

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) 2010-11
for
PUBLIC RELATIONS, MEDIA PLANNING AND BUYING SERVICES

December 10, 2010
Responses Due: January 7, 2011

**SECTION ONE
INTRODUCTION**

A. Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) is soliciting responses from qualified public relations, media planning and media buying firms to provide public relations and media buying strategies as well as placement for its programs. Specifically, Florida Housing uses public relations plans and/or buys print, broadcast, outdoor and/or online advertising to promote its housing programs and/or other housing-related programs. Florida Housing is seeking to implement research-based public relations campaigns and media-buying strategies that maximize reach within its target markets, and that demonstrate an effective use of public relations and advertising dollars. Qualified firms will be asked to provide public relations planning, media planning and media buying strategies that focus on mainstream and minority media, including Hispanic, African-American and Creole markets, and produce methods of evaluating the effectiveness of the public relations and/or advertising campaigns.

B. Offerors shall be selected and determined through Florida Housing’s review of each response, considering the factors identified in this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and any other factors that are considered relevant to serving the best interests of Florida Housing. Florida Housing expects to select multiple Offerors that propose to provide all of the services specified in this RFQ.

**SECTION TWO
DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this document:

“Board”	The Board of Directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.
“Committee”	The review committee appointed by the Executive Director, or his designee, that acts according to Fla. Admin. Code R. 67-49.007.
“Contract”	The document containing the terms and conditions of this RFQ and any other term and condition that the parties require.
“Contractor”	A person or entity providing the professional services described in Section Four of this RFQ.
“Days”	Calendar days, unless otherwise specified.
“Effective Date”	The date the last party signs the Contract(s) that is(are) awarded as a result of this RFQ.

“Florida Housing”	Florida Housing Finance Corporation, a public corporation and public body corporate and politic created by Section 420.504, Fla. Stat.
“Interested Party”	A person or entity that requests a copy of the RFQ from Florida Housing.
“Offeror”	Any person or entity who has the capability in all respects to perform fully the requirements contained in this RFQ and submits a Response to this RFQ.
“Response”	The written submission by an Offeror to this RFQ.
“RFQ”	This Request for Qualifications, including all exhibits referenced in this document and all other documents incorporated by reference.
“Staff”	Any employee of Florida Housing, including the Executive Director.
“Threshold Item”	A mandatory requirement of the RFQ. Failure to meet any requirement in the RFQ designated as a “Threshold Item” shall result in rejection (no further action) of a Response.
“Website”	The Florida Housing Finance Corporation website, the Universal Resource Locator (URL) of which is www.floridahousing.org

SECTION THREE PROCEDURES AND PROVISIONS

A. An Offeror shall submit an original and five (5) copies of the Response, including all exhibits, in a sealed envelope marked “RFQ 2010-11.” Each envelope or package containing Responses shall clearly state the name of the Offeror. The Response that is the original shall clearly indicate “Original” on that Response. Florida Housing shall not accept a faxed or e-mailed Response. Florida Housing must receive any Responses on or before 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on January 7, 2011. Responses shall be opened at that time. Responses must be addressed to:

Sherry Green
Contracts Administrator
Florida Housing Finance Corporation
227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1329
(850) 488-4197; Fax (850) 414-6548
Email: sherry.green@floridahousing.org

B. This RFQ does not commit Florida Housing to award a Contract to any Offeror or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or mailing of a Response.

C. All services under the Contract awarded are to be performed solely by the contractor, and may not be subcontracted or assigned without the prior written approval and consent of Florida Housing, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any subcontracting contemplated by the Offeror shall be disclosed in the Offeror's Response to this RFQ.

D. Florida Housing reserves the right to:

1. Waive minor deficiencies and informalities;
2. Accept or reject any or all Responses received as a result of this RFQ;
3. Obtain information concerning any or all Offerors from any source;
4. Schedule an oral interview before the Committee and/or the Board from any or all Offerors;
5. Select for Contract negotiation or award, a Response other than that with the highest score if, in the judgment of Florida Housing, both Florida Housing and the public's interest shall be best served; and
6. Negotiate with the successful Offeror(s) with respect to any additional terms or conditions of the Contract.

E. Any Interested Party may submit any question regarding this RFQ in writing *via* mail, fax, or e-mail to Sherry Green at the address given in Section Three, paragraph A. All questions are due by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on Monday, December 20, 2010. Phone calls shall not be accepted. Florida Housing expects to respond to all questions by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on Wednesday, December 22, 2010. Florida Housing shall post a copy of all questions received and their answers on Florida Housing's Website. Florida Housing shall also send a copy of those questions and answers in writing to any Interested Party that requests a copy. Florida Housing shall determine the method of sending its answers, which may include regular U.S. mail, overnight delivery, fax, e-mail or any combination of the above. Only written responses or statements from Sherry Green, Contracts Administrator, or her designee, that are posted on the Website shall be construed as an official response to questions submitted to Florida Housing. No other means of communication, whether oral or written, shall be construed as an official response or statement from Florida Housing.

F. Any person who wishes to protest the contents of this RFQ or other specifications, including addenda, shall file a protest in compliance with Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat., and Fla. Admin. Code R. 28-110. Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat., shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 120, Fla. Stat.

G. The term provided in the Contract(s) shall be for three (3) years. The Contract(s) may be renewed twice for an additional one (1) year period. Renewals are at the discretion of Florida Housing, and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations by Florida Housing.

H. Florida Housing anticipates making Contractor assignments on a rotating basis, with each Contractor firm or team receiving a roughly comparable volume of work. Florida Housing's award of a Contract to an Offeror does not obligate Florida Housing to assign a *pro rata* portion of work, or any work, to the Offeror for any service contemplated by the Contract.

I. Florida Housing is not required to utilize the services of any selected Contractor and may terminate any selected Contractor without cause and without penalty.

SECTION FOUR SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. Develop research-based public relations campaigns, media planning and/or media buying strategies that include print, broadcast, outdoor, and online advertising to promote Florida Housing's programs and/or other housing-related programs to potentially eligible consumers within mainstream and minority communities, including Hispanic, African-American and Creole populations.

B. Evaluate the effectiveness of Florida Housing's public relations campaigns and/or advertising campaigns.

SECTION FIVE CERTIFICATION

Do not reproduce the language of Section Five in the Response. By inclusion and execution of the statement provided in this Section each Offeror certifies that:

A. The Offeror submits this Response without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any person or entity submitting a separate Response for the same services. However, any agreement with a person or entity with whom the Response is jointly filed, and such joint filing is made clear on the face of the Response, shall be an exception so long as the Response is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud.

B. Any material submitted in response to this RFQ is a public record pursuant to Chapter 119, Fla. Stat., and subject to examination upon request, after Florida Housing provides a notice of decision pursuant to Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat., or within 10 Days after the Response is opened, whichever is earlier.

C. The Offeror is in compliance with Section 420.512(5), Fla. Stat., which provides:

“Service providers shall comply with the following standards of conduct as a condition of eligibility to be considered or retained to provide services. For purposes of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) only, the term ‘service provider’ means and is limited to a law firm, an investment bank, or a credit underwriter, and the agents, officers, principals, and professional employees of the service provider.

(a) A service provider may not make contributions in any amounts, directly or indirectly, for or on behalf of candidates for Governor, nor shall any service provider make a contribution in excess of \$100 to any candidate for a member of the State Board of Administration other than the Governor in Florida while the service provider is included in an applicant pool from which service providers are selected to provide services to the corporation, while the service provider provides services to the corporation, and for the longer of a period of 2 years thereafter or for a period through the next general election for Governor.

(b) The service provider shall not participate in fundraising activities for or on behalf of candidates for Governor in Florida while the service provider is included in an applicant pool from which service providers are selected to provide services to the corporation, while the service provider provides services to the corporation, and for the longer of a period of 2 years thereafter or for a period through the next general election for Governor.

(c) Service providers shall provide to the corporation a statement that the service provider has not contributed to candidates for Governor or contributed in excess of the amounts allowed by this section for a member of the State Board of Administration or engaged in fundraising activities for or on behalf of candidates for Governor in Florida since the effective date of this section or during the 24 months preceding the service provider’s application to provide services to the corporation, whichever period is shorter.

(d) The service provider may not engage in prohibited business solicitation communications with officers, members, or covered employees of the corporation.

(e) If a service provider is in doubt as to whether its activities, or the activities of its principals, agents, or employees, violate the provisions of this section, it may request a declaratory statement in accordance with the applicable rule and Section 120.565, Fla. Stat.

(f) If the corporation determines that a service provider has failed to meet the provisions of this section, it shall consider the magnitude of the violation and whether there has been a pattern of violations in determining whether to terminate or decline to enter into Contracts with the service provider.”

D. For the purpose of Section 420.512(5), Fla. Stat., “Prohibited Business Solicitation Communications” is defined by Section 420.503(31), Fla. Stat., which provides:

“‘Prohibited business solicitation communication’ means a private written or verbal

communication between a member, officer, or covered employee of the corporation and a service provider regarding the merits of the service provider and whether the corporation should retain the services of the service provider. The term does not include:

- (a) A verbal communication made on the record during a public meeting;
- (b) A written communication provided to each member and officer of the corporation and made part of the record at a public meeting;
- (c) A written proposal or statement of qualifications submitted to the corporation in response to a corporation advertisement seeking proposals or statements of qualifications as part of a competitive selection process.
- (d) A verbal or written communication related to the contractual responsibilities of a service provider who was selected to provide services or who was included in a pool of service providers eligible to provide services as a result of a competitive selection process, so long as the communication does not relate to solicitation of business.
- (e) A verbal or written communication related to a proposed method of financing or proposed projects, so long as the communication does not relate to solicitation of business.”

E. The Offeror is in compliance with Section 287.133(2)(a), Fla. Stat., which provides in pertinent part:

A person or affiliate, who has been placed on the convicted vendor list, following a conviction for a public entity crime, may not:

- a. submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity;
- b. submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work;
- c. submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity;
- d. be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or Contractor under a contract with any public entity, and;
- e. transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Fla. Stat., for CATEGORY TWO: \$25,000, for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

F. The Offeror acknowledges that any Offeror selected shall be prohibited from engaging in activities in connection with services related to Florida Housing transactions that produce direct or indirect financial gain for the Offeror other than the compensation agreed upon in the Contract that results from this RFQ, unless that Offeror has written consent from Florida Housing’s Executive Director after Florida Housing has been fully informed of such activities in writing.

G. In addition to the conflict of interest rules imposed by the Florida Statutes, the Offeror(s) that is (are) selected to provide these services may not engage in any actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest. Should any such actual apparent, or potential conflict of interest come into being subsequent to the effective date of the Contract and prior to the conclusion of the Contract, the Offeror shall provide notification (Notice of Conflict of Interest) to Florida Housing, through first class certified mail, return receipt requested, within 10 working days, seeking written consent from Florida Housing's Executive Director. If the Offeror is found to be in non-compliance with this provision, without written consent from Florida Housing's Executive Director, any compensation received in connection with the Contract shall be subject to forfeiture to Florida Housing.

H. Certification Statement

THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE REPEATED IN THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSE AND SIGNED BY AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO BIND THE APPLICANT. FAILURE TO INCLUDE THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT BEARING AN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE SHALL RESULT IN REJECTION OF THE RESPONSE.

"I agree to abide by all conditions of RFQ 2010-11 and certify that all information provided in this Response is true and correct, that I am authorized to sign this Response as the Offeror and that I am in compliance with all requirements of the RFQ, including but not limited to, the certification requirements stated in Section Five of this RFQ."

Authorized Signature (Original)

Print Name and Title

**SECTION SIX
GENERAL INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED**

In providing the following information, restate each item and sub-item (with its letter and number). Responses to the items should be included immediately after the restated items to the extent practical, not including item B.2.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The name, job title, address, office and cellular telephone numbers, fax number, and e-mail address of a primary contact person, who will be responsible for day-to-day contact with Florida Housing, and any backup personnel who would be accessible if the primary contact cannot be reached.

2. Provide evidence of certification from the Department of State that the Offeror is qualified to do business in the State of Florida.

B. BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

1. Provide a history of the business' experience providing public relations, media planning and media buying services in Florida as well as its experience with statewide public relations and advertising campaigns targeting Hispanic, African-American, Creole, and other minority populations.
2. Provide description and sample of a statewide or targeted public relations campaign and media buy that the Offeror has implemented using a budget range of one hundred fifty thousand to five hundred thousand dollars (\$150,000-\$500,000).
3. Provide a description of the business' approach in developing targeted media buying as discussed in the scope of services, including creating communication plans (using acceptable industry methods); planning meetings with client; relying on market demonstrations and/or Nielson ratings; and other tools. (Sample may be provided as an Exhibit to the Response).
4. Discuss and provide examples of the Offeror's ability to develop key messages for target audiences, engage in targeted media relations, and negotiate media/advertising buys and additional placements with media outlets.
5. Provide any additional information explaining why your business would produce work superior to that of another business.

C. SCHEDULE

Discuss and provide examples of a timeline of a previous public relations campaign and a media buy completed by the Offeror that represents the business's ability to handle an all-encompassing and complete public relations campaign as well as handle a full advertising schedule from planning, designing and placement, to verification and documentation of placements.

D. COSTS/FEES

1. Provide a breakdown of the business's public relations planning costs and fees.
2. Provide a breakdown of the business's media buying costs and fees, including agency commissions.

3. Identify any reduced costs available to government, non-profit entities such as Florida Housing, and your business' ability to negotiate these and other reductions in fees.
4. Provide a list of any other fees or charges related to public relations planning, and media planning and buying that may be applied.

FINAL COSTS AND FEES ARE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION.

E. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

If the Offeror has implemented a drug-free workplace program, pursuant to Section 287.087, Fla. Stat., the Offeror should submit an affidavit of such.

F. MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

If the Offeror is a minority business enterprise as defined in Section 288.703, Fla. Stat., the Offeror should submit an affidavit of such.

G. Certification (**Threshold Item**):

FAILURE TO INCLUDE THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT LOCATED IN SECTION FIVE OF THIS RFQ BEARING AN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE SHALL RESULT IN REJECTION OF THE RESPONSE.

SECTION SEVEN EVALUATION PROCESS

Individual Committee members shall evaluate and rank the Responses independently. As indicated in this section, points shall be assigned to certain items presented in Section Six of this RFP. The individual Committee members shall evaluate the Responses by reviewing the answers to each of the items and assigning points up to the maximum points allowed for each item. The Committee shall not use those items without points assigned in computing the numerical score, but shall use them as part of their evaluation and recommendation process, for informational purposes, or as a basis for possible disqualification. The Committee shall also use the various scored items as a part of its evaluation and recommendation process. Based on the criteria for selection, committee members shall rank each Response with the highest rank being "1". The Committee may conduct one or more public meetings during which members may discuss their evaluations, make any adjustments deemed necessary to their evaluations to best serve the interests of Florida Housing's mission, interview Offerors, observe presentations by Offerors, and develop a recommendation or series of recommendations to the Board. The Committee and/or Staff may make a recommendation, in addition to providing the ranking information and the information from the non-scored items to the Board for the Board to use in making the final selection. The Committee and/or Staff may also give the Board a written and/or

verbal narrative describing the reasons for any recommendation. In the event of a tie, Florida Housing shall give preference to the Response certifying a drug-free workplace has been implemented in accordance with Section 287.087, Fla. Stat. If a tie continues to exist, Florida Housing shall give preference to minority business enterprises as defined in Section 288.703, Fla. Stat. Staff may recommend that the Board conduct oral interviews as part of the evaluation process to select the Offeror. The Board may use the Responses, the Committee’s ranking, the non-scored items in the Responses, any other applicable or relevant information or recommendation provided by the Committee or Staff, any oral presentations of Offerors and any other information the Board deems relevant in its selection of Offerors to whom to award a Contract.

The Board may use the Responses, the Committee’s scoring, the non-scored items in the Responses, any other applicable or relevant information or recommendation provided by the Committee or Staff, any oral presentations of Offerors and any other information the Board deems relevant in its selection of Offerors to whom to award a Contract.

The points available for each of the items to be evaluated are as follows:

<u>Section Six Item Reference</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>
B.1. Background and Experience	20
(History of Business)	
B.2. Background and Experience.....	25
(Description and Sample of Media Buy)	
B.3. Background and Experience.....	20
(Business Approach)	
B.4. Background and Experience.....	15
(Discussion & examples of ability to negotiate buys and placements)	
B.5. Background and Experience.....	10
(Additional information)	
C. Schedule.....	15
G. Certification Statement.....	Threshold Item
Total Points Available.....	105

**SECTION EIGHT
AWARD PROCESS**

Florida Housing shall provide notice of its decision, or intended decision, for this RFQ on Florida Housing's Website the next business day after the applicable Board vote. After posting, an unsuccessful applicant may file a notice of protest and a formal written protest in accordance with Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat., et. al. Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat., et. al. or failure to post the bond or other security required by law within the time allowed for filing a bond shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 120, Fla. Stat.