



# CITY OF KNOXVILLE

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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### **Landscaping Services for Scattered Sites**

**Proposals to be Received by 11:00:00 a.m., Eastern Time  
*Friday, January 6, 2023***

Submit Proposals to:  
City of Knoxville  
Office of the Purchasing Division  
City/County Building  
Room 667-674  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

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# Landscaping Services for Scattered Sites

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# City of Knoxville Request for Proposals

## Landscaping Services for Scattered Sites

### I. Statement of Intent

The City of Knoxville is requesting submissions of proposals from responsible, professional landscaping firms to provide landscaping for seven (7) sites within the City of Knoxville. The City intends to award a contract for the term of one (1) year with two (2) optional one-year renewals.

### II. RFP Time Line

Availability of RFP .....	December 6, 2022
Preproposal Conference .....	December 13, 2022
Deadline for questions to be submitted in writing to the Purchasing Division .....	December 27, 2022
<b>Proposals Due Date .....</b>	<b>January 6, 2023</b>

This timetable is for the information of submitting entities. These dates are subject to change. **However, in no event shall the deadline for submission of the proposals be changed except by written modification from the City of Knoxville Purchasing Division.**

### PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the City of Knoxville Public Works Building in the Community Room, located at **3131 Morris Avenue; Knoxville, TN 37909**; on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 2 p.m. Eastern Time. Interested potential proposers are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to attend.

### III. Background

The City of Knoxville Public Service Department is responsible for the overall cleanliness and beautification of the City. The City is seeking a responsible, professional landscaping firms to provide all landscaping work at seven (7) sites within the City of Knoxville. These sites have a variety of landscaping that will need to be maintained to the highest quality of standards all year long. The areas of responsibility include all landscaping beds, shrubs, bushes, flowers, bulbs, riparian grasses, wildflower beds, planters, meadow grasses and infiltration beds. In addition to the landscaping beds, there are a few small locations that require turf maintenance; mowing, edging, litter removal, brush, leaf and debris removal.

### IV. General Conditions

- 4.1. The following data is intended to form the basis for submission of proposals to provide Landscaping Services for Scattered Sites for the City of Knoxville.
- 4.2. This material contains general conditions for the procurement process, the scope of service requested, contract requirements, instructions for submissions of proposals, and submission forms

that must be included in the proposal. The RFP should be read in its entirety before preparing the proposal.

- 4.3. All materials submitted pursuant to this RFP shall become the property of the City of Knoxville.
- 4.4. To the extent permitted by law, all documents pertaining to this Request for Proposals shall be kept confidential until the proposal evaluation is complete and a recommendation submitted to City Council for review. No information about any submission of proposals shall be released until the process is complete, except to the members of the Evaluation Committee and other appropriate City staff. All information provided shall be considered by the Evaluation Committee in making a recommendation to enter into an agreement with the selected firm.
- 4.5. Any inquiries, suggestions or requests concerning interpretation, clarification or additional information pertaining to the RFP shall be made **in writing and be in the hands of the Procurement Specialist, Karisa Scott, by the close of the business day on Tuesday, December 27, 2022.** Questions can be submitted by letter, fax (865-215-2277), or email to [kscott@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:kscott@knoxvilletn.gov). The City of Knoxville is not responsible for oral interpretations given by any City employee, representative, or others. The issuance of written addenda is the only official method whereby interpretation, clarification, or additional information can be given. If any addenda are issued to this Request for Proposals, the Purchasing Division will post them to the City's website at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/bids](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/bids). Submitting organizations are strongly encouraged to view this website often to see if addenda are posted. Failure of any proposer to receive such addendum or interpretation shall not relieve such Proposer from any obligation under his proposal as submitted. All addenda so issued shall become part of the Contract Documents.
- 4.6. The City of Knoxville reserves the right to (a) accept or reject any and/or all submissions of proposals; (b) to waive irregularities, informalities, and technicalities; and (c) to accept any alternative submission of proposals presented which, in its opinion, would best serve the interests of the City. The City shall be the sole judge of the proposals, and the resulting negotiated agreement that is in its best interest, and its decision shall be final. The City also reserves the right to make such investigation as it deems necessary to determine the ability of any submitting entity to perform the work or service requested. Information the City deems necessary to make this determination shall be provided by the submitting entity. Such information may include, but is not limited to, current financial statements by an independent CPA, verification of availability of equipment and personnel, and past performance records.
- 4.7. Included in the Contract Documents is an affidavit that the undersigned has not entered into any collusion with any person in respect to this qualification. The qualifier is required to submit this affidavit with the submission. Also included is the Diversity Business Program contracting packet. Submissions must indicate on the enclosed form whether or not the proposer/qualifier intends to use subcontractors and/or suppliers from one of the defined groups. Proposers/Qualifiers are advised that the City tracks use of such use, but it does not influence or affect evaluation or award.
- 4.8. Subsequent to the Evaluation Committee's review and the Mayor's recommendation of a firm(s), Knoxville City Council approval may be required before the final contract may be executed.
- 4.9. All expenses for making a submission of proposal shall be borne by the submitting entity.
- 4.10. Any submission of proposals may be withdrawn up until the date and time for opening of the submissions. **Any submission not so withdrawn shall, upon opening, constitute an irrevocable offer for a period of 120 days to the City of Knoxville for the services set forth in the Request for Proposals until one or more of the submissions have been duly accepted by the City.**
- 4.11. Prior to submitting their proposals, proposers are to be registered with the Purchasing Division through the City of Knoxville's online Vendor Registration system. Instructions for registering on-line are available at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing). **Proposals from un-registered proposers may be rejected.**

- 4.12. NO CONTACT POLICY:** After the posting of this solicitation to the Purchasing Division's website, any contact initiated by any proposer with any City of Knoxville representative concerning this proposal is strictly prohibited, unless such contact is made with the Purchasing Division representative listed herein or with said representative's authorization. Any unauthorized contact may cause the disqualification of the proposer from this procurement transaction. Proposals must include a notarized No Contact/No Advocacy Affidavit (to be found in the "Submission Forms" section of this document).
- 4.13. INCLEMENT WEATHER:** During periods of inclement weather, the Purchasing Division will enact the following procedures with regard to solicitations and weather delays:
- If City offices are closed due to inclement weather on the date that bids/proposals/qualifications/letters of interest are due into the Purchasing Office, all solicitations due that same day will be moved to the next operational business day.
  - The City of Knoxville shall not be liable for any commercial carrier's decision regarding deliveries during inclement weather.

## V. Scope of Service

The City of Knoxville is seeking proposals from responsible firms to provide all landscaping work at seven (7) sites within the City of Knoxville. These sites have a variety of landscaping that will need to be maintained to the highest quality of standards all year long. The areas of responsibility include all landscaping beds, shrubs, bushes, flowers, bulbs, riparian grasses, wildflower beds, planters, meadow grasses and infiltration beds. In addition to the landscaping beds, there are a few small locations that require turf maintenance; mowing, edging, litter removal, brush, leaf and debris removal.

The contractor will be responsible for performing all work in a professional and workmanlike manner, using quality equipment and tools. Detailed specifications for the work are listed below.

1. Services include all seven (7) locations outlined on the attached map sheets that comprise "Scattered Landscaping and Smart Fix 40 Sites". Locations include: (1) I-40 off ramp at Hall of Fame, (2) Smart Fix Hall of Fame at Magnolia Ave, (3) Emoriland and Fairmont Blvd's, (4) Volunteer Landing near E. Hill Ave, (5) 300, 500 and 600 blocks of Gay St: Infiltration Planting Beds, (6) City View at Blount Ave: both sides of Blount to riverbank, (7) Dale Ave Streetscape Planters at Soccer Complex.
2. Prepare plants and grasses for growing season:
  - a. Cut-back and remove clippings for all specified grasses in late winter.
  - b. Landscaping beds that have mulch in them will have the first application of "premium quality, double ground, hardwood bark mulch" installed during the month of February. (see additional notes below on "Mulching").
3. Landscaping and maintenance work will consist of mulching, fertilizing, pre-emergence, and post emergence treatments, insect/disease control, pruning and general maintenance as needed and as directed by the Horticulture Manager.
  - a. Mulching: Contractors are responsible for supplying and installing all mulch necessary to maintain landscape beds weed free all year long. Beds must be mulched at a minimum of three (3) times per year; once in February and twice during the growing season (April – September). Mulch must be approved by Horticulture Services Manager prior to usage. Mulch beds that already have 4 inches of mulch do not need additional mulch applied. These beds will be turned to help air and water penetrate and to present a fresh appearance.

- b. Install pine straw at “Volunteer Landing” at a minimum of two times per year. Maintain a 3 to 4 inch thick coverage on the steep hillside all year long. Install in February and again in October.
- c. Fertilizing: Fertilize all plants and shrubs twice per year: March and October, Horticulture Manager must approve the materials used.
- d. Pre-emergence/Post Emergence: Done in a seasonable manner to help keep mulch beds free of weeds and wild plant growth. Treat all beds twice per year: spring and fall, Horticulture Manager must approve the materials used.
- e. Insect/disease control: As needed, report infestations and conditions to the Horticulture Manager.
- f. Pruning: Contractor is responsible to maintain plants to the highest standards. Plant pruning will be done in a seasonable correct fashion as the plant type requires. Trim all plants and shrubs as necessary to maintain aesthetically pleasing appearance. Keep plants from becoming “overgrown” by maintaining clean curb-lines, sidewalks, walkways, etc. Also, keep plants from growing into tables, benches, signs, fencing, railings, buildings and parking lots. Cut out dead or overgrown plant material at least every two weeks. Tree pruning will be conducted by Urban Forestry and Horticulture employees.
- g. Bed maintenance: Repair all damages, remove all trash, litter, debris and dead plants once a week, all year long. Train crews to identify “desirable” plants and flowers and specialty grasses; such as pink muhly grass, fountain grass. Remove any weeds and invasive plants that are “unwanted”. Some of the most common problem weeds found in Knoxville are Thistle, Fescue, Yellow and Purple Nutsedge, Virginia creeper, Curly Dock, Aster, Johnson grass, Ivy, Dandelion, Vetch, Kudzu, Crab Grass, Mimosa, Honeysuckle, Broadleaf Plantain, Pennywort and Chickweed.
- h. Additional maintenance: (1) Conduct spot spraying as necessary; the ideal timeframe is from mid-March to early April. (2) Crews must clean up after maintenance by blowing off roads, walkways, other areas affected by operations. (3) Report any dead or diseased plants before removing them. (4) Report any problems discovered with trees. (5) Inspect for over and under watering conditions; report as soon as possible.

4. General Guidelines

- a. All work defined in this specification will be accomplished beginning the third (3rd) Monday in March and continue for a total of twenty-six (26) cycles. Slight changes in scheduling may be necessary for special events.
- b. The work may not occur on Sundays without permission of the Horticulture Services Manager.
- c. Contractor will be required to provide a schedule of when maintenance will be conducted at each site prior to the third (3rd) Monday of March for each contract year. After each scheduled landscaping cycle has been completed the Horticulture Services Manager must be notified in writing by completing the attached checklist.
- d. Keep all tree mulch rings free of debris and/or damage from equipment. String trimmers must not make contact with trees. As specified in the City of Knoxville Tree Ordinance; the City may impose penalties for tree related damages. The following is a schedule of costs that will be deducted from payment if damage or injury to trees occurs:

Damage	Treatment provided by City staff	Cost deducted from Contractor’s payment
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Trunk Damage	Water, install guards, treat wound	\$170.00
Mortality (4 inches and less in diameter)	Replace with 2-inch diameter tree	\$460.00
Mortality (greater than 4 inches in diameter)	Replace tree in kind	Landscape Appraised Value

- e. The contractor will be held responsible for any damage caused by their operations to plants, trees, shrubs, fences, signs, vehicles and any other property.
- f. All equipment used must be in good working condition and have all safety features required by law.
- g. All rotary type mowers must be equipped with skirt guards, which restrict foreign objects from being thrown from the cutting unit enclosures. Contractors are financially liable for all damages caused by their operations.
- h. No type of chemicals will be applied for weed control without prior approval from the Horticulture Services Manager. Always use these guidelines when using herbicides:**
  - i. NEVER SPRAY PLAYGROUNDS OR WHERE CHILDREN FREQUENT! THIS ALSO INCLUDES THE OUTER PERIMETER, BENCHES, TABLES AND ANY LOCATION WHERE PEOPLE EAT.
  - ii. Keep spraying to a minimum: consider cost and environmental concerns
  - iii. Spray when the weather is suitable: avoid windy and breezy conditions; high and low temperatures, avoid spraying when rain is expected or after a rain event
  - iv. Most herbicides work best when sprayed in the early morning after a few days of dry weather
  - v. Do not spray when people are present; never inadvertently expose the public to chemical exposure
  - vi. Employees must be qualified and wear proper PPE
  - vii. Dispose of waste and clean containers properly
  - viii. Do not overspray or mix too strong
  - ix. Comply with all label requirements
  - x. Never spray near waterways; creeks, streams, rivers, lakes
  - xi. All landscaping contractors must possess "Pesticide Applicator Certification" and comply with all requirements

5. Additional Requirements and Notes:

- a. Map sheets of all seven (7) sites are available in a pdf format
- b. The City of Knoxville will be invoiced after each cycle for the work accomplished during that period. **Contractor must submit invoices within two business days: cwebster@knoxvilleTN.gov.**
- c. The payment process starts immediately after a satisfactory quality control inspection has been completed. Payments are typically received within 30 days of invoicing.
- d. Protective Equipment: Contractor must provide and ensure employees are wearing all required safety clothing, masks, eye and ear protection, footwear, etc., as required by law, regulation, ordinance, and/or manufacturer's instructions for material and equipment. **At a minimum, protective equipment shall consist of an OSHA or DOT approved safety vest.**

- e. Attire: Contractors must be mindful that the public often perceives their employees as regular City personnel. While providing services under this contract, all employees must wear tasteful and appropriate clothing. No tank tops or undershirts will be permitted. Clothing displaying nudity, obscene language, obscene symbols, or pro-drug slogans are strictly prohibited.
6. **Quality Assurance Incentive:** The City desires to achieve a high level of quality in this service and hopes to achieve the required means of attention to the work by offering a Quality Assurance Incentive. The Contractor will be eligible for an annual incentive in an amount of 5% of the total annual bid amount if the Contractor meets **all** of the following quality criteria:
- a. Contractor successfully completes **all** landscaping cycles on-time (within the 2-week cycle time).
  - b. Performs **all** cycles with no reported damages to City property.
  - c. Meets the requirements of the contract to keep City property neat and clean. **No** reported violations or complaints investigated and verified by City of Knoxville Horticulture and determined to be significant or in need of remedy.
  - d. Takes measures to avoid the use of herbicides unless absolutely necessary. **No** reported violations or complaints investigated and verified by City of Knoxville Horticulture with found evidence of overuse or unnecessary use of herbicides.
  - e. Employees perform **all** services taking necessary safety precautions to protect themselves and property. **No** reported injuries of employees, citizens, or damage to personal property (City or non-City-owned).

Final determination of the award of the incentive will be determined by the City, based on the Contractor's achievement of the criteria. Notification of the award will be reported to the vendor following the last landscaping cycle each year and the Contractor will invoice the City for the approved incentive amount (if any) on the invoice for the final cycle of the year.

## VI. Contract Requirements

Submitting entities, if selected, must be willing to sign a contract with the City which will include certain provisions, among which are the following:

- 6.1. Contract Documents.** The contract shall consist of (1) the RFP; (2) the proposal submitted by the contractor to this RFP; and (3) the contract. In the event of a discrepancy between the contract, the RFP and the submitted proposal, the terms that provide the greater benefit to the City and/or impose the greater obligation to the contractor will prevail.
- 6.2. Administration.** The contract will be administered by the City of Knoxville's Public Service Department.
- 6.3. Invoices.** Invoices for services will be submitted to the City in accordance with the contract terms.
- 6.4. Independent Contractor.** The relationship of contractor to the City will be that of independent contractor. The contractor will be solely and entirely responsible for its acts and for the acts of its agents, employees, servants and subcontractors done during the performance of the contract. All services performed by the contractor shall be provided in an independent contractor capacity and not in the capacity of officers, agents, or employees of the City.
- 6.5. Assignment.** The contractor shall not assign or transfer any interest in this contract without prior written consent of the City of Knoxville.
- 6.6.** Due to the successful bidder's likelihood of working in close proximity to children and adolescents, all bidders are required to submit an affidavit with their bids stating that they agree not to allow any employee or volunteer who is awaiting trial or has been convicted of a felony crime involving the



sexual exploitation of children, sexual offenses involving children, or violent crimes to participate in this Agreement. Failure by the bidder to comply with this requirement is grounds for immediate termination of the Agreement. Bidders are required to submit this affidavit with their proposal and failure to do so may be considered grounds for rejection of the bid. Said affidavit is contained within this ITB for bidder's use.

**6.7. ADA Compliance.** With regard to the services performed under this Agreement, the Contractor will comply with all applicable requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq.* ("ADA"). The Contractor agrees that it will defend, indemnify and hold the City 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 Contractor, its employees, agents or representatives that violates the ADA. The Contractor agrees that the City will not be responsible for any cost or expenses arising from the Contractor's failure to comply with the ADA.

**6.8. Indemnification and Hold Harmless.** The successful proposer will be required to sign a contract with the City which contains the following indemnification clause. This indemnification clause will not be altered in any way. Failure to agree with this indemnification clause in the contract may result in the City moving to the next responsible responsive proposer.

Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers, employees and agents from any and all liabilities which may accrue against the City, its officers, employees and agents or any third party for any and all lawsuits, claims, demands, losses or damages alleged to have arisen from an act or omission of Contractor in performance of this Agreement or from Contractor's failure to perform this Agreement using ordinary care and skill, except where such injury, damage, or loss was caused by the sole negligence of the City, its agents or employees. The amount and type of insurance coverage requirements set forth in this Agreement will in no way be construed as limiting the scope of the indemnity in this section.

Contractor shall save, indemnify and hold the City harmless from the cost of the defense of any claim, demand, suit or cause of action made or brought against the City alleging liability referenced above, including, but not limited to, costs, fees, attorney fees, and other expenses of any kind whatsoever arising in connection with the defense of the City; and Contractor shall assume and take over the defense of the City in any such claim, demand, suit, or cause of action upon written notice and demand for same by the City. Contractor will have the right to defend the City with counsel of its choice that is satisfactory to the City, and the City will provide reasonable cooperation in the defense as Contractor may request. Contractor will not consent to the entry of any judgment or enter into any settlement with respect to an indemnified claim without the prior written consent of the City, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed. The City shall have the right to participate in the defense against the indemnified claims with counsel of its choice at its own expense.

Contractor shall save, indemnify and hold City harmless and pay judgments that shall be rendered in any such actions, suits, claims or demands against City alleging liability referenced above.

The indemnification and hold harmless provisions of this Agreement shall survive termination of the Agreement.

**6.9. Termination.** The City may terminate this Agreement at any time, with or without cause, by written notice of termination to the Contractor.

If the City terminates this Agreement, and such termination is not a result of a default by the Contractor, the Contractor shall be entitled to receive as its sole and exclusive remedy the following amounts from the City, and the City shall have no further or other obligations to the Contractor: the amount due to the Contractor for work executed through the date of termination, not including any future fees, profits, or other compensation or payments which the Contractor would have been entitled to receive if this Agreement had not been terminated.

The City may, by written notice of default to the Contractor, terminate the whole or any part of this Agreement if the Contractor fails to perform any provisions of this Agreement and does not cure such failure within a period of ten (10) days (or such longer period as the Purchasing Agent may authorize in writing) after receipt of said notice from the Purchasing Agent specifying such failure. If this Agreement is terminated in whole or in part for default, the City may procure, upon such terms and in such manner as the Purchasing Agent may deem appropriate, supplies or services similar to those terminated.

**6.10. Insurance.** When applicable and prior to the commencement of the contract, contractor must, at its sole expense, obtain and maintain in full force and effect for the duration of the Agreement and any extension hereof at least the following types and amounts of insurance for claims which may arise from or in connection with this Agreement. Contractor shall furnish the City of Knoxville with properly executed certificates of insurance which shall clearly evidence all insurance required by the City. All insurance must be underwritten by insurers with an A.M. Best rating of A-VIII or better. Such insurance shall be at a minimum the following:

**A. Commercial General Liability Insurance;** occurrence version commercial general liability insurance, and if necessary umbrella liability insurance, with a limit of not less than two million dollars each occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury, property damage, and products and completed operations. If such insurance contains a general aggregate limit, it shall apply separately to the work/location in this Agreement or be no less than \$3,000,000.

Such insurance shall:

(a.) Contain or be endorsed to contain a provision that includes the City, its officials, officers, employees, and volunteers as additional insureds with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of the Contractor including materials, parts, or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of its protection afforded to the above-listed insureds. Proof of additional insured status up to and including copies of endorsements and/or policy wording will be required.

(b.) For any claims related to this project, Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the City, its officers, officials, officers, employees, and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance programs covering the City, its officials, officers, employees, and volunteers shall be excess of Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

(c.) At the sole discretion of the City, dedicated limits of liability for this specific project may be required.

**B. Automobile Liability Insurance;** including vehicles owned, hired, and non-owned, with a combined single limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each accident. Such insurance shall include coverage for loading and unloading hazards. Insurance shall contain or be endorsed to contain a provision that includes the City, its officials, officers, employees, and volunteers as additional insureds with respect to liability arising out of automobiles owned, leased, hired, or borrowed by or on behalf of Contractor.

**C. Workers' Compensation Insurance.** Contractor shall maintain workers' compensation insurance with statutory limits as required by the State of Tennessee or other applicable laws and employers' liability insurance with limits of not less than \$500,000. Contractor shall require each of its subcontractors to provide Workers' Compensation for all of the latter's employees to be engaged in such work unless such employees are covered by Contractor's workers' compensation insurance coverage.

**D. Other Insurance Requirements.** Contractor shall:

- Prior to commencement of services, furnish the City with original certificates and amendatory endorsements effecting coverage required by this section and provide that such insurance shall not be cancelled, allowed to expire, or be materially reduced in coverage except on 30 days' prior written notice to the City Attorney of Knoxville; P.O. Box 1631; Knoxville, Tennessee 37901. Proof of policy provisions regarding notice of cancellation will be required.
- Upon the City's request, provide certified copies of endorsements and policies if requested by the City in lieu of or in addition to certificates of insurance. Copies of policies will only be requested when contracts are deemed to be extremely or uniquely hazardous, include a dollar amount that is significant to the overall budget of the City or a City Department, or the coverage(s) may not follow standard insurance forms. A policy will only be requested after the City's Risk Manager has reviewed the contract and proof of coverage has been provided. Should the certificate of insurance refer to specific coverage wording or endorsements(s), proof of such policy wording or endorsement(s) will be required.
- Replace certificates, policies, and endorsements for any such insurance expiring prior to completion of services.
- Maintain such insurance from the time services commence until services are completed. Failure to maintain or renew coverage or to provide evidence of renewal may be treated by the City as a material breach of contract.
- If Contractor cannot procure insurance through an insurer having an A.M. Best rating of A-VIII, Contractor may, in the alternative, place such insurance with insurer licensed to do business in Tennessee and having A.M. Best Company ratings of no less than A. Modification of this standard may be considered upon appeal to the City Law Director.
- Require all subcontractors to maintain during the term of the Agreement Commercial General Liability insurance, Business Automobile Liability insurance, and Workers' Compensation/Employer's Liability insurance (unless subcontractor's employees are covered by Contractor's insurance) in the same manner as specified for Contractor. Contractor shall furnish subcontractors' certificates of insurance to the City without expense immediately upon request.
- Large Deductibles; Self-Insured Retentions. Any deductibles and/or self-insured retentions greater than \$50,000 must be disclosed to and approved by the City of Knoxville prior to the commencement of services. Use of large deductibles and/or self-insured retentions may require proof of financial ability as determined by the City.
- Waiver of Subrogation Required. The insurer shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation against the City, its officers, officials, and employees for losses arising from work performed by Contractor for the City. Proof of waiver of subrogation up to and including copies of endorsements and/or policy wording will be required.
- Occurrence Basis Requirement. All general liability policies must be written on an occurrence basis, unless the Risk Manager determines that a claims made basis is reasonable in the specific circumstance. Use of policies written on a claims made basis must be approved by the City. Risk Manager and retroactive dates and/or continuation dates must be provided to the City prior to commencement of any work performed. Professional Liability and Environmental Liability (Pollution Coverage) are most commonly written on a claims made basis and are generally acceptable in that form.

**6.9. Ethical Standards.** Attention of all firms is directed to the following provisions contained in the Code of the City of Knoxville: Chapter 24, Article II, Section 24-33 entitled "Debts owed by persons receiving payments other than Salary;" Chapter 2, Article VIII, Division 11. the Contractor hereby

takes notice of and affirms that it is not in violation of, or has not participated, and will not participate, in the violation of any of the following ethical standards prescribed by the Knoxville City Code:

A. Section 2-1048. Conflict of Interest.

It shall be unlawful for any employee of the city to participate, directly or indirectly, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or purchase standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or otherwise, in any proceeding or application, request for ruling or other determination, claim or controversy or other matter pertaining to any contract or subcontract and any solicitation or proposal therefore, where to the employee's knowledge there is a financial interest possessed by:

- (1) the employee or the employee's immediate family;
- (2) a business other than a public agency in which the employee or member of the employee's immediate family serves as an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee; or
- (3) any person or business with whom the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family is negotiating or has an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

B. Section 2-1049. Receipt of Benefits from City Contracts by Council Members, Employees and Officers of the City.

It shall be unlawful for any member of council, member of the board of education, officer or employee of the city to have or hold any interest in the profits or emoluments of any contract, job, work or service, either by himself or by another, directly or indirectly. Any such contract for a job, work or service for the city in which any member of council, member of the board of education, officer or employee has or holds any such interest is void.

C. Section 2-1050. Gratuities and Kickbacks Prohibited.

It is unlawful for any person to offer, give or agree to give to any person, while a city employee, or for any person, while a city employee, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, anything of a pecuniary value for or because of:

- (1) An official action taken, or to be taken, or which could be taken;
- (2) A legal duty performed, or to be performed, or which could be performed; or
- (3) A legal duty violated, or to be violated, or which could be violated by such person while a city employee.

Anything of nominal value shall be presumed not to constitute a gratuity under this section.

Kickbacks. It is unlawful for any payment, gratuity, or benefit to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.

D. Section 2-1051. Covenant Relating to Contingent Fees.

- (a) Representation of Contractor. Every person, before being awarded a contract in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) with the city, shall represent that no other person has been retained to solicit or secure the contract with the city upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial, selling agencies maintained by the person so representing for the purpose of securing business.
- (b) Intentional Violation Unlawful. The intentional violation of the representation specified in subsection (a) of this section is unlawful.

E. Section 2-1052. Restrictions on Employment of Present and Former City Employees.

Contemporaneous employment prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any city employee to become or be, while such employee, an employee of any party contracting with the particular department or agency in which the person is employed.

For violations of the ethical standards outlined in the Knoxville City Code, the City has the following remedies:

- (1) Oral or written warnings or reprimands;
- (2) Cancellation of transactions; and
- (3) Suspension or debarment from being a Contractor or subcontractor under city or city-funded contracts.

The value of anything transferred in violation of these ethical standards shall be recoverable by the City from such person. All procedures under this section shall be in accord with due process requirements, included but not limited to a right to notice and hearing prior to imposition of any cancellation, suspension or debarment from being a Contractor or subcontractor under a city contract.

- 6.12.** Firms must comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 and 11375 which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Firms must also comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Copeland Anti-Kick Back Act, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Section 402 of the Vietnam Veterans Adjustment Act of 1974, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all of which are herein incorporated by reference.
- 6.13.** Firms shall give consideration to the inclusion of minority firms or individuals in this project, and shall advise the city in this proposal of their efforts to do so.
- 6.14.** Firms shall give consideration to the use of environmentally sustainable best practices, and shall advise the city in this submittal of qualifications of their efforts to do so.
- 6.15.** Federal, State, and Local Requirements. Each submitting entity is responsible for full compliance with all laws, rules and regulations which may be applicable.
- 6.16. Licenses.** Before a contract is signed by the City, the submitting entity, if selected, **must** provide the City Purchasing Division with a copy of its valid business license **or** with an affidavit explaining why it is exempt from the business licensure requirements of the city or county in which it is headquartered. If a contract is signed, the contractor's business license shall be kept current throughout the duration of the contract, and the contractor shall inform the City of changes in its business name or location. The contractor must be a licensed professional as required by the state of Tennessee, see T.C.A. Sections 62-2-101 et. seq., for any services in this contract requiring such licensure.
- 6.17. Funding.** The City's performance and obligation to pay under this contract is subject to funding contingent upon an annual appropriation.
- 6.18. Governing Law and Venue.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of Tennessee and its conflict of laws provisions. Venue for any action arising between the City and the Contractor from the Agreement shall lie in Knox County, Tennessee.
- 6.19. Subcontracts to the Agreement.** Contractor shall not enter into a subcontract for any of the services performed under this Agreement without obtaining the prior written approval of the City.
- 6.20. Amendments.** This Agreement may be modified only by a written amendment or addendum that has been executed and approved by the appropriate officials shown on the signature page of the Agreement.

- 6.21. Captions.** The captions appearing in the Agreement are for convenience only and are not a part of the Agreement; they do not in any way limit or amplify the provisions of the Agreement.
- 6.22. Severability.** If any provision of the Agreement is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, such determination shall not affect the validity of the other provisions contained in the Agreement. Failure to enforce any provision of the Agreement does not affect the rights of the parties to enforce such provision in another circumstance, nor does it affect the rights of the parties to enforce any other provision of this Agreement at any time.
- 6.23. No Benefit for Third Parties.** The services to be performed by the Contractor pursuant to the Agreement with the City are intended solely for the benefit of the City, 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, and no right to assert a claim against the City 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.
- 6.24. 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.
- 6.25. Force Majeure.** Neither party shall be liable to the other for any delay or failure to perform any of the services or obligations set forth in this Agreement due to causes beyond its reasonable control, and performance times shall be considered extended for a period of time equivalent to the time lost because of such delay plus a reasonable period of time to allow the parties to recommence performance of their respective obligations hereunder. Should a circumstance of force majeure last more than ninety (90) days, either party may by written notice to the other terminate this Agreement. The term "force majeure" as used herein shall mean the following: acts of God; strikes, lockouts or other industrial disturbances; acts of public enemies; orders or restraints of any kind of the government of the United States or of the State or any of their departments, agencies or officials, or any civil or military authority; insurrections, riots, landslides, earthquakes, fires, storms, tornadoes, droughts, floods, explosions, breakage or accident to machinery, transmission pipes or canals; or any other cause or event not reasonably within the control of either party.
- 6.26. EEO/AA.** The City of Knoxville is an EE/AA/Title VI/Section 504/ADA/ADEA Employer.
- 6.27.** By submitting a proposal, the submitting entity agrees to all terms and conditions established in this RFP, including its contract requirements.

## VII. Instructions to Submitting Entities

All submissions of proposals shall comply with the following instructions. These instructions ensure that (1) submissions contain the information and documents required by the City's RFP and (2) the submissions have a degree of uniformity to facilitate evaluation.

### 7.1. General

Submission forms and RFP documentation may be obtained on or after Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at no charge from:

City of Knoxville Purchasing Division  
City/County Building  
400 Main Street, Room 667

Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday or by calling 865/215-2070. Forms and RFP information are also available on the City web site at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing) where it can be read or printed using Adobe Acrobat Reader software.

## 7.2. Submission Information

Option 1 - Electronic Submission Procedures. Electronic submissions shall be submitted online through the City's Procurement website. DO NOT EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSION. All proposers/bidders must register as a vendor in order to submit an electronic file.

Step One: Register as a City of Knoxville vendor (Vendors are encouraged to complete this step now to ensure seamless submission process prior to deadline.) To register as a vendor: Visit the website at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing) Click the "Vendor Registration" tab; then "Click here to register as a City of Knoxville Vendor" Follow the prompts to complete online registration. Note: You will be asked for a PIN. This PIN will be emailed to you and may be sent to your spam or junk folder.

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL SUBMISSION DEADLINE TO REGISTER AS A VENDOR.** The electronic submission link will be disabled at 11:00:00 a.m. Eastern time. Vendors will not have the ability to submit any electronic files once the deadline has passed and the City will accept no late submissions.

Step Two: Submit all materials electronically as one (1) file to City's Procurement website PRIOR to 11:00:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) on Friday, January 6, 2023. To submit electronic file: Visit the procurement website at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/bids](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/bids) Click "RFP – Landscaping Services for Scattered Sites", Click "Submit Bid" (red button located at top of screen) Follow the prompts to upload and submit electronic file. The City prefers only one (1) bid file per submission. Files MUST use the following naming convention, listing the firm's name followed by the title of the project. Example: "ABC Company-Landscaping Scattered Sites.pdf." Should you need to merge multiple documents into one PDF please utilize Google to download a free software intended for merging pdf documents.

Option 2 - Hard Copy Submission Procedures: Proposals shall include one original and one electronic copy of the proposal (.pdf format on CD or USB drive only—mark the storage device with the company name); the electronic version shall be an exact duplicate of the original, and the electronic version will be the official document exhibited in the contract. Electronic submissions must be included with the sealed submissions; do not email your submission.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The original hard copy submitted proposal must bear an original signature, signed in ink (duplicated signatures substituted for original ink signatures may result in rejection of the proposals).** The signature must be entered above the typed or printed name and title of the signer. All proposals must be signed by an officer of the company authorized to bind the firm to a contract.

Proposals will be received until 11:00:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) on Friday, January 6, 2023. Each proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:

City of Knoxville Purchasing Division  
City/County Building  
400 Main Street, Room 667  
Knoxville, TN 37902

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Each mailing envelope or carton containing a proposal or multiple copies of the proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside "RFP – Landscaping Services for Scattered Sites."**

Proposers are reminded that the Purchasing Division receives many bids and proposals for any number of solicitations; **unlabeled submissions are extremely difficult to match to their appropriate solicitations and therefore may be rejected.**

Any proposals received after the time and date on the cover sheet will not be considered. It shall be the sole responsibility of the submitting entity to have the proposal delivered to the City of Knoxville Purchasing Division on or before that date.

Late proposals will not be considered. Proposals that arrive late due to the fault of United States Postal Service, United Parcel Service, DHL, FEDEX, any delivery/courier service, any other carrier of any sort, or as a result of a technology issue are still considered late and shall not be accepted by the City. Such proposals shall remain unopened and will be returned to the submitting entity upon request.

### **7.3. Format**

The City is committed to reducing waste. Submissions of qualifications must be typed on 8.5 x 11 inch wide white paper, printed on both sides. DO NOT BIND the document; instead, staple or binder clip the submission together and place in a sealed envelope (see Paragraph 7.2). Pages must be consecutively numbered. A table of contents must be included in the proposal immediately after the title page, and each of the following numbered sections must be tabbed.

Proposals shall be structured as follows. Numbered items listed below should have a numbered tab page:

1. Title Page
2. Table of Contents
3. Submission Forms:
  - A. [Form S-1](#)
  - B. [Non-Collusion Affidavit](#)
  - C. [No Contact/No Advocacy Affidavit](#)
  - D. [Child Crime Affidavit](#)
  - E. [Drug Free Workplace Affidavit](#)
  - F. [Iran Divestment Act Certification of Noninclusion](#)
  - G. [Diversity Business Enterprise Program Form](#)
  - H. [Exceptions to Terms and Conditions](#)
4. Body of Proposal: Proposal must include information responding to the evaluation criteria detailed below.

[NOTE: All required submission forms may be found in this solicitation document.](#)

### **7.4. Evaluation of Proposals**

All qualified submissions received by the deadline will be analyzed by the Evaluation Committee according to the criteria outlined in these specifications. Failure to comply with the provisions of the RFP may cause any proposal to be ineligible for evaluation. Each submittal of proposals will be initially analyzed and judged according to the evaluation criteria below. The maximum score is 100 points.

The City reserves full discretion to determine the capability of proposing entities. Proposers, if asked, will provide, in a timely manner, any and all information that the City deems necessary to make such a decision. In addition to materials provided in the written responses to this RFP, the Committee may request additional material, information, references, a site visit, or a live test demonstration from the submitting entity or others.

The Evaluation Committee may or may not decide to interview any or all proposing entities at a time and date determined by the City in order to address questions and more fully ascertain how the solution to this project satisfies the evaluation criteria. Firms and/or teams responding to this Request for Proposals shall be available for interviews with the Evaluation Committee. Discussions may be conducted with responsible submitting entities for purposes of clarification to assure full understanding of and conformance to the RFP requirements. Selection shall be based on the firms' qualifications applicable to the scope and nature of the services to be performed per this request for proposals. Determination of firms' qualifications shall be based on their written responses to this Request for Proposals and information presented to the Evaluation Committee during oral interviews, if any.



In addition to materials provided in the written responses to this Request for Proposals, the Committee may request additional material, information, or references from the submitting entity or others.

Provided it is in the best interest of the City of Knoxville, the firm or team determined to be the most responsive to the City of Knoxville, taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in this Request for Proposals, will be selected to begin contract negotiations. The firm or team selected will be notified at the earliest practical date and invited to submit more comprehensive information if necessary. If no satisfactory agreement can be reached with the “most responsive firm,” the City may elect to negotiate with the next best and most responsive firm or team.

### **VIII. Evaluation Criteria**

An evaluation team, composed of representatives of the City, will evaluate proposals on a variety of quantitative and qualitative criteria. Upon receipt of proposals, the City will review to determine whether the proposal is acceptable or non-acceptable based on the criteria outlined below.

The criteria and the associated weights upon which the evaluation of the proposals will be based include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Pricing/Cost – 40 points:** Pricing must be provided as cost per two-week cycle (14 calendar days) as well as the total cost for a one year contract.
- 2. Approach – 30 points:** Proposer must provide details outlining the firm’s approach/plan to accomplish the goals listed within this Request for Proposals.
- 3. Qualifications/Experience of Firm – 30 points:** Proposal must provide details regarding number of years in business, location of working office, and number of personnel employed available to provide service for this contract including supervisory staff. Note if personnel is full-time, part-time, or seasonal employment. Include the use of any subcontractors. All contractors must supply no less than three (3) references within the past three (3) years where similar work and comparable job size was performed. Include the name of the business, address, phone number, and contact person’s email address for each reference. Provide any unique strengths, experiences, or qualifications of your firm. Include proof of “Pesticide Applicator Certification”.

## Submission Forms



# CITY OF KNOXVILLE

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### Landscaping Services for Scattered Sites

#### Submission Form S-1

Proposals to be Received by 11:00:00 a.m., Eastern Time; Friday, January 6, 2023; in Room 667-674, City/County Building; Knoxville, Tennessee.

**IMPORTANT:** All submissions of proposals shall comply with the instructions found in [Section 7, Instructions to Submitting Entities](#). These instructions ensure that (1) submissions contain the information and documents required by the City's RFP and (2) the submissions have a degree of uniformity to facilitate evaluation; **do not email your submission.**

Please complete the following:

Legal Name of Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

DUNS #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title of Signer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Failure to use these response sheets may disqualify your submission.**

**Non-Collusion Affidavit of Prime Bidder**

State of \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that:

1. He/She is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the firm that has submitted the attached Bid;
2. He/She is fully informed respecting the preparation and contents of the attached Bid and of all pertinent circumstances respecting such Bid;
3. Such Bid is genuine and is not a collusive or sham Bid;
4. Neither the said Bid nor any of its officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees, or parties in interest, including this affiant, has in any way colluded, conspired, connived or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any other Bidder, firm or person to submit a collusive or sham Bid in connection with the Contract for which the attached Bid has been submitted or to refrain from proposing in connection with such Contract, or has in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement or collusion or communication or conference with any other Bidder, firm, or person to fix the price or prices in the attached Bid or of any other Bidder, firm, or person to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of the bid price or the bid price of any other Bidder, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, connivance or unlawful agreement any advantage against the City of Knoxville or any person interested in the proposed Contract; and
5. The price or prices quoted in that attached Bid are fair and proper and are not tainted by any collusion, conspiracy, connivance or unlawful agreement on the part of the Bidder or any of its agents, representatives, owners, employees, or parties in interest, including this affidavit.

(Signed): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

## No Contact/No Advocacy Affidavit

State of \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that:

- (1) He/She is the owner, partner, officer, representative, or agent of

\_\_\_\_\_;

the Proposer that has submitted the attached Proposal;

- (2) The Proposer \_\_\_\_\_ swears or affirms that he/she will abide by the following "No Contact" and "No Advocacy" clauses:

- a) **NO CONTACT POLICY:** After the posting of this solicitation to the Purchasing Division's website, any contact initiated by any proposer with any City of Knoxville representative concerning this proposal is strictly prohibited, unless such contact is made with the Purchasing Agent (Penny Owens) or the listed Point of Contact (Karisa Scott). Any unauthorized contact may cause the disqualification of the proposer from this procurement transaction.
- b) **NO ADVOCATING POLICY:** To ensure the integrity of the review and evaluation process, companies and/or individuals submitting proposals for any part of this project, as well as those persons and/or companies representing such proposers, may not lobby or advocate to the City of Knoxville staff including, but not limited to, members of City Council, Office of the Mayor, Public Service Department or any other City staff.

**Any company and/or individual who does not comply with the above stated "No Contact" and "No Advocating" policies may be subject to having their proposal rejected from consideration.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_.

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

## Child Crime Affidavit

State of \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that:

- (1) He/She is the owner, partner, officer, representative, or agent of

\_\_\_\_\_,

the Proposer that has submitted the attached Proposal;

- (2) The Proposer \_\_\_\_\_ will abide by the following if chosen as the successful proposer:

The Proposer \_\_\_\_\_ agrees not to allow any employee or volunteer who is awaiting trial or has been convicted of a felony crime involving the sexual exploitation of children, sexual offenses involving children or violent crimes to participate in this Agreement at sites where children may be present. Failure by the Proposer to comply with this requirement is grounds for immediate termination of the Agreement.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_.

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**Drug-Free Workplace Affidavit**

State of \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, being  
duly sworn, deposes, and says that:

- (1) He/She is a principal officer of \_\_\_\_, the firm that has submitted the attached Proposal, his or her title being \_\_\_\_\_ of the firm; and
- (2) He/She has personal knowledge of the policies of the above-named firm with respect to the maintenance of a drug-free workplace; and
- (3) He/She certifies that all provisions and requirements of the Tennessee Drug-Free Workplace Program, as established by Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 50-9-101 et. seq., have been met and implemented.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

## Iran Divestment Act

Certification of Noninclusion

**NOTICE:** Pursuant to the Iran Divestment Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-106 requires the State of Tennessee Chief Procurement 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 § 12-12-105. Inclusion on this list makes a person ineligible to contract with the state of Tennessee; if a person ceases its engagement in investment activities in Iran, it may be removed from the list. A list of entities ineligible to contract in the State of Tennessee Department of General Services or any political subdivision of the State may be found here:

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/generalservices/documents/cpo/cpo-library/public-information-library/List of persons pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 12-12-106 Iran Divestment Act updated 7.7.17.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/generalservices/documents/cpo/cpo-library/public-information-library/List_of_persons_pursuant_to_Tenn._Code_Ann._12-12-106_Iran_Divestment_Act_updated_7.7.17.pdf)

By submission of this bid, each bidder and each person signing on behalf of any bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that each bidder is not on the list created pursuant to T.C.A. § 12-12-106.

Vendor Name (Printed)	Address
By (Authorized Signature)	Date Executed
Printed Name and Title of Person Signing	

NOTARY PUBLIC:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_.

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_



## Diversity Business Enterprise Program (DBE) Program

The City of Knoxville strongly encourages prime contractors to employ diverse businesses in the fulfillment of contracts/projects for the City of Knoxville.

The City of Knoxville's Fiscal Year 2022 goal is to conduct 4.3% of its business with minority owned businesses, 10.3% of its business with women-owned businesses, and 37.1% with small businesses.

While the City cannot engage (pursuant to state law) in preferential bidding practices, the City does **strongly encourage** prime contractors to seek out and hire diverse businesses in order to help the City meet its goals as stated above. As such, the City encourages prime contractors to seek out and consider competitive sub-bids and quotations from diverse businesses.

For DBE tracking purposes, the City requests that prime contractors who are bidding, proposing, or submitting statements of qualifications record whether or not they plan to employ DBE's as sub-contractors or consultants. With that in mind, please fill out, sign and submit (with your bid/proposal) the following sub-contractor/ consultant statement.

### CITY OF KNOXVILLE DIVERSITY BUSINESS DEFINITIONS

Diversity Business Enterprise (DBE's) are minority-owned (MOB), women-owned (WOB), service-disabled veteran-owned (SDVO), and small businesses (SB), who are impeded from normal entry into the economic mainstream because of past practices of discrimination based on race or ethnic background. These persons must own at least 51% of the entity and operate or control the business on a daily basis.

Minority: A person who is a citizen or lawful admitted permanent resident of the United States and who is a member of one (1) of the following groups:

- a. African American, persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa;
- b. Hispanic American, persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race;
- c. Native American, persons who have origin in any of the original peoples of North America
- d. Asian American, person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.

Minority-owned business (MOB) is a continuing, independent, for profit business that performs a commercially useful function, and is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more minority individuals.

Woman-owned business (WOB) is a continuing, independent, for profit business that performs a commercially useful function, and is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more women.

Service Disabled Veteran-owned business (SDOV) is a continuing, independent, for profit business that performs a commercially useful function, owned by any person who served honorably on active duty in the armed forces of the United States with at least twenty percent (20%) disability that is service connected. Meaning such disability was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air service, and is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more service disabled veteran.

Small Business (SB) is a continuing, independent, for profit business which performs a commercially useful function and has total gross receipts of not more than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) average over a three-year period or employs no more than ninety-nine (99) persons on a full-time basis.

**Subcontractor/Consultant Statement**  
(TO BE SUBMITTED IN THE BID/PROPOSAL ENVELOPE)

We \_\_\_\_\_ do certify that on the  
(Bidder/Proposer Company Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Project Name)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Amount of Bid)

**Please select one:**

**Option A: Intent to subcontract using Diverse Businesses**

A Diversity business will be employed as subcontractor(s), vendor(s), supplier(s), or professional service(s). The estimated **dollar value** of the amount that we plan to pay is:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
Estimated Amount of Subcontracted Service

<b>Diversity Business Enterprise Utilization</b>			
Description of Work/Project	Amount	Diverse Classification (MOB, WOB, SB, SDOV)	Name of Diverse Business

**Option B: Intent to perform work “without” using Diverse Businesses**

We hereby certify that it is our intent to perform 100 % of the work required for the contract, work will be completed without subcontracting, or we plan to subcontract with non-Diverse companies.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Representative)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exceptions to Terms and Conditions

Applicants shall be presumed to be in agreement with the terms and conditions of the RFP unless the Applicant takes specific exception to one or more of the conditions on this form. RESPONDERS ARE CAUTIONED THAT BY TAKING ANY EXCEPTION THEY MAY BE MATERIALLY DEVIATING FROM THE RFP SPECIFICATIONS. IF A RESPONDER MATERIALLY DEVIATES FROM A RFP SPECIFICATION, ITS PROPOSAL MAY BE REJECTED.

A material deviation is an exception to a specification which 1) affords the Responder taking the exception a competitive advantage over other Responders, or 2) gives the City something significantly different than the City requested.

INSTRUCTIONS: Responders must explicitly list all exceptions to City terms and conditions. Reference the actual number of the City's term and condition and page number for which an exception(s) is being taken. If no exceptions exist, state "NONE" specifically on the form below. Whether or not exceptions are taken, the Responder must sign and date this form and submit it as part of their Proposal. (Add additional pages if necessary.)

<b>Responder Name:</b>	
<b><u>Term &amp; Condition Number/Provision</u></b>	<b><u>Explanation of Exception</u></b>

By signing this form, I acknowledge that the above named Responder accepts, without qualification, all terms and conditions stated in this RFP except those clearly outlined as exceptions above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date