

CITY OF TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA



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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR VENOUS LEAD BLOOD TESTING SERVICES**

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OCA File Number: A20-1559

Issued by:

City of Tuscaloosa  
Office of Community & Neighborhood Services  
2201 University Boulevard  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Date Issued: 1-15-21  
Deadline for Proposals: 2-5-21

**LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

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## **PART 1 – OVERVIEW**

The City of Tuscaloosa is requesting proposals from qualified medical facilities to provide venous lead blood testing services for the City's Office of Community & Neighborhood Services Lead Hazard Abatement Program. Part 2 of this RFP provides a general description and abbreviated scope of work for the project.

This is a procurement of professional services, and will be conducted in a manner to provide full and open competition. A Selection Committee will review all proposals, and will rank firms based on criteria identified in Part 5. The criteria may include, but is not limited to, the proposal, firm qualifications, references, interviews, sample collection & laboratory analysis costs and other relevant information. Upon selection by the Selection Committee, the City will enter into negotiations with the successful Respondents. Pending successful negotiations, the successful Respondents will enter into a Contract for professional services with the City.

## **PART 2 – THE PROJECT AND SCOPE OF WORK**

The City of Tuscaloosa seeks the services of medical facilities that has the knowledge, experience and expertise to perform the services as requested.

The firm must be able to perform the following types of services upon request from the City:

1. On an as needed, as requested basis, collect venous blood samples from children under the age of six who live or frequently visit residential homes participating in the City of Tuscaloosa Lead Hazard Abatement Program and have the samples analyzed for lead at a medical laboratory.
2. Report each blood lead test result (positive and negative) to the Alabama Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program with attached form.

The firm must comply with all applicable state, local, and federal regulations related to the services provided to the City. The City reserves the right, subject to negotiation and agreement, in writing, with the selected firm, to either expand or limit the scope of services as needed.

1. The selected facility will be required to have sufficient personnel to complete the tasks required by this scope of services. The selected facility will complete the required tasks in a timely and efficient manner. The selected facility would be expected to enter into a contract for services based upon the negotiated fee structure. Please see Exhibit A on guidance for the Alabama Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

## **PART 3 – CONTENT OF PROPOSALS**

In order to facilitate the Selection Committee's evaluation, each proposal should include the following content, in the following order:

- Licensing and Professional Standing
- Facility Location
- Conflicts of Interest
- Facility Experience
- Project Understanding and Approach
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Each of these items is discussed in more detail in the following sections.

### **3.1 Licensing and Professional Standing**

Please include a brief statement confirming that the Respondent is legally authorized to do business in Alabama and in the City of Tuscaloosa, and that all staff assigned to perform services for the project are licensed or certified to perform such services in Alabama.

In addition, please include a statement confirming that the Respondent is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation by any state or federal department or agency.

Finally, for the five year period preceding submission of the proposal, please identify (1) all contracts terminated (in whole or in part) by clients for convenience or default, including contract value, description of work, project owner, contract number, and name and telephone number for a representative of the project owner; (2) all claims made against the Respondent arising out of the Respondent's professional services; and (3) all litigation (including any arbitration or mediation proceedings) to which the Respondent has been a party.<sup>1</sup> If no contracts have been terminated, or if the Respondent has not been a party to any claims or litigation, please include a statement to that effect.

### **3.2 Facility Location**

The Lead Hazard Abatement Program targets residential units within the City limits that have a child under the age of six and have a household income of less than 80% of the area median income. Facilities located within the city limits in zip codes 35401, 35404, and 35405 and along public transportation routes will be given favorable consideration.

### **3.3 Conflicts of Interest**

Please identify all actual or potential conflicts of interest that would prevent the Respondent from entering into a professional relationship with the City generally, or for this project specifically.<sup>2</sup> If no such conflicts exist, please include a statement to that effect.

### **3.4 Facility Experience**

The proposal should contain a narrative about the facility's experience, history, ownership and primary clients served by the facility and a statement as to whether the facility or any subcontractors are a minority or woman owned business enterprise.

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<sup>1</sup> The disclosure of terminated contracts, claims, or litigation will not automatically disqualify a Respondent from consideration. The Selection Committee will review any matter disclosed, and make an independent determination as to whether the matter should disqualify the Respondent from consideration.

<sup>2</sup> The disclosure of actual or potential conflicts of interest will not automatically disqualify a Respondent from consideration. The Selection Committee will review any actual or potential conflicts, and make an independent determination as to whether the conflict should disqualify the Respondent from consideration.

### **3.5 Project Understanding and Approach**

The proposal should demonstrate the Respondent's understanding of the project, and describe the Respondent's proposed approach to the project and the activities to be accomplished. Please provide a proposed work plan which identifies project milestones (e.g., project elements, measures, and deliverables), and the Respondent's anticipated timeline for accomplishing each milestone.

### **3.6 Quality Assurance and Quality Control**

The proposal should describe how the responding Respondent will provide quality assurance ("QA") and quality control ("QC") for the project. Identify the individuals that will be involved in QA/QC services. If your firm has a structured QA/QC program, briefly describe the program and how it will be applied to the project.

## **PART 4 – INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSALS**

Before submitting a proposal, the Respondent should carefully review the entire RFP and be familiar with its contents. Submission of a proposal shall be considered evidence that the Respondent has fully studied the RFP and is familiar with the general conditions to be encountered in performing any services.

### **4.1 Format of Proposals**

Proposals shall be 8.5" x 11" in size. General brochure type information is to be kept to a minimum, and the proposal shall be a maximum of 6 one-sided pages or 3 two-sided pages. Proposals may be written in either Times New Roman or Calibri font, and the font size must be 12-point or larger.

### **4.2 Inquiries**

The City will accept inquiries on the contents and requirements of the RFP in electronic form only. Inquiries may only be submitted by email. Inquiries should be submitted to:

**Chip Cates**  
**Project Manager**  
**Office of Community & Neighborhood Services**  
**lead@tuscaloosa.com**

Inquiries must be submitted at least seven (7) days before the deadline for submission of proposals. **For this RFP, the deadline for inquiries is January 29, 2021 at 5:00 Central Standard Time, after which time no further inquiries will be addressed by the City.**

If the City chooses to respond to an inquiry, the City will do so in writing, in the form of an addendum to this RFP. The addendum will be sent to all recipients of the RFP, and will be posted to the City's website at [www.tuscaloosa.com/bids](http://www.tuscaloosa.com/bids).

Each addendum issued by the City shall become part of this RFP and proposals shall include any work or requirements described in the addendum. No addendum will be issued or posted less than 72 hours before the deadline for submission of proposals.

#### **4.3 Submission of Proposals**

**Proposals must be received by the City by 5:00 Central Standard Time on February 5, 2021.** Late proposals will not be accepted or reviewed. It is the Respondent's responsibility to ensure that the proposal is submitted and received within the time required by this RFP. The City is not responsible for delayed or late deliveries due to mailing or delivery service.

Proposals should be clearly labeled with the OCA file number:

**OCA File Number:     A20-1559**

Respondents must submit proposals electronically. Electronic submissions should be made in Portable Document Format (PDF) file format, and should be sent to via email to:

**lead@tuscaloosa.com**

The Respondent's email should reference the OCA file number listed above. The Respondent is responsible for obtaining confirmation that the City received the Respondent's proposal.

#### **4.4 Additional Items Related to Proposals**

##### **a.     Proposal Rejection/Proposal Costs**

By issuing this RFP, the City does not commit to entering into a contract, to paying any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal, or to procuring or contracting for services. The City reserves the right to cancel this RFP in whole or in part, to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal it considers the most favorable to the City's interests in its sole discretion, and to waive irregularities or informalities in any proposal or in the proposal procedures. The City reserves the right to reject all proposals and issue a new RFP, at its sole discretion. All proposals and other materials submitted in response to this RFP will become property of the City.

##### **b.     Contract and Insurance Requirements**

The City has standard contract and insurance requirements for professional services contracts, and is unable to make substantial changes to the requirements for the contract to be used for this project. The laws of the State of Alabama shall govern the contract executed between the successful Consultant and the City, as well as any interpretations or constructions thereof. Further, the place of performance and transaction of business shall be deemed to be in the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and in the event of litigation, the exclusive venue and place of jurisdiction shall be in the Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

**c. Requests for Additional Information**

The City reserves the right to request additional information to clarify the proposals.

**4.5 Public Records**

Each Respondent is hereby informed that, upon submission of its proposal to the City in response to this RFP, the proposal becomes the property of the City.

Unless otherwise compelled by a court order, the City will not disclose any proposal while the City conducts its deliberative process in accordance with the procedures identified in this RFP. However, after the City either awards an agreement to a successful Consultant, or the City rejects all proposals, the City shall consider each proposal subject to the public disclosure requirements of the Alabama Open Records Act (Ala. Code § 36-12-40) and Tuscaloosa City Code § 2-4, unless there is a legal exception to public disclosure.

If a Respondent believes that any portion of its proposal is subject to a legal exception to public disclosure, the Respondent shall: (1) clearly mark the relevant portions of its proposal "Confidential"; (2) upon request from the City, identify the legal basis for exception from disclosure under the Open Records Act; and (3) defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City regarding any claim by any third party for the public disclosure of the "Confidential" portion of the qualifications submittal.



**PART 5 – SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The City will use a Selection Committee of qualified City employees for the evaluation of proposals. This is a qualifications-based procurement for professional services, in which the qualifications of the responding Consultants will be reviewed and evaluated, and the most qualified firm will be selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation.

The Selection Committee will review the proposals submitted in response to this RFP, and rate the proposals based on the following grading system, which includes both numerical and pass/fail criteria:

<b><u>Numerically-Scored Criteria</u></b>	<b>Max. Points</b>
• Facility Experience	10
• Project Understanding and Approach	15
• Quality Assurance and Quality Control	15
• Minority- or Woman-Owned Business	5
• Facility Location	5
<b><u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u></b>	
• Compliance with RFP Instructions	P/F
• Licensing and Professional Standing	P/F
• Conflicts of Interest	P/F

The Selection Committee will eliminate from consideration any proposal which receives a “Fail” grade on any one or more of the pass/fail criteria for evaluation.

After review and evaluation of the proposals, the Selection Committee may select one or more Respondents for interviews. However, the Selection Committee is not required to conduct interviews. The Selection Committee may determine that interviews are not necessary for the selection process, and such decision is within the sole discretion of the Selection Committee.

When the Selection Committee concludes its work, it will make a recommendation to the City Council’s Community Development Committee or Public Projects Committee, and request authority to begin negotiating an agreement, including final scope of work and fees for services, with the successful Respondent.

Upon approval by the Community Development or Projects Committee, City staff will begin contract negotiations with the successful Respondent. If the negotiations are unsuccessful, or if an agreement cannot be reached within a reasonable time, as determined by the City, then City staff will terminate negotiations the firm, and will request authority from the Projects Committee to begin negotiations with another Respondent. Any compensation discussed with one Respondent will not be disclosed or discussed with any other Respondent.

Upon the conclusion of negotiations, the successful Respondent will enter into an agreement with the City. The agreement shall not be in force until it is approved by the Tuscaloosa City Council, and

it is signed by the Mayor. The City cannot pay for any work or services performed prior to the approval of the agreement by the City Council, and the issuance of a notice to proceed by the City.

Please note, this RFP does not guarantee that the City will make any contract award. The City reserves the right to modify, amend, or withdraw this RFP, in whole or in part, at any time and for any reason, in its sole discretion. The City also reserves the right to reject all proposals, in its sole discretion.