outline specifications around the technical specifications.

II. Bid Administration

1. Develop and provide bid drawings and specifications to Sullivan County Purchasing and Sullivan County Department of Education for review; Provide assistance with the development of final bid package.
2. Issue design documents to the appropriate County officials for review as appropriate prior to bidding process.
3. Reproduce and issue the final bid package documents to plan rooms and potential bidders during the bid process.
4. Assist with the bid process including attending pre-bid meetings, issuance of addenda, assisting in receipt of bids, investigate and recommend award of contracts to lowest responsive bidder for each project and provide recommendation letter.

III. Construction Administration Phase

1. Facilitate Pre-Construction meeting and conduct regular construction progress meetings.
2. Provide Construction Administration.
 - a. Review, log and approve submittals, shop drawings, Request for Information etc.
 - b. Review construction reports.
 - c. Attend project progress meetings.
 - d. Review and approve applications for payment and make sure all required forms and documentation are submitted.

- e. Coordinate with designated Project Manager and Sullivan County Purchasing on all Request for Change Proposals, Change Orders, etc. including maintaining a log of all such documents.
 - f. Provide direction for questions and concerns from the contractor and Project Manager in resolution of problems.
3. Provide Field Services for entire construction period.
 - a. Conduct site visits as appropriate for the project.
 4. Conduct Substantial Completion Inspection, coordinate with Project Manager to create punch list, substantiate those items noted are completed, and issue Substantial Completion Certificate.

IV. Project Close Out

1. Provide support services as needed during the project close out process.
2. Issue Final Completion and Acceptance letter recommending acceptance.
3. Coordinate with all contractors, consultants, to develop a project O&M Manual to be submitted with final project as built drawings. (One hard copy of the O&M Manual and project as built documents will be submitted along with an electronic copy on a USB Drive)

Additional Services may be required as appropriate for the specific project.

b. Project Information

The following projects are tentatively scheduled:

1. **Sullivan Heights Middle School STEM/ Career Exploration Lab**
2. **Sullivan Central Middle School STEM/ Career Exploration Lab**

7. RFQ PROCESS AND INSTRUCTIONS

a. Submittal and Receipt of “Request for Qualifications”

- i. Proposals will be received by the Sullivan County Purchasing Agent until 2:00 P.M., Eastern Time on **October 12, 2023**, at the Sullivan County Courthouse, 3411 Hwy 126, Suite 201, Blountville, Tennessee 37617.
- ii. The Sealed Proposal shall be signed by an authorized representative and the sealed envelope addressed as follows:

**Purchasing Agent
 Sullivan County Purchasing Department
 3411 Hwy 126, Suite 201
 Blountville, Tennessee 37617**

“ RFQ#2023-7171023 (MR) Architectural & Engineering Services for Middle School STEM/ Career Exploration Labs”

- iii. Four (4) hard copies (One (1) original hard copy, Three (3) additional hard copies), and one (1) electronic copy of the entire proposal on USB drive is required.
- iv. Proposals, modifications, or corrections received after the scheduled closing time of the receipt of Proposals will not be considered. Sullivan County Purchasing Department is not responsible for delays in delivery by mail, courier, etc.
- v. Proposal may not be withdrawn for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the scheduled closing time of the receipt of Proposals.
- vi. No oral interpretation will be made to any Proposer as to the meaning of the Proposal Specifications or any part thereof. It is the intent of Sullivan County Purchasing Department to issue one (1) addendum, if necessary. Written request for clarification and/or interpretation must be submitted in writing via email by the end of the business day, **October 3, 2023**, and addendum will be issued on **October 6, 2023**, and will be available on Vendor Registry. Written requests shall be submitted to **Michelle Ramey, Chief Deputy Purchasing Agent** by email at michelle.ramey@sullivancountyttn.gov. It shall be the Proposer’s responsibility to make inquiry as to the addenda issued. Any and all addenda shall become part of the specifications and all Proposers shall be bound by such addenda, whether or not received by Proposer.

b. Submission Format and Content

- 1. Submissions should be complete, organized, and comply with the following conditions:
 - a. Follow the submission format as scores will reflect the submitted format.
 - b. Provide the submission in a letter-size binder approximately 10" x 11 ½" x 1 ½" deep or less.
 - c. Information should be bound in a compact manner for long-term storage at a maximum of 1 ½" in depth.
 - d. Limit Request for Qualifications to a total of 30 pages or less.
 - e. Under project references, clearly state the name of the firm who performed the references work. If work was performed under the employment of another firm, indicate so by naming that firm. Provide a description of the specific work performed by the firm or individual referencing each project.
- 2. Binder Information
 - a. RFQ Submission Checklist Form should be placed in the Front of the Binder
 - b. Tabs (1 through 6) include the following information:
 - Tab 1: Firm Information
 - Tab 2: Firm’s Management Style & Philosophy

Tab 3: Firm References

Tab 4: Project Team

Tab 5: Forms

Tab 6: Supplemental Information –Optional

A detail of what is to be included in each tab is included in this Request for Qualifications on the following pages.

Tab 1: Firm Information

- 1.1 Firm Name:
- 1.2 Business Address:
- 1.3 Telephone/fax number:
- 1.4 Contact/email address:
- 1.5 Type of organization: Individual or sole proprietorship, professional corporation, corporation partnership, joint venture or other
- 1.6 Name of Principals:
- 1.7 Professional History:
- 1.8 Provide last three years of financial statements (audited, if available)
- 1.9 Professional Affiliations:
- 1.10 Provide the firm's annual billings for the past three years
- 1.11 Provide the firm's organization chart indicating the following:
 - Total number of registered architects and/or licensed Engineers and the number of years with the firm
 - Total number of employees
- 1.12 Provide the firm's sample insurance certificate.
- 1.13 Provide the firm's history of claims and litigation for the past three years and how these claims were resolved.
- 1.14 Does the firm have in-house Structural, MEP Engineering or other Consultants expertise?
- 1.15 Is the firm's principal office or a secondary office located in or near Sullivan County Tennessee?
- 1.16 Does the firm have previous experience preparing bid documents for grant funded projects?

Tab 2: Firm's Management Style & Philosophy

- 2.1 Does the firm create its own Project Manuals/Specifications or is this service contracted out?
- 2.2 Does the firm have a history of producing specific master specifications for projects that are grant funded?
- 2.3 Do the firm's qualifications rely on any associate architects and/or consultants?
- 2.4 Provide the current workload of the firm versus the firm's workload capacity (expressed by the number of projects, their budget and the phase they are - currently in).
- 2.5 Provide information on how many employees have been added to the staff in the past 12 months and how many have left the firm in the past 12 months.
- 2.6 Describe the firm's culture, vision and philosophy.
- 2.7 Describe the firm's design philosophy.
- 2.8 Describe the firm's organization and project management philosophy.
- 2.9 Describe the firm's programming and design process and who is included.
- 2.10 Describe the firm's quality control program during the design services.
- 2.11 Provide history of the firm's design time schedule adherence.
- 2.12 Describe the firm's philosophy and practice of document coordination.
- 2.13 How does the firm handle its errors and omissions? Provide an example.
- 2.14 Provide a history of the firm's accuracy in developing project budgets
- 2.15 Describe the firm's coordination practices during preconstruction with the General Contractor/Construction Manager.
- 2.16 Describe the firm's use of technology during design services and construction administration phases of the project.
- 2.17 How does the firm handle warranty issues?
- 2.18 Identify the firm's most successful project and why.
- 2.19 Identify the firm's most unsuccessful project and why.

Tab 3: Firm References

- 3.1 Please provide at least Three (3) project references similar to the projects listed in the SCOPE OF WORK:

- Consider the size of the project and the project delivery system and provide references for similar projects.

References should include contact name, contact email, phone# and fax#.

3.2 For the projects listed above, provide the following information:

- Owner's initial number of calendar days for design and contract document
- Describe schedule overruns during the design and contract document
- Owner's initial budget for construction cost
- Initial contract amount with the General Contractor
- Final contract amount

Tab 4: Project Team

4.1 Provide a team organization chart for the projects, including back-up personnel:

- Provide resumes and references for the team proposed. Include Owner, Consultants, references with contact name, and email address.

4.2 Will administration on the projects be performed with staff that was involved in the design and production of the contract documents?

4.3 Provide current workload of the team proposed by number of projects, their budgets and current phase (design, contract documents or construction).

4.4 Describe the involvement of a firm's principal in the projects and their extent of involvement.

4.5 Include a tentative design services schedule.

4.6 Do you see any potential conflicts of interest if awarded the projects?

Tab 5: Forms - RFQ Submission Checklist; Compliance Affidavit; Lobbying Certification; Vendor Information Form, Firm Project Selection Form

Tab 6: Supplemental Information

Supplemental Information may be submitted but should be contained in the specified size notebook under this tab only. Remember to keep Request for Qualifications to a total of 30 pages or less.

b. Evaluation, Selection, and Fee Negotiation Process

Evaluation

An evaluation committee will consist of members who have been selected because of their special expertise and knowledge of the service(s) being requested in this RFQ. The evaluation committee will review all complete submittals that are received by the deadline.

The Proposer's qualifications submission will be evaluated and scored based on the following identified criteria.

The selection criteria will include an evaluation of:

- 1) Firms Information
- 2) Firms Management Style & Philosophy
- 3) Firms References (Past Project Performance)
- 4) Project Team
- 5) Proposal Forms
- 6) Supplemental Information

Evaluation Criteria

The selection committee will evaluate each Statements of Qualifications on a variety of quantitative and qualitative criteria. Upon receipt of submissions, the County will review to determine whether the submission is acceptable or non-acceptable based on the criteria outlined below.

- Firms Qualifications, relevant expertise, past experience with similar projects, and availability of staff: **40 points**
- Firms Management Style, Philosophy, Project Team: **40 points**
- Firm References Checks: **10 points**
- Compliance with RFQ Requirements: **10 points**

Selection

This procurement will follow the qualifications-based competitive proposal procedures of the Brooks Act. As such, no pricing structure is to be included in the RFQ documents submitted. The selection process will be completed in a two-step evaluation process.

First Step:

-The selection committee will evaluate the Responses to the RFQ by using a detailed point scoring system based on the information that was requested in the RFQ.

Second Step:

-Based on the Response Evaluation and the Reference Evaluation the selection committee will select the top-ranking Firms. A selection may be made from the top firms or if additional information is needed from the firms to make a selection, interview sessions will be setup. If the interview process is needed, an interview agenda will be provided to allow firms to prepare for the interview.

-Each member of the committee will complete an interview evaluation form for each firm interviewed.

-Additional information may be requested at this stage of the process from all firms in the interview process.

Final Selection

The selection committee will total all scores from the RFQ Evaluation, the Reference Evaluation, and the Interview Evaluation (if applicable) to determine the firm to award.

Fee Negotiations

- The selected firm will receive notification of final selection and will at that time be prepared to provide fee schedule.

Recommendation of Award

A recommendation will be prepared and submitted to the Department of Education to obtain final approval of selection prior to executing a contract(s) with the firm.

c. Contact/Communication on RFQ Process and Selection

Any written questions concerning this Request for Qualifications must be submitted to:

Michelle Ramey
Chief Deputy Purchasing Agent
Sullivan County Purchasing Department
michelle.ramey@sullivancountytn.gov

Any oral communication shall be considered unofficial and non-binding with regard to this RFQ. The Chief Deputy Purchasing Agent must receive all communications in writing, including questions and requests for clarification, no later than the deadline listed in this RFQ.

8. RFQ SCHEDULE

a. Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ADVERTISED	SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS	OCTOBER 3, 2023
ADDENDUM TO BE POSTED ONLINE	OCTOBER 6, 2023
DUE DATE FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS	OCTOBER 12, 2023
COMMITTEE REVIEW	OCTOBER 16 – 20, 2023
INTERVIEWS	TBD
CANDIDATES HAVE FEE STRUCTURE READY TO SUBMIT IF SELECTED	OCTOBER 12, 2023

The timeline illustrated above is an estimate. It is subject to change according to schedule availability of selection committee members and circumstances that may arise un-expectedly.

9. FORMS

a. RFQ Submission Checklist Form

<i>RFQ SUBMISSION CHECKLIST FORM</i>		
Name of Firm:		
Primary Contact:		
Phone:		
Email:		
<i>Initials</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Placement</i>
	RFQ Submission Checklist Form	Insert at front of binder
	Firm Information	Insert in Tab 1
	Firm's Management Style & Philosophy	Insert in Tab 2
	Firm's References	Insert in Tab 3
	Project Team	Insert in Tab 4
	Forms	Insert in Tab 5
	Supplemental Information (optional)	Insert in Tab 6
	Verified that RFQ is 30 pages or less	n/a

b. COMPLIANCE AFFIDAVIT

SULLIVAN COUNTY COMPLIANCE AFFIDAVIT

THIS COMPLIANCE AFFIDAVIT MUST BE SIGNED, NOTARIZED, AND INCLUDED WITH ALL BIDS – FAILURE TO INCLUDE THIS FORM WITH THE BID SUBMITTED SHALL DISQUALIFY THE BID FROM BEING CONSIDERED.

VENDOR: _____

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

1. No Board Member or officer of the County or other person whose duty it is to vote for, let out, overlook or in any manner superintend any of the work for the County has a direct interest in the award of the vendor providing goods or services.
2. No employee, officer or agent of the grantee or sub-grantee will participate in selection, or in the award or administration of an award supported by Federal funds if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when the employee, officer or agent, any member of their immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization, which employs, or is about to employ, any of the above, has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for award.
3. The grantees or sub-grantees officers, employees or agents will neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from vendors, potential vendors, or parties to sub-agreements.
4. By submission of this form, the vendor is certifying that no conflicts of interest exist.
5. Do you or any officer/owners/part-owners/stakeholders/employees of this company have any relative(s) (relatives include spouse, children, stepchildren, or any to whom you are related by blood or marriage) that are currently employed by Sullivan County, Tennessee, including the Sullivan County Department of Education or serve on the Sullivan County Commission or the Sullivan County Department of Education? _____ Yes _____ No

If you answered yes, please state the name and relationship of the employee or member of the Sullivan County Commission or the Sullivan County Department of Education.

6. Are you or any officers/owners/part-owners/stakeholders/employees of this company also employees of Sullivan County, Tennessee, including the Sullivan County Department of Education or serve on the Sullivan County Commission or the Sullivan County Department of Education? _____ Yes _____ No

If you answered yes, please state the name of the employee or board member

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS:

7. Private employers with five or more employees desiring to contract for construction services attest that they have a drug free workplace program in effect in accordance with TCA 50-9-112.

ELIGIBILITY:

8. The vendor is eligible for employment on public contracts because no convictions or guilty pleas or pleas of nolo contendere to violations of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, mail fraud or state criminal violations with an award from the State of Tennessee or any political subdivision thereof have occurred.

GENERAL:

9. Vendor fully understands the preparation and contents of the attached offer and of all pertinent circumstances respecting such offer.
10. Such offer is genuine and is not a collusive or sham offer.

IRAN DIVESTMENT ACT:

11. Concerning the Iran Divestment Act (TCA 12-12-101 et seq.), by submission of this bid/quote/proposal, each vendor and each person signing on behalf of any vendor certifies, and in the case of a joint bid/quote/proposal, each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that each vendor is not on the list created pursuant to § 12-12-106.

NON-COLLUSION:

12. Neither the said vendor nor any of its officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees or parties interest, including this affiant, has in any way colluded, conspired, connived or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any other responder, firm, or person to submit a collusive or sham offer in connection with the award or agreement for which the attached offer has been submitted or to refrain from making an offer in connection with such award or agreement ,or collusion or communication or conference with any other firm, or, to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of the offer price or the offer price of any other firm, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, connivance, or unlawful agreement any advantage against Sullivan County or any person interested in the proposed award or agreement.
13. The price or prices quoted in the attached offer are fair, proper, and not tainted by any collusion, conspiracy, connivance, or unlawful agreement on the part of the firm or any of its agents, representatives, owners, employees, or parties in interest, including this affiant.

BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENT FOR SCHOOL SYSTEM SUPPLIERS:

14. In submitting this bid/quote/proposal, you are certifying that you are aware of the requirements imposed by TCA § 49-5-413 (d) to conduct criminal background checks through the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on yourself and any of your employees who may come in direct contact with students or who may come on or about school property anytime students are present. You are further certifying that at no time will you ever permit any individual who has committed a sexual offense or who is a registered sex offender to come in direct contact with children or to come on or about school property while students are present.

NON-BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL AFFIDAVIT

15. Concerning the Non-Boycott of Israel Act (TCA 12-4-1 et seq.), by submission of this bid/quote/proposal, each supplier and each person signing on behalf of any supplier certifies, and in the case of a joint bid/quote/proposal, each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that each supplier is not boycotting Israel pursuant to § 12-4-1 and will not during the term of any award. Note: Applicable only to contracts of \$250,000 or more and to suppliers with 10 or more employees.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges and verifies that the response submitted to this solicitation is in full compliance with the applicable laws/listed requirements.

SIGNED BY: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS DATE: _____

BY (NOTARY PUBLIC): _____

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES ON: _____

c. Lobbying Certification

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents of all sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, United States Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

CERTIFIED BY: (Type or Print)

TITLE:

(Signature)

(Date)

d. Vendor Information Form

VENDOR INFORMATION SHEET

(Please fill out completely)

By completing and signing this form you certify that you are an authorized representative of the company for which you are submitting a bid/proposal and that you have the authority to legally bind your company. Further, by completing and signing this form you certify that you agree to all the terms and conditions of this bid/proposal.

1. Vendor Name: _____
2. Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
3. Contact Person (Please Print) _____
4. Telephone Number _____ Fax Number _____
5. Vendor's e-mail address _____
6. Authorizing Signature _____
7. Title of Person Signing Bid _____
8. If addenda were issued, please acknowledge the receipt of: (please write "yes" if you received one)
Addendum 1 _____ Addendum 2 _____ Addendum 3 _____

e. FIRM PROJECT SELECTION FORM

FIRM PROJECT SELECTION FORM

Please select from the list below the projects that your firm would like to be considered for:

___ Sullivan Heights Middle School STEM/ Career Exploration Lab

___ Sullivan Central Middle School STEM/ Career Exploration Lab

___ All projects listed above

Name of Firm

Name

Signature

Date