

Frequently Asked Questions about Riverside County Pre-Qualifications

The Economic Development Agency (EDA) is interested in promoting business opportunities. We offer different ways in which you can participate in partnering with the County on their next public works project.

Question: Can I send our company's brochure to you so we can be considered for your next project?

We'd prefer, however, that you look to the next Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, or Notice Inviting Bids on the EDA Proposals & Quotations link. In fact, you can sign up for an email notice whenever something is posted. In the upper right corner, you'll see an icon with the text "Receive Updates by Email".

Question: Our architectural firm is interested in providing design services for Riverside County. What do we need to do?

There's a couple of options for you. The EDA regularly updates their prequalified list for Architects and Engineers and other professional services such as Construction Management, Labor Compliance, Geotechnical and Environmental firms as well as Real Estate Services every three years. This means that the firms' Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) have been through the evaluation process, ranked and selected to provide "on-call" services. The current three-year cycle of prequalified consulting services is now closed until late winter of 2020.

If you've missed out on the prequalification cycle, there may be an opportunity with a **project-specific** Request for Qualification or Request for Proposal. For example, for a fire station project, we may advertise for a design firm that specializes in this unique building type. Again, the best way to get know about these opportunities is to sign up for updates by email.

Question: I'm already a pre-qualified general contractor for the County. Do I need to respond to the new Request for Qualifications?

It depends on a three factors and they are not interchangeable, meaning that being on one list doesn't mean you are prequalified on another:

1) First, it depends on **which prequalified list** you're on, mainly whether it's for work under \$175,000 or over \$175,000. The Riverside County Purchasing Department maintains a prequalified list of all types of contractors for work **under \$175,000**. This RFQ is posted on the County website.

As the County's Designated Building Official, EDA is responsible for new construction, renovation or tenant improvements of county owned facilities projects **over \$175,000** and maintains three prequalified lists for public works construction. EDA's Proposals & Quotations are advertised under the EDA website.

2) Second, it depends on **what type of contractor you are**. EDA maintains a list of prequalified B-license **general (prime)** contractors for the traditional design-bid-build, or "hard bid" public works projects for projects over \$175,000 who are responsible for the entire project. The prequalification is divided into three categories and two experience levels: General County Facilities, OSHPD/Hospital Facilities, and Justice/Detention Facilities from \$175,000 to \$4,999,999 and \$5,000,000 to \$30,000,000.

That's different from the prequalified list of **trade** contractors who perform one specific craft or trade under a license for that trade on a construction project (e.g. plumbing, painting, electrical work, mechanical, etc.) but are not responsible for the entire project.

Finally, there's a prequalified list of B-license general (prime) contractors for Job Order Contracting (JOC) for small to medium renovation projects other than new construction;

3) Third, it depends on the **expiration date** of your prequalification status. If you responded to an EDA Request for Qualifications and filled out the long-form standard questionnaire, by law, your prequalification status is only good for 12 months from the date of the Notice of Prequalification Letter we sent to you. If that 12 month clock is winding down, chances are the County is ramping up to advertise for the next cycle, so you will need to re-apply for prequalification with the County. The expiration dates are not all the same, so make sure you check the date of your Notice of Prequalification Letter.

Question: We went through the Request for Qualifications process but didn't get on the prequalified list. Does that mean we can't bid on County projects?

Just because you weren't selected to be prequalified, doesn't necessarily make you ineligible to bid on County projects. There may be an opportunity with a project-specific Request for Qualification or Request for Proposal coming up. Or, you may want to apply again in the next prequalification round. Take advantage of the de-briefing session that's offered at the end of the RFQ process. We're here to help you succeed.

Question: Are the RFQs project specific?

The title of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will usually state whether it is for a specific project or it is a general prequalification that we are establishing for future county projects. Prequalification ensures that the firm has the proper license, experience and quality in order to perform the services or work for the County. In addition, some RFQs that are project-specific may require that only prequalified firms are eligible to submit bids. It's important to read the RFQ for that purpose.

Question: Who do I call if I have any questions on an RFQ?

On the cover of each Request for Qualifications or in the Notice section, you'll see the name of the Project Manager and contact information listed. Your information request could end up as an addendum to the RFQ. All "open" RFQs will post any addendums on the EDA Proposals and Quotations link, so it's up to you to check on whether any changes to the RFQ, including deadline extensions, are posted.