



CITY OF BOSTON

WRITTEN QUOTE CONTRACT:

Boston Cannabis Equity Program Accounting & Financial Technical Assistance



Economic Opportunity & Inclusion
Segun Idowu
EV00015187

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion (OEI) is soliciting competitive quotes from vendors who can provide tailored accounting assistance to equity cannabis business owners. The selected vendor must be able to provide comprehensive legal support to help navigate accounting complexities, mitigate risks, and enhance operational success in the cannabis industry.

WQC SCHEDULE:

| EVENT | DATE |
|---------------------|---|
| WQC Issue Date | Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 4:00 PM |
| Virtual Q&A Session | Monday, November 25, 2024 4:30 - 5:30 PM (subject to change) Zoom Link https://bit.ly/WQC2024QA |
| Quote Due Date | Friday, December 13, 2024 at 12:00 PM |

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Shekia Scott | Shekia.Scott@boston.gov

All questions should be emailed with **EV00015187** in the subject line.

You can access this WQC **and submit your quote electronically** through the City of Boston Supplier Portal, via boston.gov/procurement.

I. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF WORK



*This section provides introductory information about the project and highlights important elements like the problem, goals, **scope of work**, project timeline, and contact information.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- **By submitting a quote, each respondent accepts the terms and conditions listed in forms [CM-10](#) and [CM-11](#) which are incorporated herein by reference.** Please see **Appendix 1** for a full list of the forms that the selected vendor will be required to sign and submit during the contracting process if awarded.

With this Written Quote Contract (WQC), we are hoping to solicit competitive quotes from vendors who can provide accounting services tailored to the needs of pre-certified and certified equity cannabis businesses. The selected vendor should be able to provide comprehensive financial support, including bookkeeping, tax preparation, financial reporting, compliance with cannabis-specific regulations, budgeting, cash flow management, financial planning, and financial projections. These services will help businesses navigate financial complexities, ensure compliance, and enhance operational success.

Background

In November 2019, Mayor Martin J. Walsh, in partnership with Councilor Kim Janey and the Boston City Council, signed [An Ordinance Establishing Equitable Regulation of the Cannabis Industry in the City of Boston](#). The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure equity in the City of Boston's cannabis industry and ensure resources are provided to those disproportionately impacted by the policies enacted under the “War on Drugs”

Under this ordinance, the Mayor’s Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion (OEOI) was charged with establishing the Boston Cannabis Equity Program, through which we have developed technical assistance initiatives aimed at providing one-on-one support in various ways, with the overarching objective of fostering economic and entrepreneurial growth and capacity across Boston.

The expectation is that at the conclusion of each project, the business owner will have received the support needed and feel empowered and emboldened to take the next steps toward advancing their business goals. They will have learned what action steps they need to take and how to go about doing it. This project is for the FY25 - FY26 and concludes on January 31, 2026.

We look forward to receiving your response.¹

1.2 SCOPE OF WORK

This section is very important. It outlines what we are asking for and gives an in-depth look at what we are expecting.

The Mayor’s Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion (OEOI) will provide funds to the contractor(s) to provide strategic marketing technical assistance to at least 25 cannabis equity applicants throughout the City of Boston. These services will provide current and prospective business owners with the tools and support needed to establish, sustain, and grow their businesses. Cannabis equity businesses and prospective businesses are identified and selected by the Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion (OEOI), in collaboration with the Boston Cannabis Board and other appropriate city departments when applicable. Once selected, OEOI shall facilitate the initial engagement with the contractor. In each case, the contractor will be expected to work directly with the cannabis equity applicant.

¹ This WQC follows all applicable requirements for open competition, and the City encourages participation from small, local, minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses. To support equality of opportunity for these businesses, we also encourage respondents to solicit for the subcontracting of goods and services from certified businesses. The City’s directory of certified businesses is available at [This Link](#).

1.2.1 Requirements

The selected vendor is expected to provide the following:

1. One-on-One Technical Assistance: General accounting assistance including but not limited to:
 - Business Structuring and Tax Strategy: Guidance on selecting an optimal business structure, such as LLCs or corporations, with a focus on tax efficiency and financial planning.
 - Financial Record-Keeping and Bookkeeping: Comprehensive bookkeeping services to maintain accurate financial records and track income, expenses, and cash flow.
 - Regulatory Compliance and Taxation: Support in meeting federal, state, and local tax requirements specific to the cannabis industry, including compliance with 280E tax restrictions.
 - Licensing and Financial Reporting: Assistance with financial documentation needed for licensing, permit renewals, and audits, ensuring compliance with cannabis-specific financial regulations.
 - Budgeting and Financial Planning: Development of detailed budgets and financial plans to support growth, including cash flow analysis and capital management.
 - Contract Review and Financial Obligations: Review of financial obligations within contracts with suppliers, distributors, and other stakeholders, ensuring terms are clear and aligned with financial goals.
 - Risk Management and Insurance Guidance: Advice on identifying financial risks and securing adequate insurance coverage to protect business assets and ensure operational continuity.

- Employee Payroll and Benefits Management: Support with payroll processing, benefits administration, and compliance with employment tax requirements.
 - Financial Projections and Forecasting: Creation of financial projections and forecasts to help guide strategic planning and decision-making, supporting business growth and sustainability.
 - Mergers, Acquisitions, and Valuations: Assistance with financial due diligence, valuation, and financial structuring for mergers, acquisitions, or partnerships in the cannabis industry.
2. Workshops and Group Sessions: Provide workshops or workshop series to a group of prospective business owners and/or potential business owners on topics of expertise as the needs and opportunities for such assistance are determined including but not limited to those listed above.
 3. Technical Assistance Events: Participate in events hosted by the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion, focusing on providing technical assistance.
 4. Presentations/Testimony: Participate in hearings and community meetings as necessary on behalf of certified equity businesses.

1.2.2 Stakeholder Coordination

The Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion will oversee stakeholder coordination, which encompasses:

1. Connecting the selected vendor with pre-certified and certified equity applicants.
 - a. The selected vendor will facilitate direct collaboration with pre-certified and certified equity applicants to determine meeting methods and frequencies for project completion.
2. Managing coordination with all other stakeholders.

1.2.3 Reporting

The selected vendor will be responsible for submitting:

1. Individual project proposals that identify each projects:
 - a. Scope of Services
 - b. Project Length (hrs)
 - c. Fee Proposal
2. Invoices for each one-on-one project, workshop, or technical assistance event they participate in.
3. Feedback on projects and overall participation in the Boston Cannabis Equity Program.

The Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion will provide selected vendors with mid-way and end-of-contract reports, detailing:

1. The number of projects completed, along with the associated business, pre-certified applicant, and/or workshop name.
2. The project date.
3. The total project amount.
4. The invoice number and corresponding payment date.

1.3 CONTRACT DETAILS

The term of the contract will be One Year.

- The target implementation dates are January 5, 2025 to January 31, 2026 (subject to change)
- The maximum budget for this project is \$50,000.00

I. HOW WE CHOOSE



This section explains how we will choose the supplier and what we consider a responsive and responsible vendor.

2.1 RULE FOR AWARD

We will award the contract to the responsible and responsive vendor offering the needed quality of supply or service at the lowest price.

*To be considered **responsive**: a quote must contain all the required information, and be submitted before the deadline, and demonstrate that their offering meets the minimum quality requirements or specifications.*

*To be considered **responsible**: a vendor must have the capability, integrity, and reliability to perform the work described in this document.*

Specifically, to be considered responsible and responsive, the vendor for this project must demonstrate:

1. Five (5) years of experience of working with various businesses, including cannabis businesses, minority and women-owned enterprises, and disadvantaged business enterprises
2. Two (2) examples of previous related projects (links to your work, brief descriptions, or short projects will qualify).
3. Five (5) examples of previous experience working with municipalities or public sector clients.
4. A quote outlining your total proposed budget, hourly rates, and other associated costs to serve at least 25 equity applicants.
5. Brief statement outlining your commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Note: Your examples may overlap.

2.2 YOUR QUOTE

To show that you meet the requirements to be considered responsible and responsive, please answer the questions below. Feel free to include other information that may be relevant (i.e. graphics or links to your work).

Q1: Please explain how you will deliver the services described in the Scope of Work (1-2 pages)

To demonstrate that you meet the requirements of this Inclusive Quote Contract, focus on:

- What services your organization provides and how long you've been doing this work.
- Your plan to deliver one-on-one work and workshops.
- The basis for your approach.

Response:

Q2: Provide the qualifications of the staff who will work on this project (1-2 pages)

- Identify the key team members who would work on this project & the team structure; if your team includes multiple organizations, please let us know how long you've worked together.
- Document your staff's expertise in delivering legal services to cannabis businesses.
- Describe similar projects they have successfully completed, including projects that focused on disproportionately impacted communities.

Response:

Q3: Provide 2-3 references using the template provided below, directly corresponding to the requirements for responsibility & responsiveness.

| REFERENCES | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| REFERENCE EXAMPLE | Organization | Smith Events |
| | Project Manager (or equivalent) | Jennifer Smith |
| | Phone number | 845-111-2222 |
| | Email (if available) | jsmith@smithevents.com |
| | Project Description | <i>Planned and implemented a family-friendly concert on the steps of City Hall. Worked with diverse community organizations to select performers and vendors. Hosted 150 residents.</i> |
| | Project Start and End Dates | March 2020 - May 2020 |
| | Expertise Demonstrated by this project (check all that apply and see section 2.1 for more details) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Experience working with various businesses, including cannabis businesses, minority and women-owned enterprises, and disadvantaged business enterprises <input type="checkbox"/> Previous related projects (links to your work, brief descriptions, or short projects will qualify). <input type="checkbox"/> Previous experience working with municipalities or public sector clients. |
| REFERENCE 1 | Organization | |
| | Project Manager (or equivalent) | |
| | Phone number | |
| | Email (if available) | |
| | Project Description | |
| | Project Start and End Dates | |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| | Expertise Demonstrated by this project (check all that apply and see section 2.1 for more details) | <input type="checkbox"/> Experience working with various businesses, including cannabis businesses, minority and women-owned enterprises, and disadvantaged business enterprises <input type="checkbox"/> Previous related projects (links to your work, brief descriptions, or short projects will qualify). <input type="checkbox"/> Previous experience working with municipalities or public sector clients. |
| REFERENCE 2 | Organization | |
| | Project Manager (or equivalent) | |
| | Phone number | |
| | Email (if available) | |
| | Project Description | |
| | Project Start and End Dates | |
| | Expertise Demonstrated by this project (check all that apply and see section 2.1 for more details) | <input type="checkbox"/> Experience working with various businesses, including cannabis businesses, minority and women-owned enterprises, and disadvantaged business enterprises <input type="checkbox"/> Previous related projects (links to your work, brief descriptions, or short projects will qualify). <input type="checkbox"/> Previous experience working with municipalities or public sector clients. |
| REFERENCE 3 | Organization | |
| | Project Manager (or equivalent) | |
| | Phone number | |
| | Email (if available) | |
| | Project Description | |
| | Project Start and End Dates | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>Expertise Demonstrated by <i>this project</i> (check all that apply and see section 2.1 for more details)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Experience working with various businesses, including cannabis businesses, minority and women-owned enterprises, and disadvantaged business enterprises<input type="checkbox"/> Previous related projects (links to your work, brief descriptions, or short projects will qualify).<input type="checkbox"/> Previous experience working with municipalities or public sector clients. |
|--|---|--|

2.3 QUOTE PRICING

| DELIVERABLES <i>as defined in the Scope of Work</i> | FIXED PRICE | | |
|--|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| One-on-One Technical Assistance | | | |
| Workshops and Group Sessions | | | |
| Technical Assistance Events | | | |
| Presentations/Testimony | | | |
| TOTAL FIXED PRICE | | | |
| | | | |
| ADDITIONAL SERVICES AS NEEDED | HOURLY RATE | ESTIMATED QUANTITY* | TOTAL PRICE |
| [INSERT POSITION TITLES] | | | |
| | | | |
| <p><i>**These additional hours are estimates only; the City may request more, less, or no additional services. Payment will be based on the unit prices provided here and the actual amount of services requested.</i></p> | | | |

Do not email your submission materials. All materials must be submitted online in the City of Boston Supplier Portal, which can be accessed at boston.gov/procurement. Select the "Supplier Portal" button. You must log into your vendor account in order to access this bidding opportunity EV00015187.

APPENDIX 1: CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please be familiar with these terms and conditions at the time of quote submission to ensure that you are able to meet them if awarded the contract.

All vendors are required to **review (but not sign or submit)** the following documents at this stage. By submitting a quote, a respondent acknowledges that if they are selected as the winning vendor, they will be required to complete and provide each of the below forms to the City as part of the contract package:

1. [Form Wage-1](#) – Requirements Of The Boston Jobs, Living Wage, And Prevailing Wage Ordinance
2. [Form Wage-2](#) – The Boston Jobs, Living Wage, And Prevailing Wage Ordinance Vendor Agreement
3. **By submitting a quote, each respondent accepts the terms and conditions listed in forms [CM-10 and CM-11](#), which are incorporated herein by reference.**