

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
2025-X**

**250th ANNIVERSARY - JULY FOURTH FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

The Board of County Commissioners (County) will receive sealed proposals in the Commission office at 135 NE Hernando Avenue, Suite 203, Lake City, FL 32055, until **2:00 PM** local time on **DECEMBER 4, 2025** for the following:

**250th ANNIVERSARY -JULY FOURTH FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

To be eligible for consideration, all proposers must be registered in the State of Florida to practice their profession at the time of proposal. Proposers without a complete proposal described will be considered unresponsive. The Request for Proposal information is available online only at: <https://www.columbiacountyfla.com/PurchasingBids.asp>

Submissions will be publicly opened in the Commissioners' Office at **2:00 PM, DECEMBER 4, 2025** or as soon thereafter as practical. Proposers are responsible for the delivery of submissions. Submissions may be withdrawn at any time prior to opening. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids delivered in any other format other than specified in this solicitation will not be accepted. Questions regarding this solicitation must be received via email to [ejones@columbiacountyfla.com](mailto:ejones@columbiacountyfla.com) no later than **NOVEMBER 28, 2025** at **5:00 PM** local time. Responses to those questions considered material to the solicitation shall be distributed via formal addenda.

Columbia County welcomes your response to this solicitation. Proposals should be prepared in accordance with the instructions herein and will be evaluated by the County as stated in the evaluation section of this document. The County reserves the right to waive any formalities, to reject any or all proposals or to re-advertise for proposals for these services. The County may withdraw all or part of this solicitation at any time to protect the interests of the County. All Proposers are asked to be thorough yet concise in their response. Failure to provide the response in the manner prescribed herein may be grounds for disqualification.

Only one bid set will be permitted for each company or corporation interested in bidding. The one complete bid set is to be submitted in a sealed envelope. Proposers shall indicate Bid Number, Project Title, and the name and address of the firm submitting the bid on the outside of the envelope.

All Proposers are advised that under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, all responses are deemed a public record and open to the public as provided for in said statute.

## **SECTION I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. These instructions will bind bidders and conditions herein set forth, except as specifically qualified in special bid and contract terms issued with any individual bid.
2. The following criteria are used in determining low responsible bidder:
  - a. The ability, capacity, and skill of bidder to perform required service;
  - b. Whether the bidder can perform service promptly or within specified time;
  - c. The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience and efficiency of bidder;
  - d. The performance of previous contracts with entities similar to Columbia County;
  - e. The suitability of equipment or material for County use; and
  - f. The ability of bidder to provide future maintenance.
3. Payment Terms are net thirty (30) unless otherwise specified. Favorable terms or discounts, may be offered and will be considered in determining low bids if they are deemed by Purchasing Department to be advantageous to the County.
4. All bids should be tabulated, totaled, and checked for accuracy. Unit price will prevail in case of errors.
5. All requested information shall be included in the envelope. All desired information must be included for your bid to receive full consideration.
6. If you believe anything in the bid request is not clear, you should contact the Purchasing Director immediately.
7. A list of bidders is available at the Purchasing Office.
8. Quote all prices F.O.B. our warehouse or as specified in bid documents.
9. Each proposal shall be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope including Fed Ex, UPS or other delivery service envelopes, as a "Sealed Bid" or "Sealed Proposal". The name of the item being bid shall be shown on the outside in full.
10. No responsibility shall attach to any County representative or employee for the premature opening of bids not properly addressed or identified.
11. If only one (1) bid is received, the bid may be rejected and re-advertised or accepted if determined to be in the County's best interest.
12. Bids received late will not be accepted, and the County will not be responsible for late mail delivery.
13. Telephone and facsimile bids will not be accepted. Should a timely submitted and otherwise complete bid be misplaced by the County and found later, it will be considered. Any bidder may request and shall receive a receipt showing the day and time any bid is

delivered to the appropriate office of the County from the personnel thereof.

14. Bids requiring bid bonds will not be accepted if evidence of the bond is not enclosed. Cash or certified check will be accepted in lieu of bond except on construction projects where cost exceeds \$40,000.
15. All bidders must be recognized dealers in the materials or equipment specified and qualified to advise in their application or use. A bidder at any time requested must satisfy the Purchasing Office and the County Manager that it has the requisite organization, capital, plant, stock ability and experience to satisfactorily execute the contract in accordance with the provisions of the contract in which he is interested.
16. Any alterations, erasures, additions, or admissions of required information or any changes to specifications or bidding schedule are done at the risk of the bidder. Any bid will be rejected that has a substantial variation, which is any variation that affects price, quantity, and quality or delivery date (when delivery is required by a specific time).
17. When requested, samples will be furnished to the County free of expense, properly marked for identification and accompanied by a list where there is more than one (1) sample. The County reserves the right to mutilate or destroy any sample submitted whenever it may be to the best interest of the County to do so for the purpose of testing.
18. The County will reject any material, supplies or equipment that did not meet the specifications, even though the bidder lists the trade names or names of such material on the bid or price quotation form.
19. The unauthorized use of patented articles is done entirely at the risk of the successful bidder.
20. The ESTIMATED QUANTITY given in the specifications or advertisements is for the purpose of bidding only. The County may purchase more or less than the estimated quantity and the vendor must not assume that such estimated quantity is part of the contract.
21. Only the latest model equipment as evidenced by the manufacture's current published literature will be considered. Obsolete models of equipment not in production will not be acceptable. The equipment shall be composed of new parts and materials. Any unit containing used parts or having seen any service other than the necessary tests will be rejected. In addition to the equipment specifically called for in the specification, all equipment catalogued by the manufacturer as standard or required by the State of Florida shall be furnished with the equipment. Where required by the State of Florida Motor Vehicle Code, vehicles shall be inspected and bear the latest inspection sticker of the Florida Department of Revenue.
22. The successful bidder on motor vehicle equipment shall be required to furnish with delivery of vehicle, certificate of origin and any other appropriate documentation as required by the Florida Motor Vehicle Department.
23. Prospective bidders are required to examine the location of the proposed work or delivery

and determine, in their own way, the difficulties which are likely to be encountered in the prosecution of the same.

24. All materials, equipment and supplies shall be subject to rigid inspection, under the immediate supervision of the Purchasing Department, its designee and /or the department to which they are delivered. If defective material, equipment, or supplies are discovered, the contractor, upon being instructed by the Purchasing Department or designee, shall remove, or make good such material, equipment, or supplies without extra compensation. It is expressly understood and agreed that the inspection of materials by the County will in no way lessen the responsibility of the Contractor or release Contractor from any obligation to perform and deliver to the County sound and satisfactory materials, equipment, or supplies. The Contractor agrees to pay the costs of all tests upon defective material, equipment, or supplies or allow the costs to be deducted from any monies due from the County.
25. Unless otherwise specified by the Purchasing Department, all materials, supplies, or equipment quoted herein must be delivered within thirty (30) days from the day of notification or exceptions noted on bid sheets.
26. A contract will not be awarded to any corporation, firm, or individual who is, from any cause, in arrears to the County or who has failed in former contracts with the County to perform work satisfactorily, either to the character of the work, the fulfillment or guarantee, or the time consumed in completing the work.
27. Reasonable grounds for supposing that any bidder is interested in more than one proposal for the same item will be considered sufficient cause for rejection of all proposals in which he is interested.
28. Submitting a proposal when the bidder intends to sublet the contract may be a cause for rejection of bids or cancellation of the contract by the County Manager.
29. Unless otherwise specified the County reserves the right to award each item separately or on a lump sum basis whichever is in the best interest of the County.
30. The County reserves the right to reject any and/or all quotations, to waive any minor discrepancies in the bids for all bidders equally, quotations, or specifications, when deemed to be in the best interest of the County and to purchase any part, all, or none of the materials, supplies, or equipment specified.
31. Failure of the bidder to sign the bid or have the signature of an authorized representative or agent on the bid proposal in the space provided will be cause for rejection of the bid. Signature must be written in ink. Typewritten or printed signatures may not be acceptable.
32. Any bidder may withdraw his/her bid at any time before the time set for the opening of the bids. No bid may be withdrawn in the thirty- (30) day period after bids are opened.
33. It is mutually understood and agreed that if at any time the Purchasing Department or designee shall be of the opinion that the contract or any part thereof is unnecessarily

delayed or that the rate of progress or delivery is unsatisfactory, or that the contractor is willfully violating any of the conditions or covenants of the agreement, or executing the same in bad faith, the Purchasing Department or his/her designee shall have the power to notify the aforesaid contractor of the nature of the complaint. Notification shall constitute delivery of notice, or letter to address given in the proposal. If after three (3) working days of notification the conditions are not corrected to the satisfaction of the Purchasing Director, he shall thereupon have the power to take whatever action he may deem necessary to complete the work or delivery herein described, or any part thereof, and the expense thereof, so charged, shall be deducted from any paid by the County out of such monies as may become due to the said contractor, under and by virtue of this agreement. In case such expense shall exceed the last said sum, then and in that event, the bondsman or the contractor, his/her executors, administrators, successors, or assigns, shall pay the amounts of such excess to the County on notice made by the Purchasing Department or his/her designee of the excess due.

34. If the bidder proposes to furnish any item of foreign make or product, he shall write "foreign" together with the name of the originating country opposite such item on a proposal.
35. Any complaint from bidders relative to the invitation to bid or attached specifications shall be made prior to the time of opening bids; otherwise, the bidder waives any such complaint.
36. Contracts may be cancelled by the County with or without cause on thirty- (30) days advance written notice.
37. All contractors submitting bids for road projects in excess of \$250,000 must be pre-qualified with the Florida Department of Transportation and shall provide proof of such qualification upon request.
38. Any bidder affected adversely by an intended decision with respect to the award of any bid, shall file with the Purchasing Department for Columbia County, a written notice of intent to file a protest not later than seventy-two (72) hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays), after the posting of the bid tabulation. Protest procedures may be obtained in the Purchasing Department.
39. A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor's list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to Columbia County, may not submit a bid on a contract with Columbia County for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to Columbia County, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with Columbia County, and may not transact business with Columbia County for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.
40. Vendor/Contractor shall utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system, in accordance with the terms governing use of the system, to confirm the employment eligibility of:

- a. All persons employed by the Vendor/Contractor during the term of the Contract to perform employment duties within Florida; and
  - b. All persons, including subcontractors, assigned by the Vendor/Contractor to perform work pursuant to the contract with the County.
41. Contractor shall register on line at <https://www.columbiacountyfla.com/PurchasingBids.asp> for this specific project. All addendums are delivered via email through this website, and it is the contractor's responsibility to ensure all addendums are used in the bid submittal.

## **ARTICLE I. INTRODUCTION**

### **SECTION 1.01 About Columbia County**

Located near the intersection of Interstates 10 and 75, Columbia County is home to approximately 70,000 residents. The County seat and largest city is Lake City, with a population of approximately 12,000. Lake City is located approximately 45 minutes north of Gainesville, and just over an hour west of Jacksonville. The area is largely rural, and has historically been an agriculturally based economy. The County has seen an approximate 25% increase in population growth from 2000 through 2018. The State of Florida has designated Columbia County as an Economically Distressed Rural County. The US Federal Government confirmed that census tract 1103 is now a Florida Opportunity Zone. The Opportunity Zone has a median household income of approximately \$37,000, which is lower than the median household income for the State of Florida of \$59,000.

### **SECTION 1.02 Project Information**

Columbia County is seeking submittals from qualified vendors to provide pyrotechnics with lasers for our 250th Anniversary - July Fourth Display. The display shall be required to be executed on a 10+ acre property adjacent to Columbia County Fairgrounds located at 164 SW Mary Ethel Ln, Lake City, FL. The vendor will be responsible for all necessary permits with the County and Fire Marshall. The County reserves the right to waive any irregularities submitted, reject any and/or all submittals, re-advertise, and accept any submittals deemed to be in the best interest of the County. No fax, e-mail, or electronic proposals will be accepted.

## **ARTICLE II. SCOPE OF WORK**

Columbia County is requesting proposals from qualified and professional fireworks production companies to work in conjunction with a laser show contractor/company for the purposes of providing a fireworks display for Columbia County's 250th Anniversary - Fourth of July Celebration and additional future Fourth of July celebrations. Submittal will include firing from a set location as indicated on Attachment A. It will be the sole responsibility of the Proposer to provide additional insurance and other costs as required. The Proposer will be responsible for all necessary permits with the County and Fire Marshall. Proposers are requested to provide submittals offering the County maximum variety in color, mortar size, length of display and overall effect options. The display will occur annually on July 4th and will begin at 9:00 pm. Start times may be adjusted by the County in anticipation of inclement weather or as mutually agreed upon by the selected Proposer and the County Representative. The display will run more than 20 minutes.

### **Contractor Duties**

1. Planning, Managing, and Execution of event.
2. Provide suggestions and ideas with County staff for the most cost-effective show.
3. Project management from beginning to end of the show to include setup and cleanup.
  - a. Contractor will be responsible for removal and disposal of all spent casings and debris created by the fireworks display. Contractor will also conduct a search of the fallout area at first light following the nighttime display and remove any shell debris.

### **ARTICLE III. SPECIFICATIONS**

**SECTION 3.01** Proposer must offer a variety of shell types. Shells must have different functions, patterns of break, colors and sizes. Proposer must list the quantities of shell types and sizes available. Columbia County's Fire Chief, or designee reserves the right to inspect and count the shells and compare the actual inventory at the site to the material list submitted as part of the final accepted bid proposal. The fireworks material list will be compared to actual inventory at site and shells negotiated. Failure to deliver and shoot all shells will result in a prorated amount being paid to the Proposer and removal of the Proposer from all future bid solicitations.

### **SECTION 3.02 LENGTH OF DISPLAY**

The display is expected to last a minimum of 20 to 25 minutes from beginning to end. Shells must be launched at a moderate rate at a maximum of 8-10 seconds or shorter.

The selected firm is expected to timely perform the tasks described in the Scope of Work. The Contractor will be required to propose (2) family friendly holiday themed fireworks displays; (1) a 25-minute fireworks only show and (2) a 20-minute show to include a 10-minute intermission of lasers halfway through the fireworks display.

### **ARTICLE IV. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Proposers shall submit one (1) original response, marked "Original", three (3) copies marked "Copy", and one (1) flash drive of the proposal, all of which must be received in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the outside with the Proposer's name and "Sealed Proposal for **RFQ 2025-X 250TH ANNIVERSARY - JULY FOURTH FIREWORKS DISPLAY by 2:00 PM EST on DECEMBER 4, 2025** addressed and delivered to:

**Columbia County Board of County Commissioners  
135 NE Hernando Avenue, Suite 203  
Lake County, FL 32055**

The deadline will be strictly observed. Proposals delivered to any other office or location will be rejected as non-responsive. Proposals shall be delivered by U.S. Mail, Federal Express or other such service or by hand. Delivery by facsimile or email is prohibited. It is the proposer's sole responsibility to ensure that its proposal is received at the proper location at or prior to the deadline.

Interested firms or individuals shall include the following information in their submittals in the exact order listed herein with separating page tabs in an 8.5 by 11-page format. Include page tabs so those evaluating the submittal can compare each section with others that are submitted. The proposals shall be bound, or in a three-ring binder, or equivalent folder. The Proposer should not withhold any information from the written response in anticipation of presenting the information orally or in a demonstration.

Each Proposer shall submit adequate documentation to certify the Proposer's compliance with the County's requirements. Submissions shall be clear and concise and provide the information requested herein. The length of the entire submission shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length not including Tabs 7 and 8.

Firms shall submit written qualifications and a proposed project approach, which clearly demonstrates their ability to provide quality services in a timely and effective manner. The proposals will be opened publicly. At the opening of proposals, the Board shall prepare a register of proposals, which shall include the name of each proposer.

**Applicants shall supply the following information:**

- 1. Letter of Interest**
- 2. Firm's Experience and Background** – Provide company background and direct experience performing fireworks displays
- 3. Pyrotechnics Display** – Provide a description of proposed displays; including program content with a detailed listing to include size, shell type, and where shells are manufactured.
- 4. Project Understanding and Technical Approach**
- 5. Proposed Materials List and Availability of Materials**
- 6. References** - An outline of the firm's experience including a list of up to five (5) completed projects with references that are comparable in size and scope.
- 7. Licenses and Certifications**
- 8. Supporting Documents**
- 9. Additional Materials**

Any other information considered pertinent by the Proposer. Each Respondent may, but is not required to, include any other materials deemed necessary but not provided otherwise (such as promotional literature, white papers, etc.). They should be clearly marked "Additional Materials". Note: these materials may or may not be reviewed by any or all evaluators and will not be a part of the official evaluation except to the extent they support qualification and experience.

- **Vendor Information and Signature Form**
- **Non-Collusion Affidavit**
- **Public Entity Crimes Form**
- **Drug-Free Workplace Certificate**
- **Conflict of Interest Statement**
- **Certificate Regarding Lobbying and Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters**
- **Certificates of Insurance**
- **W-9**
- **Proposed Contract**
- **Human Trafficking Affidavit**

**Submission Review - Evaluation Criteria:**

|  |              |               |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| Submittal Quality and Completeness           | 0-10         | points        |
| Firm’s Experience and Background             | 0-15         | points        |
| Proposed Materials List and Availability     | 0 - 10       | points        |
| Proposed Quality of Pyrotechnical Display    | 0-30         | points        |
| Project Understanding and Technical Approach | 0-30         | points        |
| <u>References</u>                            | <u>0-5</u>   | <u>points</u> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>0-100</b> | <b>points</b> |

**ARTICLE V. SELECTION PROCESS**

An evaluation committee will review all submissions received prior to the aforementioned deadline. A shortlist of firms will be determined from the responses received. The shortlist of firms may be invited for an interview and site visit prior to a final selection. The committee’s rankings will be forwarded as a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for their review and consideration.

For firms invited to the interview process, presentations will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Relevant qualifications and experience of the primary individual(s) assigned to the park planning portion of this project, specifically with similar large-scale park master planning efforts. The firm should identify and provide summary information on up to five (5) similar type land planning studies completed by the assigned individual(s), and the year the studies were completed. **10 POINTS**
- Experience and Expertise of the Contractor to meet the needs of the County. Experience working with regulatory agencies. **15 POINTS**
- Expected materials for completing the master plan, including shell types, size, and future availability of materials. **10 POINTS**
- Quality of Proposed Display. **30 POINTS**
- Understanding of the proposed scope of the master planning effort, including, identification of additional important/critical issues that should be considered or clarified by the County prior to undertaking the study. **30 POINTS**
- Client Reference Letters. **5 POINTS**

Upon completion of the interview process, the committee will rank the firms. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for approval to enter into contract negotiations with the firm selected as best suited to serve the needs of the County. If the negotiations with the first firm are unsuccessful, the committee will move to the second firm with similar negotiations and so on. Once an agreeable contract is in place, it will then be brought to the Board again for approval.

**Proposed Timeline**

**Friday, November 28: Deadline for Questions – 5:00pm**

**Thursday, December 4: Bid Opening – 2:00pm**

**December 8 – December 11: Evaluations– Time TBD**

**Thursday, December 18: Board of County Commission Meeting** (subject to change)

**ARTICLE VI.           AWARD/REJECTION/OTHER**

The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, waive any formalities, technical errors, and irregularities, and to recommend the award of a contract as may be deemed in the best interest of the County.

All proposals, materials, documents, etc. submitted in conjunction with the selection process shall become the property of the Board and may be disposed of without notification and shall be considered public information under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. The applicant selected shall be expected to comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations in the performance of services.



**City:** SW Real Terrace from SW Mary Ethel Lane to SW Symphony Loop

**County:** SW Bascom Norris Dr. from CR 247 to SW Mary Ethel Lane.  
SW Mary Ethel Lane from SW Bascom Norris Drive to CR 247



SW Real Terrace

SW Bas

Commerce Dr

R=350ft

© 2020 Google

ony-Loop

SW Windsong Cir

**ARTICLE VII. FORMS**

**FORM A**

**VENDOR INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE FORM**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Vendor Name</b>                                    |   |
| <b>Trade License (If applicable)</b>                  |   |
| <b>Contact Person(s)</b>                              |   |
| <b>Street Address with County, State and Zip Code</b> |   |
| <b>Mailing Address (If different from Above)</b>      |   |
| <b>Phone Number</b>                                   |   |
| <b>Fax Number</b>                                     |   |
| <b>E-Mail</b>   |   |
| <b>Proposer will do the work as</b>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Venture <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership<br><input type="checkbox"/> Corporation |
| <b>Date and State of Incorporation</b>                | <b>DATE:</b> _____ <b>STATE:</b> _____  |
| <b>Name of partnership or joint venture</b>           |   |

By signing below, the submission shall be deemed a representation and certification by the Proposing Firm that you have investigated all aspects of the solicitation, have read and understand the solicitation, and acknowledge all addenda.

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| <b>Authorized Signature:</b>   |
| <b>Printed Name of Signer:</b> |
| <b>Date Signed:</b>            |
| <b>Title of Signatory:</b>     |

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT**

1. The Contractors and subcontractors hereby agree to a commitment to the principles and practices of equal opportunity in employment and to comply with the letter and spirit of federal, state, and local laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, national region, sex, age, handicap, marital status, and political affiliation or belief.

2. The Contractor agrees to comply with Executive Order 11246, as amended, and to comply with specific affirmative action obligations contained therein.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Being duly sworn deposes and says that the information herein is true and sufficiently complete so as not to be misleading.

The foregoing instrument was executed before me this day \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ as of \_\_\_\_\_, who personally swore or affirmed that he/she is authorized to execute this document and thereby bind the Corporation, and who is personally known to me **OR** has produced \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

(stamp)

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of \_\_\_\_\_

## Public Entity Crimes Statement

SWORN STATEMENT UNDER SECTION 287.133(3) (a), FLORIDA STATUTES: THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC OR OTHER OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER OATHS.

1. This sworn statement is submitted with Proposal, ITN, or Contract Number
2. This sworn statement is submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name of entity submitting sworn statement]  
whose business address is \_\_\_\_\_ and (if applicable) its Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) is \_\_\_\_\_  
(If the entity has no FEIN, include the Social Security Number of the individual signing this sworn statement: \_\_\_\_\_)
3. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and my relationship to the above is \_\_\_\_\_  
[Please print name of individual signing]
4. I understand that a "public entity crime" as defined in section 287. 1 33(l)(g), Florida Statutes, means a violation of any state or federal law by a person with respect to and directly related to the transaction of business with any public entity in Florida or with an agency or political subdivision of any other state or with the United States, including, but not limited to, any proposal or contract for goods or services to be provided to any public entity or an agency or political subdivision and involving antitrust, fraud, theft, bribery, collusion, racketeering, conspiracy, or material misrepresentation.
5. I understand that "convicted" or "conviction" as defined in section 287.133(1) (b), Florida Statutes, means a finding of guilt or a conviction of a public entity crime, with or without an adjudication of guilt, in any federal or state trial court of record relating to charges brought by indictment or information after July 1, 1989, as a result of a jury verdict, non-jury trial, or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.
6. I understand that "affiliate" as defined in section 287.133(1) (a), Florida Statutes, means:
  - a. A predecessor or successor of a person convicted of a public entity crime; or
  - b. An entity under the control of any natural person who is active in the management of the entity and who has been convicted of a public entity crime. The term "affiliate" includes those officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members, and agents who are active in the management of an affiliate. The ownership by one person of shares constituting a controlling interest in another person, or a pooling of equipment or income among persons when not for fair market value under an arm's length agreement, shall be a prima facie case that one person controls another person. A person who knowingly enters into a joint venture with a person who has been convicted of a public entity crime in Florida during the preceding thirty-six (36) months shall be considered an affiliate.

7. I understand that a "person" as defined in section 287.133(1) (e), Florida Statutes, means any natural person or entity organized under the laws of any state or of the United States with the legal power to enter into a binding contract and which bids/proposals or applies to bids/proposals on contracts for the provision of goods or services let by a public entity, or which otherwise transacts or applies to transact business with a public entity. The term "person" includes those officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members, and agents who are active in management of an entity.

8. Based on information and belief, the statement, which I have marked below, is true in relation to the entity submitting this sworn statement. **[Please indicate which statement applies].**

\_\_\_ Neither the entity submitting this sworn statement, nor any officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members, or agents who is active in the management of the entity, nor any affiliate of the entity have been convicted of a public entity crime subsequent to July 1, 1989.

\_\_\_ The entity submitting this sworn statement, or one or more of the officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members, or agents who are active in the management of the entity, or an affiliate of the entity has been charged with and convicted of a public entity crime subsequent to July 1, 1989, AND **[Please indicate which additional statement applies].**

\_\_\_ There has been a proceeding concerning the conviction before a judge or hearing officer of the State of Florida, Division of Administrative Hearings, or a court of law having proper jurisdiction. The final order entered by the hearing officer or judge did not place the person or affiliate on the convicted Contractor list. **[Please attach a copy of the final order.]**

\_\_\_ The person or affiliate was placed on the convicted Contractor list. There has been a subsequent proceeding before a court of law having proper jurisdiction or a judge or hearing officer of the State of Florida, Division of Administrative Hearings. The final order entered by the judge or hearing officer determined that it was in the public interest to remove the person or affiliate from the convicted Contractor list. **[Please attach a copy of the final order.]**

\_\_\_ The person or affiliate has not been placed on any convicted vendor list. [Please describe any action taken by or pending with the State of Florida, Department of Management Services.]

By the signature(s) below, I/we, the undersigned, as authorized signatory to commit the firm, certify that the information as provided in Attachment "C", Public Entity Crimes, is truthful and correct at the time of submission.

\_\_\_\_\_  
AFFIANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed Name of AFFIANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

County OF \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing instrument was executed before me this day \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ as of \_\_\_\_\_, who personally swore or affirmed that he/she is authorized to execute this document and thereby bind the Corporation, and who is personally known to me **OR** has produced \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

(stamp)

NOTARY PUBLIC, State of \_\_\_\_\_

## **Drug-Free Workplace Certification**

The drug-free certification form below must be signed and returned with the solicitation response.

In order to have a drug-free workplace program, a business shall:

1. Publish a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition.
2. Inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the business' policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.
3. Give each employee engaged in providing the commodities or contractual services that are under bid/proposal a copy of the statement specified in the first paragraph .
4. In the statement specified in the first paragraph, notify the employees that, as a condition of working on the commodities or contractual services that are under bid/proposal, the employee will abide by the terms of the statement and will notify the employer of any conviction of, or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, any violation of chapter 893, Florida Statutes, or of any controlled substance law of the United States or any state, for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five (5) Days after such conviction.
5. Impose a sanction on, or require the satisfactory participation in, a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program if such is available in the employee's community, by any employee who is so convicted.
6. Make a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of the foregoing provisions.

By the signature(s) below, I/we, the undersigned, as authorized signatory to commit the firm, certify that the information as provided in this Drug-Free Workplace Certification, is truthful and correct at the time of submission.

\_\_\_\_\_  
AFFIANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed Name of AFFIANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

STATE OF .....

County OF .....

The foregoing instrument was executed before me this day \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
20\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_, who personally swore or affirmed that  
he/she is authorized to execute this document and thereby bind the Corporation, and who is  
personally known to me **OR** has produced \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

(stamp)

NOTARY PUBLIC, State of \_\_\_\_\_

## Conflict of Interest Statement

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

County OF \_\_\_\_\_

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ who was duly sworn, deposes, and states:

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ with a local office  
(Insert Title) (Insert Company Name)  
in \_\_\_\_\_ and principal office in \_\_\_\_\_. Said entity is submitting this proposal/offer to

1. The AFFIANT has made diligent inquiry and provided the information in this statement affidavit based upon its full knowledge.
2. The AFFIANT states that only one submittal for this solicitation has been submitted and tendered by the appropriate date and time and that said above stated entity has no financial interest in other entities submitting a proposal for the work contemplated hereby.
3. Neither the AFFIANT nor the above named entity has directly or indirectly entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion or collusive activity, or otherwise taken any action which in any way restricts or restrains the competitive nature of this solicitation, including but not limited to the prior discussion of terms, conditions, pricing, or other offer parameters required by this solicitation.
4. Neither the entity nor its affiliates, nor anyone associated with them, is presently suspended or otherwise prohibited from participation in this solicitation or any contract to follow thereafter by any government entity.
5. Neither the entity nor its affiliates, nor anyone associated with them, have any potential conflict of interest because and due to any other clients, contracts, or property interests in this solicitation or the resulting project.
6. I hereby also certify that no member of the entity's ownership or management or staff has a vested interest in any County Office or Department.
7. I certify that no member of the entity's ownership or management is presently applying, actively seeking, or has been selected for an elected position within Columbia County government.
8. In the event that a conflict of interest is identified in the provision of services, I, the undersigned will immediately notify the County in writing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
AFFIANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed Name of AFFIANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

County OF \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing instrument was executed before me this day \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ of  
20\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_, who personally swore or affirmed that  
he/she is authorized to execute this document and thereby bind the Corporation, and who is  
personally known to me OR has produced \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

(stamp).

NOTARY PUBLIC, State of \_\_\_\_\_

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING AFFIDAVIT

Affiant swears under pain and penalty of perjury that the company or entity does not use coercion for labor or services as defined by Florida Statute § 787.06 which is hereby incorporated by reference.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Company or Entity Name)

**Affiant who is an Officer/Authorized Representative of Company or Entity:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, by means of physical presence and \_\_\_\_\_ who is personally known to me or \_\_\_\_\_ has produced \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

(NOTARY STAMP)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public



By signing the filled-out form, you:

1. Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued),
2. Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
3. Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income, and
4. Certify that FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that you are exempt from the FATCA reporting, is correct. See *What is FATCA reporting*, later, for further information.

**Note:** If you are a U.S. person and a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

**Definition of a U.S. person.** For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien;
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States;
- An estate (other than a foreign estate); or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

**Special rules for partnerships.** Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax under section 1446 on any foreign partners' share of effectively connected taxable income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, the rules under section 1446 require a partnership to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the section 1446 withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid section 1446 withholding on your share of partnership income.

In the cases below, the following person must give Form W-9 to the partnership for purposes of establishing its U.S. status and avoiding withholding on its allocable share of net income from the partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States.

- In the case of a disregarded entity with a U.S. owner, the U.S. owner of the disregarded entity and not the entity;
- In the case of a grantor trust with a U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner, generally, the U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner of the grantor trust and not the trust; and
- In the case of a U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust), the U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust) and not the beneficiaries of the trust.

**Foreign person.** If you are a foreign person or the U.S. branch of a foreign bank that has elected to be treated as a U.S. person, do not use Form W-9. Instead, use the appropriate Form W-8 or Form 8233 (see Pub. 515, *Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities*).

**Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien.** Generally, only a nonresident alien individual may use the terms of a tax treaty to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on certain types of income. However, most tax treaties contain a provision known as a "saving clause." Exceptions specified in the saving clause may permit an exemption from tax to continue for certain types of income even after the payee has otherwise become a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes.

If you are a U.S. resident alien who is relying on an exception contained in the saving clause of a tax treaty to claim an exemption from U.S. tax on certain types of income, you must attach a statement to Form W-9 that specifies the following five items.

1. The treaty country. Generally, this must be the same treaty under which you claimed exemption from tax as a nonresident alien.
2. The treaty article addressing the income.
3. The article number (or location) in the tax treaty that contains the saving clause and its exceptions.
4. The type and amount of income that qualifies for the exemption from tax.
5. Sufficient facts to justify the exemption from tax under the terms of the treaty article.

**Example.** Article 20 of the U.S.-China income tax treaty allows an exemption from tax for scholarship income received by a Chinese student temporarily present in the United States. Under U.S. law, this student will become a resident alien for tax purposes if his or her stay in the United States exceeds 5 calendar years. However, paragraph 2 of the first Protocol to the U.S.-China treaty (dated April 30, 1984) allows the provisions of Article 20 to continue to apply even after the Chinese student becomes a resident alien of the United States. A Chinese student who qualifies for this exception (under paragraph 2 of the first protocol) and is relying on this exception to claim an exemption from tax on his or her scholarship or fellowship income would attach to Form W-9 a statement that includes the information described above to support that exemption.

If you are a nonresident alien or a foreign entity, give the requester the appropriate completed Form W-8 or Form 8233.

## Backup Withholding

**What is backup withholding?** Persons making certain payments to you must under certain conditions withhold and pay to the IRS 24% of such payments. This is called "backup withholding." Payments that may be subject to backup withholding include interest, tax-exempt interest, dividends, broker and barter exchange transactions, rents, royalties, nonemployee pay, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, and certain payments from fishing boat operators. Real estate transactions are not subject to backup withholding.

You will not be subject to backup withholding on payments you receive if you give the requester your correct TIN, make the proper certifications, and report all your taxable interest and dividends on your tax return.

**Payments you receive will be subject to backup withholding if:**

1. You do not furnish your TIN to the requester,
2. You do not certify your TIN when required (see the instructions for Part II for details),
3. The IRS tells the requester that you furnished an incorrect TIN,
4. The IRS tells you that you are subject to backup withholding because you did not report all your interest and dividends on your tax return (for reportable interest and dividends only), or
5. You do not certify to the requester that you are not subject to backup withholding under 4 above (for reportable interest and dividend accounts opened after 1983 only).

Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding. See *Exempt payee code*, later, and the separate Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

Also see *Special rules for partnerships*, earlier.

## What is FATCA Reporting?

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) requires a participating foreign financial institution to report all United States account holders that are specified United States persons. Certain payees are exempt from FATCA reporting. See *Exemption from FATCA reporting code*, later, and the Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

## Updating Your Information

You must provide updated information to any person to whom you claimed to be an exempt payee if you are no longer an exempt payee and anticipate receiving reportable payments in the future from this person. For example, you may need to provide updated information if you are a C corporation that elects to be an S corporation, or if you no longer are tax exempt. In addition, you must furnish a new Form W-9 if the name or TIN changes for the account; for example, if the grantor of a grantor trust dies.

## Penalties

**Failure to furnish TIN.** If you fail to furnish your correct TIN to a requester, you are subject to a penalty of \$50 for each such failure unless your failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.

**Civil penalty for false information with respect to withholding.** If you make a false statement with no reasonable basis that results in no backup withholding, you are subject to a \$500 penalty.

**Criminal penalty for falsifying information.** Willfully falsifying certifications or affirmations may subject you to criminal penalties including fines and/or imprisonment.

**Misuse of TINs.** If the requester discloses or uses TINs in violation of federal law, the requester may be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

## Specific Instructions

### Line 1

You must enter one of the following on this line; **do not** leave this line blank. The name should match the name on your tax return.

If this Form W-9 is for a joint account (other than an account maintained by a foreign financial institution (FFI)), list first, and then circle, the name of the person or entity whose number you entered in Part I of Form W-9. If you are providing Form W-9 to an FFI to document a joint account, each holder of the account that is a U.S. person must provide a Form W-9.

a. **Individual.** Generally, enter the name shown on your tax return. If you have changed your last name without informing the Social Security Administration (SSA) of the name change, enter your first name, the last name as shown on your social security card, and your new last name.

**Note: ITIN applicant:** Enter your individual name as it was entered on your Form W-7 application, line 1a. This should also be the same as the name you entered on the Form 1040/1040A/1040EZ you filed with your application.

b. **Sole proprietor or single-member LLC.** Enter your individual name as shown on your 1040/1040A/1040EZ on line 1. You may enter your business, trade, or “doing business as” (DBA) name on line 2.

c. **Partnership, LLC that is not a single-member LLC, C corporation, or S corporation.** Enter the entity’s name as shown on the entity’s tax return on line 1 and any business, trade, or DBA name on line 2.

d. **Other entities.** Enter your name as shown on required U.S. federal tax documents on line 1. This name should match the name shown on the charter or other legal document creating the entity. You may enter any business, trade, or DBA name on line 2.

e. **Disregarded entity.** For U.S. federal tax purposes, an entity that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner is treated as a “disregarded entity.” See Regulations section 301.7701-2(c)(2)(iii). Enter the owner’s name on line 1. The name of the entity entered on line 1 should never be a disregarded entity. The name on line 1 should be the name shown on the income tax return on which the income should be reported. For example, if a foreign LLC that is treated as a disregarded entity for U.S. federal tax purposes has a single owner that is a U.S. person, the U.S. owner’s name is required to be provided on line 1. If the direct owner of the entity is also a disregarded entity, enter the first owner that is not disregarded for federal tax purposes. Enter the disregarded entity’s name on line 2, “Business name/disregarded entity name.” If the owner of the disregarded entity is a foreign person, the owner must complete an appropriate Form W-8 instead of a Form W-9. This is the case even if the foreign person has a U.S. TIN.

### Line 2

If you have a business name, trade name, DBA name, or disregarded entity name, you may enter it on line 2.

### Line 3

Check the appropriate box on line 3 for the U.S. federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one box on line 3.

| IF the entity/person on line 1 is a(n) . . .   | THEN check the box for . . .  |
|--|---|
| • Corporation  | Corporation   |
| • Individual<br>• Sole proprietorship, or<br>• Single-member limited liability company (LLC) owned by an individual and disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes.   | Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC   |
| • LLC treated as a partnership for U.S. federal tax purposes,<br>• LLC that has filed Form 8832 or 2553 to be taxed as a corporation, or<br>• LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner but the owner is another LLC that is not disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes. | Limited liability company and enter the appropriate tax classification. (P= Partnership; C= C corporation; or S= S corporation) |
| • Partnership  | Partnership   |
| • Trust/estate   | Trust/estate  |

### Line 4, Exemptions

If you are exempt from backup withholding and/or FATCA reporting, enter in the appropriate space on line 4 any code(s) that may apply to you.

#### Exempt payee code.

- Generally, individuals (including sole proprietors) are not exempt from backup withholding.
- Except as provided below, corporations are exempt from backup withholding for certain payments, including interest and dividends.
- Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding for payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions.
- Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding with respect to attorneys’ fees or gross proceeds paid to attorneys, and corporations that provide medical or health care services are not exempt with respect to payments reportable on Form 1099-MISC.

The following codes identify payees that are exempt from backup withholding. Enter the appropriate code in the space in line 4.

- 1—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), any IRA, or a custodial account under section 403(b)(7) if the account satisfies the requirements of section 401(f)(2)
- 2—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities
- 3—A state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or possession, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities
- 4—A foreign government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities
- 5—A corporation
- 6—A dealer in securities or commodities required to register in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. commonwealth or possession
- 7—A futures commission merchant registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission
- 8—A real estate investment trust
- 9—An entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940
- 10—A common trust fund operated by a bank under section 584(a)
- 11—A financial institution
- 12—A middleman known in the investment community as a nominee or custodian
- 13—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947

The following chart shows types of payments that may be exempt from backup withholding. The chart applies to the exempt payees listed above, 1 through 13.

| IF the payment is for . . .  | THEN the payment is exempt for . . .  |
|--|---|
| Interest and dividend payments   | All exempt payees except for 7  |
| Broker transactions  | Exempt payees 1 through 4 and 6 through 11 and all C corporations. S corporations must not enter an exempt payee code because they are exempt only for sales of noncovered securities acquired prior to 2012. |
| Barter exchange transactions and patronage dividends                                   | Exempt payees 1 through 4   |
| Payments over \$600 required to be reported and direct sales over \$5,000 <sup>1</sup> | Generally, exempt payees 1 through 5 <sup>2</sup>   |
| Payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions        | Exempt payees 1 through 4   |

<sup>1</sup> See Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, and its instructions.

<sup>2</sup> However, the following payments made to a corporation and reportable on Form 1099-MISC are not exempt from backup withholding: medical and health care payments, attorneys' fees, gross proceeds paid to an attorney reportable under section 6045(f), and payments for services paid by a federal executive agency.

**Exemption from FATCA reporting code.** The following codes identify payees that are exempt from reporting under FATCA. These codes apply to persons submitting this form for accounts maintained outside of the United States by certain foreign financial institutions. Therefore, if you are only submitting this form for an account you hold in the United States, you may leave this field blank. Consult with the person requesting this form if you are uncertain if the financial institution is subject to these requirements. A requester may indicate that a code is not required by providing you with a Form W-9 with "Not Applicable" (or any similar indication) written or printed on the line for a FATCA exemption code.

A—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) or any individual retirement plan as defined in section 7701(a)(37)

B—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities

C—A state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or possession, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities

D—A corporation the stock of which is regularly traded on one or more established securities markets, as described in Regulations section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

E—A corporation that is a member of the same expanded affiliated group as a corporation described in Regulations section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

F—A dealer in securities, commodities, or derivative financial instruments (including notional principal contracts, futures, forwards, and options) that is registered as such under the laws of the United States or any state

G—A real estate investment trust

H—A regulated investment company as defined in section 851 or an entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940

I—A common trust fund as defined in section 584(a)

J—A bank as defined in section 581

K—A broker

L—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947(a)(1)

M—A tax exempt trust under a section 403(b) plan or section 457(g) plan

**Note:** You may wish to consult with the financial institution requesting this form to determine whether the FATCA code and/or exempt payee code should be completed.

### Line 5

Enter your address (number, street, and apartment or suite number). This is where the requester of this Form W-9 will mail your information returns. If this address differs from the one the requester already has on file, write NEW at the top. If a new address is provided, there is still a chance the old address will be used until the payor changes your address in their records.

### Line 6

Enter your city, state, and ZIP code.

## Part I. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

**Enter your TIN in the appropriate box.** If you are a resident alien and you do not have and are not eligible to get an SSN, your TIN is your IRS individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Enter it in the social security number box. If you do not have an ITIN, see *How to get a TIN* below.

If you are a sole proprietor and you have an EIN, you may enter either your SSN or EIN.

If you are a single-member LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, enter the owner's SSN (or EIN, if the owner has one). Do not enter the disregarded entity's EIN. If the LLC is classified as a corporation or partnership, enter the entity's EIN.

**Note:** See *What Name and Number To Give the Requester*, later, for further clarification of name and TIN combinations.

**How to get a TIN.** If you do not have a TIN, apply for one immediately. To apply for an SSN, get Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card, from your local SSA office or get this form online at [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov). You may also get this form by calling 1-800-772-1213. Use Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to apply for an ITIN, or Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, to apply for an EIN. You can apply for an EIN online by accessing the IRS website at [www.irs.gov/Businesses](http://www.irs.gov/Businesses) and clicking on Employer Identification Number (EIN) under Starting a Business. Go to [www.irs.gov/Forms](http://www.irs.gov/Forms) to view, download, or print Form W-7 and/or Form SS-4. Or, you can go to [www.irs.gov/OrderForms](http://www.irs.gov/OrderForms) to place an order and have Form W-7 and/or SS-4 mailed to you within 10 business days.

If you are asked to complete Form W-9 but do not have a TIN, apply for a TIN and write "Applied For" in the space for the TIN, sign and date the form, and give it to the requester. For interest and dividend payments, and certain payments made with respect to readily tradable instruments, generally you will have 60 days to get a TIN and give it to the requester before you are subject to backup withholding on payments. The 60-day rule does not apply to other types of payments. You will be subject to backup withholding on all such payments until you provide your TIN to the requester.

**Note:** Entering "Applied For" means that you have already applied for a TIN or that you intend to apply for one soon.

**Caution:** A disregarded U.S. entity that has a foreign owner must use the appropriate Form W-8.

## Part II. Certification

To establish to the withholding agent that you are a U.S. person, or resident alien, sign Form W-9. You may be requested to sign by the withholding agent even if item 1, 4, or 5 below indicates otherwise.

For a joint account, only the person whose TIN is shown in Part I should sign (when required). In the case of a disregarded entity, the person identified on line 1 must sign. Exempt payees, see *Exempt payee code*, earlier.

**Signature requirements.** Complete the certification as indicated in items 1 through 5 below.

**1. Interest, dividend, and barter exchange accounts opened before 1984 and broker accounts considered active during 1983.**

You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

**2. Interest, dividend, broker, and barter exchange accounts opened after 1983 and broker accounts considered inactive during 1983.**

You must sign the certification or backup withholding will apply. If you are subject to backup withholding and you are merely providing your correct TIN to the requester, you must cross out item 2 in the certification before signing the form.

**3. Real estate transactions.**

You must sign the certification. You may cross out item 2 of the certification.

**4. Other payments.**

You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification unless you have been notified that you have previously given an incorrect TIN. "Other payments" include payments made in the course of the requester's trade or business for rents, royalties, goods (other than bills for merchandise), medical and health care services (including payments to corporations), payments to a nonemployee for services, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, payments to certain fishing boat crew members and fishermen, and gross proceeds paid to attorneys (including payments to corporations).

**5. Mortgage interest paid by you, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, qualified tuition program payments (under section 529), ABLE accounts (under section 529A), IRA, Coverdell ESA, Archer MSA or HSA contributions or distributions, and pension distributions.**

You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

**What Name and Number To Give the Requester**

| For this type of account:  | Give name and SSN of:   |
|--|---|
| 1. Individual  | The individual  |
| 2. Two or more individuals (joint account) other than an account maintained by an FFI                          | The actual owner of the account or, if combined funds, the first individual on the account <sup>1</sup> |
| 3. Two or more U.S. persons (joint account maintained by an FFI)   | Each holder of the account  |
| 4. Custodial account of a minor (Uniform Gift to Minors Act)   | The minor <sup>2</sup>  |
| 5. a. The usual revocable savings trust (grantor is also trustee)  | The grantor-trustee <sup>1</sup>  |
| b. So-called trust account that is not a legal or valid trust under state law                                  | The actual owner <sup>1</sup>   |
| 6. Sole proprietorship or disregarded entity owned by an individual  | The owner <sup>3</sup>  |
| 7. Grantor trust filing under Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 1 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(A)) | The grantor*  |
| For this type of account:  | Give name and EIN of:   |
| 8. Disregarded entity not owned by an individual   | The owner   |
| 9. A valid trust, estate, or pension trust   | Legal entity <sup>4</sup>   |
| 10. Corporation or LLC electing corporate status on Form 8832 or Form 2553                                     | The corporation   |
| 11. Association, club, religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization                    | The organization  |
| 12. Partnership or multi-member LLC  | The partnership   |
| 13. A broker or registered nominee   | The broker or nominee   |

| For this type of account:   | Give name and EIN of: |
|---|-----------------------|
| 14. Account with the Department of Agriculture in the name of a public entity (such as a state or local government, school district, or prison) that receives agricultural program payments | The public entity     |
| 15. Grantor trust filing under the Form 1041 Filing Method or the Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 2 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(B))  | The trust             |

<sup>1</sup> List first and circle the name of the person whose number you furnish. If only one person on a joint account has an SSN, that person's number must be furnished.

<sup>2</sup> Circle the minor's name and furnish the minor's SSN.

<sup>3</sup> You must show your individual name and you may also enter your business or DBA name on the "Business name/disregarded entity" name line. You may use either your SSN or EIN (if you have one), but the IRS encourages you to use your SSN.

<sup>4</sup> List first and circle the name of the trust, estate, or pension trust. (Do not furnish the TIN of the personal representative or trustee unless the legal entity itself is not designated in the account title.) Also see *Special rules for partnerships*, earlier.

\*Note: The grantor also must provide a Form W-9 to trustee of trust.

Note: If no name is circled when more than one name is listed, the number will be considered to be that of the first name listed.

**Secure Your Tax Records From Identity Theft**

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, SSN, or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. An identity thief may use your SSN to get a job or may file a tax return using your SSN to receive a refund.

To reduce your risk:

- Protect your SSN,
- Ensure your employer is protecting your SSN, and
- Be careful when choosing a tax preparer.

If your tax records are affected by identity theft and you receive a notice from the IRS, respond right away to the name and phone number printed on the IRS notice or letter.

If your tax records are not currently affected by identity theft but you think you are at risk due to a lost or stolen purse or wallet, questionable credit card activity or credit report, contact the IRS Identity Theft Hotline at 1-800-908-4490 or submit Form 14039.

For more information, see Pub. 5027, Identity Theft Information for Taxpayers.

Victims of identity theft who are experiencing economic harm or a systemic problem, or are seeking help in resolving tax problems that have not been resolved through normal channels, may be eligible for Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) assistance. You can reach TAS by calling the TAS toll-free case intake line at 1-877-777-4778 or TTY/TDD 1-800-829-4059.

**Protect yourself from suspicious emails or phishing schemes.**

Phishing is the creation and use of email and websites designed to mimic legitimate business emails and websites. The most common act is sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft.

The IRS does not initiate contacts with taxpayers via emails. Also, the IRS does not request personal detailed information through email or ask taxpayers for the PIN numbers, passwords, or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank, or other financial accounts.

If you receive an unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, forward this message to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). You may also report misuse of the IRS name, logo, or other IRS property to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-366-4484. You can forward suspicious emails to the Federal Trade Commission at [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov) or report them at [www.ftc.gov/complaint](http://www.ftc.gov/complaint). You can contact the FTC at [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) or 877-IDTHEFT (877-438-4338). If you have been the victim of identity theft, see [www.IdentityTheft.gov](http://www.IdentityTheft.gov) and Pub. 5027.

Visit [www.irs.gov/IdentityTheft](http://www.irs.gov/IdentityTheft) to learn more about identity theft and how to reduce your risk.

## Privacy Act Notice

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to provide your correct TIN to persons (including federal agencies) who are required to file information returns with the IRS to report interest, dividends, or certain other income paid to you; mortgage interest you paid; the acquisition or abandonment of secured property; the cancellation of debt; or contributions you made to an IRA, Archer MSA, or HSA. The person collecting this form uses the information on the form to file information returns with the IRS, reporting the above information. Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and possessions for use in administering their laws. The information also may be disclosed to other countries under a treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce civil and criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism. You must provide your TIN whether or not you are required to file a tax return. Under section 3406, payers must generally withhold a percentage of taxable interest, dividend, and certain other payments to a payee who does not give a TIN to the payer. Certain penalties may also apply for providing false or fraudulent information.

## SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 by and between **Columbia County**, (hereinafter the "COUNTY"), whose address is P.O. Box 1529 Lake City, Fl. 32056, and \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter the "CONTRACTOR"), whose address is \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the COUNTY desires to engage the CONTRACTOR to perform certain services for \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter the "Project") under the terms of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions hereinafter provided, the COUNTY and the CONTRACTOR agree as follows:

1. Standard of Care – CONTRACTOR has represented to the COUNTY that it has the personnel and experience necessary to perform in a professional and workmanlike manner.  
CONTRACTOR shall exercise the same degree of care, skill, and diligence in the performance of the Services as is provided by a professional of like experience, knowledge and resources, under similar circumstances.  
CONTRACTOR shall, at no additional cost to COUNTY, re-perform services which fail to satisfy the foregoing standard of care or otherwise fail to meet the requirement of this Agreement.  
CONTRACTOR warrants that all services shall be performed by skilled and competent personnel to the professional standards in the field.
  
2. Scope of Agreement. The CONTRACTOR'S relationship to the COUNTY shall be that of independent contractor, at all times this relationship shall be governed by and in strict compliance with the terms of this Agreement for Consultant Services and the scope of services included in RFQ 2025-X along with Contractor's Submittal to the Bid/RFP/RFQ.  
CONTRACTOR undertakes performance of the Services as an independent contractor and shall be wholly responsible for the methods of performance.  
COUNTY shall have no right to supervise the methods used, but COUNTY shall have the right to observe such performance.  
CONTRACTOR shall work closely with COUNTY in performing Services under this Agreement.  
The CONTRACTOR shall not pledge the COUNTY'S credit or make it a guarantor of payment or surety for any contract, debt, obligation, judgement, lien or any form of indebtedness and shall have no right to speak for or bind the COUNTY in any manner.  
CONTRACTOR further warrants and represents that it has no obligation or indebtedness that would impair its ability to fulfill the terms of this Agreement.

The CONTRACTOR hereby represents and warrant that it has and will continue to maintain all licenses and approvals required to conduct its business, and that it will at all times conduct its business activities in a reputable manner.

In performance of the Services, CONTRACTOR will comply with applicable regulatory requirements including federal, state, special district, and local laws, rules, regulations, orders, codes, criteria and standards.

The COUNTY reserves the right to accept the use of a subcontractor or to reject the selection of a particular subcontractor and to inspect all facilities of any subcontractor.

If a subcontractor fails to perform or make progress, as required by this Agreement, and it is necessary to replace the subcontractor to complete the work in a timely fashion, the CONTRACTOR shall promptly do so, subject to acceptance of the new subcontractor by the COUNTY. Failure of subcontractor to timely or properly perform its obligations shall not relieve CONTRACTOR of its obligations hereunder.

3. Term. The term of this agreement shall be three (3) years with the option to renew two (2) additional one (1) year terms for a total of (five) years. Contractor may notify the County of Contractor's desire not to renew this Agreement not fewer than 30 days prior to end of term, such that on the last day of that term this Agreement shall terminate and no renewal shall occur. This provision shall not be construed in any manner to require either party to renew this Agreement
4. Compensation.
  - a. Compensation for the services rendered is included in Exhibit A.
  - b. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, no services undertaken by the CONTRACTOR or expenses incurred by the CONTRACTOR exceeding the identified fees and expenses have been approved in writing by the COUNTY in advance.
5. Additional Services. The CONTRACTOR shall provide services in addition to those described in task work orders only upon written request of the COUNTY. CONTRACTOR shall be compensated for all authorized additional services only on the basis agreed upon in writing at the time such services are authorized.
6. Invoices. Invoices will be submitted by the CONTRACTOR upon completion of the work described in task work orders. Invoices shall be submitted to Board of County Commissioners, P.O. Box 1529, Lake City, FL 32056. Each invoice shall be due and payable in accordance with the Florida Prompt Payment Act.
7. Termination. The obligation to provide further services under this Agreement may be terminated by either party upon seven (7) days written notice in the event of substantial failure by the other party to perform in accordance with the terms hereof through no fault of the terminating party. In the event of any termination the CONTRACTOR will be paid as hereinafter provided for all authorized services rendered to the date of such termination. The amount payable to the CONTRACTOR in the event of termination will be a pro rata amount of such fee, determined on the basis of the relationship of the

amount and value of the work performed prior to the CONTRACTOR'S receipt of notice of termination.

8. Insurance. The CONTRACTOR shall maintain the following insurance coverage:

- General Liability, Each Occurrence: \$1,000,000
- Aggregate: \$2,000,000

This insurance coverage shall be evidenced by (1) delivery to the COUNTY of a Certificate of Insurance executed by the insurers and listing coverages and limits, expiration dates, and terms of policies and all endorsements, whether or not required by the COUNTY, and listing all carriers issuing said policies; and (2) upon request, a certified copy of each policy, including all endorsements. The insurance requirement shall remain in effect throughout the term of the Agreement.

Each insurance policy shall include the following conditions by endorsements to the policy:

- a. Except for workers' compensation as required by law and comprehensive automobile and truck liability insurance, each policy shall require that thirty (30) days prior to expiration, cancellation, non-renewal, or any material change in coverages or limits, a notice thereof shall be given to the COUNTY by certified mail. CONTRACTOR shall also notify COUNTY, in like manner, within twenty-four (24) hours after receipt of any notices of expiration, cancellations, non-renewal, or material changes in coverage received by said CONTRACTOR from its insurer; and noting contained herein shall absolve CONTRACTOR of this requirement to provide notice.
- b. Companies issuing the insurance policy, or policies, shall have no recourse against COUNTY for payment of premiums or assessments for any deductibles which all are at the sole responsibility and risk of CONTRACTOR.
- c. COUNTY shall be endorsed to the required policy, or policies, as an additional insured.

9. Indemnification

- a. Hold Harmless. The CONTRACTOR shall indemnify and hold COUNTY, its officers, and employees, harmless from and against (1) personal injury, bodily injury (including death) or property damages (including destruction) received, or (2) losses, penalties, damages, professional fees, including attorney fees and all cost of litigation and judgements arising out of any willful misconduct or any negligent act, error or omission of the CONTRACTOR, or its employees arising directly out of the performance of this Agreement or work performed hereunder, including any claims brought against the COUNTY, its officers and employees. Compliance with the insurance requirements in Section 10, Insurance, shall not relieve the CONTRACTOR of his liability and

obligations under any other portion of this Agreement. This section shall not apply to CONTRACTOR when losses, penalties, damages, professional fees, including attorney's fees and all costs of litigation and judgements arising out of the performance of this contract are caused by negligence of the COUNTY.

- b. Completeness and Accuracy of Deliverables. The CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for the completeness and accuracy of its services, deliverables, plans, supporting data, computer programs and data files and other documents and information prepared or compiled under its direction and control, and shall correct at its expense all errors or omissions therein which may be disclosed. The time, effort, and cost of the work necessary to correct those errors attributable to the CONTRACTOR shall be borne by the CONTRACTOR. The fact that the COUNTY has accepted or approved the CONTRACTOR'S services shall in no way relieve the CONTRACTOR of any of its responsibilities. This provision shall not apply to any maps, official records, contracts, or other data that may be provided by the COUNTY or public or semi-public agencies which the CONTRACTOR should reasonably expect to be accurate and which the CONTRACTOR could not reasonably be expected to know to be inaccurate.
- c. Claims Against the COUNTY. The CONTRACTOR agrees that no charges or claim for damages shall be made by it for unreasonable delays or hindrances attributable to the COUNTY during the progress of any portion of the services specified in this Agreement. Such delays or hindrances, if any, shall be compensated for by the COUNTY by an extension of time for a reasonable period for the CONTRACTOR to complete the services. Such an agreement shall be made in writing between the parties.
10. Ownership of Documents. All documents including, but not limited to, computer files and the performance of this agreement, are to be instruments of service and copies delivered to the COUNTY before the final payment is made to the Contractor.
11. Non-discrimination.
- a. The CONTRACTOR agrees that he will not discriminate against any of his employees or applicants for employment because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and to abide by all Federal and State Laws regarding non-discrimination. Any violation of such provisions shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement.
- b. Immigration Affidavit Certification. Statutes and executive orders require employers to abide by the immigration laws of the United States and to employ only individuals who are eligible to work in the United States.

The E-Verify program, operated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in partnership with the Social Security Administration (SSA), provides an Internet-based means of verifying employment eligibility verification requirements.

*CONTRACTORS are required to enroll in the E-Verify program within thirty (30) calendar days of contract award, and use E-Verify within thirty (30) calendar days thereafter to verify*

*employment eligibility of their employees assigned to the contract at the time of enrollment in E-Verify. Additionally, CONTRACTORS shall flow down the requirement to use E-Verify to their subcontracted vendors.*

CONTRACTOR acknowledges and shall be fully responsible for complying with the provisions and regulations relating thereto, as either may be amended. Failure to comply with the laws referenced herein shall constitute a breach of agreement and the COUNTY and/or CONTRACTOR shall have the discretion to unilaterally terminate said agreement immediately.

12. Expenses of Litigation. In the event litigation in any way related to the services performed hereunder is initiated by one party to this Agreement against the other, the prevailing party shall be reimbursed by the other party its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

13. Controlling Laws. This Agreement is to be governed by the laws of the State of Florida, and venue shall rest solely in Columbia County, Florida.

14. Hazardous Substances. It is understood and agreed that in seeking the consultant services of the CONTRACTOR in this Agreement, the COUNTY does not request the CONTRACTOR to undertake uninsurable obligations involving or related in any manner to hazardous substances.

15. Binding Effect. This Agreement shall bind, and the benefits thereof shall inure to, the respective parties hereto, their legal representatives, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

16. Merger Amendment. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the COUNTY and the CONTRACTOR, and all negotiations and oral understandings between the parties are merged herein. This Agreement may be supplemented and/or amended only by a written document executed by both the COUNTY and the CONTRACTOR.

17. Non-assignability. Neither party shall assign any rights or delegate any duties arising under this Agreement without prior written consent of the other party.

18. Severability. Any provision in this Agreement that is prohibited or unenforceable under Florida or federal law shall be ineffective to the extent of such prohibitions or unenforceability, without invalidating the remaining provisions hereof.

19. Public Records. CONTRACTOR shall be required to cooperate with the COUNTY relative to providing information requested in a timely manner and in the specified form. Any and all documents, records, disks, original drawings, or other information shall become the property of the COUNTY for its use and/or distribution as may be deemed appropriate by the COUNTY. CONTRACTOR shall comply with public records laws embodied in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and specifically shall:

- a. Keep and maintain public records required by the COUNTY in order to perform the Services.
- b. Upon request from the COUNTY provide the COUNTY with any requested public records or allow the requested records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time by the COUNTY.
- c. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the Agreement term, and thereafter it the CONTRACTOR does not transfer all records to the COUNTY.
- d. Transfer, at no cost, to COUNTY all public records in possession of the CONTRACTOR upon termination of this Agreement and destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. All records stored electronically must be provided to the COUNTY, upon request from the COUNTY, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the COUNTY. If the CONTRACTOR keeps and maintains public records upon the conclusion of this Agreement, the CONTRACTOR shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records that would apply to the COUNTY.
- e. If CONTRACTOR does not comply with a public records request, the COUNTY shall treat that omission as breach of this Agreement and enforce the contract provisions accordingly. Additionally, if the CONTRACTOR fails to provide records when requested, the CONTRACTOR may be subject to penalties under section 119.10 Florida Statutes, and reasonable costs of enforcement, including attorney fees.

**IF THE CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT: [BCCADMIN@COLUMBIACOUNTYFLA.COM](mailto:BCCADMIN@COLUMBIACOUNTYFLA.COM) .**



## **EXHIBIT A**