

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

BOARD COUNSEL

RFQ NO.: 20-44

ISSUED BY:

Procurement Operations Department

PROCUREMENT OFFICER:

Marilyn Vega, /Sr. Buyer

Telephone: (713) 718-7410

E-Mail: marilyn.vega@hccs.edu

STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS ARE DUE AT THE ADDRESS

SHOWN BELOW

NO LATER THAN:

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 by 2:00 p.m. (local time)

at

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

Ref: RFQ 20-44 – Board Counsel

DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND TO LIMIT THE EXPOSURE OF HCC EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS EMPLOYEES OF OUR LOCAL MAIL, COURIER AND DELIVERY SERVICE COMPANIES, HCC WILL ALTERNATIVELY ACCEPT ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS OF STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS. PLEASE REFER TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION CONTAINED IN THIS RFQ.

Visit the [HCC Procurement Operations Department website](#) to get more information on this and other business opportunities. While at our website we invite you to [Register as a Vendor](#), if already registered, please confirm your contact information is current.

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Attachment No. 1	Proposer’s Certifications
Attachment No. 2	Conflict of Interest Questionnaire
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NOTE: All noted Attachments are to be signed, completed and submitted with Statement of Qualification.

SOLICITATION SCHEDULE

The following is the anticipated solicitation schedule including a brief description for milestone dates:

Solicitation Milestone	Date & Time
RFQ released and posted to HCC’s & ESBD’s websites	Thursday, July 2, 2020
Deadline to receive written question/inquiries	Wednesday, July 15, 2020 by 2:00 pm (local time)
Proposal Submittal Due Date	Tuesday, August 4, 2020 by 2:00 pm (local time)
Anticipated Board Review and Selection of Finalists	September, 2020
Finalist Presentations, Interviews and Selection	September, 2020

NOTE: Houston Community College reserves the right to revise this schedule. Any such revision will be formalized by the issuance of an addendum to the RFQ and posted on Procurement Operations web site for your convenience.

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Section 1 –Overview & Scope of Services

1. Overview

Houston Community College (“HCC” and/or the “College”) requests Statements of Qualifications for the selection of a firm (“Firm”) to serve as Legal Counsel to the HCC Board of Trustees.

HCC anticipates negotiating an engagement letter with the selected firm for a term of one (1) year, with the option to extend for four additional one (1) year terms, and for so long thereafter in accordance with the HCC Board’s Bylaws.

Houston Community College's service area is Houston Independent School District, Katy, Spring Branch, Alief Independent School Districts, Stafford Municipal District, and the Fort Bend portion of Missouri City. The System is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the associate degree.

Houston Community College serves its students each semester, by offering associate degrees, certificates, academic preparation, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities that prepares students in our diverse community to compete in an increasingly technological and international society. Houston Community College plays an integral role in transforming the lives of its students and making our community work.

More information regarding HCC can be found in the annual [HCC Fact Book](#).

HCC Mission - Houston Community College is an open-admission, public institution of higher education offering a high-quality, affordable education for academic advancement, workforce training, career development, and lifelong learning to prepare individuals in our diverse communities for life and work in a global and technological society.

HCC Vision - Houston Community College will be a leader in providing high quality, innovative education leading to student success and completion of workforce and academic programs. We will be responsive to community needs and drive economic development in the communities we serve.

Additional information about Houston Community College may be found by visiting [HCC Website](#).

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2. Scope of Services

The HCC Board of Trustees is seeking a law firm to serve as Board Counsel.

The Board Counsel shall provide legal advice to the Board. The final selection of Board Counsel shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board, shall report directly to the Board (with access to the Chancellor), and may be dismissed or reassigned by the Board without cause. The Board Counsel shall represent the College in all assigned legal matters, and shall attend all Board and Board committee meetings. Duties of the Board Counsel include:

- a. Provide advice and counsel to the Board.
- b. Maintain the Board bylaws and certain Board policies and procedures, and recommend amendments, as needed.
- c. Handle assigned legal matters for or on behalf of the College, such as preparation of legal opinions as requested by the Board or the Chancellor.
- d. Render legal services in connection with assigned legal matters.
- e. Perform any other legal services as may be required by the Board or requested by the Chancellor.

For more information, including information regarding current standing Board committees, please refer to the Board bylaws published and available on the HCC Website.

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Section 2 –Evaluation of Qualifications

1. Evaluation Process

Step 1: An Evaluation Committee (“Committee”) will review all statement of qualifications according to the criteria stated below. The Committee’s evaluations will be based on all available information, including qualification statements, reference checks, and other information available to the Committee.

The Administration will present the Committee’s preliminary scores and preliminary rankings to the HCC Board of Trustees at a duly called, open meeting. The Board of Trustees will vote to select a group of finalist firms to make oral presentations and participate in interviews at a subsequent meeting before the full HCC Board of Trustees at a duly called, open meeting.

In making its final selection of Board Counsel, the Board is not bound by the scores or rankings of the Committee, and the Board may vote to select any Firm the Board determines to be the most highly qualified to serve as Board Counsel.

2. Evaluation Criteria to be used by Committee

In Step 1, the Committee will score each Firm’s Statement of Qualifications using the following criteria, with responsive information organized and tabbed in accordance with the Proposal Response requirements set forth in Section 3: Instructions to Respondents:

Availability of Resources: (15 out of 100 Points) (Tab 1)

Identify the attorney within the firm proposed to be designated as the lead counsel to the Board, along with one or more attorney available to assist the lead counsel in the event the lead counsel is unavailable or needs additional support. Each designated attorney’s primary office location should be in the Houston metropolitan area.

Provide curriculum vitae of each attorney designated above.

As to each attorney designated, confirm the proposed availability of the attorneys to attend HCC board committee meetings, regular meetings, workshops, retreats and special meetings.

Describe the designated attorneys’ ability and resources to provide prompt and thorough legal advice and prioritize the Board as a client.

Identify each designated attorney’s commitments for attendance at the Board meetings of other entities, including the dates and times of such other commitments each month.

Experience and Qualifications: (50 out of 100 Points) (Tab 2)

Describe the Firm and particularly, the designated attorneys’ experience representing governing bodies of educational institutions, specifically community colleges and/or institutions of a similar size and with similar legal needs.

Provide a list of current Firm clients, dates of representation, subject matter areas of representation, and a name, phone number and e-mail of a primary client contact. Notate clients to whom the Firm serves as Board counsel.

Describe the Firm's experience representing Boards specifically in matters where the Administration may be represented separately, and how your Firm proposes to manage any conflicts in the event your firm also provides legal services to the HCC Administration.

Describe the Firm's experience providing consultation, guidance and training to board members in the areas of Government Compliance; Governance Issues; Federal, State and Local Fiscal Responsibility and Compliance; Ethics; Policy and Bylaw Development and Open Government.

Describe the longevity of the Firm, the tenure of the attorneys designated to provide services and ability of the firm to provide stability and continuity of services.

Approach and Methodology (25 out of 100 Points) (Tab 3)

Describe your Firm's philosophy and approach to legal services provided directly to the Board of Trustees. Your response should address the following areas:

- Your approach to communication protocols between you and individual Trustees
- Your approach to communication protocols between you and the Administration
- Management of conflicts between the Board (or individual Trustees) and the Administration
- Your approach to managing conflict between Trustees
- Your billing methodology (do NOT provide any fee or rate information, answers should be limited to billing practices)

References (10 out of 100 Points) (Tab 4)

Provide one or more letters of reference written by clients served in the past three (3) years specifically addressing the skills, experience and availability the attorneys designated to serve the HCC Board of Trustees.

3. Eligibility for Award

In order for a proposer to be eligible to be awarded the contract, the statement of qualifications must be responsive to the solicitation and HCC must be able to determine that the proposer is responsible and has the resources and capacity to perform the resulting contract satisfactorily. Responsive statement of qualifications 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. Statement of qualifications, which do not comply with all the terms and conditions of this solicitation, will be rejected as non-responsive.

- a. Responsible proposers, at a minimum, must meet the following requirements:
 - i. Have adequate financial resources, or the ability to obtain such resources as required during the performance of any resulting contract;
 - ii. Be able to comply with the required performance schedule, taking into consideration all existing business commitments;
 - iii. Have a satisfactory record of past performance;
 - iv. Have necessary personnel and management capability to perform any resulting contract;
 - v. Be qualified as an established firm regularly engaged in the type of business necessary to fulfill the contract requirements;

- vi. 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
 - vii. Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.
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- b. Proposer(s) may be requested to submit additional written evidence verifying that the firm meets the minimum requirements described above 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.
 - c. 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 proposers.
 - d. 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 4 - Prohibited Communications and Political Contributions.
 - e. Only individual firms or lawfully formed business organizations may apply (This does not preclude a respondent from using subcontractors or contractors.) HCC will contract only with the individual firm or formal organization that submits a response to this RFQ.
 - f. The firm to whom the contract is awarded will be required to submit a proposed engagement letter for Board Counsel Services, which shall be subject to negotiation by the College and subject to final approval by the Board of Trustees.

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Section 3 – Instructions to Respondents (“Proposers”)

1. General Instructions

- 1.1. Proposers should carefully read the information contained herein and submit a complete response to all requirements and questions as directed.
- 1.2. Statement of qualifications and any other information submitted by Proposers in response to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) shall become the property of HCC.
- 1.3. HCC will not provide compensation to Proposers for any expenses incurred by the Proposer(s) for proposal preparation or for any demonstrations that may be made, unless otherwise expressly stated. Proposers submit proposals at their own risk and expense.
- 1.4. Statement of qualifications, which are qualified with conditional clauses, or alterations, or items, not called for in the RFQ documents, or irregularities of any kind are subject to disqualification by HCC, at its option.
- 1.5. Each statement of qualifications should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of your firm's ability to meet the requirements of this RFQ. Emphasis should be on completeness, clarity of content, responsiveness to the requirements, and an understanding of HCCs needs.
- 1.6. HCC makes no guarantee that an award will be made as a result of this RFQ, and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all statement of qualifications, waive any formalities or minor technical inconsistencies, or delete any item/requirements from this RFQ or resulting Agreement when deemed to be in HCCs best interest. Representations made within the statement of qualifications will be binding on responding firms. HCC will not be bound to act by any previous communication or statement of qualifications submitted by the firms other than this RFQ.
- 1.7. Failure to comply with the requirements contained in this Request for Qualifications may result in the rejection of your statement of qualifications.

2. Preparation and Submittal Instructions

All Attachments noted are to be completed and submitted with statement of qualifications.

3. Document Format and Content

- 3.1. Statement of qualifications must be signed by Proposer’s company official(s) authorized to commit such statement of qualifications. Failure to sign and return these forms may subject your statement of qualifications to disqualification. An original (manual) signature must appear on the original electronic copy.
- 3.2. Statement of qualifications must be typed on letter-size (8-1/2” x 11”) paper. HCC requests that hard copy statements of qualifications be submitted in a binder. Preprinted material should be referenced in the statement of qualifications and included as labeled attachments. Sections should be divided by tabs or labeled for ease of reference. If submitting a hard copy response, please also include an electronic copy (flash drive) of the statement of qualifications must be provided in an Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format.
- 3.3. Table of Contents: Include with the statement of qualifications a Table of Contents that includes page number references. The Table of Contents should be in sufficient detail to facilitate easy reference of the sections of the statement of qualifications as well as separate attachments (which should be included in the main Table of Contents). Supplemental information and attachments included by your firm (i.e., not required) should be clearly identified in the Table of Contents and provided as a separate section.
- 3.4. Pagination: All pages of the statement of qualifications should be numbered sequentially in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.) Attachments should be numbered or referenced separately.

- 3.5. HCC prefers that all responses be submitted electronically using the (Jaggaer Sciquest) eProcurement system (<https://solutions.sciquest.com/apps/Router/SupplierLogin>).

Alternatively mail your hard copy response to:
Houston Community College
ATTN: Marilyn Vega
Mailroom/Loading Dock (Rosalie Street)
3100 Main
Houston, Texas 77002

- 3.6. Statement of qualifications must be submitted and received in the HCC Procurement Operations Department on or before the time and date specified in the Solicitation Schedule.
- 3.7. The envelope containing a hard copy proposal shall be addressed as follows:
- 3.7.1. Name, Address and Telephone Number of Proposer;
- 3.7.2. Solicitation Description/Title; Solicitation Number; and Solicitation Due Date/Time.
- 3.8. Late statement of qualifications properly identified will be returned to Proposer unopened and are subject to rejection at HCC's sole discretion.

4. Proposer Response

General: Your statement of qualifications "Technical Proposal" should clearly define (i) your Firm's total capacity and capabilities, (ii) your qualifications to perform the work, (iii) your ability to perform the services outlined in the Scope of Services, (iv) your understanding of HCC, and (v) what differentiates you from your competitors. At a minimum, your Technical Proposal shall include the following:

4.1. Cover letter

The cover letter shall not exceed 1 page in length, summarizing key points in the proposal and shall 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.

4.2. Table of Contents

Immediately following the cover letter and introduction, include a complete table of contents for material included in the response documents.

4.3. Tab 1: Availability of Resources

4.4. Tab 2: Experience and Qualifications

4.5. Tab 3 – Approach and Methodology

4.6. Tab 4 - References

4.7. Tab 5 - Firm's Financial Status

- 4.7.1. Please provide a statement from the president, owner or financial officer on company letterhead certifying that the company is in good financial standing and current in payment of all taxes and fees including but not limited to state franchise fees.

4.7.2. 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.

4.8. Tab 6 – Required Attachments

This section shall include all Attachments noted in Section 4 of this RFQ. All forms shall be completed, signed and submitted with statement of qualifications.

5. HCC Contact

Any questions or concerns regarding this Request for Qualification shall be directed to the Procurement Officer listed on the cover page. HCC specifically requests that proposer restrict all contact and questions regarding this RFQ to the Procurement Officer. The Procurement Officer must receive all questions or concerns no later than the date and time listed in the Solicitation Schedule.

6. Inquiries and Interpretations

Responses to inquiries, which directly affect an interpretation or change to this RFQ, will be issued in writing by addendum (amendment) and all addenda will be posted on the HCC Website www.hccs.edu. All such addenda issued by HCC prior to the time that proposals are received shall be considered part of the RFQ, and the Proposer shall be required to consider and acknowledge receipt of such in their proposal.

Only those HCC replies to inquiries, which are made by formal written addenda, shall be binding. Oral and other interpretations or clarification will be without legal effect. Proposer must acknowledge receipt of all addenda in Attachment No. 1 of this RFQ (Contract Award Form).

Section 4 – General Information

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.

1. Prohibited Communications and Political Contributions:

Except as provided in exceptions below, political contributions and 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, respondent, 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.
- [7] Nothing contained herein shall prohibit any attorney from engaging communications necessary for the attorney's current legal representation of the College or the Board of Trustees, provided that no such communications concern this Solicitation.

Any potential vendor, subcontractor vendor, service provider, proposer, 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 proposers, or to disregard ethical and legal trade practices will disqualify proposers, vendors, service providers, lobbyist, consultants, and contractors from both this current and any future consideration for participation in HCC orders and contracts.

2. 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.

3. Taxes:

HCC is tax exempt as a governmental subdivision of the State of Texas under Section 501C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Limited Sales Tax Number: 1-74-1709152-1. No proposal shall include any costs for taxes to be assessed against HCC. The Contractor shall be responsible for paying all applicable taxes and fees, including but

not limited to, excise tax, state and local income tax, payroll and withholding taxes for Contractor Employees. The contract shall hold HCC harmless for all claims arising from payment of such taxes and fees.

4. Texas Public Information Act:

HCC considers all information, documentation and other materials requested to be submitted in response to this solicitation to be of a non-confidential and/or non-proprietary nature, and therefore, shall be subject to public disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act (Texas Government Code, Chapter 552.001, et seq.) ("The Act") after a contract if any, is awarded. If the proposer considers any information submitted in response to this request for qualifications to be confidential under law or constitute trade secrets or other protected information, the proposer must identify such materials in the proposal response. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the identification of such materials would not be construed or require HCC to act in contravention of its obligation to comply with the Act and the proposer releases HCC from any liability or responsibility for maintaining the confidentiality of such documents.

5. Appropriated Funds:

The purchase of service or product, which arises from this solicitation, is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. HCC shall have the right to terminate the resulting contract at the end of the current or each succeeding fiscal year if funds are not appropriated by the HCC Board of Trustees for the next fiscal year that would permit continuation of the resulting contract. If funds are withdrawn or do not become available, HCC reserves the right to terminate the resulting contract by giving the selected contractor a thirty (30) day written notice of its intention terminate without penalty or any further obligations on the part of HCC or the contractor. Upon termination of the contract HCC shall not be responsible for any payment of any service or product received that occurs after the end of the current contract period or the effective date of termination, whichever is the earlier to occur. HCCs fiscal year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31.

6. 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 **Attachment No. 2, Conflict of Interest Questionnaire Form, and Attachment No. 3, 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: Failure to complete, sign and notarize (if applicable) these Attachments may render your proposal non-responsive.

7. Ethics Conduct:

Any direct or indirect actions taken to unduly influence competitive purposes, to circumvent equal consideration for competitive proposers, 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.

8. No Third Party Rights:

This Contract is made for the sole benefit of HCC and the Contractor and their respective successors and permitted assigns. Nothing in this Contract shall create or be deemed to create a relationship between the Parties to this Contract and any third person, including a relationship in the nature of a third party beneficiary or fiduciary.

9. Withdrawal or Modification:

No proposal may be changed, amended, modified by telegram or otherwise, after the same has been submitted or filed in response to this solicitation, except for obvious errors in extension. However, a proposal may be withdrawn and resubmitted any time prior to the time set for receipt of proposals. No proposal may be withdrawn after the submittal deadline without approval by HCC, which shall be based on Respondent's submittal, in writing, of a reason acceptable to HCC.

10. Indemnification:

Contractor 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 Contractor's negligence, recklessness, or willful acts and/or omission in rendering any services hereunder. Contractor 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 Contractor 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 Contractor's performance under this Agreement.

Section 5 – Required Attachments

Proposers shall complete all noted Attachments and submit under Tab 6 of the Statement of Qualifications.

Attachment Number	Attachment Title
Attachment No. 1	Proposer’s Certifications
Attachment No. 2	Conflict of Interest Questionnaire
Attachment No. 3	Financial Interests and Potential Conflicts of Interests

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**ATTACHMENT NO. 1
PROPOSER'S CERTIFICATIONS
HCC PROJECT NO. RFQ 20-44**

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 and Political Contributions provision set forth in the solicitation. 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 (except as required for performance of the awarded services), 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, and disqualification from future procurement solicitations and prosecution in accordance with the Laws of the State of Texas.

3. ASSURANCE OF SBDP GOAL:

The undersigned certifies that he/she has read, understands and agrees to be bound by the small business provisions set forth in this Solicitation. The undersigned further certifies that he/she is legally authorized to make the statements and representations in the Solicitation and that said statements and representations are true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge. The undersigned will enter into formal agreement(s) for work identified on the CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR PARTICIPATION form conditioned upon execution of a contract with HCC. The undersigned agrees to attain the small business utilization percentages of the total offer amount as set forth below:

Small Business Participation Goal = N/A

The undersigned certifies that the firm shown below has not discriminated against any small business or other potential subcontractor because of race, color, religion, gender, age, veteran's status, disability or national origin, but has provided full and equal opportunity to all potential subcontractors irrespective of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, national origin or veteran status.

The undersigned understands that if any of the statements and representations are made knowing them to be false or there is a failure to implement any of the stated commitments set forth herein without prior approval of HCC's Chancellor or the duly authorized representative, the Bidder may be subject to the loss of the contract or the termination thereof.

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. 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, and 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.

7. HOUSE BILL 89 ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Pursuant to the provisions of Subtitle F, Title 10, Government Code Chapter 2270, by acknowledging this attribute, vendor verifies that their company:

1. Does not boycott Israel currently, and
2. Will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract

Pursuant to Section 2270.001, Texas Government Code:

1. "Boycott Israel" means refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations specifically with Israel, or with a person or entity doing business in Israel or in an Israeli-controlled territory, but does not include an action made for ordinary business purposes; and
2. "Company" means a for-profit sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or any limited liability company, including a wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of those entities or business associations that exist to make a profit.

8. SENATE BILL 252 ACKNOWLEDGE:

Pursuant to the provisions of Subtitle F, Title 10, Texas Government Code 2252.152 (CONTRACTS WITH COMPANIES ENGAGED IN BUSINESS WITH IRAN, SUDAN, OR FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROHIBITED) a governmental entity may not enter into a governmental contract with a company that is identified on a list prepared and maintained under Texas Government

Code Section 806.051, 807.051, or 2252.153.

Sec. 2252.153. LISTED COMPANIES. The comptroller shall prepare and maintain, and make available to each governmental entity, a list of companies known to have contracts with or provide supplies or services to a foreign terrorist organization.

Sec. 2252.154. EXCEPTION. Notwithstanding any other law, a company that the United States government affirmatively declares to be excluded from its federal sanctions regime relating to Sudan, its federal sanctions regime relating to Iran, or any federal sanctions regime relating to a foreign terrorist organization is not subject to contract prohibition under this subchapter.

9. DIVESTMENT STATUTE LISTS:

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/publications/divestment.php>

10. CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES FORM

Beginning January 1, 2016, successful bidders awarded contracts that are valued at \$50,000 or more shall be required by state law to complete online the Certificate of Interested Parties Form 1295 and submit an unsworn declaration of completion to the Purchasing staff member listed in the solicitation before the purchase/contract will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

For a list of Frequently Asked Questions you can go to:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/FAQ_Form1295.html

The form must be submitted at:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm

The law applies only to a contract of a governmental entity or state agency that either:

- (1) requires an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency before the contract may be signed; or
- (2) has a value of at least \$1 million.

A completed Form 1295 is not required for:

- (1) a sponsored research contract of a state agency or an institution of higher education;
- (2) an interagency contract of a state agency or an institution of higher education;
- (3) a contract related to health and human services, if:
 - *The values of the contract cannot be determined at the time the contract is executed; and
 - *any qualified vendor is eligible for the contract;
- (4) a contract with a publicly traded business entity, including a wholly owned subsidiary of the business entity;
- (5) a contract with an electric utility, as that term is defined by Section 31.002, Utilities Code, or
- (6) a contract with a gas utility, as that term is defined by Section 121.001, Utilities Code.

Gov't Code § 2252.908. The disclosure requirement applies to a contract entered into on or after January 1, 2016. The District may not enter into a contract with a business entity that fails to submit the form as required.

If your company qualifies for one of the exemptions listed in the Certificate of Interested Parties attribute, please indicate which exemption applies.

11. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

No person shall be engaged by the vendor to work on District property where students are present who have charges pending, or who have been convicted, received probation or deferred adjudication. The following is a list of offenses which apply: 1) Any offense against a child; 2) Any sex offense; 3) Any crimes against persons involving weapons or violence; 4) Any felony offense involving controlled substances; 5) Any felony offense against property; or 6) Any other offense that the District believes might compromise the safety of students, staff or property.

It shall be the responsibility of the vendor to ensure compliance with this provision.

Prior to the start of the contract vendor shall submit a NATIONAL criminal background investigation report for all employees with an updated report to include any new hires working on District property to the facility manager or District Chief of Police. During the duration of the contract the District reserves the right to request additional reports from the vendor if any employee is suspected of a criminal offense as stated above. Report must be in accordance with Texas Education Code 22.0834.

12. DEBARMENT

The Contractor certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction (contract), by any governmental department or agency. If the Contractor cannot certify this statement, attach a written explanation for review by the District. The Contractor must notify the District Director of Strategic Sourcing within 30 days if debarred by any governmental entity during the Contract period.

13. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER (EOE)

Personnel relations of the Vendor's employees shall be the Vendor's responsibility, including compliance with all applicable government regulations related to the employment of personnel. The Vendor shall be an Equal Opportunity Employer and shall neither discriminate nor permit discrimination in its operations or employment practices against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, or veteran status. The vendor shall hire only persons who may legally work in the United States, to include citizens and nationals of the United States and foreign citizens who have the necessary authorization to work. It is the vendor's responsibility to verify the identity and employment eligibility of anyone hired for performance under this contract. Furthermore, all persons performing work under this contract must be an employee of the company.

14. NON-COLLUSION STATEMENT

The Contractor certifies that you are duly authorized to execute this contract, that this company, corporation or firm has not prepared this bid in collusion with any other bidder, and that the contents of this Statement of Qualifications as to terms or conditions of said bid have not been communicated by the undersigned nor by any employee Or agent to any other person engaged in this type of business prior to the official opening of this solicitation.

15. DELINQUENT FRANCHISE TAXES CERTIFICATION

As required by §2252.903, Government Code, bidder's official certifies that it is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise taxes owed the State of Texas under Chapter 171, Tax Code, or that it is exempt from, or not subject to, such tax. Please indicate your status: A. The Corporation is exempt from payment of franchise taxes or is an out-of-state corporation not subject to franchise tax; therefore, I am submitting a certified statement to that effect.

B. The corporation is subject to Texas franchise tax. I hereby certify that there is no delinquent Texas franchise tax pending against the corporation.

C. I hereby certify that there is delinquent Texas franchise tax pending against the corporation.

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

Signed By: _____ Name: _____

Title: _____ State of: _____

**EXHIBIT 2 - TO ATTACHMENT NO. 1
PROHIBITED CONTRACTS/PURCHASES
HCC PROJECT NO. RFQ 20-44**

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, has any pecuniary interest. 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, contractor, 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. 2
 CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE
 HCC PROJECT NO. RFQ 20-44

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE		FORM CIQ
For vendor doing business with local governmental entity		
<p>This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.</p> <p>This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).</p> <p>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 vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.</p> <p>A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.</p>	OFFICE USE ONLY <hr/> Date Received	
<p>1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.</p>		
<p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> 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 appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)</p>		
<p>3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of Officer</p>		
<p>4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor?</p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?</p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>		
<p>5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.</p>		
<p>6 <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1).</p>		
<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity Date</p>		

Form provided by Texas Ethics Commission

www.ethics.state.tx.us

Revised 11/30/2015

NOTE: When completing this Questionnaire, please be certain to answer each and every question; indicate "Not Applicable", if appropriate. Please sign and date.

**ATTACHMENT NO. 3
FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS
HCC PROJECT NO. RFQ 20-44**

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 one (1) through three (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 received by HCC Office of Systemwide Compliance before the vendor's bid, proposal, or offer will be considered received or evaluated.**

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 share:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| Ownership interest of at least 10% | (_____) |
| Ownership interest of at least \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of vendor | (_____) |
| Distributive Income Share from Vendor exceeding 10% of individual's gross income | (_____) |
| Real property interest with fair market value of at least \$2,500 | (_____) |
| Person related within first degree of affinity to individual has the following ownership or real property interest in Vendor: | (_____) |
| 1. Ownership interest of at least 10% | |
| 2. Ownership interest of at least \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of vendor | |
| 3. Distributive Income Share from Vendor exceeding 10% of the individual's gross income | |
| 4. Real property interest with fair market value of at least \$2,500 | |
| No individuals have any of the above financial interests (If none go to Section 4) | (_____) |

c. For each individual named above, show the **dollar value or proportionate share** of the ownership interest in the vendor (or its principal) or its subcontractor (s) as follows:

If the proportionate share of the named individual(s) in the ownership of the vendor (or its principal) or subcontractor of vendor is 10% or less, and if the value of the ownership interest of the named individual(s) is \$15,000 or less of the fair market value of vendor, check here (_____).

If the proportionate share of ownership exceeds 10%, or the value of the ownership interest exceeds \$15,000 of the fair market value of vendor, show either:

the percent of ownership _____ %, or
the value of ownership interest \$ _____ .

Section 2 - Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

For each of the individuals having the level of financial interest identified in Section 1 above, and for any other HCC individual not identified in Section 1 above check "Yes" or "No" to indicate which, if any, of the following potential conflict of interest relationships apply. If "Yes", please describe (use space under applicable section-attach additional pages as necessary).

a. Employment, currently or in the previous 3 years, including but not limited to contractual employment for services for vendor.

Yes _____ No _____

b. Employment of individual's spouse, father, mother, son, or daughter, including but not limited to contractual employment for services for vendor in the previous 2 years.

Yes _____ No _____

Section 3- Disclosure of Gifts

For each of the individuals having the level of financial interest identified in Section 1 above, and for any other HCC individual not identified in Section 1 above check "Yes" or "No" to indicate which, if any, of the following potential conflict of interest relationships apply. If "Yes", please describe (use space under applicable section-attach additional pages as necessary).

a. Received a gift from vendor (or principal), or subcontractor of vendor, of \$250 or more within the preceding 12 months.

Yes _____ No _____

b. Individual's spouse, father, mother, son, or daughter has received a gift from vendor (or principal), or subcontractor of vendor, of \$250 or more within the preceding 12 months.

Yes _____ No _____

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 its subcontractor(s), has current contracts (including leases) with other government agencies of the State of Texas by checking:

Yes _____ No _____

b. If "yes" is checked, identify each contract by showing agency name and other descriptive information such as purchase order or contract reference number (attach additional pages as necessary).

c. Vendor shall identify whether vendor (or its principal) or its subcontractor(s) has pending contracts (including leases), bids, proposal, or other ongoing procurement relationships with other government agencies of the State of Texas by checking:

Yes _____ No _____

d. If "yes" is checked, identify each such relationship by showing agency name and other descriptive information such as bid or project number (attach additional pages as necessary).

This disclosure is submitted on behalf of:

(Name of Vendor)

Certification. I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information provided by me in this disclosure statement is true and correct. I understand that failure to disclose the information requested may result in my bid, proposal, or offer, being rejected, and/or may result in prosecution for knowingly violating the requirements of **Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176**. I understand that it is my responsibility to comply with the requirements set forth by HCC as it relates to this disclosure. I also understand that I must submit an updated disclosure form within seven (7) days of discovering changes in the significant financial interests of the individuals I identified in Section 1 of this disclosure or if individuals that were not identified, later receive a financial interest in my company or is a subcontractor of my company.

Official authorized to sign on behalf of vendor:

Name (Printed or Typed) _____

Title _____

Signature _____

Date _____

"NOTE: BIDDER MUST COMPLETE THE ABOVE "FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS" FORM. FAILURE TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR OFFER SHALL RESULT IN YOUR OFFER BEING CONSIDERED AS "NON-RESPONSIVE" TO THIS SOLICITATION."

Signed By: _____ Name: _____

Title: _____ State of: _____