

Procurement

Operations

Request for Qualifications For Legal Services for Co-Bond Counsel Project No. 13-11

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

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Legal Services for Co-Bond Counsel

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

December 3, 2012

Subject: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Legal Services for Co-Bond Counsel

HCC Project No. 13-11

ISSUED BY:

Houston Community College Procurement Operations Department 3100 Main Street (11th Floor) Houston, Texas 77002

SUBMIT INQUIRES TO:

Name: Reginald Harmon Title: Procurement Supervisor Telephone: (713) 718-5029

Fax: (713) 718-2113

Email: Reginald.Harmon@HCCS.edu

PROPOSERS ARE CAUTIONED TO READ THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS RFQ CAREFULLY AND TO SUBMIT A COMPLETE RESPONSE TO ALL REQUIREMENTS AND QUESTIONS AS DIRECTED.

I. General

The <u>Houston Community College and the Houston Community College System Public Facility Corporation</u>, collectively, ("HCC") or ("College") is seeking statements of qualifications from firms/individuals interested in providing HCC with **Legal Services for Co-Bond Counsel (Co-Bond Counsel Services)** in connection with the issuance of bonds at any time during the term of the resulting contract as more fully described in Section VII.

The selected firm/individual will be expected to perform the services in accordance with the Scope of Services set forth in Section VII, below and in accordance with the requirements of this solicitation.

HCC reserves the right to reject any or all qualification submittals or to accept any qualification submittals it considers most favorable to HCC, or to waive irregularities in the qualification and submittal process. HCC further reserves the right to reject all qualification submittals and terminate the solicitation process or seek new qualification submittals when such procedure is reasonably in the best interest of HCC.

This RFQ solicitation does not in any way obligate HCC to award a contract or pay any expense or cost incurred in the review and submission of qualification statements responding to this RFQ.

All applicable attachments contained in the RFQ shall be completed. Failure to do so may result in the firm's Qualifications Submittal being declared non-responsive to the solicitation requirements.

Note: Attachments 1, 2, and 4 must be signed and notarized.

Information provided in response to the Request for Qualifications is subject to the Texas Public Information Act and may be subject to public disclosure.

By submitting its Qualifications in response to this RFQ, respondent accepts the evaluation process and acknowledges and accepts that determination of "most-qualified" firm(s) will require subjective judgments by the Evaluation Committee.

Qualifications shall not include any information regarding respondent's fees, pricing or other compensation. Such information will be solicited from the qualified firms who are selected by HCC in accordance with the published evaluation criteria.

II. <u>Pre-proposal Meeting:</u> Not Applicable

III. Document Submission:

Interested firms shall submit **one (1) original** and **five (5) printed** copies of their statement of qualifications documents to the below address no later than **January 3, 2013 @ 2:00 p.m.** (local time). Original and copies of the submission should be accompanied by **one (1) CD or flash drive** with electronic copies of the submission. The electronic copies should be in non-editable .PDF format and should include the entire submission.

NOTE: <u>HCC WILL BE CLOSED</u> FOR THE WINTER BREAK <u>STARTING THURSDAY</u>, <u>DECEMBER 20</u>, <u>2012 AND REOPENING ON WEDNESDAY</u>, <u>JANUARY 2</u>, <u>2013</u>. RESPONDENTS ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT GIVEN HCC WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE NOTED PERIOD; RESPONDENTS MUST COORDINATE THE DELIVERY OF THEIR RESPONSE TO THIS RFQ ACCORDINGLY.

Houston Community College
Procurement Operations
Attn: Reginald Harmon, Sr. Buyer
3100 Main Street (11th Floor, Room No. 11A06)
Houston, Texas 77002
Legal Services for Co-Bond Counsel, Ref: Project No. 13-11

Please complete and return the following documents in your statement of qualifications package:

Section V	Response to Document Format & Content
Attachment No. 1	Proposer/Contract Award
Attachment No. 2	Proposer Certifications
Attachment No. 3	Conflict of Interest Questionnaire
Attachment No. 4	Financial Interests & Potential Conflicts of Interests
Attachment No. 5	Determination of Good Faith Effort
Attachment No. 6	Small Business Unavailability Certificate
Attachment No. 7	Contractor & Subcontractor Participation Form
Attachment No. 8	Small Business Development Questionnaire

IV. Inquiries

Interested firms may make <u>written inquiries</u> only concerning this Request for Qualifications to obtain clarification of the requirements. Written inquiries shall be submitted no later than <u>3:00 P.M. (local time)</u> on <u>December 13, 2012</u>, and must be addressed to:

Houston Community College Procurement Operations Attn: Reginald Harmon, Sr. Buyer 3100 Main Street (11th Floor) Houston, Texas 77002

Legal Services for Co-Bond Counsel, Ref: Project No. 13-11

e-mail: Reginald.Harmon@HCCS.edu

V. Document Format and Content

A. Responses shall be submitted in 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" sizes. Responses must be typed and should not include any unnecessarily elaborate or promotional material. The form, content and sequence of the response should follow the outline presented below.

B. <u>Document Content:</u>

- **1. Transmittal Letter/Introduction (1 Page maximum):** The letter of transmittal shall be addressed to Reginald Harmon, and must, at a minimum, contain the following:
 - Identification of the offering firm(s), including name, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number and fax number of each firm;
 - · Acknowledgement of receipt of RFQ amendments, if any;
 - Name, title, address and telephone number and fax number of a contact person for the firm(s):
 - Identification of any information contained in the response documents which the
 respondent deems to be, and establishes as, confidential or proprietary and wishes to be
 withheld from disclosure to others under the Texas Open Records Act (a blanket statement
 that all contents of the response document are confidential or proprietary will not be
 honored by HCC); and
 - Signature of a person authorized to bind the offering firm to the terms of the response documents.

2. Firm's Financial Status:

- (a) Provide evidence of the firm's financial stability including but not limited, any one or more of the following: the firm's audited financial statement for the last two (2) years; a statement from at least one financial institution with validation of at least six (6) months working capital; recent annual reports or equivalent information and your short and long-term credit rating; a letter from the company's CPA attesting to the company's financial stability.
- (b) Is your company currently in default on any loan agreement or financing agreement with any bank, financial institution, or other entity. If yes, specify date(s), details, circumstances, and prospects for resolution.
- **Table of Contents:** Immediately following the transmittal letter and introduction, include a complete table of contents for material included in the response documents.
- 4. Company Profile, Qualification and Experience: Briefly furnish background information about your firm, including date of founding, legal form (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation/state of incorporation), number and location of offices, location of company headquarters/main office, total number of employees company wide and total number of employees in the State of Texas, and principal lines of business. Certify that the firm is legally permitted or licensed to conduct business in the State of Texas for the services offered. Only individual firms or lawfully formed business organizations may apply (This does not preclude a respondent from using consultants.) HCC will contract only with the individual firm or formal organization that submits a Qualification.
- **5.** Overview of the Firm: Provide a brief description of your firm, including the total number of in attorneys and employees, the number of attorneys providing Co-Bond Counsel or related services, and the number of years the firm has been engaged in providing similar services in Texas. Explain how your firm is organized and how its resources will be applied to HCC's work. Indicate the amount of Professional Liability Insurance your firm carries.

6. Demonstrated Qualifications of Firm:

- **6.1** Provide a detailed list of all bonds that your firm has closed during the past five years in the following four categories:
 - ≥ \$100 million

- > \$500 million
- for Community or Junior Colleges, Universities and K-12 Public School Systems
- for Public Facility Corporations

Confirm the name(s) of the attorneys proposed to be assigned to HCC which served as bond counsel, co-bond counsel, underwriter's counsel, special tax counsel, disclosure counsel, or trustee's counsel, by issuer type (i.e., state agency and state institutions of higher education; cities, counties, school districts, junior colleges, and other special authorities and districts). NOTE: Please report separate series of one transaction as one bond issue: for example, if a transaction includes a tax-exempt series and a small taxable series due to issuance costs, report the transaction as one bond issue. Also, please do not report the same issue for more than one attorney unless each attorney performed a substantial amount of work on the issue.

7. <u>Demonstrated Qualifications of Personnel:</u>

- 7.1 Provide resumes of those persons who would be assigned to serve HCC as Co-Bond Counsel, and indicate specifically the proposed role of each individual. The resumes must clearly specify the number of years the attorney has been licensed to practice law in Texas, and/or other jurisdiction, and the number of years' experience in providing Co-Bond Counsel or related services. Further, identify who would be assigned as the primary, day-to-day contact for HCC. (Please list the attorneys who would be assigned to HCC separately from other attorneys who you may wish to identify as special or back-up resources, and do provide complete resumes for the attorneys who would be assigned primarily.)
- **7.2** Include and organizational chart, which identifies key personnel and their particular roles in the performance of the Co-Bond Counsel Services.
- **8.** Past Performance References: This section should establish the ability of the respondent to satisfactorily perform the required Co-Bond Counsel Services. Provide the names, addresses, and phone numbers and email of at least three (3) references. Select the three transactions from the list provided in Section 6 above and explain how these transaction best demonstrates the abilities of your firm to serve as HCC's Co-Bond Counsel.

9. Small Business Practices:

- **9.1** Describe your previous experience and involvement working with Small Business certified firms (if your firm is not HUB certified) or as a HUB certified firm in a Co-Bond Counsel relationship. Please describe your firm's approach to working with Co-Bond Counsel, including level of effort, division of duties and providing opinions.
- **9.2** Describe efforts made by the firm to encourage and develop the participation of minorities and women in the provision both of the firm's legal services generally and disclosure matters in particular. Specify whether the firm has adopted formal Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies, and provide a summary of the firm's hiring and promotion statistics for women and minority attorneys from January 2009 to date.
- 9.3 For this Project HCC has a small business participation goal of Best Effort. At a minimum, your response must include: (a) a description of previous projects where your firm has successfully subcontracted work to small businesses, minority/women owned businesses, and/ or disadvantaged businesses including the percentage (%) of work subcontracted to these firms under each project; (b) a narrative outlining your overall approach to subcontracting and how you will solicit and select small businesses, minority/women owned businesses, and/ or disadvantaged businesses for participation as part of this Project; and (c) indicate what challenges you anticipate in attaining HCC's goal (see Texas Educ. Code 44.038 (h)

Note: Refer to Attachment Nos. 5, 6 & 7, Determination of Good Faith Effort, Contractor and Subcontractor Participation Form, and Small Business Unavailability Certificate,

respectively these forms are provided as Samples only and do not need to be completed by Respondents at this time.

- 10. Conflicts of Interest: Please disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest. In addition, identify each matter in which the firm has, within the past three calendar years, represented any entity or individual with an interest adverse to HCC or the State of Texas, or any of its boards, agencies, commissions, universities, or elected or appointed officials. NOTE: In an attempt to eliminate any potential OR even an appearance of a conflict of interest, HCC has determined to maintain mutually exclusive duties in that separate firms will be used for each of the following: Bond, Co-Bond and Disclosure Counsel Services. Any resulting recommendation under this Request for Qualifications or separate Disclosure Counsel Request for Qualifications shall not be awarded to the same firm.
 - **10.1** Fully disclose and describe any relationships with financial institutions or underwriting firms that may affect, or appear to affect, the performance of duties as defined in this RFO
 - **10.2** Fully disclose and describe any judicial, administrative, civil, criminal or regulatory proceedings, whether formal or informal, pending or occurring within the past three (3) years involving legal services as co-bond counsel your firm, or any individual in your firm, provides involving governmental entities.
- 11. <u>Business Relationship Strength:</u> "Business Relationship Strength" for the purpose of this RFQ shall mean the definition and commitment of the respondent towards a mutually successful "relationship" between the selected contractor and HCC for the duration of the Project. Respondent's Qualification Statement must include their definition, proposal and commitment to forge, foster and maintain a mutually successful "relationship" with HCC. At a minimum, your response must include: (a) your definition of a mutually successful "relationship" between your firm and HCC; and (b) your firm's commitment to a mutually successful "relationship" in the form of at least three, and not more than five, specific, obtainable criteria, activities, agreements or requirements that shall, subject to negotiation and mutual consent, become features of the awarded contract and shall guide the HCC-Contractor relationship for the duration of the Project

Provide any other details regarding special services, products, advantages or other benefits offered to HCC by the Respondent.

VI. Evaluation Criteria

Selection of the most qualified firm(s) will be made on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications to perform Co-Bond Counsel Services. An Evaluation Committee will review the statement of qualifications submitted in response to the solicitation. Evaluation factors for the selection of the firm(s) are as follows:

Evaluation Criteria	Available Points
Demonstrated Qualifications of the Firm (See description at Section V.B.6)	40
Demonstrated Qualifications of Personnel (See description at Section V.B.7)	40
Past Performance References (See description at Section V.B.8)	20
Small Business Practices (See description at Section V.B.9)	Acceptable/Unacceptable
Conflicts of Interest (See description at Section V.B.10)	Acceptable/Unacceptable
Business Relationship Strength	Acceptable/Unacceptable

(See description at Section V.B.11)	
Total Points	100

HCC may request additional clarification and oral interviews from a short-list of the top rated firms solely on the written responses to this request for qualifications. The **anticipated** schedule for potential interviews, if any, may be the <u>week of January 7, 2013</u>. Final selection will occur upon completion of the interview process, if any.

VII. Scope of Services

Co-Bond Counsel is expected to work with HCC and the current Bond Counsel in assigning those attorneys and professionals employed by the firm who are best suited to appropriately respond to such requests in connection with the issuance of bonds and with ongoing compliance of any/all trust indentures and other documents and agreements integral to the issuance of such bonds. The firm will provide any such services as Co-Bond Counsel, which includes review of all official statements and other documents prepared in connection with bond issues being sold into the public market.

The firm engaged to perform Co-Bond Counsel Services will be working with HCC's financial team and current Bond Counsel. The firm selected to perform Co-Bond Counsel Services will be responsible for duties which may include, but not limited to, providing opinions and advice related to debt structuring, program documentation, the sale and closing of securities and tax issues including disclosure and arbitrage regulation compliance, consulting with Administration and the Trustees, drafting and circulating required issuance documents for approval, coordinating the closing of the issues and assisting in compliance with any continuing disclosure requirements.

Proposer acknowledges and understands that this document provides a general description of the services to be performed and is not intended to be all inclusive. In performing the services of Co-Bond Counsel, the firm represents that it is familiar with the responsibilities and obligations that are required to effectively deliver these services, and agrees to perform all necessary and required work to deliver Co-Bond Counsel Services consistent with industry best practices and in accordance with all licensing, regulations, and professional standards.

A. General Description:

- 1. Assist in making presentations and required submissions and obtaining approval of any entity with oversight authority for the issuance of bonds by HCC;
- 2. Assist in preparing all resolutions, agreements, contracts, and other documents to which HCC is a party and which will be necessary in connection with the issuance of the bonds;
- 3. Attending meetings of the Board to the extent required or requested;
- 4. Attending all document sessions;
- 5. Representing HCC as Co-Bond Counsel in the review of any bond purchase contracts and insuring that all participants, including underwriters and investment banking firms, whether retained by or contracting with HCC, disclose all conflicts of interest to and with HCC and any other parties involved in the bonds;
- 6. Assist HCC in presentations to the major rating agencies in order to obtain ratings for the bonds;
- 7. Rendering a legal opinion that the bonds:
 - i. will be validly issued under Texas law;

- ii. the interest on the bonds is excludable from federal income tax under existing federal law:
- 8. Preparing any IRS filings required by federal tax law;
- Rendering such other written opinions of Co-Bond Counsel pertaining to investment earnings and any amounts required to be rebated to the United States as excess arbitrage earnings, if any, and any other written opinions of counsel which may be required under the terms of the Bond Resolution or under the Internal Revenue Code, as amended;
- 10. Assist in the preparation of specified sections of the Preliminary Official Statement and the Final Official Statement, with the understanding that bond counsel will not be expected to independently verify other data contained in the Official Statement and that the Official Statement may so state;
- 11. Assist in preparing certain certificates and reviewing such other documents as are customary and necessary in order to structure and issue bonds;
- 12. Rendering advice to individual Board Members, the Board and HCC Administration to the effect that representations or certifications made by the Board, individual Board Members and Staff in connection with the issuance of the bonds are authorized or required by law and that bond counsel is not aware of any fact or omission which would make any representation or certification untrue or misleading;
- 13. Assist in providing advice and counsel on continuing compliance with securities, tax, and other applicable law;
- 14. Assist in providing assistance on legislative matters affecting HCC;
- 15. Assist in supervising the preparation, execution and delivery of the bonds to the purchasers and the printing and binding of the bond transcripts, in the role of Co-Bond Counsel; and
- 16. Assist in all other matters necessary or incidental to the issuance of the bonds. Contract(s) resulting from this RFQ shall be in the form provided by the Office of General Counsel. With the approval of the General Counsel's Office, a contract may include the following sentence: "This contract does not include litigation or contested case services." No other provision relating to the exclusion of services will be accepted. HCC will be responsible for stating the specific required services and allocating duties and tasks between bond counsel and co-bond counsel, if any, commensurate with the negotiated level of compensation.

The resulting contract may include services for all bond issuances during the initial contract term which is anticipated for three (3) years plus HCC's option to renew for an additional two (2) year period. Proposer acknowledges and understands that this document provides a general description of the services to be performed and is not intended to be all inclusive. In performing the services of Co-Bond Counsel, the firm represents that it is familiar with the responsibilities and obligations that are required to effectively deliver these services, and agrees to perform all necessary and required work to deliver Co-Bond Counsel Services consistent with industry best practices and in accordance with all licensing, regulations, and professional standards.

VIII. Eligibility for Award

- a. In order for a respondent to this solicitation to be eligible for selection for Step 2 of the selection process and subsequently to be eligible to be awarded the contract, the Qualification submittal must be responsive to the solicitation and HCC must be able to determine that the respondent is responsible and has the resources and capacity to perform the resulting contract satisfactorily.
- b. Responsive Qualification submittals are those that comply with all material aspects of the solicitation, conform to the solicitation documents and meet the requirements set forth in this

solicitation. Qualification submittals, which do not comply with all the terms and conditions of this solicitation, will be rejected as non-responsive.

- c. Responsible respondents, at a minimum, must meet the following requirements:
 - Have adequate financial resources, or the ability to obtain such resources as required during the performance of any resulting contract;
 - Be able to comply with the required performance schedule, taking into consideration all existing business commitments;
 - Have a satisfactory record of past performance;
 - Have necessary personnel and management capability to perform any resulting contract;
 - Be qualified as an established firm regularly engaged in the type of business necessary to fulfill the contract requirements;
 - Certify that the firm is not delinquent in any tax owed the State of Texas under Chapter 171, Tax Code; and is not delinquent in taxes owed to the Houston Community College System; signing and submitting the proposal is so certifying to such non-delinquency; and
 - Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.
- d. Respondents(s) may be requested to submit additional written evidence verifying that the firm meets the minimum requirements described in Section VIII. (c) and as necessary to perform the requirements of the solicitation and be determined a responsible proposer. Failure to provide any requested additional information may result in the proposer being declared non-responsive and the proposal being rejected.
- e. A person is not eligible to be considered for award of this solicitation or any resulting contract or to be a subcontractor of the proposer or prime contractor if the person assisted in the development of this solicitation or any part of this solicitation or if the person participated in a project related to this solicitation when such participation would give the person special knowledge that would give that person or a prime contractor an unfair advantage over other bidders.
- f. A person or proposer shall not be eligible to be considered for this solicitation if the person or proposer engaged in or attempted to engage in prohibited communications as described in Section XI of this solicitation.
- g. Firm shall maintain in effect for the full contract term Professional Liability Insurance at an amount of no less than \$5,000,000 and Per Occurrence/Aggregate \$5,000,000.

IX. Indemnification

Consultant shall indemnify, pay for the defense of, and hold harmless the College and its officers, agents and employees of and from any and all liabilities, claims, debts, damages, demands, suits, actions and causes of actions of whatsoever kind, nature or sort which may be incurred by reason of Consultant's negligence, recklessness, or willful acts and/or omission in rendering any services hereunder. Consultant shall assume

full responsibility for payments of federal, state and local taxes or contributions imposed or required under the social security, Workers' Compensation or income tax law, or any disability or unemployment law, or retirement contribution of any sort whatever, concerning Consultant or any employee and shall further indemnify, pay for the defense of, and hold harmless the College of and from any such payment or liability arising out of or in any manner connected with Consultant's performance under this Agreement.

X. Small Business Development Program (SBDP)

a. HCC has adopted a Small Business Development Program for small businesses attempting to provide goods and/or services as prime contractors or as subcontractors to other prime contractors to HCC. The program is designed to prevent discrimination by ensuring that small, underutilized and disadvantaged businesses are informed and prepared to compete for HCC procurements. HCC will neither discriminate nor select vendors on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, veteran status, sexual orientation or disability in its procurement selection process.

- b. Small businesses whose gross annual income averaged over the past three (3) years does not exceed the Small Business Administration's size standard as specified in 13 CFR Part 121 are eligible to apply for participation in the program.
- c. For this solicitation, HCC has established a **<u>Best Effort</u>** as its goal for Small Business participation.
- d. Good Faith Efforts- HCC will make a good faith effort to utilize small businesses in all contracts. The annual program goals may be met by contracting directly with small businesses or indirectly through subcontracting opportunities. Therefore, any business that contracts with HCC will be required to make a good faith effort to award subcontracts to small businesses. The subcontracting goal applies to all vendors regardless of their status by implementing the following procedures, a contractor shall be presumed to have made a good faith effort:
 - e. To the extent consistent with industry practices, divide the contract work into reasonable lots.
 - f. Give notice to SBDP eligible firms of subcontract opportunities or post notices of such opportunities in newspapers and other circulars.
 - g. Document reasons for rejecting a firm that submitted a proposal for subcontracting opportunities.

To the extent required by the solicitation, the contract shall require the selected contractor to agree to attain small business participation goal or target set forth in the solicitation.

XI. Prohibited Communications

Except as provided in exceptions below, the following communications regarding this solicitation or any other invitation for bids, requests for proposal, requests for qualifications, or other solicitation are prohibited:

- [1] Between a potential vendor, subcontractor to vendor, service provider, proposer, Offeror, lobbyist or consultant and any Trustee;
- [2] Between any Trustee and any member of a selection or evaluation committee; and
- [3] Between any Trustee and administrator or employee.

The communications prohibition shall be imposed from the day the solicitation is first advertised through thirty (30) days after the contract is executed by the Chancellor or his/her designee, or when a determination is made that the contract will not be awarded. During this period, no HCC Trustee and no vendor shall communicate in any way concerning any pending Solicitation involving the Vendor, subject to the penalties stated herein.

In the event the Board refers the recommendation back to the staff for reconsideration, the communication prohibition shall be re-imposed.

The communications prohibition shall not apply to the following:

- [1] Duly noted pre-bid or pre-proposal conferences.
- [2] Communications with the HCC General Counsel.
- [3] Emergency contracts.
- [4] Presentations made to the Board during any duly-noticed public meeting.
- [5] Unless otherwise prohibited in the solicitation documents, any written communications between any parties, provided that the originator shall immediately file a copy of any written communication with the Board Services Office. The Board Services Office shall make copies available to any person upon request.
- [6] Nothing contained herein shall prohibit any person or entity from publicly addressing the Board during any duly-noticed public meeting, in accordance with applicable Board policies, regarding action on the contract.

Any potential vendor, subcontractor vendor, service provider, bidder, offeror, lobbyist or consultant who engages or attempts to engage in prohibited communications shall not be eligible for the award of any resulting contract under this solicitation. Any other direct or indirect actions taken to unduly influence competitive purposes, to circumvent equal consideration for competitive bidders, or to

disregard ethical and legal trade practices will disqualify bidders, vendors, service providers, lobbyist, consultants, and contractors from both this current and any future consideration for participation in HCC orders and contracts.

XII. Drug Policy

HCC is a drug-free workforce and workplace. The manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of illegal drugs (except legally prescribed medications under physician's prescription and in the original container) or alcohol by vendors or contractors while on HCC's premises is strictly prohibited.

XIII. Conflict of Interest

If a firm, proposer, contractor or other person responding to this solicitation knows of any material personal interest, direct or indirect, that any member, official or employee of HCC would have in any contract resulting from this solicitation, the firm must disclose this information to HCC. Persons submitting a proposal or response to this solicitation must comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations of the State of Texas Government Code, including, without limitation, Chapter 171 and 176 of the Local Government Code. The person /proposer submitting a response to this solicitation must complete (as applicable), sign and submit the attached Conflict of Interest Questionnaire Form, and Disclosures – Financial Interest and Potential Conflict of Interests with the proposal package. HCC expects the selected contractor to comply with Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code and that failure to comply will be grounds for termination of the contract.

Note: The attached Conflict of Interest Questionnaire Form, and Disclosures – Financial Interest and Potential Conflict of Interests forms shall be completed signed and returned to HCC. Enter N/A in those areas on the Attachments that are not applicable to your company. Failure to complete, sign and notarize (if applicable) these Attachments shall render your proposal non-responsive.

XIV. Ethics Conduct

Any direct or indirect actions taken to unduly influence competitive purposes, to circumvent equal consideration for competitive bidders, or to disregard ethical and legal trade practices will disqualify vendors and contractors from current and future consideration for participation in HCC orders and contracts.

XV. Submission Waiver

By submitting a response to this Solicitation, the Offeror or respondent agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against Houston Community College System and its trustees, employees or agents arising out of or in connection with (1) the Administration, evaluation or recommendation of any offer or response; (2) any requirements under the solicitation, the solicitation or response package or related documents; (3) the rejection of any offer or any response or any part of any offer or response; and/or (4) the award of a contract, if any.

XVI. Vendor Registration

A PROPERLY COMPLETED VENDOR APPLICATION IS REQUIRED AND IS A CONDITON OF CONTRACT AWARD. The website address to access the vendor registration form is: https://hccs.sbecompliance.com/FrontEnd/StartRegistry.asp?TN=hccs&XID=4636

XVII. Terms and Conditions

The selected firm will enter into a Letter of Agreement upon such terms as mutually agreed upon by HCC's and the selected firm.

ATTACHMENT NO. 1

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS PROPOSAL/CONTRACT AWARD FORM

PROJECT TITLE: PROJECT NO.:	Legal Services 13-11	for Co-Bond Co	ınsel		
Name of Proposer/C	Contractor:				
Federal Employer Id (Note: please refer t	lentification Number to RFQ- Summary, Se	ection XVI: Vendo	r Registration)	-	
Address:					
Telephone:					
Fax:					
E-mail:					
In compliance with undersigned hereby pr Statement of Qualificat if any.	oposes to furnish all ne	ecessary resources re	equired to perform	n the services in a	ccordance with our
The undersigned certificand conditions set fortifications. The representations in the his/her knowledge. To decision, HCC relies of response. Accordingly terminate any contract representations made of the set	n in this Solicitation and e undersigned further Solicitation and that s he undersigned unders on the truth and accu r, HCC has the right to award that may have	d any and all amend certifies that he/sh aid statements and stands and agrees the diracy of the statem suspend or debar to resulted from this	ments issued by he is legally author representations and twhen evaluations and represente undersigned fi	HCC and made a portized to make the true and accurating proposals and entations presented from its procurements.	part of this Request the statements and rate to the best of I making an award and in the proposa ent process and/or
Signed By:		Name:	(Type or Pr	>	
Title:(Type or Print)			(Type or Pr	int)	
State of					
Sworn to and subscribe	ed before me at	(City)		, (State)	
this the	day of		, 201		
Notary Public for the S	tate of:				

Effective Date: _____

ACCEPTANCE AND CONTRACT AWARD FORM (Note: This page will be completed by HCC.)

Purchase Order No._____ (for payment purposes only)

Contractor to perform the work required herein in accordance with Purchase Order(s) issued by HCC, the Terms and Conditions incorporated herein by reference, and the prices, scope of services and any terms,

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Project No. _____

Executed for and on behalf of the Houston Community College pursuant to approval by the Board of Trustees on ______, 201_.

specifications and requirement attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Signed By: _____

Title:

ATTACHMENT No. 2 PROPOSER'S CERTIFICATIONS HCC Project No.: 13-11

1. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

The undersigned certifies that he/she will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment or in the selection of subcontractors because of race, color, age, religion, gender, national origin or disability. The undersigned shall also take action to ensure that applicants are employed, and treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin or disability. Such action shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following: non-discriminatory employment practices: employment, upgrading or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other compensation and selection for training, including apprenticeship.

2. BLACKOUT PERIOD COMPLIANCE:

The undersigned certifies that he/she has read, understands and agrees to be bound by the Prohibited Communications provision set forth in the RFQ. The undersigned further understands that the Bidder shall not communicate with a HCC Trustee, employee, or any member of the selection/evaluation committee in any way concerning this Solicitation from the day it is first advertised through thirty (30) days after the contract is executed by the Chancellor or his/her designee, or when a determination is made that the contract will not be awarded.

This period is known as the "Blackout Period," as further defined in Section 1.7.10 and 3.3 of the Procurement Operations Manual. Violation of the Blackout Period is considered unethical conduct and will be handled as such with regard to a Trustee and all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, local ordinances, board policies and procurement procedures with respect to their conduct as public officials involved in the procurement process.

With regard to a Bidder, violation of the Blackout Period may result in the cancellation of the referenced transaction, debarment, disqualification from future procurement solicitations and prosecution in accordance with the Laws of the State of Texas.

3. CERTIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

A person or business entity entering into a contract with HCC is required by Texas Law to disclose, in advance of the contract award, if the person or an owner or operator of the business entity has been convicted of a felony. The disclosure should include a general description of the conduct resulting in the conviction of a felony as provided in section 44.034 of the Texas Education Code. The requested information is being collected in accordance with applicable law. This requirement does not apply to a publicly held corporation.

If an individual: Have you been convicted of a felony?	YES or NO
If a business entity:	YES or NO
Has any owner of your business entity been convicted of a felony?	
Has any operator of your business entity been convicted of a felony?	

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please provide a general description of the conduct resulting in the conviction of the felony, including the Case Number, the applicable dates, the State and County where the conviction occurred, and the sentence.

4. CERTIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

A person or business entity entering into a contract with HCC is required by Texas Law to disclose, in advance of the contract award, if the person or an owner or operator of the business entity has been convicted of a felony. The disclosure should include a general description of the conduct resulting in the conviction of a felony as provided in section 44.034 of the Texas Education Code. The requested information is being collected in accordance with applicable law. This requirement does not apply to a publicly held corporation.

If an individual:	
Have you been convicted of a felony?	YES or NO
If a business entity:	YES or NO
Has any owner of your business entity been convicted of a felony?	
Has any operator of your business entity been convicted of a felony	?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please provide a general description of the conduct resulting in the conviction of the felony, including the Case Number, the applicable dates, the State and County where the conviction occurred, and the sentence.

5. DISCLOSURE OF OWNERSHIP INTERESTS:

The undersigned certifies that he/she has accurately completed the attached Exhibit 1 "Ownership Interest Disclosure List." For the purposes of this section, in accordance with Board Bylaws, the term "Contractors" shall include any member of the potential vendor's board of directors, its chairperson, chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief operating officer, any person with an ownership interest of 10% or more. This requirement shall also apply to any Subcontractor listed on the "Contractor and Subcontractor Participation Form."

6. PROHIBITED CONTRACTS/PURCHASES:

The undersigned certifies that he/she has read, understands and is eligible to receive a contract in accordance with HCC Board of Trustees Bylaw regarding Prohibited Contracts/Purchases as further defined in the attached Exhibit 2.

I attest that I have answered	the questions truthfully and to the best of	of my knowledge.
Signed:		
Name of Company:		
Address of Company:		_
State of		
Sworn to and subscribed befo	ore me at(City)	(State)
this the	day of	, 201
Notary Public for the State of	:	

EXHIBIT 1 - TO ATTACHMENT NO. 2 OWNERSHIP INTEREST DISCLOSURE LIST PROJECT NO. 13-11

<u>Instruction</u>: Using the following table, please fill in the names of any member of the Respondent's company who is a "Contractor" (as defined in Section 5 above); any person with an ownership interest of 10% or more; and any Subcontractor listed on the "Contractor and Subcontractor Participation Form."

Name	Title	Company Name

EXHIBIT 2 - TO ATTACHMENT NO. 2 PROHIBITED CONTRACTS/PURCHASES PROJECT NO. 13-11

The College shall not contract with a business entity in which a Board Member, Senior Staff Member, or a relative of a Board member or Senior Staff Member within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity, <u>has any pecuniary interest</u>. All such contracts executed prior to June 21, 2012 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Further, the College shall not contract with a business entity that employs, hires, or contracts with, in any capacity, including but not limited to, a subcontractor, employee, consultant, advisor or independent contractor, a Board Member or a Senior Staff Member.

Further, the College shall not contract with a business entity that employs an officer or director who is a relative of a Board member or a Senior Staff Member within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity.

Definitions:

"Business entity" shall not include a corporation or a subsidiary or division of a corporation whose shares are listed on a national or regional stock exchange or traded in the over-the-counter market. "Business entity" shall not include non-profit corporations or religious, educational, and governmental institutions, except that private, for-profit educational institutions are included in the definition of Business entity.

"Director" is defined as an appointed or elected member of the board of directors of a company who, with other directors, has the responsibility for determining and implementing the company's policy, and as the company's agent, can bind the company with valid contracts.

"Officer" is defined as a person appointed by the board of directors of a company to manage the day-to-day business of the company and carry out the policies set by the board. An officer includes, but is not limited to, a chief executive officer (CEO), president, chief operating officer (COO), chief financial officer (CFO), vice-president, or other senior company official, as determined by the Board.

"Senior Staff Member" shall have the meaning as defined in Article A, Section 3 of the Board Bylaws which includes:

- a. Any member of the Chancellor's Advisory Council;
- b. HCC employees classified as E-10 and above;
- c. All procurement and purchasing personnel;
- d. Any employee who participates on an evaluation or selection committee for any HCC solicitation for goods or services; and
- e. Any employee who participates in the evaluation of goods or services provided by a vendor or contractor.

Absent other legal requirements, all contracts entered into by the College in violation of this policy shall be voided within 30 days of notice of the violation.

I attest that I have answered the questions truthfully and to the best of my knowledge.

ATTACHMENT NO. 3

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE	FORM CIQ		
For vendor or other person doing business with local governmental entity	/		
This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 1491, 80th Leg., Regular Session.	OFFICE USE ONLY		
This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code by a person who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the person meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).	Date Received		
By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006, Local Government Code.			
A person commits an offense if the person knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.			
Name of person who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.			
Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire.			
(The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the applater than the 7th business day after the date the originally filed questionnaire become			
Name of local government officer with whom filer has employment or business relationship	р.		
Name of Officer			
This section (item 3 including subparts A, B, C & D) must be completed for each officer with whom the filer has an employment or other business relationship as defined by Section 178.001(1-a), Local Government Code. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.			
A. Is the local government officer named in this section receiving or likely to receive taxable i income, from the filer of the questionnaire?	ncome, other than investment		
Yes No			
B. Is the filer of the questionnaire receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than invedirection of the local government officer named in this section AND the taxable income is governmental entity?			
Yes No			
C. Is the filer of this questionnaire employed by a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership of 10 percent or more?			
Yes No			
D. Describe each employment or business relationship with the local government officer nar	ned in this section.		
4			
Signature of person doing business with the governmental entity	Date		

Adopted 06/29/2007

Note: When completing this Questionnaire, please be certain to answer each and every question; indicate "Not Applicable", if appropriate

ATTACHMENT NO. 4 FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS HCC Project No. 13-11

Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 requires that vendors desiring to enter into certain contracts with a local governmental entity must disclose the financial and potential conflict of interest information as specified below.

Vendor shall disclose the financial interest and potential conflict of interest information identified in Sections 1 through 3 below as a condition of receiving an award or contract. Submit this information along with your bid, proposal, or offer. This form must be completed, signed and notarized. The Completed form must be submitted along with your proposal

This requirement applies to contracts with a value exceeding \$50,000.

Section 1 - Disclosure of Financial Interest in the Vendor

a. If any officers or employees of HCC ("individuals") have one of the following financial interests in the vendor (or its principal) or its subcontractor(s), please show their name and address and check all that apply and (include additional documents if needed):

Name: Address:	,	- -
b. For each individual named	above, show the type of ownership/distributable income sha	re:
Distributive Income Share from Real property interest with far Person related to or married	ig \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of vendor from Vendor exceeding 10% of individual's gross income fair market value of at least \$2,500 to individual has ownership or real property interest in Vendone above financial interests (If none go to Section 4) to partnership	() () () or ()
interest in the vendor (or its particular in the proportionate share subcontractor of vendor	d above, show the dollar value or proportionate share principal) or its subcontractor (s) as follows: e of the named individual(s) in the ownership of the vendor (s) is 10% or less, and if the value of the ownership interest less of the fair market value of vendor, check here ().	or its principal) or

If the proportionate share of ownership \$15,000 of the fair market value of vendo			f the ownership into	erest exceeds
the percent of ownership %, the value of ownership interest \$	or			
Section 2 - Disclosure of Potential Conflictor each of the individuals having the level of other HCC individual not identified in Section following potential conflict of interest relational pages as applicable section-attach additional pages as	of financial into 1 above checl ionships apply	erest identified « "Yes" or "No	" to indicate which,	if any, of the
 Employment, currently or in the previous 3 for services for vendor. 	years, includir		ed to contractual en	nployment
b. Employment of individual's spouse, father, contractual employment for services for vende		us 2 years.	cluding but not limito	ed to
Section 3- Disclosure of Gifts For each of the individuals having the level of other HCC individual not identified in Section following potential conflict of interest relationable section-attach additional pages as	1 above checl ionships apply	k "Yes" or "No	" to indicate which,	if any, of the
a. Received a gift from vendor (or principa preceding 12 months.	al), or subcont	ractor of venc	lor, of \$250 or mo	re within the
		Yes	No	
b. Individual's spouse, father, mother, son, of subcontractor of vendor, of \$250 of more with	or daughter ha	ng 12 months.	jift from vendor (or No	principal), or

Section 4- Other Contract and Procurement Related Information

Vendor shall disclose the information identified below as a condition of receiving an award or contract.

This requirement is applicable to only those contracts with a value exceeding \$50,000. You must submit this information along with your bid, proposal, or offer.

a. Vendor shall identify whether vendor (or its principal), or it (including leases) with other government agencies of the State of			contracts
	Yes		
b. If "yes" is checked, identify each contract by showing agency n such as purchase order or contract reference number (attach add			nation
c. Vendor shall identify whether vendor (or its principal) or its (including leases), bids, proposal, or other ongoing procuremagencies of the State of Texas by checking:	ent relations		
d. If "yes" is checked, identify each such relationship by showing information such as bid or project number (attach additional page	• ,	•	ve

This disclosure is submitted	on behalf of:			
(Name of Vendor)				
Certification . I hereby cer in this disclosure statemer requested may result in m knowingly violating the recthat it is my responsibility t I also understand that I n changes in the significant fi individuals that were not id my company.	nt is true and co y bid, proposal, quirements of Te o comply with the nust submit an u nancial interests	orrect. I understand to or offer, being rejected exas Local Governme e requirements set forth updated disclosure form of the individuals I iden	that failure to disclose it, and/or may result in the code Chapter 17 in by HCC as it relates the within seven (7) day tified in Section 1 of the	the information prosecution for 76 . I understand this disclosure. The of the office
Official authorized to sign o	n behalf of vendo	or:		
Name (Printed or Typed)		Title _		
Signature		Date _		
"NOTE: BIDDER MUST CONFLICTS OF INTERES YOUR OFFER SHALL RES THIS SOLICITATION." For assistance with complet 718-2099	STS" FORM. FA SULT IN YOUR (ILURE TO COMPLET OFFER BEING CONSI	E AND RETURN THI DERED AS "NON-RE	S FORM WITH SPONSIVE" TO
State of				
Sworn to and subscribed b	efore me at	(City)	(State)	
this the	day of		, 201	
Notary Public for the State	of:			

ATTACHMENT NO. 5 (Sample)

DETERMINATION OF GOOD FAITH EFFORT PROJECT NO. 13-11

Proposer
Address
Phone Fax Number
In making a determination that a good faith effort has been made, HCC requires the Proposer to complete this form as directed below:
Section 1. After having divided the contract work into reasonable lots or portions to the extent consistent with prudent industry practices, the Proposer must determine what portion(s) of work, including goods or services, will be subcontracted. Check the appropriate box that identifies your subcontracting intentions:
Yes, I will be subcontracting portion(s) of the contract. (If Yes, please complete Section 2, below and Attachments No.4 Contractor/Subcontractor Participation Form and No. 5 SBD Questionnaire)
No, I will not be subcontracting any portion of the contract, and will be fulfilling the entire contract with my own resources. (If No, complete Section 3, below.)
Section 2. In making a determination that a good faith effort has been made, HCC requires the Proposer to complete this form Section and submit supporting documentation explaining in what ways the Proposer has made a good faith effort to attain the goal. The Proposer will respond by answering "yes" or "no" to the following and provide supporting documentation. (1) Whether the Proposer provided written notices and/or advertising to at least five (5) certified small businesses or advertised in general circulation, trade association and/or small businesses focus media concerning subcontracting opportunities.
(2) Whether the Proposer divided the work into the reasonable portions in accordance with standard industry practices.
(3) Whether the Proposer documented reasons for rejection or met with the rejected small business to discuss the rejection.
(4) Whether the Proposer negotiated in good faith with small businesses, not rejecting qualified subcontractors who were also the lowest responsive bidder.
NOTE: If the Proposer is subcontracting a portion of the work and is unable to meet the

solicitation goal or if any of the above items (1-4) are answered "no", the Proposer must submit a

letter of justification.

Section 3.

SELF PERFORMANCE JUSTIFICATION

If you responded "No" in SECTION 1, please explain how your company will perform the entire contract with its own equipment, supplies, materials, and/or employees.				
		_		
(Signature of Proposer)	(Title)			
	<u></u>			
(Date)				

ATTACHMENT NO. 6 (Sample) SMALL BUSINESS UNAVAILABILITY CERTIFICATE PROJECT NO. 13-11, Legal Services for Co-Bond Counsel

I. NAMI	E		TITLE			
OF FIRM	FIRM NAME			CERTIFY THAT ON DATE		
THE SMALL BUSI	NESSES LISTED HEREIN WERE C	CONTACTED TO SOLICIT PRO	OPOSALS FOR MATERIALS OR SE	ERVICES TO BE USED ON THE ABOVE STATED	PROJECT.	
DATE	SMALL BUSINESS	TELEPHONE #	CONTACT PERSON	MATERIALS OR SERVICES	RESULTS	
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
THE REASON(S)	STATED IN THE <i>RESULTS</i> COLU FEMENT IS A TRUE AND ACCURA	JMN ABOVE.		ITATION, UNABLE TO PREPARE A PROPOSAL DING SUBCONTRACT(S) OR SUPPLY ORDER(S		
	NOTE: THIS FORM TO BE SUL (SEE PROPOSER INSTRUCTIO		POSAL DOCUMENTS FOR WA	IVER OF SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATI	TON	
INT NAME			SIGN	ATURE		
TLE			DATE			

ATTACHMENT NO. 7 (Sample)

HCC PROJECT NO. 13-11, Legal Services for Co-Bond Counsel CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR PARTICIPATION FORM

PROPOSER/OFFERER PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SOLICITATION AND ANY RESULTING CONTRACT. ALL PROPOSERS/OFFERORS, INCLUDING SMALL BUSINESSES SUBMITTING PROPOSALS AS PRIME CONTRACTORS, ARE REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE GOOD FAITH EFFORTS TO INCLUDE SMALL BUSINESSS IN THEIR PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS.

CONTRACTOR			TYPE OF WORK TO BE DONE	TYPE OF SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATION	PERCENT OF CONTRACT EFFORT	PRICE \$
BUSINESS NAME:						
ADDRESS:						
CONTACT NAME:						
TELEPHONE #/E-MAIL ADDRESS	S:					
SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRAC	CTOR(S)/ATTACH SEPARATE SHI	EET IF NEEDED		<u> </u>		
BUSINESS NAME:						
ADDRESS:						
CONTACT NAME:						
TELEPHONE #/E-MAIL ADDRESS	S:					
BUSINESS NAME:						
ADDRESS:						
CONTACT NAME:						
TELEPHONE #/E-MAIL ADDRESS	S:					
NON-SMALL BUSINESS SUBCON	ITACTOR(S)/ATTACH SEPARATE	SHEET IF NEEDED				
BUSINESS NAME:						
ADDRESS:						
CONTACT NAME:						
TELEPHONE #/E-MAIL ADDRESS	S:					
BUSINESS NAME:						
ADDRESS:						
CONTACT NAME:						
TELEPHONE #/E-MAIL ADDRESS	S:					
BUSINESS NAME:				DATE SUBMITTED		
ADDRESS: SUBMITTED BY:				R'S PRICE/TOTAL SMALL BUSIN RICE/TOTAL NON- SMALL BUSI		
TELEPHONE/FAX:			SUBCONTRACTOR(S) PR	SUB-CONTRACTOR'S PRICE/T		
E-MAIL ADDRESS:				GRAND T		

ATTACHMENT NO. 8 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONNAIRE PROJECT NO. 13-11

Note: Vendors are to complete and submit this form in a separate envelope marked "*Small Business Development Questionnaire*" as part of the Statement of Qualification response.

FIRM NAME:				
FIRM ADDRESS:				
TELEPHONE:				
FAX NUMBER:		-		
EMAIL ADDRESS:				
CONTACT PERSON'S NAME AND PHONE I	NO			
SIGNATURE OF FIRM'S AUTHORIZED OFF	FICIAL:			
NAME AND TITLE (Type or Print):				
COMPANY MAJORITY OWNERSHIP (Check one in each colun	nn)		
ETHNICITY	<u>GENDER</u>	LOCATION		
African American (AA)	Male	Houston (H)		
Asian Pacific American (APA)	Female	Texas (T)		
Caucasian (C)		Out of State (O)		
Hispanic American (HA)		Specify State		
Native American (NA) Public Owned (PO)				
Other (O) Specify				
BUSINESS CLASSIFICATION DBE Disadvantaged Business Ente WBE Women Owned Business Ente HUB Historically Underutilized Bus	erprise MBE Min	ority Business Enterprise		
Please provide information regarding cert Name of Agency	ifying agency (if any) Certificate Number	Expiration Date		