#### **Solano County Board of Supervisors**

County Administrator's Office



## Solano County Board of Supervisors Request for Proposals #2021-01 Community Investment Fund Transition Age Youth Homeless Grant

### Issued: February 1, 2021

## Responses due: March 15, 2021, 5:00 PM PST

## Mandatory Proposers' Conference

A Mandatory Proposers' Conference will be held:

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM PST

The Proposers' Conference will be held via Zoom and requires advance registration.

**Register for the Mandatory Proposers Conference at:** 

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctcOqsrTliGtGvWrBQeUGTdir8gkH6IJ3W

# After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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Section 2	Request for Proposals Process	MERichards@solanocounty.com		
Section 3	Instructions to Proposers	Subject Line: RFP #2021-01 TAY Homeless Grant Proposal Submission		
Section 4	Evaluation, Selection, and Award Process	RFP COORDINATOR:		
Occilon 4		Megan Richards, Deputy Director MERichards@solanocounty.com		
Section 5	Contract Information	Written questions regarding this RFP may be submitted		
Section 6	Terms and Conditions	to the RFP Coordinator no later than Friday, February 12, 2021, 5pm with the subject line RFP #2021-01		
		Questions. Questions may also be asked at the Mandatory Proposers' Conference.		
Attachment A: Proposal Form				
Attachment B: Solano County Standard Agreement				
Attachment C: Solano County Human Services Needs Assessment				

#### SCOPE OF SERVICES

#### 1.1 Overview

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The Solano County Administrator's Office is seeking highly-qualified agencies to tackle the issue of homelessness in Solano County.

Through a human service needs assessment process, the Solano County Board of Supervisors identified the top three most pressing needs as follows:

- 1. Mental Health
- 2. Housing
- 3. Homelessness

This assessment resulted in the development of a Community Investment Fund (CIF) with a 3-pronged funding approach. This Request for Proposals (RFP) addresses the implementation of a Transition Age Youth Homeless Grant Program as part of the Deep Investments of the Community Investment Fund. More information on the Human Services Needs Assessment (HSNA) and the development of the CIF, including the full report can be found in Attachment C.

The County Administrator's Office is seeking proposals to support the implementation of a Transition Age Youth (TAY) program that reduces homelessness for TAY in the county with the term of service being approximately June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. The amount of funding available to contribute to reducing transition age youth homeless in Solano County through the CIF is \$550,000 over an approximately two-year period (Year 1: \$300,000 available upon contract execution-June 30, 2022; Year 2: \$250,000 available July 1, 2022-June 30-2023). One contract award of up to \$550,000 is available through this RFP. Additional funds may be available Year 1 for housing services for TAY who are on or exiting probation.

No monies from this program may be used to supplant state, county or local general fund monies available to the agency for any purpose. Activities funded under this RFP must be new or enhancements to existing activities.

Non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, and government entities are eligible to submit proposals. Agencies not traditionally providing services in Solano County are eligible to propose.

#### 1.2 Background

The Solano County Board of Supervisors embarked upon a year-long planning process to identify the most pressing human service needs in the county and created the Community Investment Fund (CIF) to address these needs. The Human Services Needs Assessment (HSNA) planning process included a committee comprised of a group of county department leaders whose mission is connected to serving the citizens of Solano, as well as two Board of Supervisors members. This planning group reviewed community data to identify the largest gaps and need areas in the community. Subsequently, key informant interviews were conducted with a diverse group of community leaders, agencies and community-based organizations who have a big-picture view of the community and its most pressing needs. Finally, the County conducted a community survey, with close to 900 citizens weighing in on the most important needs in the community. The planning group considered all of this information in making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that they establish a CIF to address these top needs.

The CIF is a 3-pronged approach to addressing the most pressing human service needs of the county. The CIF is summarized as follows:

\$2,000,000 Community Investment Fund				
Legacy Programs	Deep Programs	One-Time Programs		
\$450,000 Annually	\$1,300,000 Annually	\$250,000 Annually		
3 year commitment	3 year commitment	1 year commitment		
Addresses many needs	Addresses top 3 needs	Addresses top 6 needs		

The top three needs, as identified via the community data review, the key informant interviews and the community survey, are as follows out of a scale from 0-3:

### **Top Priority Human Service Needs in Solano County**



This RFP addresses a portion of the \$1.3 million Deep Program Investment to help address the issue of homelessness in the county. As part of the HSNA, it was identified that a key strategy is to "Strengthen capacity to address homelessness." In 2020, RFP #2020-01 was issued to seek homelessness innovation grants. One proposal was ultimately funded via that grant opportunity to provide rapid rehousing services for unsheltered homelessness. This #2021-01 RFP aims to provide housing and/or services to transition age youth (TAY) homeless, as TAY represent a significant subpopulation of Solano County's homeless population.

The Point in Time (PIT) Count is the standard federally required measurement of the local and regional homeless population conducted every 2 years across the United States. It is one benchmark for measuring and understanding a community's homeless population. The 2019 Solano County PIT Count identified 1,151 people as homeless. Of those identified, the PIT Count showed 204 individuals, or 18% of those counted, as being between the ages of 18 and 24. Of the 204 individuals, 17% were sheltered while 83% were unsheltered.

Although the HSNA planning process was conducted to reflect the specific needs of Solano County, the identified priority areas are consistent with housing and homelessness needs that have been identified at both state and national levels. The National Low-Income Housing Coalition indicated, in March 2020, that no state has an adequate supply of affordable rental housing for the lowest income renters. Specific to California and its neighboring states of Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona, all four states reportedly had 30 or fewer rental units per 100 extremely low-income renter households. In California, 22% of renter households were extremely low income, earning 30% or less of the Area Median Income. Locally in Solano County, California Housing Partnership reported consistent data in 2019, suggesting that for the roughly 22,000 extremely-low and very-low income renter households in Solano County, there is a gap of more than 13,800 units.

Housing experts have identified gaps in housing for the lowest of income renters, coupled with increasing costs of housing, as key indicators to increases in homelessness across regions, and expected it would take time for jurisdictions to develop the numbers of units needed to meet gaps identified across studies.

In an effort to support Solano County TAY that are facing homelessness, including those who are experiencing homelessness due to housing insecurity, the CIF is positioned to provide an opportunity to support a homeless program that can support reductions in TAY homelessness.

#### 1.3 Description of Services

Proposals submitted under this RFP must address Transition Age Youth (TAY) homelessness in Solano County following Housing First principles. For purposes of this RFP, TAY is defined as persons ages 18-24. Applicants that can provide either cash or in-kind match that would multiply the impact of the program, as well as applicants that can sustain the program beyond the initial 2-year program via state or federal funding sources are strongly encouraged to apply and will receive additional points for each of these efforts.

Proposers may propose to provide temporary housing and/or permanent housing with supportive services, including education and/or employment services. Alternately, Proposers may propose services only projects, but these must clearly be tied to reducing TAY homelessness through achieving targeted outcomes. Proposers are asked to identify concrete activities/tasks and results which can be quickly scaled up and accomplished within the approximate two-year timeframe of the grant. The successful Proposer will have activities and outcomes related to:

- Both short and long-term housing stability
- Education and/or employment
- Other related outcomes, such as connection to resources, mental health, physical health, independent living skills, etc.

Proposers may choose to focus on one or more subpopulations of TAY, such as youth in or exiting probation, former foster youth, or LGBTQIA+, or all TAY who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Should proposers provide services specifically targeting TAY in or exiting probation, up to \$92,000 additional funding may be available in Year 1 for finding and maintaining housing for TAY referred by Solano County Probation. This will be determined and negotiated during contract negotiations if appropriate and at the sole discretion of the County.

Requirements of the project include:

- 1) Must receive referrals from Resource Connect Solano, the local Coordinated Entry Intake process for homeless individuals. May also receive referrals from other sources, such as Solano County Probation, Solano County Child Welfare, or other services that identify TAY within the proposed target population.
- 2) Must participate in the local Continuum of Care (CoC), Housing First Solano, by having an agency representative attend monthly CoC general membership meetings to build partnerships with local homeless services providers, such as Solano County Health & Social Services Navigators and Community Integration Team, and city homeless outreach teams.
- 3) Projects providing short- or long-term housing must track clients and services through the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) on a real-time basis. An annual license for HMIS currently costs approximately \$480 and may be built into the program budget as a part of the proposal. Services only projects may utilize any database to track data and services, including HMIS.
- 4) Must enter Performance Measures and invoices in a database selected by County. The current database for Performance Measures and invoices is Persimmony.

Agencies may submit one Proposal for up to \$550,000 for approximately two years. Only one Proposal per agency will be considered. Should an agency submit more than one proposal, the first proposal submitted will be the one evaluated, unless specifically withdrawn in writing.

#### 1.4 Funding Availability

Funding is available through this RFP in one grant of up to \$550,000 over a two-year period with the term of service being approximately June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. Funding per year is available as follows:

- Year 1: \$300,000 from contract execution (approximately June 1, 2021) June 30, 2022
- Year 2: \$250,000 from July 1, 2022 June 30, 2023

Up to \$92,000 additional funding may be available in Year 1 for finding and maintaining housing for TAY referred by Solano County Probation. This will be determined and negotiated during contract negotiations if appropriate and at the sole discretion of the County.

No monies from this program may be used to supplant state, county or local general fund monies available to the agency for any purpose. Activities funded under this RFP must be new or enhancements to existing activities.

#### 2 **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS**

#### 2.1 Eligible Proposers

"Proposer" is any individual or entity that submits a Proposal in response to this RFP. Non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, and government entities are eligible to submit a proposal.

#### 2.2 Mandatory Proposers' Conference

Potential Proposers must attend a Mandatory Proposers' Conference on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm via Zoom. The Proposers Conference requires advanced registration. To register for the Mandatory Proposers Conference visit:

<u>https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctcOqsrTliGtGvWrBQeUGTdir8gkH6IJ3W</u> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. When you log onto the Zoom Proposers' Conference, you must put your name, agency, and email address in the chat to record attendance.

The purpose of the conference is to provide an opportunity for potential Proposers to ask specific questions about the project and to request RFP clarification. Potential Proposers may submit questions in writing before or during the conference (see 2.3 below). The County will entertain questions written in the chat or verbal questions asked at the conference, but responses may be deferred and provided at a later date. Subcontractors may not represent a potential Proposer at the conference. **The County will not accept any Proposal from Proposers that do not attend the conference.** 

#### 2.3 **RFP Inquiries and Requests for Information**

Inquiries regarding the RFP may be made by email prior to the Mandatory Proposers' Conference, or may also be made at the Mandatory Proposers' Conference. Inquiries made outside of the Mandatory Proposers' Conference must be made by email to the RFP Coordinator at <u>MERichards@solanocounty.com</u> with the Subject line: **RFP #2021-01 Questions.** 

All emailed inquiries must be received by Friday, February 12, 2021, 5:00pm PST. Emailed inquiries will be addressed along with all other inquiries at the Mandatory Proposers' Conference on February 16, 2021. The County will provide written responses by February 18, 2021 to these inquiries to each individual/agency in attendance at the Mandatory Proposers' Conference via email and on the Solano County website.

#### 2.4 Schedule of RFP Events

The following Schedule of Events reflects important dates for the selection process; <u>however, the</u> <u>County reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust this schedule as it deems necessary.</u> Notification of any adjustment to the Schedule of Events will be posted on the Solano County website. Proposers are responsible to view the website continually for any revisions.

EVENT		DATE	
1	County Issues RFP Packet	February 1, 2021	
2	Deadline for Submitting Written Questions to RFP Coordinator at <u>MERichards@solanocounty.com</u> with subject line: RFP #2021-01 Questions	February 12, 2021, 5:00PM PST	
3	Mandatory Proposers' Conference Register for the Mandatory Proposers' Conference at: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctcOqsr</u> <u>TliGtGvWrBQeUGTdir8gkH6IJ3W</u>	February 16, 2021 3:00-4:30 PM	
4	Written Responses to RFP inquiries issued	February 18, 2021	
5	Deadline for Submitting a Proposal to: <u>MERichards@solanocounty.com</u> Subject line: RFP #2021-01 TAY Homeless Grant Proposal Submission	Monday, March 15, 2021, 5:00PM PST	
6	Intent to Recommend Funding Issued	April 6, 2021	
7	Board of Supervisors Recommends Funding	April 13, 2021	
8	Contract Development & Negotiations Period	April 13-May 17, 2021	
9	Completed Contract Signed by Contractor	May 17, 2021	
10	Contract Approved by the County Administrator (as delegated authority)	May 28, 2021	
11	Contract Begins (date approximate—contract must be fully executed to begin)	June 1, 2021	
12	Contract Period	July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023	

#### 2.5 **Proposal Submittal and Withdrawal**

Proposer must <u>fully complete</u> the Proposal in the format required by the County and respond to every question.

Proposals must be emailed to <u>MERichards@solanocounty.com</u> with the subject line as **RFP #2021-01 TAY Homeless Grant Proposal Submission** and must be received by **5:00 PM PST on Monday**, **March 15, 2021.**  Proposer must <u>fully complete</u> the Proposal in the format required by the County and respond to every question. Page 2 of proposal must be "wet-signed" and scanned or signed digitally using an eSignature program, such as DocuSign.

## The County assumes no responsibility for delays caused by email delay or errors in submitting guestions or Proposals.

The County will not pay any costs associated with the preparation, submittal, or presentation of any Proposal. To withdraw a Proposal, the Proposer must submit a written request, signed by an authorized representative, to the County. After withdrawing a previously submitted Proposal, the Proposer may submit another Proposal at any time up to the deadline for submitting Proposals. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

#### 3 INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

#### 3.1 Mandatory Proposal Form

The County has provided a Proposal Form (Attachment A) in an electronic format on Solano County's website at <a href="http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/county\_admin/community\_investment\_fund\_rfp.asp">http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/county\_admin/community\_investment\_fund\_rfp.asp</a>.

Proposers must fully complete and sign the Proposal Form, responding to every question, and attach all necessary requested documents. Proposers must fill in desired check boxes and adhere to page limits where indicated.

## Failure to follow the specified Proposal Form and format may, at the County's sole discretion, result in the rejection of the Proposal.

#### 3.2 Proposal Format

Notwithstanding the format imposed by the Proposal Form in Attachment A, all Proposers must follow additional formats set forth herein:

- Standard, 8 1/2" x 11" format, with 1-inch margins
- Arial font size 11
- All Proposal pages (including attachments) sequentially numbered
- All responses, as well as any reference material presented, written in English, adhering to character limits where applicable
- All monetary amounts detailed in United States currency and rounded to the nearest whole dollar

#### 3.3 Signatures

All signatures must be "wet-signed" and scanned or signed digitally using an eSignature program, such as DocuSign.

#### 3.4 **Proposal Submittal**

Proposals must be emailed to <u>MERichards@solanocounty.com</u> with the subject line as **RFP #2021-01 TAY Homeless Grant Proposal Submission** and must be received by **5:00 PM PST on Monday**, **March 15, 2021** in accordance with section 2.5.

#### 4 EVALUATION, SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS

#### 4.1 Compliance

The County will review all Proposals to determine compliance with basic Proposal requirements as specified in this Proposal. Incomplete Proposals may disqualify the Proposer from further consideration in this process.

#### 4.2 Evaluation Process

The evaluation process is designed to recommend an award of funding to the Proposer that can best provide activities which will enhance the homelessness priority identified in the Solano County Community Investment Fund. Proposals will be evaluated as set forth below.

An Evaluation Committee (EC) will evaluate all Proposals. The EC will be composed of Board of Supervisors Members/designees and other parties that may have relevant expertise or experience. The EC will score and recommend Proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in this RFP. Evaluation of the Proposals shall be within the sole judgment and discretion of the EC.

A maximum number of points will be assigned to each Proposal Element (Program Description, Qualifications and Experience, and Equity) in the Proposal Packet as follows:

Proposal Elements	Maximum Score	
Program Description	55 Points	
Qualifications and Experience	20 Points	
Budget	25 Points	
Total Maximum	100 Points	

#### 4.3 **Proposal Review Criteria**

Item		Points Total
Program Description/Logic Model		55
Proposer provides a clear description of program activities, including any temporary housing, permanent housing, and/or services.	15	
Proposer describes a clear and reasonable description of how they will track client data and how outcomes will be documented and evaluated.	5	
Proposer describes how activities will integrate with other services at their agency and within the community, including other homeless service providers.	5	
Proposer describes how their agency will sustain the activities and outcomes achieved through the program following the end of the grant period.	5	
Activities, services counts, and outcomes in the logic model are clear, reasonable, and measurable. Activities are clearly related to the expected outcomes.	15	

<ul> <li>The expected outcomes in the logic model include reasonable outcomes related to:</li> <li>Both short and long-term housing stability</li> <li>Education and/or employment</li> <li>Other related outcomes, such as connection to resources, mental health, physical health, independent living skills, etc.</li> </ul>	10	
Qualifications and Experience		20
Proposer clearly articulates their experience in doing work in the selected strategy area and why they are best suited to accomplish the work.		
Key personnel on the project have the qualifications, training and experience to carry out the activities.		
Budget		25
Requested resources are appropriate to carry out the project.		
Resources needed to carry out the project are adequately described and clearly connected to the activities in the program description.	10	
Proposer clearly demonstrates at least 25% match to increase the impact of the program. Examples of match include, but are not limited to: pairing these funds with an already existing housing program, in-kind services, hard cash, etc.	5	
Total Possible Points		100

The EC will rank all Proposals based on their scores and recommend the top Proposal for funding, up to the total funding amount of \$550,000.

In addition to the EC recommendation, financial experts will review agency audited financial statements for solvency and internal controls to ensure adequacy for carrying out a contract with the County of Solano.

Final selection is at the sole discretion of the Solano County Board of Supervisors or its designee, which reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, or to make no selection based on this RFP.

#### 4.4 Best Value

Solano County will select the proposal(s) that presents the best value and is most advantageous to the County and the public. Accordingly, County may not necessarily award the Proposer with the lowest price proposal if doing so would not be in the overall best interest of the County. Solano County reserves the right to expand or reduce the proposed scope of work during the contracting process based on budget constraints and to award to single or multiple Proposers.

#### 5 CONTRACT INFORMATION

#### 5.1 Contract Qualifications

Complete a statement of acknowledgment (Attachment A-Proposal form, page 1) that the Proposer has reviewed the Proposed Solano County Standard Contract (Attachment B) and has accepted it with or without qualification. If the Proposer makes qualifications, those qualifications must be identified and

listed along with suggested modifications to the contract. (Note: Contract Exhibits A and B - the scope of work and budget - will be finalized during the contracting process.) If the Proposer makes no qualifications to the Standard Contract, including its exhibits, then it shall be deemed that the Proposer accepts these items without reservation or any qualifications.

#### 5.2 Contract Term/Duration

A contract that results from this RFP may be awarded for up to 2 years and one month (approximately June 1, 2021-June 30, 2023).

**Note**: The timeframe above is estimated. The award of funds does not authorize work to begin. Contracts must be fully executed before services can begin. Services cannot begin prior to the contracted start date.

#### 5.3 Funding and Payment Structure

As described in Section 1.4, one grant is available through this RFP in the amount of \$550,000 total: \$300,000 for Year 1 (approximately June 1, 2021- June 30, 2022) and \$250,000 for year 2 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).

The contract to be negotiated will be a cost reimbursable contract, unless another methodology is requested in the Proposal and accepted by Solano County during contract negotiations. Funding will be negotiated and allocated based on the proposal submitted, and reimbursement for the program/services will be based on actual costs incurred. All costs such as personnel, subcontractors, operating expenses and indirect costs must be reflected in the proposed budget.

#### 5.4 Budget Definitions

A. <u>Personnel Costs</u> must include positions, salary, and "FTE" (actual percentage of time devoted to the project) for each position. Salary and fringe benefits must be pro-rated for non-full-time employees, if agency provides fringe benefits to part time employees. Salaries are fixed compensation for services performed by staff that are directly employed by the Proposer and are paid for on a regular basis. Employee benefits and employer payroll taxes include employer's contributions or expenses for social security, employee's life and health insurance plans, unemployment insurance, pension plans, and other similar expenses. These expenses are allowable when they are included in the contract and are in accordance with the agency's approved written policies.

B. <u>Salaries and Benefits</u> of personnel involved in more than one program must be charged to each program based on the actual percentage of time spent on each program. The annualized actual percentage charged for a particular position (e.g., Project Director) cannot exceed the annual percentage approved in the award. Similarly, the dollar amount charged for a particular position also must not exceed the dollar amount in the approved award. Functional timesheets or an allocation plan must be maintained which support the time charged.

C. <u>Operating Expenses</u> are defined as necessary expenditures exclusive of personnel salaries, benefits and equipment. Such expenses include specific items directly charged to the project. The expenses must be program-related (i.e., to further the program objectives) and be incurred during the grant period. County reserves the right to make the final determination if an operating expense is allowable and necessary.

D. <u>Indirect costs</u> are shared costs that cannot be directly assigned to a particular activity but are necessary to the operation of the Agency and the performance of the program. The costs of operating and maintaining facilities, accounting services and administrative salaries are examples of indirect costs. For this program, indirect costs cannot exceed 15% of the total of Salaries and Benefits, and Operating Expenses.

#### 5.5 Contract Award Process

- A. After the evaluation of Proposals and final consideration of all pertinent information available, Solano County will either reject all proposals or issue a written notice of intent to award. The notice shall not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in the apparent best evaluated proposers.
- B. This RFP, its attachments, submitted questions and their answerers, and the proposals shall be incorporated into the final contract.
- C. The apparent best evaluated Proposers should be prepared to enter into a contract with Solano County which shall be substantially the same as the Standard Contract included in Attachment B to this RFP. Notwithstanding this, Solano County reserves the right to add terms and conditions, deemed to be in the best interest of the County, during final contract negotiations.
- D. Contracts must be fully executed before services can begin. Services cannot begin prior to the contracted start date.
- E. If a Proposer fails to sign and return the contract drawn pursuant to this RFP and final contract negotiations within 14 days of its delivery to the proposer, Solano County may cancel the award and award the contract to the next best evaluated proposer.

#### 6 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

#### 6.1 **Protests and Appeals**

Any actual Proposer who believes that the process was not conducted per the instructions provided in this RFP and wishes to protest the notice of intent to award may submit a protest in writing to the Director of General Services within 7 calendar days after such Proposer knows or should have known of the facts giving rise to the protest, but in no event later than 7 calendar days after the date of the notice of intent to award. All letters of protest shall clearly identify the reasons and basis for the protest. The protest must also state the law, rule, regulation, or policy upon which the protest is based. The Director of General Services will issue a written decision within 10 working days after receipt of the protest which shall include the reason for the action taken and the process for appealing the decision.

#### 6.2 County Purchasing Policy

The County's Purchasing & Contracting Policy Manual, found at <u>http://www.solanocounty.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=21595</u> is fully incorporated into and made a part of this RFP by this reference and governs this RFP.

#### 6.3 RFP Amendment, Cancellation and Right of Rejection.

- A. Solano County reserves the unilateral right to amend this RFP in writing at any time by posting the amendment on the Solano County website. Proposers are responsible for viewing the website periodically for any amendments to the RFP. Proposers shall respond to the final written RFP and any exhibits, attachments, and amendments.
- B. Solano County also reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any and all Proposals or to cancel or reissue the RFP.
- C. Solano County reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to waive variances in Proposals provided such action is in the best interest of County. Where Solano County waives minor variances in Proposals, such waiver does not modify the RFP requirements or excuse the Proposer from full compliance with the RFP. Notwithstanding any minor variance, Solano County may hold any Proposal to strict compliance with the RFP.

#### 6.4 Confidentiality

Solano County will retain a master copy of each response to this RFP, which responses will become a public record after the award of a contract unless the qualifications or specific parts of the qualifications can be shown to be exempt by law under Government Code section 6250 et seq. Proposers may clearly label part of a submittal as "CONFIDENTIAL" if the Proposer agrees to indemnify and defend the County for honoring such a designation. The failure to have so labeled any information shall constitute a complete waiver of all claims for damages caused by any release of the information. If a public records request for labeled information is received by the County, the County will notify the Proposer of the request and delay access to the material until 7 working days after notification to the Proposer. Within that time delay, it will be the Proposer's duty to act in protection of its labeled information. Failure to so act shall constitute a complete waiver.

#### 6.5 Reservation of Rights

- A. Solano County reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to cancel this RFP in part or in its entirety.
- B. Solano County reserves the right to waive any variances in Proposals provided such action is in the best interest of Solano County.
- C. Solano County reserves the right to amend this RFP at any time. Solano County also reserves the right to cancel or reissue the RFP at its sole discretion.
- D. Any bid received which does not meet the requirements of this RFP, may be considered to be nonresponsive, and may be rejected. Solano County may reject any bid that does not comply with all of the terms, conditions, and performance requirements of this RFP.
- E. Solano County reserves the right to cancel any award and re-solicit bids for services herein specified due to the increased or added costs, if in its opinion increased prices are greater than those of the general market.
- F. Solano County reserves the right to cancel any award and re-solicit bids in the event services cannot commence with ten (10) days after the specified date for start of work.
- G. Solano County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals considered not to be in the best interest of Solano County.
- H. Solano County reserves the right to waive any and all minor irregularities in bids.
- I. Solano County reserves the right to reduce or increase any specification, in whole or in part due to budget constraints.

END OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS