INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS

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1. BID PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

- (a) Offerors are expected to examine the specifications, drawings, all instructions, and, if applicable, the construction site (see also the contract clause entitled **Site Investigation and Conditions Affecting the Work** of the General Conditions of the Contract for Construction). Failure to do so will be at the Offeror's risk.
- (b) All proposal prices must be submitted on the forms provided by Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA) on behalf of Anchorage Community Land Trust (referred herein as "ACLT"). Offerors shall furnish all the information required by the solicitation. Proposals must be signed and the offeror's name typed or printed on the proposal sheet and each continuation sheet which requires the entry of information by the offeror. Erasures or other changes must be initialed by the person signing the proposal. Proposals signed by an agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority. (Offerors should retain a copy of their proposal for their records.)
- (c) Offerors must submit as part of their proposal a completed form HUD-5369-A, "Representations, Certifications, and Other Statements of Offerors."
- (d) All proposal documents shall be sealed in an envelope, or other container, which shall be clearly marked with the words "Proposal Documents," the Request for Proposal (RFP) number, any project or other identifying number, the offeror's name, and the date and time for receipt of Proposals.
- (e) If this solicitation requires proposing on all items, failure to do so will disqualify the proposal. If proposing on all items is not required, Offerors should insert the words "No Proposal" in the space provided for any item on which no price is submitted.
- (f) Unless expressly authorized elsewhere in this solicitation, alternate Proposals/Proposals will not be considered.

- (g) Unless expressly authorized elsewhere in this solicitation, Proposals to be submitted by email, hand-delivered or mailed. Facsimile (fax) machines will not be considered.
- (h) If the proposed contract is for a Mutual Help project (as described in 24 CFR Part 905, Subpart E) that involves Mutual Help contributions of work, material, or equipment, supplemental information regarding the proposal advertisement is provided as an attachment to this solicitation.

2. EXPLANATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS TO PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS

- (a) Any prospective offeror desiring an explanation or interpretation of the solicitation, specifications, drawings, etc., must request it at least 7 days before the scheduled time for proposal opening. Requests may be oral or written. Oral requests must be confirmed in writing. The only oral clarifications that will be provided will be those clearly related to solicitation procedures, i.e., not substantive technical information. No other oral explanation or interpretation will be provided. Any information given a prospective offeror concerning this solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective Offerors as a written amendment to the solicitation, if that information is necessary in submitting Proposals, or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to other prospective Offerors.
- (b) Any information obtained by, or provided to, a offeror other than by formal amendment to the solicitation shall not constitute a change to the solicitation.

3. AMENDMENTS TO SOLICITATIONS

- (a) If this solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions which are not modified remain unchanged.
- Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation (1) by signing and returning the amendment, (2) by identifying the amendment number and date on the proposal form, or (3) by email, if those methods are authorized in the solicitation. The Owner must acknowledgement by the time and at the place specified for receipt of Proposals. Proposals which fail to acknowledge the offeror's receipt of any amendment will result in the rejection of the proposal if the contained information amendment(s) substantively changed the Owner's requirements.
- (c) Amendments will be on file in the offices of the Owner at least 7 days before proposal opening.

4. RESPONSIBILITY OF PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR

- (a) The Owner will award contracts only to responsible prospective contractors who have the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed contract. In determining the responsibility of an offeror, the Owner will consider such matters as the offeror's:
 - (1) Integrity;
 - (2) Compliance with public policy;
 - (3) Record of past performance; and
 - (4) Financial and technical resources (including construction and technical equipment).
- (b) Before a proposal is considered for award, the offeror may be requested by the Owner to submit a statement or other documentation regarding any of the items in paragraph (a) above. Failure by the offeror to provide such additional information shall render the Offeror nonresponsive and ineligible for award.

5. LATE SUBMISSIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS

- (a) Any proposal received in the solicitation after the exact time specified for receipt will not be considered.
- (1) Was sent by registered or certified mail not later than the fifth calendar day before the date specified for receipt of offers (e.g., an offer submitted in response to a solicitation requiring receipt of offers by the 20th of the month must have been mailed by the 15th):
- (2) Was sent by mail, or if authorized by the solicitation, was sent by telegram or via facsimile, and it is determined by the Owner that the late receipt was due solely to mishandling by the Owner after receipt at the Owner; or
- (3) Was sent by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Service Post Office to Addressee, not later than 5:00 p.m. at the place of mailing two working days prior to the date specified for receipt of Proposals. The term "working days" excludes weekends and observed holidays.
- (b) Any modification or withdrawal of a proposal is subject to the same conditions as in paragraph (a) of this provision.
- (c) The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of mailing of a late proposal, modification, or withdrawal sent either by registered or certified mail is the U.S. or Canadian Postal Service postmark both on the envelope or wrapper and on the original receipt from the U.S. or Canadian Postal Service. Both postmarks must show a legible date or the proposal, modification, or withdrawal shall be processed as if mailed late.

- "Postmark" means a printed, stamped, or otherwise placed impression (exclusive of a postage meter machine impression) that is readily identifiable without further action as having been supplied and affixed by employees of the U.S. or Canadian Postal Service on the date of mailing. Therefore, Offerors should request the postal clerk to place a hand cancellation bull's-eye postmark on both the receipt and the envelope or wrapper.
- (d) The only acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the Owner is the time/date stamp of Owner on the proposal wrapper or other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the Owner.
- (e) The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of mailing of a late proposal, modification, or withdrawal sent by Express Mail Next Day Service Post Office to Addressee is the date entered by the post office receiving clerk on the "Express Mail Next Day Service-Post Office to Addressee" label and the postmark on both the envelope or wrapper and on the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service. "Postmark" has the same meaning as defined in paragraph (c) of this provision, excluding postmarks of the Canadian Postal Service. Therefore, Offerors should request the postal clerk to place a legible hand cancellation bull's eye postmark on both the receipt and Failure by an offeror to acknowledge receipt of the envelope or wrapper.
- (f) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this provision, a late modification of an otherwise successful proposal that makes its terms more favorable to the Owner will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.
- (g) Proposals may be withdrawn by written notice via email., at any time before the exact time set for opening of Proposals. A proposal may be withdrawn in person by an offeror or its authorized representative if, before the exact time set for opening of Proposals, the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the proposal.

6. SERVICE OF PROTEST

(a) Definitions. As used in this provision:

"Interested party" means an actual or prospective offeror whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of the contract.

"Protest" means a written objection by an interested party to this solicitation or to a proposed or actual award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation.

(b) Protests shall be served on the Contracting Officer

by obtaining written and dated acknowledgement from:

Tony Epple
Cook Inlet Housing Authority on
Behalf of ACLT
3510 Spenard Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

[Contracting Officer designates the official or location where a protest may be served on the Contracting Officer]

(c) All protests shall be resolved in accordance with the Owner's protest policy and procedures, copies of which are maintained at the Owner.

7. CONTRACT AWARD

- (a) The Owner will award a contract resulting from this solicitation to the offeror responsible whose offer conforming to the solicitation will be most advantageous to Owner, cost or price and other factors, specified elsewhere in this solicitation, considered.
- (b) The Owner may
 - (1) reject any or all offers if such action is in Owner's interest,
 - (2) accept other than the lowest offer,
 - (3) waive informalities and minor irregularities in offers received, and
 - (4) award more than one contract for all or part of the requirements stated.
- (c) If this solicitation is a request for Proposals, Owner may award a contract on the basis of initial offers received, without discussions. Therefore, each initial offer should contain the offeror's best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint.
- (d) A written award or acceptance of offer mailed or otherwise furnished to the successful offeror within the time for acceptance specified in the offer shall result in a binding contract without further action by either party. If this solicitation is a request for Proposals, before the offer's specified expiration time, Owner may accept an offer, whether or not there are negotiations after its receipt, unless a written notice of withdrawal is received before award. Negotiations conducted after receipt of an offer do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by the Owner.
- (e) Neither financial data submitted with an offer, nor representations concerning facilities or financing, will form a part of the resulting contract.

BID GUARANTEE (applicable to construction and equipment contracts exceeding \$25,000)

All Proposals must be accompanied by a negotiable proposal guarantee which shall not be less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the proposal. The proposal guarantee may be a certified check, bank draft, U.S. Government Bonds at par value, or a proposal

bond secured by a surety company acceptable to the U.S. Government and authorized to do business in the state where the work is to be performed. In the case where the work under the contract will be performed on an Indian reservation area, the proposal guarantee may also be an irrevocable Letter of Credit (see provision 10, Assurance of Completion, below). Certified checks and bank drafts must be made payable to the order of the Owner. The proposal guarantee shall insure the execution of the contract and the furnishing of a method of assurance of completion by the successful offeror as required by the solicitation. Failure to submit a proposal guarantee with the proposal shall result in the rejection of the proposal. Proposal guarantees submitted by unsuccessful Offerors will be returned as soon as practicable after proposal opening.

(Letter from Contractor's surety evidencing the proposer's ability to obtain the required bonding capacity should it be awarded the project must be submitted in lieu of the 5% Bid Guarantee.)

9. ASSURANCE OF COMPLETION

- (a) Unless otherwise provided in State law, the successful offeror shall furnish an assurance of completion prior to the execution of any contract under this solicitation. This assurance may be [Contracting Officer check applicable items]
 - [] (1) a performance and payment bond in a penal sum of 100 percent of the contract price; or, as may be required or permitted by State law:
 - $[\checkmark]$ (2) separate performance and payment bonds, each for 100 percent of the contract price;
 - [] (3) a 20 percent cash escrow;
 - [] (4) a 25 percent irrevocable letter of credit; or,
 - [] (5) an irrevocable letter of credit for 10 percent of the total contract price with a monitoring and disbursements agreement with the IHA (applicable only to contracts awarded by an IHA under the Indian Housing Program).
- (b) Bonds must be obtained from guarantee or surety companies acceptable to the U.S. Government and authorized to do business in the state where the work is to be performed. Individual sureties will not be considered. U.S. Treasury Circular Number 570, published annually in the Federal Register, lists companies approved to act as sureties on bonds securing Government contracts, the maximum underwriting limits on each contract bonded, and the States in which the company is licensed to do business. Use of companies listed in this circular is mandatory. Copies of the circular may be downloaded on the U.S. of Treasury website www.fms.treas.gov/c570/index.html, or ordered for a minimum fee by contacting the Government Printing Office at (202) 512-2168.

- (c) Each bond shall clearly state the rate of premium and the total amount of premium charged. The current power of attorney for the person who signs for the surety company must be attached to the bond. The effective date of the power of attorney shall not precede the date of the bond. The effective date of the bond shall be on or after the execution date of the contract.
- (d) Failure by the successful offeror to obtain the required assurance of completion within the time specified, or within such extended period as the Owner may grant based upon reasons determined adequate by the Owner, shall render the offeror ineligible for award. The Owner may then either award the contract to the next lowest responsible offeror or solicit new Proposals. The Owner may retain the ineligible offeror's proposal guarantee.

10. PRECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE (applicable to construction contracts)

After award of a contract under this solicitation and prior to the start of work, the successful offeror will be required to attend a preconstruction conference with representatives of the Owner and/or its project manager, and other interested parties convened by the Owner. The conference will serve to acquaint the participants with the general plan of the construction operation and all other requirements of the contract (e.g., Equal Employment Opportunity, Labor Standards). The Owner will provide the successful offeror with the date, time, and place of the conference.