

Boulder County Contract

DETAILS SUMMARY	
Document Type	New Contract
OFS Number-Version	303008
County Contact Information	
Boulder County Legal Entity	Boulder County
Department	Office of the County Administrator
Division/Program	
Mailing Address	PO Box 471, Boulder, CO 80306
Contract Contact – <i>Name, email</i>	Customer Service team, botteam@bouldercounty.gov
Invoice Contact – <i>Name, email</i>	Customer Service team, botteam@bouldercounty.gov
Contractor Contact Information	
Contractor Name	Keen Independent Research, LLC
Contractor Mailing Address	100 Fillmore Street, 5 th Floor, Denver, CO 80206
Contact 1- <i>Name, title, email</i>	Dave Keen, President, dkeene@keenindependent.com
Contact 2- <i>Name, title, email</i>	Joseph Broad, Senior Consultant, joseph.broad@keenindependent.com
Contract Term	
Start Date	08/01/2023
Expiration Date	07/31/2024
Final End Date	07/31/2028
Contract Amount	
Contract Amount	\$398,982.00
Fixed Price or Not-to-Exceed?	Fixed Price
Brief Description of Work	
To provide a complete analysis of the county's contracting and procurement activities to determine any disparities existing in the utilization of Minority, Woman and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise.	
Contract Documents	
a. Project Details, including project-specific terms and a Scope of Work, attached as Exhibit A (the "Scope of Work")	
Purchasing Details – County Internal Use Only	
Grant funded?	No
Bid Number	RFP 7468-23
Award Date	7/8/2023
If no Bid No., bid process used	Bid number provided above
COVID-19	NO
Project #	
Purchasing Notes <i>(optional)</i>	
Contract Notes	
<i>Additional information not included above</i>	
Authorized signer: Dave Keen, President, dkeen@keenindependent.com	

THIS CONTRACT ("Contract") is entered into by and between the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of the County of Boulder, State of Colorado, a body corporate and politic, for the benefit of the Office of the County Administrator ("County") and Keen Independent Research, LLC ("Contractor"). County and Contractor are each a "Party," and collectively the "Parties."

In consideration of the mutual covenants contained in this Contract, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Incorporation into Contract: The **Details Summary** is incorporated into this Contract. The **Contract Documents** are incorporated into this Contract by reference, except to the extent that the Proposal, if any is incorporated, contains any obligations placed upon County and not otherwise contained in this Contract.
2. Work to be Performed: Contractor will provide all labor and equipment and do all tasks necessary and incidental to performing the work as described in the **Details Summary** and **Contract Documents** (the "Work"). Contractor will perform the Work (a) in a good and workmanlike manner, (b) at its own cost and expense, (c) in accordance with recognized industry standards of care, skill and diligence for the type of work being performed, and (d) in strict accordance with the Contract.
3. Term of Contract: The **Contract Term** begins on the **Start Date** and expires on the **Expiration Date**, unless terminated sooner. All the Work must be performed during the **Contract Term**.
4. Payment for Work Performed: In consideration of the Work performed by Contractor, and subject to conditions contained in this Contract, County will pay an amount not to exceed the **Contract Amount** to Contractor in accordance with the **Contract Documents**.
5. Invoicing: Contractor will promptly provide a copy of its Form W-9 and invoice template to County upon request. Contractor must submit an invoice to the County by the fifteenth (15th) day of the month for completion of any Work performed in the prior calendar month. All invoices submitted require the following components: Contractor's name and address (submitted W-9 address must match remit address), detailed description of services, dates of services, itemization of labor and materials costs, "Bill to: Boulder County" language, payment remittance address, payer, name and address, date of invoice, unique invoice number, and total amount due. Contractor must send all completed invoices to the **Invoice Contact** in the **Details Summary**. County may require delivery of invoices by email. Failure to submit invoices in a timely manner and in accordance with the terms of this Contract may cause a delay in payment. County may recoup any damages incurred because of Contractor's failure to submit invoices pursuant to the terms of this paragraph. County's acceptance or payment of an invoice will not constitute acceptance of any Work performed under this Contract.
6. Extra Time to Complete the Work (Additional Time only): If Contractor cannot complete the Work by the **Expiration Date**, Contractor may request extra time to complete the Work. County, in its sole discretion, may grant Contractor additional time to complete the Work by sending a written notice of extension to Contractor. An extension of time to complete the Work does not entitle Contractor to additional compensation from County.
7. Extension of Contract Term (Additional Time and Work): Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, this Contract may be extended until the **Final End Date**. During any extended **Contract**

Term, the terms of this Contract will remain in full force and effect, unless otherwise amended in writing by the Parties. Where the Contractor will provide additional services for additional compensation beyond the initial **Contract Amount**, the Parties must execute a written amendment before the then-current **Expiration Date**. If necessary, the written amendment will incorporate an updated Scope of Work and updated Fee Schedule as exhibits. Contractor must provide a current Certificate of Insurance to the County that complies with the **Insurance Requirements** of this Contract, if any, prior to any extended **Contract Term**.

8. **Schedule of Work:** County may designate the hours (on a daily or weekly basis) during which Contractor may perform the Work, strictly for the purposes of minimizing inconvenience to the County and interference with County operations. Contractor will otherwise set its own work schedule.

9. **Indemnity:** Contractor will be liable for any damages to persons or property caused by or arising out of the actions, obligations, or omissions of Contractor, its employees, agents, representatives or other persons acting under Contractor's direction or control in performing or failing to perform the Work under this Contract. Contractor will indemnify and hold harmless County, its elected officials and appointed department heads, and its employees, agents and representatives (the "indemnified parties"), from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, damages, losses, judgments, costs or expenses, including attorneys' fees, which may be made or brought or which may result against any of the indemnified parties as a result or on account of the actions or omissions of Contractor, its employees, agents or representatives, or other persons acting under Contractor's direction or control. This indemnification obligation will extend to claims based on Contractor's unauthorized use or disclosure of confidential information and intellectual property infringement. County will not be obligated to indemnify or defend Contractor under any circumstances. Contractor's obligations under this provision shall survive expiration or termination of this Contract. Nothing contained in this Contract or the **Contract Documents** is intended to limit or restrict the indemnification rights or obligations of any Party under this provision, or damages available for breaches of the obligations herein.

10. **Nondiscrimination:** Contractor will comply with the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, C.R.S. § 24-34-401, et seq., as amended, and all applicable local, State and Federal laws concerning discrimination and unfair employment practices. County prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, age 40 and over, disability, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, genetic information, or any other status protected by applicable Federal, State or local law. Contractor must require that its subcontractors, if any, similarly comply with all applicable laws concerning discrimination and unfair employment practices.

11. **Information and Reports:** Contractor will provide to authorized County, State, and Federal government representatives all information and reports that may be required for any purpose authorized by law. Contractor will permit access to such representatives to Contractor's facilities, books, records, accounts, and any other relevant sources of information. Where information required by a representative is in the exclusive possession of a person or entity other than Contractor, Contractor must so certify to the County and explain what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

12. **Independent Contractor:** Contractor is an independent contractor for all purposes in performing the Work. None of Contractor, its agents, personnel or subcontractors are employees of the County for any purpose, including the Federal Insurance Contribution Act, the Social Security Act, the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, the provisions of the

Internal Revenue Code, the Colorado Workers' Compensation Act, the Colorado Unemployment Insurance Act, and the Public Employees Retirement Association. Accordingly, County will not withhold or pay any income tax, payroll tax, or retirement contribution of any kind on behalf of Contractor or Contractor's employees. As an independent contractor, Contractor is responsible for employing and directing such personnel and agents as it requires to perform the Work. Contractor will exercise complete authority over its personnel and agents and will be fully responsible for their actions.

13. Termination

a. Breach: Either Party's failure to perform any of its material obligations under this Contract, in whole or in part or in a timely or satisfactory manner, will be a breach. The institution of proceedings under any bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or similar law, by or against Contractor, or the appointment of a receiver or similar officer for Contractor or any of its property, which is not vacated or fully stayed within thirty (30) days after the institution of such proceeding, will also constitute a breach. In the event of a breach, the non-breaching Party may provide written notice of the breach to the other Party. If the breaching Party does not cure the breach, at its sole expense, as reasonably determined by the non-breaching Party in its sole discretion, within thirty (30) days after delivery of notice, the non-breaching Party may exercise any of its remedies provided under this Contract or at law, including immediate termination of this Contract.

b. Non-Appropriation: The other provisions of this Contract notwithstanding, County is prohibited by law from making commitments beyond the current fiscal year. Payment to Contractor beyond the current fiscal year is contingent on the appropriation and continuing availability of funding in any subsequent year. County has reason to believe that sufficient funds will be available for the full **Contract Term**. Where, however, funds are not allocated for any fiscal period beyond the current fiscal year, County may terminate this Contract without penalty by providing seven (7) days' written notice to Contractor.

c. Convenience: In addition to any other right to terminate under this Section 13, County may terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, for any or no reason, upon seven (7) days' advance written notice to Contractor.

14. Contractor Obligations upon Termination or Expiration: By the **Expiration Date** or effective date of termination, if earlier, Contractor must (1) remove from County property all of its personnel, equipment, supplies, trash and any hazards created by Contractor, (2) protect any serviceable materials belonging to the County, and (3) take any other action necessary to leave a safe and healthful worksite. Any items remaining on County property after the Expiration Date or the effective date of termination, if earlier, will be deemed abandoned by Contractor.

15. Payable Costs in Event of Early Termination: If County terminates this Contract before the **Expiration Date**, Contractor's payments (and any damages associated with any lawsuit brought by Contractor) are limited to only (1) payment for Work satisfactorily executed and fully and finally completed, as determined by County in its sole discretion, prior to delivery of the notice to terminate, and (2) the reasonable and actual costs Contractor incurred in connection with performing the Work prior to delivery of the notice to terminate. Contractor explicitly waives all claims it may have against the County for any other compensation, such as anticipatory profits or any other consequential, special, incidental, punitive or indirect damages.

16. Remedies for Non-Performance: If Contractor fails to perform any of its obligations under this Contract, County may, at its sole discretion, exercise one or more of the following remedies

(in addition to any other remedies provided by law or in this Contract), which shall survive expiration or termination of this Contract:

a. Suspend Performance: County may require that Contractor suspend performance of all or any portion of the Work pending necessary corrective action specified by the County and without entitling Contractor to an increase in compensation or extension of the performance schedule. Contractor must promptly stop performance and incurring costs upon delivery of a notice of suspension by the County.

b. Withhold Payment Pending Corrections: County may permit Contractor to correct any rejected Work at the County 's discretion. Upon County 's request, Contractor must correct rejected work at Contractor's sole expense within the time frame established by the County. Upon full and final completion of the corrections satisfactory to the County, County will remit payment to Contractor.

c. Deny Payment: County may deny payment for any Work that does not comply with the requirements of the Contract or that Contractor otherwise fails to provide or fully and finally complete, as determined by the County in its sole discretion. Upon County request, Contractor will promptly refund any amounts prepaid by the County with respect to such non-compliant Work.

d. Removal: Upon County 's request, Contractor will remove any of its employees or agents from performance of the Work, if County, in its sole discretion, deems any such person to be incompetent, careless, unsuitable, or otherwise unacceptable.

17. Binding Arbitration Prohibited: County does not agree to binding arbitration by any extra-judicial body or person.

18. Conflicts of Interest: Contractor may not engage in any business or personal activities or practices or maintain any relationships that conflict in any way with the full performance of Contractor's obligations.

19. Notices: All notices provided under this Contract must be in writing and sent by Certified U.S. Mail (Return Receipt Requested), electronic mail, or hand-delivery to the other Party's **Contact** at the address specified in the **Details Summary**. For certified mailings, notice periods will begin to run on the day after the postmarked date of mailing. For electronic mail or hand-delivery, notice periods will begin to run on the date of delivery.

20. Statutory Requirements: This Contract is subject to all statutory requirements that are or may become applicable to counties or political subdivisions of the State of Colorado generally, including but not limited to: C.R.S. § 38-26-107, which requires withholding funds where the County receives a claim for payment from a supplier or subcontractor of Contractor upon notice of final settlement (required for public works contracts that exceed \$150,000); C.R.S. § 8-17-101 et seq.; C.R.S. § 18-8-301, et seq.; and C.R.S. § 18-8-401, et seq.

21. No Suspension or Debarment: Contractor certifies, and warrants for the Contract Term, that neither it nor its principals nor any of its subcontractors are debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this Contract by any Federal or State department or agency. Contractor shall comply, and shall require its subcontractors to comply, with subpart C of 2 C.F.R. § 180.

22. Entire Agreement/Binding Effect/Amendments: This Contract represents the complete agreement between the Parties and is fully binding upon them and their successors, heirs, and assigns, if any. This Contract terminates any prior agreements, whether written or oral in whole or in part, between the Parties relating to the Work. This Contract may be amended only by a written agreement signed by both Parties.

23. Assignment/Subcontractors: This Contract may not be assigned or subcontracted by Contractor without the prior written consent of the County. If Contractor subcontracts any of its obligations under this Contract, Contractor will remain liable to the County for those obligations and will also be responsible for subcontractor's performance under, and compliance with, this Contract.

24. Governing Law/Venue: The laws of the State of Colorado govern the construction, interpretation, performance, and enforcement of this Contract. Any claim relating to this Contract or breach thereof may only be brought exclusively in the Courts of the 20th Judicial District of the State of Colorado and the applicable Colorado Appellate Courts.

25. Breach: The failure of either Party to exercise any of its rights under this Contract will not be deemed to be a waiver of such rights or a waiver of any breach of the Contract. All remedies available to a Party in this Contract are cumulative and in addition to every other remedy provided by law.

26. Severability: If any provision of this Contract becomes inoperable for any reason but the fundamental terms and conditions continue to be legal and enforceable, then the remainder of the Contract will continue to be operative and binding on the Parties.

27. Third-Party Beneficiary: Enforcement of the terms and conditions and all rights and obligations of this Contract are reserved to the Parties. Any other person receiving services or benefits under this Contract is an incidental beneficiary only and has no rights under this Contract. Notwithstanding, where the beneficiary **Department** is led by an Elected Official, such Elected Official shall be considered a third-party beneficiary.

28. Colorado Open Records Act: County may disclose any records that are subject to public release under the Colorado Open Records Act, C.R.S. § 24-72-200.1, et seq.

29. Conflict of Provisions: If there is any conflict between the terms of the main body of this Contract and the terms of any of the **Contract Documents**, the terms of the main body of the Contract will control.

30. Governmental Immunity: Nothing in this Contract shall be construed in any way to be a waiver of the County's immunity protection under the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, C.R.S. § 24-10-101, et seq., as amended.

31. Representations and Warranties: Contractor represents and warrants the following:

- a. Execution of this Contract and performance thereof is within Contractor's duly authorized powers;
- b. The individual executing this Contract is authorized to do so by Contractor;
- c. Contractor is authorized to do business in the State of Colorado and is properly licensed by all necessary governmental and public and quasi-public authorities having jurisdiction over the Work and the Contractor; and

d. Contractor and its subcontractors, if any, are financially solvent, able to pay all debts as they mature, and have sufficient working capital to complete the Work and perform all obligations under the Contract.

32. Legal Compliance: Contractor assumes full responsibility for obtaining and maintaining any permits and licenses required to perform the Work. Contractor is solely responsible for ensuring that its performance under this Contract and the Work itself will comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, ordinances and codes. County approval of the Work or any aspect of Contractor's performance, such as plans, designs, or other Contractor-drafted documents, shall not be interpreted to mean that Contractor has satisfied its obligations under this Section.

33. Litigation Reporting: Contractor is not currently involved in any action before a court or other administrative decision-making body that could affect Contractor's ability to perform the Work. Contractor will promptly notify the County if Contractor is served with a pleading or other document in connection with any such action.

34. Tax Exemption: County is exempt from payment of Federal, State, and local government taxes. Contractor shall collect no tax from the County, and the County shall not be liable to pay any taxes imposed on Contractor. County shall provide its tax exemption status information to Contractor upon request.

35. Delegation of Authority: The Parties acknowledge that the Board of County Commissioners has delegated authority to the Department Head or Elected Official that leads the beneficiary **Department** and their designees to act on behalf of the County under the terms of this Contract, including but not limited to the authority to terminate this Contract.

36. Ownership of Work Product: All work product, property, data, documentation, information or materials conceived, discovered, developed or created by Contractor pursuant to this Contract ("Work Product") will be owned exclusively by the County. To the extent possible, any Work Product will be deemed to be a work made for hire. Contractor unconditionally and irrevocably transfers and assigns to the County all right, title and interest in and to any Work Product.

37. Publicity Releases: Contractor will not refer to this Contract or the County in commercial advertising without prior written consent of the County. This provision shall survive expiration or termination of this Contract.

38. Execution by Counterparts; Electronic Signatures: This Contract may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which will constitute one agreement. The Parties approve the use of electronic signatures, governed by the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, C.R.S. §§ 24 71.3 101 to 121. The Parties will not deny the legal effect or enforceability of this Contract solely because it is in electronic form or because an electronic record was used in its creation. The Parties will not object to the admissibility of this Contract in the form of electronic record, or paper copy of an electronic document, or paper copy of a document bearing an electronic signature, because it is not in its original form or is not an original.

39. Limitation on Public Statements and Lobbying Activity. During the term of this Contract, Contractor may receive from the County its confidential data, work product, or other privileged or confidential information that is protected by law. To maintain the fact and appearance of absolute objectivity, Contractor shall not, without the prior written consent of the County, which shall not be

unreasonably withheld, do any of the following: (a) disclose information obtained because of this contractual relationship to any third party; (b) lobby any State or Federal agency on any pending matter while this Contract is effective; or (c) make any public statements or appear at any time to give testimony at any public meeting on the subject matters regarding which Contractor is or was retained by the County. County may set reasonable conditions on any disclosure authorized by the County under this provision. Notwithstanding, Contractor may make disclosures as required by law, and to law enforcement officials in connection with any criminal justice investigation.

40. Sustainability: County encourages Contractor to consider the procurement and use of environmentally preferable products and services while performing services under this Contract. “Environmentally preferable purchasing” means making purchasing choices for products and services that have a lesser or reduced adverse effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products and services that serve the same purpose. Environmentally preferable purchasing is consistent with the County’s commitment to protecting our air, water, soil, and climate for current and future generations. County encourages Contractor to incorporate the following actions into Contractor’s performance of the Work: environmentally preferable supplies and services; conservation of water; efficient energy use; waste prevention; reuse and recycle construction and de-construction materials in a manner that maximizes reuse of materials; sustainable transportation choices, including consideration to business communication software such as Skype alternative to air travel and public transit or carpooling for in-person meetings; pollution prevention; low toxicity for public health & safety; and reduced emissions to address climate change.

41. Limitation of Liability: COUNTY SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO CONTRACTOR FOR ANY SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, INCIDENTAL, PUNITIVE, OR INDIRECT DAMAGES ARISING FROM OR RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, REGARDLESS OF ANY NOTICE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. COUNTY’S AGGREGATE LIABILITY, IF ANY, ARISING FROM OR RELATED TO THIS CONTRACT, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, OR IN TORT, OR OTHERWISE, IS LIMITED TO, AND SHALL NOT EXCEED, THE AMOUNTS PAID OR PAYABLE HEREUNDER BY COUNTY TO CONTRACTOR. ANY CONTRACTUAL LANGUAGE LIMITING CONTRACTOR’S LIABILITY SHALL BE VOID.

42. Legal Interpretation. Each Party recognizes that this Contract is legally binding and acknowledges that it has had the opportunity to consult with legal counsel of its choice about this Contract. The rule of construction providing that any ambiguities are resolved against the drafting Party will not apply in interpreting the terms of this Contract.

43. No Suspension or Debarment: Contractor certifies, and warrants for the Contract Term, that neither it nor its principals nor any of its subcontractors are debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this Contract by any Federal or State department or agency. Contractor shall comply, and shall require its subcontractors to comply, with subpart C of 2 C.F.R. § 180.

44. Insurance: Prior to commencing the Work, Contractor will provide a Certificate of Insurance to the County demonstrating adequate insurance coverage as required by this Section. All policies evidencing coverage required by the Contract will be issued by insurance companies satisfactory to the County. Contractor will forward Certificates of Insurance directly to the **County Department** and **Contact** listed in the **Details Summary**.

a. Boulder County as Additional Insured: Boulder County shall be named as an additional insured for General Liability, Umbrella/Excess Liability, and Pollution Liability, as designated in this Contract. Additional insured shall be endorsed to the policy.

THE ADDITIONAL INSURED WORDING SHOULD BE AS FOLLOWS: *County of Boulder, State of Colorado, a body corporate and politic, is named as Additional Insured.*

b. Notice of Cancellation: Each insurance policy required by this Contract shall provide the required coverage and shall not be suspended, voided or canceled except after thirty (30) days' prior written notice has been given to the County except when cancellation is for non-payment of premium, then ten (10) days' prior notice may be given. If any insurance company refuses to provide the required notice, Contractor or its insurance broker shall notify the County any cancellation, suspension, or nonrenewal of any insurance policy within seven (7) days of receipt of insurers' notification to that effect.

c. Insurance Obligations of County: County is not required to maintain or procure any insurance coverage beyond the coverage maintained by the County in its standard course of business. Any insurance obligations placed on the County in any of the **Contract Documents** shall be null and void.

d. Deductible: Any and all deductibles contained in any insurance policy shall be assumed by and at the sole risk of Contractor.

e. Primacy of Coverage: Coverage required of Contractor and its subcontractors, if any, shall be primary over any insurance or self-insurance program carried by the County.

f. Subrogation Waiver: All insurance policies in any way related to this Contract secured or maintained by Contractor as required herein shall include clauses stating that each carrier shall waive all rights of recovery, under subrogation or otherwise, against County, its organizations, officers, agents, employees, and volunteers.

g. Requirements: For the entire duration of this Contract including any extended or renewed terms, and longer as may be required by this Contract, Contractor shall procure and maintain at its own expense, and without cost to the County, the following kinds and minimum amounts of insurance to insure the liability risks that Contractor has assumed under this Contract:

i. **Commercial General Liability**

This coverage should be provided on an Occurrence Form, ISO CG001 or equivalent, with Minimum limits of \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence, \$2,000,000 General Aggregate and \$2,000,000 Products Completed Operations Aggregate.

ii. **Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability**

Workers' Compensation must be maintained with the statutory limits. Employer's Liability is required for minimum limits of \$100,000 Each Accident/\$500,000 Disease-Policy Limit/\$100,000 Disease-Each Employee.

*****A waiver is available If Colorado State Law does not require the contractor to carry Workers Compensation*****

iii. **Professional Liability (Errors and Omissions)**

Professional liability coverage with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 Per Loss and \$1,000,000 Aggregate. Professional Liability provisions indemnifying for loss and expense resulting from errors, omission, mistakes or malpractice is acceptable and may be written on a claims-made basis. The contractor warrants that any retroactive date under the policy shall precede the effective date of this Contract; and that either continuous coverage will be maintained or an extended discovery period will be exercised for a period of two (2) years beginning at the time work under this Contract is completed.

[Signature Page to Follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed and entered into this Contract as of the latter day and year indicated below.

SIGNED for and on behalf of Boulder County	SIGNED for and on behalf of Contractor
Signature:	Signature:
Name: Claire Levy	Name: Dave Keen
Title:	Title: Member
Date:	Date:
↓↓ <i>For Board-signed documents only</i> ↓↓	
Attest:	<i>Initials</i>
Attestor Name: Cecilia Lacey	
Attestor Title:	

Exhibit A
SCOPE OF WORK SUMMARY:

Boulder County is seeking proposals to conduct a complete and legally supportable Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDBE) disparity study to inform and support the need for programs to enhance participation in county contracts by business enterprises. The purpose of the study is to assess research and evaluate any disparities that exist between MWDBEs becoming qualified to apply for and be considered for the awarding of public contracts and overall utilization. The successful Bidder will have experience conducting a MWDBE disparity and related studies.

Boulder County policy states that all purchases and commitments to purchase from budgeted funds shall be made in compliance with the Local Government Budget Law of Colorado. Racial equity also is one of the county's strategic priorities and our policy states that the county has a moral responsibility to interrupt institutional racism that manifests through racist laws, policies, practices and behaviors. Local procurement reform offers a powerful opportunity to spend wisely and deliver the best service possible, spur economic development in underserved communities, and address longstanding systematic inequities that locked MWDBEs out of opportunities. The county intends to provide the maximum practicable opportunity for increased participation by MWDBEs and to ensure that county contracting and procurement practices do not support discrimination in employment and services when the county procures public works, goods, and services from the private sector.

The objective of the RFP is to provide a complete analysis of the county's contracting and procurement activities to determine any disparities existing in the utilization of MWDBEs. The data collection, analysis and recommendations generated must relate to the legal framework set forth in the United States Supreme Court decision. The results should be reliable for the reinforcement and reestablishment of standards required for the county's procurement and contracting processes to address any significant disparities identified. We are seeking findings based on fact and a legal analysis of how recommendations relate to published case law and applicable statutory framework. In addition, with respect to the federal DBE programs, the results and recommendations need to identify any compliance risks related to requirements of federal and state of Colorado funding sources.

The proposal must, at a minimum, include the following tasks:

1. Review Boulder County's existing contracts and procurement methods
2. Determine data requirements and collection methods to perform a sufficient analysis of the last five years of Boulder County purchasing and contracting information
3. Identify key staff/business and community stakeholders and collect feedback from them through surveys, focus groups or other means, in both English and Spanish
4. Make recommendations for the future, including a legal and risk analysis of whether there is a strong basis in evidence that a race- and gender-conscious procurement and contract program will remedy specifically identified past or present discrimination.
5. If a race- and gender-conscious procurement and contract program is supported, a legal and risk analysis of potential remedial actions by Boulder County.

The study will determine whether there is a significant statistical disparity between the availability of qualified, willing and able MWDBEs and the use of such businesses by the county or the county's prime contractors, subcontractors, or suppliers, categorized by major racial/ethnic and gender categories as defined by federal law.

The study also will determine the relevant local market area to establish an estimate of availability for MWDBEs. The analysis of availability must include a definition of the measure of availability and identify how such availability was calculated for each category. All methodologies implemented in the analysis must be thoroughly researched, reviewed and documented to address any potential legal challenge.

The study also will include but is not limited to:

1. Analysis of Statistical Disparities, if any, in MWDBE business formation and projected growth rates in the relevant local market area. This may include the number of paid minorities and women in relevant companies and their positions and areas of expertise, impediments to the movement of minorities and women from craft and other positions into business ownership; and any barriers or problems related to the development and expansion of minority and women owned businesses;
2. Analysis of Statistical Disparities, if any, concerning the access by MWDBE firms to commercial capital, credit, bonding and business, family and social networks, as compared to non-MWDBE firms while holding balance sheet and creditworthiness information constant;
3. Analysis of Statistical Disparities, if any, of the percentage of all prime contract and subcontract revenues earned by MWDBE firms under contracts awarded by the county or local marketplace into which the county infuses its tax dollars categorized by industry and by major racial/ethnic and gender categories as defined by the federal government, for each contracting category. This analysis may include disparity analysis of revenues per employee;
4. A statistical comparison of public sector utilization (non-county) to availability categorized by industry and by major racial/ethnic and gender categories as defined

- by federal law, to determine any public sector disparity ratios in the relevant market area;
5. A statistical comparison of private sector utilization to availability categorized by industry and by major racial/ethnic and gender categories as defined by federal law, to determine any private sector disparity ratios in the relevant market area;
 6. A detailed analysis of the effects, if any, of over-concentration of MWDBE firms and non-MWDBE firms in specific work categories or subcategories. This may include analysis of whether firm size and experience have any effect on reported disparities;
 7. An analysis of whether the county is a passive participant in racial, ethnic or gender discrimination. The selected proposer must investigate, describe and evaluate practices that may indicate discrimination in the relevant marketplaces that are the subjects of the disparity study. In addition, the study will identify any links of the county's expenditure of public funds to any discrimination occurring in, by or through the appropriate marketplace;
 8. Analysis that controls for the estimated past impacts of the implementation of any identified MWDBE programs on any overutilization or any underutilization.

Additional Areas of Analysis, at a minimum will include:

1. Analysis of discriminatory patterns and practices, if any, of local trade associations, unions, suppliers, lending institutions and contractors that affect the success of MWDBE firms. For example, these activities might include such practices as bid shopping, bid manipulation, price discrimination by suppliers and discrimination in payments, bonding requirements, lending practices, capital requirements, complicated bidding processes and commercial leasing;
2. A detailed description of any patterns of discrimination that adversely or disproportionately affect the number of willing and capable MWDBE firms. The selected proposer shall specify the methodology to be used in accomplishing the above tasks, taking care to assure that any allegations of discrimination are focused, identified and documented;
3. A qualitative narrative of anecdotal evidence of discrimination from MWDBE firms concerning experiences doing business or attempting to do business in the relevant marketplace, including experiences of institutionalized discrimination or individual instances of disparate treatment, gathered through surveys, personal interviews, focus groups, public hearings or other information gathering techniques. Proposers will identify methods to memorialize anecdotal evidence, including but not limited to, recording any beliefs that reported incidents of discrimination were motivated by race or gender bias and any beliefs that majority owned firms were not subjected to the same behavior;
4. A detailed qualitative and /or quantitative analysis of the effectiveness of both race and gender conscious and race-neutral/gender neutral measures to address any over-utilization or under-utilization of MBEs, WBEs and DBEs in the county's public contracting processes; and
5. A detailed description of methods to ensure that any proposed MWDBE program will be capable of withstanding legal challenge under federal equal protection analysis for MBEs, WBEs and DBEs.

Certificate Of Completion

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