

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Request for Qualifications: Questions and Responses

April 6, 2023

Questions	Responses
Do you have a preference for a local firm in Washington?	No.
What are your expectations with regard to stakeholder engagement?	Developing the new CEDS will include stakeholder engagement, the extent of which is still to be determined based on the full scope of the project. We currently expect several stakeholder interviews to assist in determining the scope. Initial stakeholders include individual SCOG board members, Port staff and commissioners, Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County staff and Board members. Others may be identified during the scoping process.
Are there certain research deliverables/exercises that you are interested in as part of the process?	We currently do not have specific deliverables/exercises identified beyond those required to ensure the CEDS is federally compliant. There may be some identified as the scope is developed.
We understand that you have an 18-month term for the project, is this only for contractual purposes or would you want our team to be your advisors throughout this period?	We currently expect a project term of 18 months to ensure time for stakeholder interviews, scope development, and consensus building prior to the SCOG Board of Directors approval process – which together takes a minimum of two months.

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Do you anticipate engagement with stakeholders outside the CEDS committee? If so, can you provide more guidance?	Yes, we do expect engagement with stakeholders outside the CEDS committee, the extent of which is still to be determined based on the full scope of the project. We currently expect several stakeholder interviews to assist in determining the scope. Initial stakeholders include individual SCOG board members, Port staff and commissioners, Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County staff and Board members. Other stakeholders may be identified during the scoping process.
Are team resumes and a table of contents included in the 15 page limit?	Yes.
We have had trouble deciding how to respond to the RFQ. We have helped a variety of groups prepare CEDS and feel qualified on many levels. However, your RFQ highlights the need for experience preparing federally compliant CEDS. We read that requirement to mean you want consultants with experience preparing the entire CEDS. Given that we have provided support (especially data collection and analysis) - but have not prepared a full CEDS document for an EDC or other group, we worry that we may not meet the qualifications you have listed.	<p>In the Relevant Experience section of the RFQ, the following is included:</p> <p>“Successful offerors must have demonstrated experience in preparing a federally compliant CEDS”.</p> <p>There is no distinction in the RFQ between preparing a complete CEDS versus a component of a CEDS, only that the experience demonstrated is with a federally compliant CEDS. If an offeror participated as a member of a team preparing a federally compliant CEDS, the experience of the offeror in the broader effort should be described in the RFQ response.</p>