



MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RESPONSE TO BIDDER QUESTIONS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION FOR THE OWOSSO DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT, OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

On Friday, February 3, 2012, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, State Historic Preservation Office ("Authority" or "SHPO) released an RFP seeking an individual or firm that is authorized to do business in Michigan to write a National Register of Historic Places ("NRHP") nomination for the Owosso Downtown Historic District and, in addition, conduct historical research for the Steam Railroading Institute, both located in Owosso, Michigan.

This Response to Bidder Questions provides answers to prospective Contractors who raised questions following Section IV - Communications with Authority Staff Prior to Selection of Proposal outlined in the RFP.

QUESTION 1: The RFP states that a foreign entity must have a Certificate of Authority to Transact Business. Is this the same as her Architecture license with the State of Michigan?

ANSWER: No, these are distinct licenses. Whereas the Architecture license authorizes the holder to practice Architecture in the State of Michigan, the Certificate of Authority to Transact Business documents that the holder may transact business in the State of Michigan.

QUESTION 2: I am in receipt of the National Register nomination rfp for the Alma Downtown Historic District and understand there are similar rfps for Escanaba and Owosso. In reading over the rfp I see that those of us who are sole proprietors are excluded. In my 30 years of consulting I have never seen a provision like this. Could you please let me know the rationale behind such a provision? It seems that this would result in depleting the pool of proposals which would be most cost effective for your agency. Most independent consultants with only a few employees operate as sole proprietors, have less overhead and are more cost competitive than LLCs or incorporated groups. Again, I have never seen this type of exclusion and would appreciate an explanation for this.

ANSWER: The Authority wants to ensure that it will be entering into a contractual agreement with an incorporated entity licensed to do business in Michigan in order to minimize potential liability to both the Authority and the contractor.

QUESTION 3: Please explain the rationale behind excluding sole proprietors.

ANSWER: The Authority wants to ensure that it will be entering into a contractual agreement with an incorporated entity licensed to do business in Michigan in order to minimize potential liability to both the Authority and the contractor.

QUESTION 4: We are concerned that in order to be considered, we must be a Michigan state business entity. Does this mean we must be registered in the state (for tax purposes, etc.) or must we actually be physically located in the state?

ANSWER: The business entity must be authorized to do business in the State of Michigan as outlined in the RFP's Section II, D. It is not required to be physically located within the State of Michigan.