

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NUMBER 01 AUDIT SERVICES

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION (NWGRC) IS ISSUING THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR FURNISHING THE SERVICES DESCRIBED HEREIN.

Inquiries should be directed to:

Joey Cumbie, Director of Finance and/or Ashley Carden, Fiscal Officer
jcumbie@nwgrc.org or acarden@nwgrc.org
706.295.6485

Please indicate your intent to submit a proposal by completing a Notification of Interest in accordance with the sample format shown in Attachment D of this Request for Proposals. Return this Notification of Interest electronically to jcumbie@nwgrc.org and/or acarden@nwgrc.org by January 20, 2023. Note that failure to return the Notification of Interest does not preclude prospective bidders from submitting a proposal within the specified time period. The purpose is to improve the efficiency of the proposal process and communicate timely information to interested parties on this RFP as well as future RFPs.

Please note that there will be no proposers' conference. All questions and requests for information should be submitted to jcumbie@nwgrc.org and/or acarden@nwgrc.org. Responses to questions and requests for information will be posted on our website at www.nwgrc.org and all interest parties will be notified.

Completed proposals must be received at the address shown above by **February 27, 2023**. Proposals must be received by the date and time specified. Late proposals will be disqualified. In order to be considered for selection, auditors must submit a complete response to the RFP.

Incomplete proposals may not be considered if the omissions are determined to be significant. Proposals must be submitted in three parts:

- (A) One (1) complete signed original of the Request for Proposals (signatures are required below and at the end of Attachment B;
- (B) Five (5) copies of the Technical Proposal; and
- (C) One (1) original of the Cost Proposal.

The Cost Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope which specifies on its face the name of the auditing firm and the **Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC)** to be audited. The NWGRC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted and to request additional information from all proposers. Any contract awarded will be awarded to the auditor, who, based upon evaluation of all proposals, is determined to have submitted the best proposal, considering both technical factors and cost.

In compliance with this request for proposals and to all the conditions imposed herein, the undersigned offers and agrees to furnish the services in accordance with the attached signed proposal.

Name and Address of Firm:

FEI Number: _____

Telephone: _____

By: _____
Please Print Name Here

Signature In Ink

Title: _____

Email address: _____

Date: _____

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Request for Proposals is to establish a contract for the professional services of a Certified Public Accountant (the "auditor") for financial and compliance audits. The contract will be for three consecutive fiscal years beginning with the fiscal year ended **June 30, 2023**, and ending with the fiscal year ended **June 30, 202**, subject to annual review and the annual availability of an appropriation for audit services by the NWGRC.

B. ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The following dates are firm unless waived in writing by an authorized person.

Activity	Target Date
Issue Request for Proposals	Friday, January 20, 2023
Due Date for Notification of Interest	Tuesday, January 31, 2023
There will be no Proposers' Conference. All questions and requests for information shall be submitted to jcumbie@nwgrc.org . Responses to questions and requests for information will be posted on our website at www.nwgrc.org and all interested parties will be notified.	
Proposals due by	Monday, February 27, 2023
Selection Recommendation(s)	Monday, March 6, 2023
Approval and Award	Monday, March 13, 2023
Fieldwork Prior to Closing May Begin	Monday, August 14, 2023
Fieldwork Subsequent to Closing May Begin	Monday, September 25, 2023
Preliminary Report Completion and Exit Conference	Monday, December 4, 2023
Final Report Submission to include Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts; Federal Audit Clearinghouse	Friday, December 15, 2023

II. NWGRC AND RECORDS INFORMATION

Information regarding NWGRC records, systems, procedures, expenditure levels, and other relevant data is included as Attachment A to this Request for Proposals. If a proposer's conference is scheduled to answer questions of potential contractors, the date and location are specified in Section I, Part B of this RFP. **Copies of prior audit reports, internal control survey documents, management letters, financial statements, budgets and other documents relevant to the audit engagement may be viewed by contacting Joey Cumbie and/or Ashley Carden listed on the cover page of this RFP.**

III. STATEMENT OF NEEDS

A. AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

As required by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the audit shall be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and in accordance with the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. *A Single Audit is required as a part of the annual audit, the audit shall be performed in accordance with American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Standards, Government Auditing Standards, and the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards 2 CFR 200 (Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) Subpart F.*

B. AUDIT OBJECTIVES

The audit shall be designed to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To determine whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows, thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, to determine whether the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.
2. To obtain an understanding of the five components of internal control that is sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to error or fraud, and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Because an audit of a government's financial statements is based on opinion units, the auditor's consideration of internal control in assessing the risks of material misstatement should address each opinion unit. The auditor should obtain a sufficient understanding by performing risk assessment procedures to (a) evaluate the design of controls and (b) determine whether they have been implemented. The auditor should use such knowledge to identify types of potential misstatements; consider factors that affect the risks of material misstatement; and design tests of controls, when applicable, and subsequent procedures. In acquiring an understanding of and assessing internal control, the auditor should consider computer controls as well as the controls over manual portions of the system.

3. To plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, including note disclosures, are free of material misstatement, whether caused by error or fraud, and material misstatements arising from illegal acts that have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. Illegal acts are defined in auditing standards as violations of laws or governmental regulations. Although not explicitly stated in auditing standards, the phrase “laws and governmental regulations” generally has been interpreted to implicitly include the provisions of contract and grant agreements. U.S. Auditing Standards – AICPA (Clarified) AU-C Section 250 paragraph .14 requires the auditor to consider laws and regulations that are generally recognized by auditors to have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. The auditor’s responsibility to detect and report misstatements resulting from illegal acts having a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts is the same as that for misstatements caused by error or fraud. In addition, the auditor should be aware of the possibility that illegal acts that may, in particular circumstances, be regarded as having material but indirect effects on financial statements may have occurred. If specific information comes to the auditor’s attention that provides evidence concerning the existence of possible illegal acts that could have a material indirect effect on the financial statements, the auditor should apply audit procedures specifically directed to ascertaining whether an illegal act has occurred.

4. To provide reasonable assurance of detecting material misstatements that result from violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives. If specific information comes to the auditor’s attention that provides evidence concerning the existence of possible violations of provisions of contracts or grant

agreements that could have a material indirect effect on the financial statements, the auditor should apply audit procedures specifically directed to ascertaining whether such violations have occurred. If during the course of the audit, auditors become aware of abuse that could be quantitatively or qualitatively material to the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, the auditor should apply audit procedures specifically directed to ascertain the potential effect on the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.

5. To evaluate whether the NWGRC has taken appropriate corrective action to address findings and recommendations from previous engagements that could have a material effect on the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives. Auditors should use this information from previous engagements in assessing risk and determining the nature, timing, and extent of current audit work, including determining the extent to which testing the implementation of the corrective actions is applicable to the current audit objectives.
6. To ensure that audit documentation is prepared in sufficient detail to provide a clear understanding of the nature, timing, and extent of auditing procedures performed to comply with generally accepted government auditing standards and other applicable standards and requirements; the results of the audit procedures performed and the audit evidence obtained; the conclusions reached on significant matters; and that the accounting records agree or reconcile with the audited financial statements. Auditors should also document, before the audit report is issued, evidence of supervisory review of the work performed that supports findings, conclusions, and recommendations contained in the audit report.

7. To determine whether the NWGRC complied with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements pertaining to federal awards that may have a direct and material effect on each major program. With regard to internal control over compliance, the auditor is required to do the following (in addition to meeting the requirements of Government Auditing Standards): (1) perform procedures to obtain an understanding of internal control over federal programs that is sufficient to plan the audit to support a low assessed level of control risk for major programs, (2) plan the testing of internal control over major programs to support a low assessed level of control risk for the assertions relevant to the compliance requirements for each major program, and (3) perform tests of internal control (unless the internal control is likely to be ineffective in preventing or detecting noncompliance).

8. To determine whether the NWGRC complied with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of Federal awards that may have a direct and material effect on each of its major programs. With regard to internal control over compliance, the auditor is required to do the following (in addition to meeting the requirements of Government Auditing Standards): (1) perform procedures to obtain an understanding of internal control over federal programs that is sufficient to plan the audit to support a low assessed level of control risk for major programs, (2) plan the testing of internal control over major programs to support a low assessed level of control risk for the assertions relevant to the compliance requirements for each major program, and (3) perform tests of internal control (unless the internal control is likely to be ineffective in preventing or detecting noncompliance).

D. REPORTING AND DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS

The auditor will prepare the required audit reports including those required by Government Auditing Standards and Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost

Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards 2 CFR 200 (Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG)) Subpart F and the Official Code of Georgia Annotated at the completion of the audit.

1. Standard report on the financial statements.

- a. Reference should be made that the audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. In the same or in separate report(s), the auditor should include a description of the scope of the auditor's testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements. Auditor should state in the report whether the tests performed provided sufficient, appropriate evidence to support an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and on compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements. When the auditor reports separately (including separate reports bound in the same document) on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance with laws and regulations and provisions of contracts or grant agreements, they should state in the financial statement audit report that they are issuing those additional reports.

b. Report on Internal Controls

Control deficiencies identified during the audit that upon evaluation are considered significant deficiencies or material weaknesses under U.S. Auditing Standards – AICPA (Clarified) AU-C Section 265 paragraph .12 must be communicated in writing to management and those charged with governance as a part of each audit, including significant deficiencies and material weaknesses that were communicated to management and those charged with governance in previous audits, and have not yet been

remediated.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards. The report should include a description of the scope of the auditor's testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements. The auditor should report, as applicable to the objectives of the audit, and based upon the audit work performed, (1) significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control; (2) instances of fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws and regulations that have a material effect on the audit and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance; and (3) noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements that has a material effect on the audit; (4) abuse that has a material effect on the audit.

- c. This report should include an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on whether the auditee complied with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program, and where applicable, refer to the separate schedule of findings and questioned costs. The report on internal control related to major programs should describe the scope of testing of internal control and the results of the tests and, where applicable, refer to the separate schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Each Major Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance in Accordance With UGG Subpart F.

This report should include an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on whether the auditee complied with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of Federal awards which could have a direct and material effect on each major program, and where applicable, refer to the separate schedule of findings and questioned costs. The report on internal control related to major programs should describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the results of the tests and, where applicable, refer to the separate schedule of findings and questioned costs.

- d. In accordance with UGG Subpart F Section 200.515(a), the auditor's report(s) may be in the form of either combined or separate reports. The auditor's report(s) shall include an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on whether the financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and an opinion (or a disclaimer of opinion) on whether the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented fairly in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. Auditors should follow the guidance contained in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Audit Guide: Government Auditing Standards.
 - e. In accordance with UGG Subpart F Section 200.515(d), a schedule of findings and questioned costs is required and should include the following three sections: (1) a summary of the auditor's results; (2) findings related to the financial statements that are required to be reported in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards; and (3) findings and questioned costs for federal awards.
2. One printed copy and one electronic copy in an agreed upon format of each of the above reports are required.

3. A written management letter should be used to communicate violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements or abuse that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but warrant the attention of those charged with governance; the management letter should also communicate information about ways to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness or otherwise improve internal control or other policies or procedures (other than those for which communication is required by generally accepted auditing standards or *Government Auditing Standards*). If the management letter contains items required to be communicated to officials by auditing standards, the auditor should refer to the management letter in the Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
4. The auditor must offer recommendations for appropriate corrective action for each item reported in accordance with U.S. Auditing Standards – AICPA (Clarified) AU-C Section 265 paragraph .11; or included in the Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and On Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards or in the Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Each Major Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance In accordance with UGG Subpart F Section 200.515(a); or contained in the management letter.
5. Any other reports required shall be submitted to the NWGRC upon request.
6. A preliminary draft of all reports shall be submitted to the NWGRC prior to their release. The NWGRC will review and approve the release of all draft reports. Draft reports should be submitted to **Joey Cumbie, Director of**

Finance, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, P.O. Box 1798, Rome, GA 30162-1798 or by email to jcumbie@nwgrc.org.

7. The auditor shall send one (1) copy of the reports listed above directly to **Joey Cumbie, Director of Finance, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, P.O. Box 1798, Rome, GA 30162-1798 or by email to jcumbie@nwgrc.org.**

IV. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL PROPOSAL PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Proposal Preparation
 - a. Proposals shall be signed by an authorized representative of the auditor. All information requested must be submitted. The mandatory requirements listed in Part IV, Section B, Paragraph 1b are required by law, regulation or will not be waived and are not subject to negotiation.
 - b. Proposals shall be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be placed on completeness and clarity of content.
 - c. Each copy of the technical proposal shall be bound in a single volume and relate solely to the response to the RFP. Nothing shall be included in the technical proposal which would indicate, in whole or in part, the cost component of the proposal or would be otherwise indicative of the dollar amount associated with the technical proposal. All cost component documentation should be included in a separate sealed envelope clearly labeled as to contents. Proposals should be organized in accordance with Attachment C: Model Format of Proposal.

d. Ownership of all data, materials and documentation prepared for and submitted to the NWGRC in response to the RFP shall belong exclusively to the NWGRC and will be considered a record prepared and maintained or received in the course of operations of a public office or agency and subject to public inspection in accordance with the Georgia Open Records Act, Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 50-18-70, et. seq., unless otherwise provided by law.

2. Oral presentation: Auditors who submit a proposal in response to the RFP may be required to give an oral presentation of their proposal to the NWGRC representatives. This provides an opportunity for the auditor to clarify or elaborate on the proposal. This is a fact finding and explanation session only and does not contemplate or authorize negotiation. Oral presentation is an option of the NWGRC in its sole discretion at the NWGRC's request.

3. Costs incurred to prepare a proposal are solely those of the proposer. Nothing contained within this RFP is indicative of an intent by the NWGRC to reimburse the proposer, in whole or in part, for any costs associated with preparation, submission, or presentation of proposals.

B. SPECIFIC PROPOSAL PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals shall be as thorough and detailed as possible so that the NWGRC may properly evaluate the auditor's capabilities to provide the required services.

Proposals should be organized in accordance with Attachment C: Model Format of Proposal. Offerors shall submit the following items as a complete proposal:

1. COMPLETE, SIGNED COPY OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
 - a. The return of this complete RFP, signed and completed as required.
 - b. The completed Mandatory Pre-Qualification Form, Attachment B. The

purpose of the Mandatory Pre-Qualification Form is to determine if the auditor meets the following mandatory criteria:

- i. The proposer is properly licensed for public practice as a certified public accountant.
- ii. The proposer meets the independence requirements of the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.
- iii. The auditor's staff working on or associated with the engagement must meet the continuing education requirements of the Government Auditing Standards. The auditor does not have a record of substandard audit work.
- iv. The proposer agrees to abide by the terms and conditions established in Section VI, General Terms and Conditions and Section VII, Special Terms and Conditions.

Failure to meet the mandatory criteria will result in immediate rejection of the entire proposal and no evaluation of the remainder of the technical component or of the cost proposal will be made.

2. TECHNICAL COMPONENT OF PROPOSAL

- a. Detailed written narrative statements on each of the following:
 - i. A description of the auditor's firm rendering the proposal, including whether the firm is international, national, regional, or local; the number of years in business; and the number of employees in the local office.
 - ii. Experience in providing the services described herein, including relevant knowledge of and experience in applying applicable federal and state regulations.
 - iii. Biographies, including experience of the individuals who will be assigned to the engagement, relevant experience of each in performing

financial and compliance audits of entities similar to the NWGRC, and recent (past 24 months) continuing professional education of each individual assigned to the engagement. Include a positive statement that these individuals have met the required continuing professional education standards to be qualified to work on audits under *Government Auditing Standards*.

- iv. A work plan to accomplish the scope defined in Section III of the RFP, including information on the timing of field work, and any overview and start up work that would be required in the first audit year. Include the approximate date the audit will begin and end for the first year, as well as approximate dates for delivery of the required reports. The work plan must include time estimates for and identification of each significant segment of the work and the staff level to be assigned. The work plan must also include an explanation of the audit methodology to be followed to perform the services required in this request for proposals. The planned use of specialists must also be specified. In developing the work plan, reference should be made to such sources as the NWGRC's budget and related materials, organizational charts, programs, and financial and other management information systems. Proposers will be required to provide the following information on their audit approach:
- Sampling techniques and the extent to which statistical sampling may be used in the engagement;
 - Extent of the use of EDP software in the engagement;
 - Type and extent of analytical procedures that may be used in the engagement;
 - Approach to be taken to gain and document an understanding of the NWGRC's internal control;
 - Approach to be taken in determining laws and regulations that will be subject to audit test work; and

- Approach to be taken in drawing audit samples for purposes of tests of compliance.
- The proposal should identify and describe anticipated audit problems (if any), the firm's approach to resolving these problems, and any special assistance that will be requested from the NWGRC.
- For the firm's office that would be assigned responsibility for the audit, list the most significant audit engagements (maximum of five) performed in the last three (3) years that are similar to the engagement described in this request for proposals. These engagements should be ranked on the basis of total staff hours. Indicate the scope of work, date, engagement partner(s), total hours, and the name, telephone number, and email address of the client contact.
- There should be no dollar units or total costs included in the technical component of the proposal.

3. COST COMPONENT OF PROPOSAL

For use following the technical phase of the procurement, the following information must be included in a **separate sealed** envelope marked "For Cost Phase Only" as specified in this RFP, Section VII, and Part H:

- a. Total hours required to complete the engagement for each year by personnel levels (i.e., total hours for partner, manager, supervisor, senior and junior).
- b. Total fees for audit services for each year.
- c. An amount of professional services, in hours, allowed each year without additional cost to the NWGRC. Such services will not be directly related to the annual audit.

A separate cost proposal is required for each year of the contract period

specified in Section VII, Part E of this Request for Proposals.

Out-of-pocket expenses for firm personnel (e.g., travel, lodging and subsistence) will be reimbursed at the rates used by the Regional Commission for its employees. All estimated out-of-pocket expenses to be reimbursed should be presented in the sealed dollar cost bid in the format recommended in Attachment C. All expense reimbursements will be charged against the total all-inclusive maximum price submitted by the firm. By submitting a proposal, the proposer certifies that the firm will accept reimbursement for travel, lodging and subsistence at the prevailing rates for employees of the Regional Commission.

V. EVALUATION AND AWARD CRITERIA

The following factors will be considered during the evaluation:

A. TECHNICAL FACTORS

1. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating an understanding of the work to be performed, including making all required statements and affirmations. Proposals should be organized in accordance with Attachment C: Model Format of Proposal.
The following elements will be considered:
 - a. Appropriateness and adequacy of proposed procedures.
 - b. Necessity of procedures.
 - c. Reasonableness of time estimates.
 - d. Appropriateness of assigned staff levels.
 - e. Timeliness of projected completion.
2. Technical experience of the firm.
3. Qualifications of staff, including recent pertinent continuing education.
4. Size and structure of the firm.
5. Prior experience with the firm with emphasis on report and work paper quality

and track record of meeting agreed upon delivery dates.

B. COST FACTORS

Although cost is a significant factor, it will not be the dominant factor. Cost will be given more importance when all the other evaluation criteria are relatively equal. The general approach is to first identify all qualified, responsive proposers and then to award the audit to the lowest cost proposer in that group.

If there is reason to believe that an unreasonably low proposal has been made, it will be rejected. One method of measuring reasonableness is to divide the proposed cost by a reasonable average hourly rate to show hours of effort that might be expected.

Any proposal which does not include all the required statements and affirmations called for in this RFP will be automatically rejected as not being responsive.

VI. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A form of Agreement for Audit Services to be executed between the auditor and the NWGRC is included herein as Attachment E. Sections VI and VII contain general and special terms and conditions which will be incorporated into the Agreement by reference.

A. APPLICABLE LAW AND COURTS

This solicitation and any resulting contract shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of Georgia. The auditor shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

B. ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING

By submitting their proposals, all auditors certify that their proposals are made without collusion or fraud and that they have not offered or received any

kickbacks or inducements from any other auditor, supplier, manufacturer or subcontractor in connection with their proposals, and that they have not conferred on any NWGRC employee having official responsibility for this procurement transaction any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services or anything of more than nominal value, present or promised, unless consideration of substantially equal or greater value was exchanged. Auditors specifically certify by submitting their proposal that they are not in violation of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Sections 16-10-2 and 16-10-22, for acts of bribery and/or conspiracy in restraint of free and open competition in transactions with state or political subdivisions. Auditors contracting with the State of Georgia (as defined in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 45-10-20) further certify that Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Title 45, Chapter 10, Article 2, which prohibits certain public officials and employees of the State of Georgia from transacting business with certain state agencies, has not been and will not be violated in any respect by execution of this proposal and any contract resulting therefrom.

O.C.G.A. §50-36-4 requires political subdivisions of the State of Georgia to file an Annual Immigration Compliance Report with the Department of Audits and Accounts by December 31 of each year. As a condition of funding, agencies should require certification pursuant to O.C.G.A. §50-36-4 as proof of compliance.

C. DEBARMENT STATUS

By submitting their proposals, all auditors certify that they are not currently debarred from submitting bids or proposals on contracts by any agency of the State of Georgia or the federal government, nor are they an agent of any person or entity that is currently debarred from submitting bids on contracts by any agency of the State of Georgia or the federal government.

D. MANDATORY USE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Return of the complete document is required. Modification of or additions to the General Terms and Conditions of the solicitation may be cause for rejection of the proposal; however, the NWGRC reserves the right to decide, on a case by case basis, in its sole discretion, whether or not to reject such a proposal.

E. CLARIFICATION OF TERMS

If any prospective auditor has questions about the specifications or other solicitation documents, the prospective proposer should contact the procurement information coordinator whose name appears on the face of the solicitation **no later than five working days before the due date**. Any revisions to the solicitation will be made only by addendum issued by the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC).

F. INVOICES

All interim and final invoices for services ordered, delivered and accepted shall be submitted by the auditor to: **Joey Cumbie, Director of Finance, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, P.O. Box 1798, Rome, GA 30162-1798** or by email jcumbie@nwgrc.org for approval prior to payment by the NWGRC.

G. PAYMENT TERMS

The NWGRC will make payment **within 30 days of** receipt of a proper invoice for interim and final billings, provided that the billing has been approved by the NWGRC.

H. ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT

A contract shall not be assignable by the auditor in whole or in part without the written consent of the NWGRC.

I. CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT

The NWGRC may order changes within the general scope of the contract at any time by written notice to the auditor. Changes within the scope of the contract include, but are not limited to, things such as the place of delivery. The auditor shall comply with the notice upon receipt. The auditor shall be compensated for any additional costs incurred as the result of such order and shall give the NWGRC a credit for any savings. Said compensation shall be determined by mutual agreement between the NWGRC and the auditor in writing.

J. DEFAULT

In case of failure to deliver goods or services in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the NWGRC, after due notice, may procure them from other sources and hold the auditor responsible for any resulting additional purchase and administrative costs. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedies which the NWGRC may have.

K. PRECEDENCE OF TERMS

Paragraphs A through J of these General Terms and Conditions shall apply in all instances. In the event there is a conflict between any of the other General Terms and Conditions and any Special Terms and Conditions in this solicitation, the Special Terms and Conditions shall apply.

VII. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. QUALIFICATIONS OF AUDITORS

The NWGRC may make such reasonable investigations as deemed proper and necessary to determine the ability of the auditor to perform the work and the auditor shall furnish to the NWGRC all such information and data for this purpose as may be requested. The NWGRC further reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigations of, such auditor fails to satisfy the

NWGRC that such auditor is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the work/furnish the item(s) contemplated therein.

B. CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT

The NWGRC reserves the right to cancel and terminate any resulting contract, in part or in whole, without penalty, **upon 60 days written notice to the auditor**. Any contract cancellation notice shall not relieve the auditor of the obligation to deliver and/or perform on all outstanding orders issued prior to the effective date of cancellation. In the event of termination by mutual agreement, the auditor shall be compensated for all hours worked at the specified contractual rate.

If, through any cause other than acts of god, floods, fires, storms, strikes, lockouts, riot, insurrection, acts of the public enemy, war, or other like restrictions beyond the control of the parties rendering performance under the contract impossible, the auditor fails to fulfill in a timely and proper manner obligations under the contract, the NWGRC shall have the right to terminate the contract on written notice to the auditor specifying the effective date of termination.

The auditor shall not be relieved of liability to the governmental entity for damages sustained by virtue of any breach of the contract by the auditor. The NWGRC may withhold or require to be withheld any payment to the auditor for the purpose of setoff until such time as the exact amount of damages is agreed upon or is otherwise determined.

In the event of termination, for whatever reason, all property and finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, and reports prepared by the auditor shall become the property of the NWGRC. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the auditor from preparing and maintaining a complete set of workpapers relating to the audit.

C. AUDIT

The auditor hereby agrees to retain all books, records, working papers, and other documents relative to this contract for **three (3) years** after final payment. The auditor further acknowledges that the AICPA's Statement on Auditing Standards No. 103 requires the auditor to adopt reasonable procedures to retain and access audit documentation for a period of time sufficient to meet the needs of his or her practice and to satisfy any applicable legal or regulatory requirements for records retention. Such retention period, however, should not be shorter than five years from the report release date. The NWGRC, its authorized agents, and federal and state regulatory and grantor agencies, including the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, shall have full access to and the right to examine any of said materials during said period at no cost to either the NWGRC or any other entity authorized to examine said materials.

D. REVIEW AND MONITORING

The NWGRC reserves the right to conduct any review it may deem advisable to assure services conform to the specifications. An employee of the NWGRC will be designated as audit monitor to discuss issues that need to be resolved and may require periodic progress reports. The monitor will review the financial statements and may provide limited assistance to the auditor by way of comments and suggestions for enhancements to the report prior to its preparation in final form. The monitor will also be available for technical assistance concerning the interpretation of state laws, regulations and policies.

E. CONTRACT PERIOD

The contract period shall be for a period of three years beginning with the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 through the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 subject to annual review and the annual availability of an appropriation for audit services by the NWGRC.

F. CONTRACT LIMITATIONS

During the contract period, the auditor agrees not to submit proposals on or perform any accounting, consulting, compilation and review, or any other services outside the scope of this contract for the NWGRC without the prior written approval of the NWGRC.

G. ADDITIONAL AUDIT WORK

In the event during the course of the audit it is determined by any party a change in the scope of the audit work is necessary, the discovering party shall promptly notify the other parties in writing. The parties shall then determine whether the contract shall be amended to provide for an adjustment in the audit work to be performed by the auditor. In no event shall any payment be made for audit work beyond the scope of the original contract until the contract has been amended as provided in Section VII, Item M, Integrated Agreement.

H. IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL ENVELOPE

If a special envelope is not furnished, or if return in the special envelope is not possible, the signed proposal shall be returned in a separate envelope or package, sealed and identified as follows:

From: _____

_____	_____	_____
Name of Auditor	Due Date	Time
_____	_____	
Street, or Box Number	RFP Number	
_____	_____	
City, State Zip Code	RFP Title	

Name of Buyer: Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

The envelope shall be addressed as directed on the cover page of this solicitation. Contained within the envelope will be (1) a completed, signed copy of this Request for Proposals, (2) all information necessary for the technical proposal, and (3) a separate sealed envelope containing the cost information, specifically labeled "For Cost Phase Only".

Proposals may be hand delivered to the designated location in the office issuing the solicitation. No other correspondence or other proposals should be placed in the envelope.

I. INDEMNIFICATION

The auditor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the NWGRC, its officers, agents, and employees from any claims, damages and actions of any kind or nature, whether at law or in equity, arising from or caused by the use of any materials, goods, or equipment of any kind or nature furnished by the auditor/any services of any kind or nature furnished by the auditor, provided that such liability is not attributable to the sole negligence of any NWGRC employee or to failure of NWGRC employees to use the materials, goods, or equipment in the manner described by the auditor on the materials, goods, or equipment delivered.

J. SUBCONTRACTS

No portion of the work shall be subcontracted without prior written consent of the NWGRC. In the event that the auditor desires to subcontract some part of the work specified herein, the auditor shall furnish the NWGRC the name(s), qualifications and experience of their proposed subcontractor(s). The auditor shall, however, remain fully liable and responsible for the work/service to be performed by his/her subcontractor(s) and shall assure compliance with all requirements of the contract.

K. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

The NWGRC will not accept responses to Requests for Proposals in cases where the auditor declares the entire response to the RFP to be proprietary information. The auditor must designate in the smallest increments possible, that part of the proposal which is deemed to be proprietary.

L. OFFICE HOURS/LOCATION/PARKING

Office space will be provided for the representative of the auditor to perform all field work. The location of this space will be as close as possible to the location of the accounting records and accounting staff. To the extent possible, schedules and other data will be prepared by the NWGRC's accounting department. It is the NWGRC's policy to aid in the audit process where deemed feasible and appropriate to help reduce costs. The audit monitor designated by the NWGRC will be responsible for notifying the contractor of the location of the accounting and financial records, NWGRC office hours, and the availability of parking at the NWGRC location.

M. INTEGRATED AGREEMENT

Any resulting contract represents the entire and integrated agreement between the auditor and NWGRC and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, whether written or oral. The contract may only be amended by written agreement of the auditor and the NWGRC.

Engagement Letter – As discussed in the AICPA Audit Guide “Audits of Local Governments” Section 202 Establishing Terms of the Engagement - both GAAS and the Yellow Book require the auditor to establish a written understanding with the client about the services to be performed for each engagement. The auditor and client ought to have a clear understanding about certain matters normally found in engagement letters, related to such matters as the need for receiving written management representations, any agreed-upon client assistance, and limitations on the responsibility for the detection of fraud and defalcations. One of the preconditions for an audit is to obtain the agreement of management that they acknowledge and understand their responsibilities. That agreement generally is

obtained through the use of an engagement letter. The auditor will submit a draft engagement letter that, if accepted by the auditee, will be incorporated into the contract with the auditor – see Attachment F: Sample Engagement Letter.

N. WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The auditor shall be required at all times during the term of this agreement to subscribe and comply with the Workers' Compensation laws of the State of Georgia and to save harmless the NWGRC from any and all liability from or under said act.

O. SOCIAL SECURITY/EMPLOYMENT TAXES

The auditor shall be and remain an independent contractor with respect to all services performed hereunder and shall accept full exclusive liability for the payments of any and all contributions or taxes for social security, unemployment benefits, pensions, and annuities now or hereafter imposed under any state or federal laws which are measured by the wages, salaries, or other remuneration paid to persons employed by the auditor on work performed under the terms of this agreement.

The auditor further shall obey or satisfy all lawful rules, regulations, and requirements issued or promulgated under said respective laws by any duly authorized state or federal officials. The auditor shall indemnify and save harmless the NWGRC from any contributions, taxes, or liability referred to in this article.

P. HIGHER LEVEL AUDIT SERVICES

If the auditor becomes aware that the NWGRC is subject to audit requirements that may not be encompassed in the terms of the contract, he or she shall communicate this situation immediately to the NWGRC's audit monitor, that in accordance with the established contract certain relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements may not be met.

Q. CHANGES IN AUDITING STANDARDS/FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

As professional auditing standards or federal auditing requirements change, the

auditor shall adjust his/her auditing techniques and reporting formats and criteria so the new standards and requirements are met. Any additional hours used by the auditor as a result of such changes that would cause the auditor to exceed the proposed hours as submitted in the Cost Proposal shall be treated as provided by Section VII, Item G, Additional Audit Work and Section VII, Item M, Integrated Agreement.

R. RATES FOR ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

If it should become necessary for the NWGRC to request the auditor to render any additional services to either supplement the services requested in this request for proposals or to perform additional work as a result of the specific recommendations included in any report issued on this engagement, then such additional work shall be performed only if set forth in an addendum to the contract between the NWGRC and the firm. Any such additional work agreed to between the NWGRC and the firm shall be performed at the same rates as set forth in the schedule of fees and expenses included in the sealed dollar cost bid.

S. DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

Auditors contracting with the State of Georgia (or entities thereof as defined in the Act) further certify that they will comply with the Drug-Free Workplace Act, Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 50-24-1 et. seq. in carrying out any contract resulting from this proposal.

ATTACHMENT A: NWGRC AND RECORDS INFORMATION

NWGRC is a regional planning agency that serves member governments in a 15-county area, including Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker and Whitfield plus 49 municipalities. The region has an estimated population of 928,530 and is governed by a 50-member Council consisting of elected officials, non- public members, and state appointees. The Council provides direction and oversight of NWGRC, which currently employs 50 employees with 5 vacancies.

The primary mission is to offer community and economic development planning, mapping assistance, and requested services to local county and municipal governments. The NWGRC also acts as an interface between local, regional and state agencies for planning and public information initiatives like the U.S. Census. NWGRC administers the spending of various federal, state and local grants within the fifteen-county region comprising its membership.

The accounting policies and financial reporting practices of the NWGRC conform in all material respects to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governmental units issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to

compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when the obligations become due and payable.

The financial transactions of the NWGRC are reported in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of balancing accounts that comprises its assets, liabilities, reserves, fund equity, revenues and expenditures.

1. The following types of funds are used by the NWGRC:

General Fund

Special Revenue Funds

Aging Fund

WIOA Fund

Neighborhood Stabilization Fund

Economic Development Fund

Community Planning Fund

Enterprise Funds

Revolving Loan Fund

Revolving Loan Fund - CARES Act

Fiscal Intermediary Fund

Local Services Fund

Custodial Funds

Highway 27 Fund

Northwest Georgia Water Resource Partnership
Fund

Neighborhood Stabilization Fund - Whitfield County

Money Follows the Person Fund

Bold = Major Fund

**Budgetary Comparisons will be presented as
basic financial statements.**

2. Deposit accounts are maintained at local banks as follows:

General Fund	United Community Bank
Aging Operating Account	United Community Bank
CLP Payroll Account	United Community Bank
Fiscal Intermediary (MFP)	United Community Bank
NSP #1 Gen Acct	United Community Bank
NSP #1 Program Income	United Community Bank
NSP #3 General	United Community Bank
NSP #3 Program Income	United Community Bank
WIOA Operating Account	United Community Bank
RLF CARES Account	United Community Bank
Hwy 27 Assoc Trust Fund	United Community Bank
Water Res Part Trust	United Community Bank
RLF Operating Account	Builtwell Bank
General Fund CD's	Edward Jones
Fiscal Intermediary CD's	Edward Jones

3. NWGRC's Accounting System, Records, and Procedures:

NWGRC currently utilizes an Accounting and Financial Management Manual written by RC staff.

NWGRC's accounting records are maintained on a computerized, integrated fund accounting software package developed by Accufund. The software modules include General Ledger, Accounts Receivable, and Accounts Payable. ADP Workforce Now are utilized for Human Resources, Timekeeping, and Payroll processing.

The NWGRC Accounting Department consists of seven (7) employees: the Director of Finance, Aging Fiscal Officer, Payroll Fiscal Officer, 2 WIOA Fiscal Officers, RLF Fiscal Officer and an RLF Loan Officer.

4. The auditor will be provided with the following schedules:

1. Schedules of accrued and prepaid expenses.
2. A schedule showing accrued annual leave for each employee as of June 30, 2023.
3. A schedule of accounts receivables at June 30, 2023.
4. A schedule of accounts payable at June 30, 2023

5. A schedule of City/County dues assessments.
 6. A schedule of Fringe & Indirect Costs.
 7. A schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.
 8. A schedule of State Contractual Assistance
-
5. Copies of the NWGRC's FY22 Audited Financial Statements and budgets are available for review.
 6. There are no sub-recipient entities or related records to be audited.
 7. RL Jennings & Associates, PC performed the most recent audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The audit report is dated October 31, 2022 and issued an unqualified opinion.
 8. Joey Cumbie, and/or Ashley Carden, acarden@nwgrc.org will be available to assist the proposer by providing information, explanations, and necessary schedules as needed.
 9. Interfund and interdepartmental reconciliations will be made as of the year-end close.
 10. The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (US EDA) has entered into a working relationship with the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Interior Business Center (IBC) to issue indirect cost rates to our organization. Effective August 1, 2017, the Office of Indirect Cost Services for IBC (IBC/ICS) collects the required documents, negotiates, issues and countersigns indirect rate agreements for NWGRC.

11. The following dates are firm unless waived in writing by an authorized person.

Activity	Target Date
Issue Request for Proposals	Friday, January 20, 2023
Due Date for Notification of Interest	Tuesday, January 31, 2023
There will be no Proposers' Conference. All questions and requests for information shall be submitted to jcumbie@nwgrc.org . Responses to questions and requests for information will be posted on our website at www.nwgrc.org and all interested parties will be notified.	
Proposals due by	Monday, February 27, 2023
Selection Recommendation(s)	Monday, March 6, 2023
Approval and Award	Monday, March 13, 2023
Fieldwork Prior to Closing May Begin	Monday, August 14, 2023
Fieldwork Subsequent to Closing May Begin	Monday, September 25, 2023
Preliminary Report Completion and Exit Conference	Monday, December 4, 2023
Final Report Submission to include Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts; Federal Audit Clearinghouse	Friday, December 15, 2023

ATTACHMENT B: MANDATORY PRE-QUALIFICATION FORM

To be answered by Contractor

Section A - General Information

1. Firm Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Email address: _____

2. Address: _____

3. Firm FEI Number: _____

4. Firm's Georgia CPA State License Registration Number: _____

5. Type of Accounting Practice (place an "X" next to the appropriate response)

a. _____ Individual

b. _____ Partnership

c. _____ Corporation - Give name of the State where incorporated:

Section B - Contractor Firm's Quality Program For Audits

Please answer each of the following questions by placing an "X" in the proper column at the right.

CHECK ONE

YES NO

1. Quality Control: Does the Contractor Firm have internal procedures to ensure proper quality control for its governmental audit assignments?
(If yes, ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS) _____
2. Quality Review: Does Contractor Firm participate in an External Quality review program every 3 years? (If yes, ATTACH A COPY OF LAST PEER REVIEW OR QUALITY REVIEW REPORT AND LETTER OF COMMENT.) _____

CHECK ONE

YES NO

PLEASE ENTER ENDING DATE OF LAST PERIOD COVERED BY REVIEW _____)

If no, explain the reason and your plan to participate. _____

- 3. Professional Membership: Do the partners of the Contractor Firm belong to either the AICPA or the Georgia Society of CPAs? If so, please provide membership number. _____

- 4. Proper License: Is Contractor Firm properly licensed to practice public accounting in Georgia? If so, please provide license number. _____

- 5. Special Governmental Audit Requirements: Is Contractor Firm familiar with the AICPA's Code of Professional Conduct ET Section 1.400.055 – “Governmental Audits”? (According to this section, if a CPA agrees to follow specified standards, guides, rules and procedures in addition to GAAS, then the CPA is OBLIGATED to follow all such requirements.) _____

- 6. Subcontracts: Does Contractor Firm agree not to subcontract any work required without the prior express written consent of the auditee? _____

- 7. Federal Audit Laws and Rules: If federal audit work is required, does Contractor Firm agree to perform the audit work in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, **UGG Subpart F**, and AICPA Audit Guide “*Government Auditing Standards* as necessary? _____

CHECK ONE

YES NO

8. Confidentiality: Does Contractor Firm agree not to publish or distribute any information concerning work done for auditee, except as provided by law or rule? _____
9. Access to Records and Workpapers: Does Contractor Firm agree to keep workpapers and reasonable records to support work claims for at least **5 years** and make them available for audit or review by any authorized parties? _____
10. Other Federal and State Laws and Rules: Does Contractor Firm agree to comply with all other Federal and State laws, rules and regulations which pertain to this engagement? _____
11. Independence: Does Contractor Firm meet the independence standards of the current "Government Auditing Standards", issued by the Comptroller General of the United States?
(If "No", attach a brief summary of facts.) _____
12. Continuing Education: Does Contractor Firm have sufficient staff who meet continuing professional education requirements for government audits as set forth in "Government Auditing Standards"? _____
13. Conflict of Interest: Does Contractor Firm declare that there is no public or private interest which would conflict in any manner with performance of an audit for the auditee or would violate any laws of the State of Georgia? _____
14. No Substandard Work: Do Contractor Firm and all proposed Audit Team Members have a record of an

CHECK ONE

YES NO

acceptable standard of audit work? (Contractor Firm must answer this question "No" if the Firm or any Audit Team Member has received an enforcement action for substandard audit work during the past three years or has a related investigation pending by a professional or regulatory group. Attach a brief summary of any enforcement actions.)

15. Ethics: Does Contractor Firm certify that its proposals are made without collusion or fraud and that it has not offered or received any kickbacks or inducements from any other auditor, supplier, manufacturer or subcontractor in connection with their proposals, and that it has not conferred on any NWGRC employee having official responsibility for this procurement transaction any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services or anything of more than nominal value, present or promised, unless consideration of substantially equal or greater value was exchanged; that it is not in violation of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Sections 16-10-2 and 16-10-22, for acts of bribery and/or conspiracy in restraint of free and open competition in transactions with state or political subdivisions?

16. Provisions of RFP: Does Contractor Firm agree to abide by all General Terms and Conditions and Special Terms and Conditions specified in the RFP?

CONTRACTOR FIRM CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I (we) certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge, and that the person submitting the RFP on behalf of the proposer has the authority to submit this RFP and make all representations contained herein. I (we) understand that the inclusion of false information may result in rejection of the proposal submitted in response to this RFP.

Contractor Firm Name

Date

Signature of Preparer

ATTACHMENT C: MODEL FORMAT OF PROPOSAL

To simplify the review process and obtain the maximum degree of comparability, proposals should be organized in the manner specified by the RFP. The following outline includes all the information called for in the RFP.

COMPLETE COPY OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

1. Provide a complete copy of the Request for Proposals, including all Attachments.
2. Sign the Request for Proposals in ALL places requiring signature.
3. Complete and sign the Mandatory Pre-Qualification Form (Attachment B).

TECHNICAL COMPONENT OF PROPOSAL

Title Page

Show the RFP subject, the name of the proposer's firm, local address, telephone number, name of the contact person, email address of the contact person, and the date.

Table of Contents

Include a clear identification of the material by section and by page number.

Letter of Transmittal

Limit to one or two pages.

1. Briefly state the proposer's understanding of the work to be done. Make a positive statement that deadlines specified in the RFP will be met.
2. State the names of the persons who will be authorized to make representations for the proposer, their titles, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers.
3. State that the person signing the letter will be authorized to bind the proposer.
4. State the name of the partner assigned to this engagement and the name of the partner assigned the responsibility for the quality of the report and working papers.

Profile of the Proposer

1. State whether the firm is local, regional, national or international.
2. State the location of the office from which the work is to be done and the number of

partners, managers, supervisors, seniors, and other professional staff employed at that office.

3. Describe the range of activities performed by the local office such as auditing, accounting, tax service, or management services.

Summary of the Proposer's Qualifications

1. State the identity of the partners and managers who will work on the audit, including staff from other than the local office. Resumes including relevant experience and continuing education for each supervisory person to be assigned to the audit should be included. (The resumes may be included as an appendix.)

Specify governmental CPE attended in the past 24 months by the partner(s) and each person to be assigned to this engagement. Hours should be shown separately for those that qualify for the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards* and other hours that do not.

2. Describe the recent local office auditing experience similar to the type of audit requested. Rank these audit engagements according to total staff hours. Indicate the scope of work, dates when work was performed, engagement partner(s), total hours, and the name and telephone number of the client contact. A maximum of 5 (five) of the most significant audit engagements performed in the last three (3) years similar to the engagement described in this request for proposals should be provided.

Proposer's Approach to the Audit

1. Submit a work plan to accomplish the scope defined in Section III of this RFP. The work plan must include time estimates for and identify each significant segment of the work and the staff level to be assigned. The planned use of specialists must also be specified. In developing the work plan, reference should be made to such sources as the NWGRC's budget and related materials, organizational charts, programs, and financial and other management information systems. Proposers will be required to provide the following information on their audit approach:

- a. Sampling techniques and the extent to which statistical sampling may be used in the engagement;
 - b. Extent of the use of EDP software in the engagement;
 - c. Type and extent of analytical procedures that may be used in the engagement;
 - d. Approach to be taken to gain and document an understanding of the NWGRC's internal control;
 - e. Approach to be taken in determining laws and regulations that will be subject to audit test work; and
 - f. Approach to be taken in drawing audit samples for purposes of tests of compliance.
2. The proposal should identify and describe anticipated audit problems (if any), the firm's approach to resolving these problems and any special assistance that will be requested from the NWGRC.

Additional Data

Since the preceding sections are to contain only data that is specifically requested, any additional information considered essential to the proposal should be separately bound. The proposer's general information publications, such as directories or client lists, should not be included. If there is no additional information to present, include a statement as the last section of the technical component of the proposal that "there is no additional information we wish to present".

COST COMPONENT OF PROPOSAL

(To be included in a SEPARATE, SEALED envelope)

State the total hours and hourly rate required by staff classification and the resulting all-inclusive maximum fee, including out of pocket costs for which the requested work will be done. State the amount of professional services, in hours, allowed each year without additional cost to the auditee. A separate all-inclusive fee must be stated for each audit for each year.

The recommended format of the cost component is shown on the following page.

FIRM NAME: _____

**SCHEDULE OF PROFESSIONAL FEES AND EXPENSES
FOR THE AUDIT OF THE _____ FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Enter Year

(Complete one Schedule for each year covered by the proposal)

	HOURS	HOURLY RATES	TOTAL
PARTNERS	_____	_____	_____
MANAGERS	_____	_____	_____
SUPERVISORY STAFF	_____	_____	_____
OTHER (SPECIFY)	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FOR SERVICES DESCRIBED IN RFP			_____
OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES (See Section IV.B.3 for allowability):			
MEALS AND LODGING			_____
TRANSPORTATION			_____
OTHER (SPECIFY)			_____
TOTAL ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE FOR _____ AUDIT			_____
AMOUNT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, IN HOURS, ALLOWED FOR _____ YEAR WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COST			_____

**ATTACHMENT D: SAMPLE FORMAT FOR NOTIFICATION OF INTEREST
LETTER**

Joey Cumbie, Director of Finance
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
P.O. Box 1798
Rome, GA 30162-1798
jcumbie@nwgrc.org

Mr. Cumbie:

Our (my) firm is interested in submitting a proposal to audit the **Northwest Georgia Regional Commission's** financial statements for the fiscal year ended ***June 30, 2023 and the two subsequent fiscal years*** as set forth in the Request for Proposals issued ***January 23, 2023***.

We understand there will be no Proposer's Conference but are interested in receiving further correspondence concerning inquiries made related to this proposal process and this engagement.

Sincerely,

[Audit Firm]

ATTACHMENT E: FORM OF AGREEMENT

Counterpart No. _____
Of 2 Original Executed Counterparts.
Counterpart of the _____

STATE OF GEORGIA,
COUNTY OF _____:

AGREEMENT FOR AUDIT SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT FOR AUDIT SERVICES, hereinafter referred to as “Agreement”, is made and entered into as of the _____ day of _____, 20____, (the “Date Hereof”), by and between _____ a **(sole proprietorship, general or limited partnership, professional corporation or business corporation)** whose agent and address for purposes of this agreement is

_____, hereinafter referred to as “the Auditor” and _____, a **(describe governmental or nonprofit entity)**, whose address for the purposes of this Agreement is

_____, herein referred to as “the Auditee”.

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, the Auditee is a regional commission, pursuant to OCGA Section 50-8-41; and

WHEREAS, the Auditee is required by OCGA Section 50-8-41 to be audited on a regular basis in accordance with certain specified audit standards; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor is a **(describe private entity)** organized under the laws of the State of Georgia engaged in the practice of accountancy and business of performing professional audit services; and

WHEREAS, the Auditee desires to utilize the professional services of the Auditor, in accordance with the needs, requirements, terms and conditions contained in a Request for Proposals, Number _____ (the “RFP”), and the proposal (the “Auditor’s

Proposal”) submitted by the Auditor in response to the RFP, which RFP and Auditor’s Proposal are attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, the Auditee awarded the contract for audit services to the Auditor in accordance with the RFP and in reliance upon the representations and certifications contained in the Auditor’s Proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor and Auditee desire to document the terms and conditions of their Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, it is agreed as follows:

Article 1

BASIC AGREEMENT

The Auditor will perform professional audit services in accordance with the Audit Requirements, Reporting and Delivery Requirements, General Terms and Conditions, and Special Terms and Conditions of the RFP. The Auditee will provide the information required by the RFP. The Auditor shall be compensated for its services as provided in the RFP and the Auditor’s Proposal.

Article 2

COVENANTS AND REPRESENTATIONS

2.1 Covenants of the Auditor. The Auditor shall perform professional audit services in accordance with the Auditor’s Proposal and the Audit Requirements, Reporting and Delivery Requirements, General Terms and Conditions, and Special Terms and Conditions contained in Sections III, VI, VII of the RFP, and any attachments thereto, all of which are by this reference incorporated herein.

2.2 Covenants of the Auditee. The Auditee will provide to Auditor all information reasonably necessary, useful or customary pursuant to both standard accounting and auditing practices and customary within Auditee’s trade or business activities.

2.3 Representations. To induce the Auditee to enter into this Agreement, the Auditee shall be entitled to rely upon the representations and certifications made by the Auditor in the Auditor’s Proposal, without independent investigation and verification, and each such representation or certification shall be deemed to be material to this Agreement. The person negotiating and executing this Agreement on behalf of the Auditor has the full right, power, and authority to enter into, execute and perform this Agreement in accordance with the terms hereof, and when executed and delivered, this Agreement will constitute a valid and binding obligation of the Auditor and will be enforceable in accordance with the terms thereof.

ARTICLE 3

FEES

3.1 The Auditor shall be paid for its services as provided in the schedule of fees and expenses submitted by the Auditor in the Auditor’s Proposal in the sealed dollar cost bid as stated in the Cost Component of the RFP, Section IV (B), which are by this

reference incorporated herein. Additional services shall be compensated in the manner set forth in the Addendum to this Agreement, at the same rates as set forth in the schedule of fees and expenses submitted by the Auditor in the Auditor's Proposal.

ARTICLE 4
CONTINGENCIES

4.1 Contingent Obligations of the Auditee. The obligations of the Auditee are subject to the following conditions:

4.1.1 The ability of the Auditee to carry out the terms of this Agreement in accordance with the laws and Constitution of the State of Georgia.

4.1.2 The timely performance by the Auditor of each and every covenant, agreement, and obligation imposed upon the Auditor in this Agreement.

4.1.3 The truth and accuracy as of the Date Hereof of each and every representation made by the Auditor.

4.1.4 This Agreement is expressly made subject to other laws affecting its subject matter. In the event of any conflict between such laws and this Agreement, such laws shall take precedence.

4.2 Contingent Obligations of the Auditor. The obligations of the Auditor are subject to the following conditions:

4.2.1 The timely performance by the Auditee of each and every covenant, agreement, and obligation imposed upon the Auditee in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5
TERM

This Agreement shall have an initial term of up to twelve (12) months, to run concurrently with a fiscal year of the Auditee, commencing on July 1, after the Date Hereof and terminating on July 1 of the following year, and be subject to renewal for 2 additional successive term(s), if the Auditee gives notice of its election to renew the Agreement within thirty (30) days prior to the end of the term.

ARTICLE 6
NOTICES

All notices, demands or requests required or permitted to be given pursuant to this Agreement shall be in writing and given or served either in person or by United States Mail, postpaid, registered or certified with Return Receipt Requested, showing the name of the recipient and the date of delivery. Notices shall be addressed to the party or parties identified and at the address as set forth in the introductory paragraph of this Agreement, and the date upon which such notice is delivered shall be deemed the effective date thereof. Either party may, from time to time, by five (5) days' prior written notice to the other party, specify a different agent or address to which notices can be delivered. Rejection or other refusal to accept a notice or inability to deliver a notice because of a changed agent or address of which no notice was given shall constitute receipt of the notice on the date when personal service is attempted or the date of the postmark, if mailed.

ARTICLE 7
RIGHTS CUMULATIVE

All rights, powers, and privileges conferred hereunder shall be cumulative and not restrictive of those given by law.

ARTICLE 8
NON-WAIVER

No failure of the Auditee to exercise any right or power given to the Auditee under this Agreement, or to insist upon strict compliance by the Auditor with the provisions of this Agreement, and no custom or practice of the Auditee or the Auditor at variance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, shall constitute a waiver of the Auditee's right to demand exact and strict compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9
CONTINUITY

Each of the provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit and detriment of the Auditor and the Auditee and the heirs, devisees, legatees, legal representatives, successors and assigns of the Auditor and the Auditee.

ARTICLE 10
DATE FOR PERFORMANCE

If the time period by which any right, option or election provided under this Agreement must be exercised, or by which any act required hereunder must be performed, or by which the Closing must be held, expires on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then such time period shall be automatically extended through the close of business on the next regularly scheduled business day.

ARTICLE 11
TIME OF THE ESSENCE

All time limits stated herein are of the essence of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 12
CAPTIONS

The brief headings or titles preceding each provision hereof are for purposes of identification and convenience only and should be completely disregarded in construing this Agreement.

ARTICLE 13
COUNTERPARTS

This Agreement is executed in two (2) counterparts which are separately numbered but each of which is deemed an original of equal dignity with the other and which is deemed one and the same instrument as the other.

ARTICLE 14

NO ASSIGNMENT, NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES

14.1 This Agreement is a personal retention of Auditor as an independent contractor. Auditor must perform by its own forces and may not delegate, subcontract, assign, transfer, or otherwise obtain its performance of this Agreement, without the express written consent of Auditee.

14.2 Nothing herein shall be construed as conferring upon or giving to any person, other than the parties hereto, any rights or benefits under or by reason of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Auditor and the Auditee have caused these presents to be duly signed, sealed and delivered on the day, month, and year first above written.

AUDITOR

By _____ (Seal)

Name: _____

Title: _____

(If corporation, fill in below)

Attest: _____ (Seal)

Name: _____

Title: _____

(Corporate seal affixed)

AUDITEE

By _____ (Seal)

Name: Boyd Austin

Title: Executive Director