



Kathy Hochul, Governor

# Homes and Community Renewal

RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner/CEO

# Request for Proposals for *Independent Auditor Services*

RFP Issuance Date:

February 12, 2025

Proposal Submission Deadline:

March ~~19~~17, 2025, 12pm, EDT

Number: HCR-RFP-250212

NEW YORK STATE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY  
STATE OF NEW YORK MORTGAGE AGENCY  
NEW YORK STATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CORPORATION  
STATE OF NEW YORK MUNICIPAL BOND BANK AGENCY  
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FINANCING CORPORATION  
641 LEXINGTON AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

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**NEW YORK STATE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY  
STATE OF NEW YORK MORTGAGE AGENCY  
NEW YORK STATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CORPORATION  
STATE OF NEW YORK MUNICIPAL BOND BANK AGENCY  
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FINANCING CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR  
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR SERVICES**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** A Restricted Period under the Lobbying Procurement Law is currently in effect for this procurement process and will remain in effect until approval of the Contract(s). Proposers are prohibited from Contacts related to this procurement process with any employee of the New York State Housing Finance Agency, State of New York Mortgage Agency, New York State Affordable Housing Corporation, State of New York Municipal Bond Bank Agency and Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation (individually and/or collectively, “Agency” or “Agencies” or “Agency(ies)”) or their Affiliate(s)<sup>1</sup>, other than the Designated Contact Officer listed below.

Lobbying Law Designated Contact Officer:

Michael Vayser, Assistant Counsel  
New York State Homes & Community Renewal  
641 Lexington Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10022  
[Michael.Vayser@hcr.ny.gov](mailto:Michael.Vayser@hcr.ny.gov)

If you have inquiries regarding this request for proposal or would like to contact the Agency(ies) regarding issues not relating to Lobbying Procurement Law Contacts, please forward inquiries via electronic email to Lisa G. Pagnozzi, Jerome White, Monika Lekarczyk, and/or Vanessa Lepe-Mora at [contractunitinfo@hcr.ny.gov](mailto:contractunitinfo@hcr.ny.gov).

Further information regarding the Lobbying Procurement Law policies of the Agency(ies) is available in the [Agencies’ Standard Clauses and Requirements for Solicitations](#), hyperlinked herein as Exhibit A.

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<sup>1</sup>Affiliate(s) shall mean the other agencies comprising New York State Homes and Community Renewal being the Housing Trust Fund Corporation.

# 1. Introduction

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[New York State Homes and Community Renewal](#) (“HCR”) consists of all the major housing and community renewal agencies of the State of New York (“State”), including the New York State Housing Finance Agency (“HFA”), State of New York Mortgage Agency (“SONYMA”), New York State Affordable Housing Corporation (“AHC”), State of New York Municipal Bond Bank Agency (“MBBA”) and Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation (“TSFC”) (individually and/or collectively, “Agency” or “Agency(ies)”). HCR includes other agencies (“Affiliates”) not involved in this request for proposals (“RFP”) process.

# 2. Purpose

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The New York State Housing Finance Agency, State of New York Mortgage Agency, New York State Affordable Housing Corporation, State of New York Municipal Bond Bank Agency and Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation seek proposals from qualified<sup>2</sup> independent certified public accounting firms (“Proposers” or “Firms”), registered to practice in the State to conduct financial audits of the Agencies and perform other related audit functions as more fully described in the Scope of Services section of this RFP.

The contract(s) resulting from this RFP process will be for a five-year term, with two two-year optional renewals and one one-year optional renewal, subject to approval by the Agencies’ Boards of Directors (“Boards”). Audit services for the initial five-year term will commence with the fiscal year ending October 31, 2025 for HFA, SONYMA, MBBA and TSFC, and March 31, 2026 for AHC.

Within 80 days of each Agency’s fiscal year end, final draft audits must be completed in order to present the required reports to the respective Board Members/Directors of each Agency.

Within 90 days of each Agency’s fiscal year end, financial and other reports must be filed on the New York State Public Authorities Reporting Information System (“PARIS”).

The Agencies are co-located and co-administered from their New York City (“NYC”) office. The Agencies also have offices in Albany and Buffalo. Currently, there are approximately 326 employees. All audit work shall be performed from the NYC location.

In general, although each Agency’s financial statements are included in the State’s annual financial statements, the Agencies are largely self-supporting, using funds generated through their operations to fund their expenses. The mission and operation of each Agency is further described below.

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<sup>2</sup> See “Minimum Qualifications” in section of this RFP.

### 3. Overview of the Agencies

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The Agencies are public benefit corporations of the State of New York, co-located and co-administered from their New York City (“NYC”) office.

More detailed information relating to the Agencies and their respective programs may be found at the [Agencies’ website](#), hyperlinked herein.

#### 3.1 New York State Housing Finance Agency

The [New York State Housing Finance Agency](#) is a public benefit corporation, created in 1960 by Article III of the New York State Private Housing Finance Law (“PVH”), to finance low- and moderate-income rental housing. HFA’s mission is to create and preserve high quality affordable multifamily rental housing that serves communities across the State of New York. To accomplish this mission, HFA issues taxable and tax-exempt bonds to provide mortgage loans to developers of affordable multifamily rental housing.

Today, HFA is one of the nation’s most prolific issuers of multifamily housing bonds. In 2023, as one of the primary issuers of municipal bonds for housing in the nation, HFA issued over \$1.03 billion of bonds to finance over 3,953 affordable units. HFA utilizes three financing tools to fund its projects: (i) fixed rate bonds for its all affordable projects funded under the Affordable Housing Revenue Bond Resolution; (ii) unrated private placements on a case by case basis; and (iii) variable rate demand bonds for its 80/20 developments. As part of its mission, the Agency looks to continuously explore new and innovative cost-effective financing techniques and efficiencies that can be implemented in its existing financing structures.

HFA receives federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) which are then distributed by HFA under the Section 8 and Section 236 Programs.

For further financial information, click on the following links to view [HFA’s Statutory Report for Fiscal Year 2023](#).

HFA’s fiscal reporting year commences on November 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on October 31<sup>st</sup> of each fiscal year.

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## 3.2 State of New York Mortgage Agency

The [State of New York Mortgage Agency](#) is a public benefit corporation, created in 1970 by Title 17, Section 2400 et. Seq of the New York State Public Authorities Law (“PBA”), to provide single-family homeownership opportunities for low- to moderate-income New Yorkers.

The Agency’s powers, as authorized under its statute, primarily include the power to purchase and make commitments to purchase mortgage loans on single family (one to four unit) housing and home improvement loans from certain lenders. This is accomplished by the Agency’s issuance of taxable and tax-exempt bonds and the use of proceeds to purchase low-interest rate mortgage loans. The Agency funds its mortgage lending activities through the issuance of bonds under two resolutions: (i) The Homeowner Mortgage Revenue Bond Resolution; and (ii) Mortgage Revenue Bond Resolution. The Agency is the only State issuer of single-family housing bonds.

SONYMA’s two primary lines of operations are its Single-Family Operations and its Mortgage Insurance Fund Operations. In its 2009 fiscal year end, SONYMA issued its first and only series of bonds to finance Student Loans. All bonds were paid off as of May 1, 2021.

### Single Family Operations

SONYMA is the State’s issuer of single-family housing bonds, and the nation’s largest issuer of single-family housing bonds. SONYMA has approximately \$2.9 billion of bonds outstanding in three bond resolutions. The Agency issued \$275 million in bonds during the fiscal year ending October 31, 2023. Over the last year, SONYMA has launched reduced interest rate programs to increase homeownership opportunities for veterans and low-income homebuyers. SONYMA continuously explores strategies to best accomplish its mission and meet its programmatic goals.

### Mortgage Insurance Funds Operations

The Mortgage Insurance Fund (“MIF”) has two lines of business. First, it provides insurance on multi-family housing projects, special needs facilities and other mortgage loans made by government entities and commercial lenders. Secondly, it also provides both pool and primary insurance on single family mortgages purchased by SONYMA.

As of October 31, 2023, the MIF had project commitments for 6,094 units with a total loan amount of \$563 million. The MIF had outstanding mortgage insurance policies of approximately \$1.9 billion as of October 31, 2023.

## Student Loan Program

On December 15, 2009, the Agency, doing business as the State of New York Higher Education Finance Authority, issued NYHELPS Education Loan Revenue Bonds, 2009 Series A, in the amount of \$97.7 million. The proceeds of these bonds were used to finance credit-based, fixed rate education loans, to or for the benefit of undergraduate and graduate students who attend participating institutions in the State. Because of low demand, there were no Student Loan purchases since May 1, 2012. All bonds were paid off as of May 1, 2021.

## Federal Programs

SONYMA distributes federal funds in accordance with grant agreements acting as a HUD approved intermediary.

For further financial information, click on the following link to view [SONYMA's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2023](#).

SONYMA'S fiscal reporting year commences on November 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on October 31<sup>st</sup> of each fiscal year.

### **3.3 New York State Affordable Housing Corporation**

The [New York State Affordable Housing Corporation](#) is a public benefit corporation established pursuant to §45-b of the PVH as a subsidiary of HFA. AHC creates homeownership opportunities for low and moderate-income families by providing grants to governmental, not-for-profit and charitable organizations to help subsidize the cost of newly constructed houses and the renovation of existing housing.

AHC administers the Affordable Home Ownership Development Program (“AHOD Program”) under PVH Article 19. Under the AHOD Program, AHC enters into contracts (“Grant Agreements”) with eligible applicants such as municipalities, not-for-profits, or charitable organizations (“Grantees”) for the purpose of distributing grants to certain projects (“AHC Projects”) for the acquisition, new construction, rehabilitation, or improvement of owner-occupied homes for low and moderate income persons.

The purpose of the AHOD Program is to promote homeownership by persons of low and moderate income, which, in turn, fosters the development, stabilization and preservation of neighborhoods and communities. To achieve these goals, the State appropriates funds in order for AHC to provide financial assistance in the form of grants, in conjunction with other private and public investments, for the construction, acquisition, rehabilitation and improvement of owner-occupied housing.

AHC works with its parent agency, HFA, and its sister agency, SONYMA, to increase homeownership opportunities.

The AHOD Program has been funded since 1985 by appropriations. For the 2023 - 2024 fiscal year, AHC's AHOD Program appropriation is \$40.5 million. AHC has awarded funds for several hundred AHC Projects throughout the State. To date, the AHOD Program has helped finance the acquisition, new construction, rehabilitation, or improvement of more than 50,000 dwelling units throughout the State.

For further financial information, click on the following link to view AHC's [2024 Financial Statements](#).

AHC's fiscal reporting year commences on April 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on March 31<sup>st</sup> of each fiscal year.

### **3.4 State of New York Municipal Bond Bank Agency**

The [State of New York Municipal Bond Bank Agency](#) was created in 1972 as a public benefit corporation pursuant to Article 8 of the PBA, as amended. MBBA's mission is to help municipalities gain access to the capital markets. MBBA has the authority to issue bonds, on an as-needed basis, and to use the proceeds to purchase bonds and notes issued by local governments to finance public improvements. The outstanding bonds as of October 31, 2023 amounted to approximately \$598 million.

For further financial information, click on the following link to view [MBBA's Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2023](#).

MBBA's fiscal reporting year commences on November 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on October 31<sup>st</sup> of each fiscal year.

### **3.5 Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation**

The [Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation](#) is a public benefit corporation, created in 2003 as a subsidiary of MBBA pursuant to the Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation Act, Chapter 62 of the Laws of 2003 (the "Act").

TSFC was established in order to securitize a portion of the tobacco settlement revenues received by the State on or after January 1, 2004 pursuant to the terms of the Master Settlement Agreement ("MSA") entered into in 1998 among New York State, other settling states and certain participating cigarette manufacturers in settlement of smoking-related litigation. Pursuant to the Act, TSFC was authorized to issue bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$4,200,000,000 (excluding costs of issuance and refunding bonds). TSFC's authority to issue bonds, other than



refunding bonds, expired on June 30, 2004. TSFC, in 2003, used up its new money bond authority through bond issuances in 2003. Since then, it issued refunding bonds in 2008, 2011, and 2013, respectively. In June 2017, all outstanding bonds were redeemed.

TSFC's fiscal reporting year commences on November 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on October 31<sup>st</sup> of each fiscal year.

For further financial information, click on the following link to view [TSFC's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2023](#).

## **4. Background – Accounting System of the Agencies**

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### **4.1 Accounting Systems of the Agencies**

The Agencies use an integrated accounting software from SAP called S/4HANA, which was put into service in Fiscal Year 2022. This system includes all the components of the prior system (i.e., the legacy system), such as the General Ledger, Expenditure Control System, Mortgage Billing System, Investment System, Budget System, and the Tax and Insurance System, as well as other sub-systems. This enterprise resource planning (“ERP”) system replaces the Agencies’ prior in-house developed systems and is supported by the manufacturer SAP.

The Agencies prepare three payrolls. The payroll function is currently serviced by Automatic Data Processing, Inc., an outside service vendor, but there are internal and State Systems that the Agencies rely on for benefits.

The Agencies prepare an annual budget for income and expenses and monitor the actual expenses with the prepared budget on a monthly basis.

### **4.2 Additional Accounting Systems for SONYMA**

In addition, the SONYMA accounting systems reside on network file servers running the Windows 10 operating system.

These systems include the following components which are proprietary and belong to Emphasys Computer Solutions, Inc.: (i) Mortgage Loan Tracking; (ii) Mortgage Loan Portfolio; (iii) Foreclosure; (iv) Bond Debt Service; and (v) Lender Online.

The SONYMA MIF system, maintained by Agency staff and originally developed by outside consultants, is composed of Microsoft Visual Basic programs and a Microsoft SQL Server Data Base.

These systems process (a) mortgage reservations and track mortgage commitments and policies, (b) premiums due and paid, (c) mortgage claims, and (d) mortgage arrears.

Visit the Agencies' website at <http://www.hcr.ny.gov> to learn more about each Agency's programs.

## **5. Assessment of Practices relating to Diversity and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business Enterprises (“SDVOBs”)**

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The Agency(ies) has/have determined, pursuant to New York State Executive Law Article 15-a (“Article 15-A”) and New York State Veterans’ Law Article 3 (“Article 3”), that the assessment of participation by minority-and/or women-owned business enterprises (“MWBEs”) (assessment of participation by MWBEs hereinafter referred to as “Diversity”) and SDVOB practices of Proposers responding to this RFP is practical, feasible, and appropriate.

### **5.1 Minority and/or Women Owned Business Enterprise Participation**

The Agency(ies) is/are committed to awarding contracts to firms that are dedicated to diversity and provide high-quality services. The Agency(ies) strongly encourage(s) firms that are certified by the State as MWBEs to submit responses to this RFP. All MWBE firms submitting proposals to this RFP should be registered as such with the State’s Empire State Development (“ESD”).

The Agency(ies) is/are required to implement the provisions of Article 15-A and 5 NYCRR Parts 142-144 (“MWBE Regulations”) for all Agency contracts, as defined therein, with a value in excess of \$25,000. For assistance identifying MWBE partners, review the [list of certified State MWBEs](#), hyperlinked herein.

For purposes of this solicitation, the Agency(ies) hereby establish(es) an overall goal of 30% of total contract expenditures for MWBE participation, 15% for minority-owned business enterprises (“MBEs”) and 15% for women-owned business enterprises (“WBEs”).

### **5.2 Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise Participation**

The Agency(ies) is/are committed to awarding contracts to SDVOBs that provide high-quality services. The Agency(ies) strongly encourage(s) firms that are certified as SDVOBs to submit responses to this RFP. All SDVOB firms submitting proposals to this RFP should be certified with the State’s Office of General Services (“OGS”).

The Agency(ies) is/are required to implement the provisions of Article 3 for all Agency contracts, as defined therein, with a value in excess of \$25,000. For assistance identifying SDVOB partners, review the [list of certified State SDVOBs](#), hyperlinked herein.

For purposes of this solicitation, the Agency(ies) hereby establish(es) a goal of 6% of total contract expenditures for SDVOB participation.

### **5.3 MWBE and SDVOB Partner/Subcontractor Interest**

MWBEs and SDVOBs certified in the State may request that their firm's contact information be included on a list of MWBE and SDVOB firms interested in serving as a subcontractor for this RFP. The listing will be publicly posted on the Agency's/Agencies' website for reference by the bidding community. A firm requesting inclusion on this list should send contact information and a copy of its MWBE certification and/or SDVOB certification to [ContractUnitInfo@hcr.ny.gov](mailto:ContractUnitInfo@hcr.ny.gov). Nothing prohibits an MWBE or a SDVOB firm from proposing as a prime contractor (i.e., a "Proposer").

## **6. Primary Contractor and Subcontractor(s) Team**

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Proposers may partner with other entities including, but not limited to, MWBEs and SDVOBs, to provide the Agency(ies) with the Scope of Work described in the Scope of Services section of this RFP. The successful Proposer must be the lead vendor ("Primary Contractor") that will serve as the legal contracting entity with which the Agency(ies) will enter into a contract. If the Proposal Submission includes the provision of independent audit services from any other participating vendors, it is understood that those vendors will serve as subcontractors to the Primary Contractor.

For purposes of evaluating Proposal Submissions and developing the intended agreement(s) between the Agency(ies) and the Primary Contractor, all contributions to the project from both the Primary Contractor and its subcontractor(s), including skills, attributes, and products, will be considered as the total proposal put forth by the Primary Contractor. All necessary communications will be directed to the Primary Contractor.

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## 7. Calendar of Events and Milestones

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It is anticipated that contract(s) resulting from this RFP process will be awarded based on the following schedule:

Event	Date
Issuance of Request for Proposals	February 12, 2025
<b>Deadline for RFP Questions</b>	<b>March 5, 2025, 12:00pm, Eastern Standard Time (“EST”)</b>
Deadline for Responses to RFP Questions	March <del>12</del> <sup>10</sup> , 2025
<b>Intent to Submit Proposal</b>	<b>March 10, 2025, 12:00pm, Eastern Daylight Standard Time (“EDST”)</b>
<b>Deadline for Submission of Proposals</b>	<b>March <del>17</del><sup>19</sup>, 2025, 12:00pm, EDST</b>
Interviews/Demonstrations (if necessary)	To Be Determined
Anticipated Selection Date*	June 2025

\*Subject to the approval of each Agency’s Board of Directors (“**Board**”).

The Agency(ies) reserve(s) the right to modify this schedule at it/their discretion. Notification of changes in connection with this RFP will be made available to all interested parties via the Agencies’/Agency’s web page at: <https://hcr.ny.gov/procurement-opportunities>.

## 8. Intent to Submit Proposal

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Proposers are strongly encouraged to complete an *Intent to Submit Proposal* form, attached hereto as Form A, and to submit the form via email to [ContractUnitInfo@hcr.ny.gov](mailto:ContractUnitInfo@hcr.ny.gov) with the subject line “*Intent to Submit Proposal – 2025 Independent Auditor RFP*”.

The submission of the Intent to Submit Proposal form, while encouraged, is not mandatory and, as such, is not binding in any way. Proposers that submit an Intent to Submit Proposal form will be added to HCR’s bidders’ list and will be notified of future related HCR solicitations.

## 9. Minimum Qualifications

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Proposer must provide evidence of the below requirements to meet the minimum qualification requirements for proposal to be considered.

- A. A statement affirming that Proposer:
- i. has a minimum of five (5) years of experience with audits of government housing finance agencies and/or not for profit agencies, in similar size and scope to that of the Agencies;
  - ii. employs certified public accountants properly licensed by the University of the State of New York and registered by the State Education Department or other applicable State regulatory agency;
  - iii. meets all required independence standards, including GAO Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities and Functions, the AICPA's Rules on Independence and those of any other applicable regulatory agencies;
  - iv. does NOT have a record of substandard work;
  - v. has a regional/national Audit and Assurance practice together with a listing of these offices; and
  - vi. has a valid ID in order to certify statements in the HUD Real Estate Settlement Assessment Center ("REAC") system.
- B. Provide a copy of membership evidencing that Proposer is a current member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA") for a minimum of five years as of proposal submission date.

## 10. Scope of Services ("Scope of Work")

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### 10.1 Qualifications and Experience

Qualified Proposer must have a minimum of five (5) years of experience with audits of government housing finance agencies and/or not for profit agencies, in similar size and scope to that of the Agencies and shall demonstrate familiarity with all relevant statutes, regulations, policies and industry standards affecting the Agencies' funding, and New York State public benefit corporations in general, including, but not limited to, requirements related to federal subsidies (including Section 8, Section 236, HERA, ARRA, and FHTF), those promulgated by the PBA,

PVH, United States Government Accounting Office, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”), and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

## **10.2 Scope of Work**

### **A. Audit Requirements**

The successful Proposer (referred to herein as “Auditor”) shall audit the individual financial statements of each of the Agencies beginning with the fiscal year ending October 31, 2025 for HFA, SONYMA, MBBA and TSFC (March 31, 2026 for AHC) in accordance with the requirements and deliverables further outlined below.

The audit shall be conducted for the purpose of expressing an opinion on each Agency’s basic financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America based on the audit. Audit procedures are to be applied to the management’s discussion and analysis and any other supplementary information required by GASB and any supplemental information presented in any of the Agencies’ Annual or Statutory Reports.

The Auditor shall perform Single Audits as required by any of the Agencies and issue the required reports thereon in compliance with Government Audit Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. As part of the Single Audit, the Auditor is required to have a valid IAA ID to access the online HUD REAC, in order to indicate the Opinion rendered in that system.

The Auditor shall review each Agency’s internal controls over financial reporting and perform such tests as are necessary to determine each Agency’s compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters, and shall issue reports thereon. The Auditor shall also issue individual reports to Agency management and to each Agency Board containing observations which the Auditor believes are of value to that Agency. The Auditor shall also perform those procedures required by the New York State Office of the State Comptroller (“OSC”) with respect to each Agency’s investment practices and issue a separate report for each Agency thereon. Those procedures are designed to determine whether each Agency has complied with OSC’s Investment Guidelines for Public Authorities.

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## B. Audit Deliverables

The Auditor shall provide the following reports:

- i. The Auditor shall issue individual reports relating to each of the five Agency's financial statements, rendering opinions thereon. Within 80 days of each Agency's fiscal year end, final draft audits must be completed in order to present the required reports to the respective Board Members/Directors of each Agency. Within 90 days of each Agency's fiscal year end, the final financial and other reports (including the Independent Auditors' Reports) must be filed on PARIS.
- ii. The Auditor shall issue specific Single Audit reports, as required, for HFA and SONYMA, relating to the expenditure of federal funds within the time-frames required by HUD.
- iii. For each Agency, the Auditor is required to issue an investment report relating to "[Investment Guidelines for Public Authorities](#)" issued by the State, OSC and the investment guidelines established by the Agencies. The investment reports must be presented to each respective Board together with the Independent Auditor's Reports.
- iv. The Auditor shall issue a "Report to Management" covering each individual Agency which will contain observations that the Auditor believes are of value to the Agencies.
- v. The Auditor shall issue a report on the supplementary financial information for HFA.
- vi. SONYMA's independent Auditor will be required, as part of its engagement with SONYMA, to provide "Agreed Upon Procedures" letters in connection with certain financial and programmatic information included in Preliminary and Final Official Statements issued by SONYMA in connection with its bond issues. Due to the uncertainty in the timing of these bond issues, a newly selected independent Auditor may be required to provide an Agreed Upon Procedures letter concerning financial information included in SONYMA's most recent audited financial statements, which financial statements may have been certified by a prior independent Auditor. If selected as Independent Auditor, the Auditor must be able to provide such a letter.
- vii. The Auditor shall meet with the Agencies' Chairman and the respective Agency Audit Committees/Boards as necessary. The Auditor must be present at the annual January Board and Audit Committee meetings (June for AHC) in which the financial statements are presented to the Audit Committees for their approval, and at the audit planning meeting in September. At those meetings, the Auditor will present any required communication. In addition, Auditor lead Board Training meetings will take place at least once per year.

- viii. The Auditor shall provide staff training relating to new GASB pronouncements.
- ix. The Auditor will be required to send a senior representative of the firm to the Agencies' combined Board meetings to report on the audit.

## 11. Questions and Answers

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Any questions or requests for clarification regarding this RFP must be submitted by way of email to [contractunitinfo@hcr.ny.gov](mailto:contractunitinfo@hcr.ny.gov) no later than the date identified in the “*Calendar of Events and Milestone*” section of this RFP. The “Subject” line of the email should indicate “2025 Independent Auditor Questions.”

Questions will not be accepted orally and any question received after the deadline may not be answered. The list of questions/requests for clarifications and the official Agency responses will be posted in a timely manner on [HCR's Procurement Opportunities" webpage](#).

Proposers should note that all clarifications and exceptions are to be resolved prior to submission of the proposal.

An electronic version of this RFP will be posted on HCR's website in addition to any subsequent changes, additions or deletions to the RFP, including the timelines and target dates. Proposers are encouraged to check HCR's website frequently for notices of any clarifications, changes, additions or deletions to the RFP.

## 12. Amendments and Addenda

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The Agency(ies) reserve(s) the right to modify any part of this RFP including, but not limited to, the date and time by which proposals must be submitted and received by the Agency(ies), at any time prior to the Deadline for Submission of Proposals date listed in the “*Calendar of Events and Milestones*” section of this RFP. Modifications to this RFP will be made by issuance of amendments and/or addenda. Any amendment or addendum to this RFP will become part of this RFP.

Prior to the Deadline for Submission of proposals' date, any such clarifications or modifications as deemed necessary will be posted to [HCR's website](#).



If the Proposer discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in this RFP, the Proposer will immediately notify the Agency(ies) of such error in writing and request clarification or modification of the document.

There are no designated dates for release of addenda; therefore, interested Proposers should check the Agency's/Agencies' website frequently through the Deadline for Submission of Proposals' date. It is the sole responsibility of the Proposer to be knowledgeable of all addenda related to this RFP process.

## 13. Contract

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The contract(s) resulting from this RFP process will be to provide the Agency/Agencies with Independent Auditor Services for a five-year period with two optional two-year renewals and one optional one-year renewal, subject to approval by the Agencies' respective Boards. The Agency/Agencies, at it/their discretion, may exercise its/their option to modify any provision in the contract including, but not limited to, the scope of services and compensation, on an as needed basis, with the mutual written consent of the contracting parties. Any contract that exceeds a five-year period will require the affirmative concurrence of the Agencies' respective Boards to extend the term of the contract beyond a five-year period without undergoing a new solicitation process.

The successful Proposer(s) will be required to execute a contract with the Agency/Agencies that incorporates the Agencies' [Standard Clauses for Contracts](#) and [MWBE Participation Requirements and Procedures for Contracts](#), hyperlinked herein as Appendices I and II, respectively.

## 14. Proposal Requirements

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A complete proposal for this RFP is comprised of five (5) separate tabs: (i) Tab One: Proposal Cover Sheet, Cover Letter and Proposal Certification; (ii) Tab Two: Technical Proposal; (iii) Tab Three: Cost Proposal; (iv) Tab Four: Administrative Proposal; and (v) Tab Five: EEO, Diversity and SDVOB Proposal.

The Proposal must be complete and prepared in the format consistent with the instructions provided in this RFP. In all instances, the Agency's/Agencies' determination regarding a proposal will be final. Proposals not organized in the manner prescribed in this RFP may be considered non-responsive at the Agency's/Agencies' sole discretion. Proposers should not refer to other parts of the proposal, to information that may be publicly available elsewhere, or to the Proposer's or other websites in lieu of answering a specific question.

## 15. Contents of Proposals

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The Proposer must submit a proposal that clearly provides all the information required in this RFP. Emphasis should be made on conformance to the RFP instructions, responsiveness to the RFP requirements, and clarity of content. The Proposer is advised to thoroughly read and follow all instructions contained in this RFP. Proposals that do not comply with these instructions, or do not meet the full intent of all the requirements of this RFP may be subject to scoring reductions during the evaluation process or may be deemed non-responsive.

The Agency(ies) does/do not require, nor desire, any promotional material that does not specifically address the proposal requirements in this RFP.

The proposal should demonstrate that the Proposer is qualified to perform the Scope of Work based upon prior relevant professional experience and credentials, if any.

The completed proposal will include Tabs One through Five, as described in the Proposal Submission Requirements section of this RFP. Each Tab must be electronically bookmarked as “Tab 1,” “Tab 2,” “Tab 3,” “Tab 4,” and “Tab 5,” and must be presented in the exact order requested in this RFP. A proposal that does not include all required information and completed forms may be subject to rejection.

The Proposer’s proposal must contain responses to the items listed below.

### **15.1 TAB 1: Proposal Coversheet, Cover Letter and Proposal Certification**

The Proposer shall submit, as part of its Proposal Submission, the Proposal Coversheet, Cover Letter and Proposal Submission Certification (collectively titled as “Attachment I” of Tab 1) as outlined in this RFP

#### **15.1.1 Proposal Coversheet**

The Proposer shall complete and submit a Proposal Coversheet which contains identifying information for the firm. The Coversheet must be submitted utilizing the template provided in Attachment I.

#### **15.1.2 Cover Letter with Executive Summary (3 pages)**

The Proposer’s Cover Letter must (i) be on Proposer letterhead, (ii) not exceed three (3) pages, and (iii) include the following items:

1. The Proposer's name, address, telephone number, fax number, email address and web site address, if applicable;
2. The names, titles, telephone numbers, fax numbers, and email addresses of the principals and the individual(s) within the Proposer's organization who will be the Agency's/Agencies' primary contact concerning the proposal;
3. A summary of the Proposer's organizational history and legal structure (*e.g. corporation, State of incorporation, authority to do business in the State of New York, evidence of MWBE and/or SDVOB certification status, etc.*);
4. The location of the Proposer's main business office. If there are other locations of the Proposer that may be involved in future transactions, identify those other locations and include names/telephone numbers/fax numbers/email addresses of contact persons in those locations;
5. A statement affirming the number of years that the Proposer or its principals have provided similar Independent Auditor Services to those described in the Scope of Work section of the RFP; **AND** indicate at least three engagements completed within the past five years (*excluding engagements provided for the Agencies*), comparable in nature, to the Independent Auditor described in the Scope of Work section of this RFP;
6. The name(s) of the primary staff who will provide services to the Agencies; and
7. Include responses to the items requested in the Minimum Qualifications section of this RFP.

### **15.1.3 Proposal Certification**

Proposer shall complete and submit with their Proposal Submission a signed certification ("Proposal Certification") which affirms that the information contained in the proposal is true and accurate and that the person signing the Proposal Certification is authorized to submit the proposal on behalf of the Proposer. The Proposal Certification must be submitted utilizing the template provided in Attachment I of Tab 1.

## **15.2 TAB 2: Technical Proposal**

This section of the RFP provides instructions to Proposers regarding information that is to be included in the Technical Proposal. The content in Tab 2 is limited to ten (10) letter-size pages, double spaced, minimum 12-point font, and at least one-inch margins. The ten-page limit in Tab 2 does not include resumes, references, organizational chart, etc. Proposal documents must be complete, factual and as detailed as necessary to allow the Agency/Agencies to adequately

evaluate capabilities and experience for the Independent Auditor Services required under the contract(s) awarded to the successful Proposer(s).

The purpose of the Technical Proposal is to provide the Proposer an opportunity to demonstrate its qualifications, competence and capacity to undertake the Scope of Work described in the Scope of Services section of this RFP, in a manner which complies with the requirements in this RFP.

The Agency/Agencies is/are seeking evidence of Proposer's experience in providing the Independent Auditor Services described in the Scope of Work section of this RFP. Proposals must specifically detail a Proposer's qualifications and experience in providing services sought by the Agencies. Please provide the items indicated below.

1. **COMPANY BACKGROUND.** A brief description of Proposer's qualifications and capacity to serve as the Auditor for the Agencies that includes:
  - a) A brief description of your firm and its organizational structure, including its ownership, size and location of offices from which work will be performed;
  - b) A brief description of the range of activities performed by Proposer including specific references to engagements similar in size and scope to that of the Agencies, especially with respect to the volume of transactions and comparable funding;
  - c) A profile of the audit staff for this engagement including detailed resumes with relevant experience of the partner(s), management staff and associates who would be assigned to manage and complete the engagement;
  - d) Proposer's participation in training and continuing professional education in auditing governmental programs;
  - e) A description of the Proposer's quality control procedures, and review and supervisory procedures;
  - f) Discuss the results of Proposer's internal and independent quality control reviews, including information on peer review;
  - g) Specific experience, if any, with the Agencies' Accounting Systems' software or similar software as described in this RFP and provide contact information for references. Experience must be specific as to whether gained through clients, continuing education, seminars or other sources;

- h) Proposer's information technology capabilities and a description of how such capabilities will support the audit effort;
- i) Discussion of your Firm's presence in New York State including any offices maintained in the State, the number of staff employed in the State and the number of staff covering the Agencies who are employed in the State;
- j) Describe the Proposer's corporate citizenship and commitment to New York State, including local procurement of goods and services, development or participation in internship programs or scholarships and corporate philanthropy;
- k) Provide a list and description of any proceedings against Proposer, pending or contemplated by any governmental agencies or oversight body, such as the NYS Education Department – Office of the Professions, AICPA, IRS, Stockholders' Group, Trustee, or entity including, but not limited to, any pending or anticipated proceedings or rule or order relating to a violation or alleged violation by Proposer of any federal or state statute or regulation that could have an adverse material impact on the Proposer's ability to successfully perform the Agencies' audits. Provide a listing of all sanctions and/or fines imposed on Proposer during the last 24 months in connection with any proceedings of the types described in the proceeding sentence. Also, provide the Agencies with a list and description of any pending or anticipated proceedings by private parties against Proposer (individually or in the aggregate) that Proposer has determined may have a material adverse impact on the current financial status or operations of Proposer;
- l) Disclose any existing or contemplated relationship with any other person or entity, including relationships with any parent, subsidiary or affiliated firm, which would constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety, relating to other clients/customers of the Proposer or former officers and employees of the Agencies, in connection with your rendering services enumerated in this RFP. If a conflict does or might exist, please describe how your Firm would eliminate or prevent it. Indicate what procedures will be followed to detect, notify the Agencies of, and resolve any such conflicts; and
- m) Disclose whether the Firm, or any of its members discussed in paragraph (l) above, has been the subject of any investigation or disciplinary action by the New York State Commission on Public Integrity or its predecessor State entities (collectively, "Commission"), and if so, a brief description must be included indicating how any matter before the Commission was resolved or whether it remains unresolved.

2. EXPERIENCE AND PERFORMANCE. Proposer to demonstrate its experience to perform the scope of services described in the Scope of Services section in this RFP as indicated below.
- (a) Describe your Firm's experience and familiarity with all relevant statutes, regulations, policies and industry standards affecting the Agencies' funding, and New York State public benefit corporations in general, including, but not limited to, requirements related to federal subsidies (including Section 8, Section 236, HERA and ARRA), those promulgated by the PBA, PVH, United States Government Accounting Office, GASB, and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. References must be specific.
  - (b) Describe your Firm's capacity to conduct audits of government housing finance agency and/or not for profit agency entities similar in magnitude to the Agencies, and its experience of at least five (5) years with audits of these entities.
  - (c) Include a list of clients for whom you currently provide, and have previously provided, similar auditing services as described in this RFP, especially multi-family finance agencies and State agencies along with a description of the type of engagements. Include references that may be contacted, with contact information, with respect to your work on these matters. The reference contract information should include an individual of the client that can speak with authority as to work performed for the client.
  - (d) Describe your Firm's experience with governmental housing finance agencies, public authorities, or state tobacco finance agencies.
  - (e) Describe your Firm's experience with federal single audits issued under OMB Circular-A133 and HUD REAC filings.
  - (f) Describe your Firm's experience in providing Agreed Upon Procedures' Letters for tax-exempt bond issues. As discussed in Section VIII.B., confirm whether your Firm, if selected as the successful Proposer, would be able to provide an Agreed Upon Procedures letter for financial statements certified by a prior independent auditor.
  - (g) Demonstrate your Firm's experience and familiarity with the requirements of GASB No. 45 (*Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*) requirements. Provide specific experience through engagements of the review of OPEB valuation reports for the purpose of meeting financial statement disclosure requirements.

- (h) Demonstrate your Firm's experience conducting audits involving derivative instruments and its familiarity with GASB No. 53 (*Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments*).
- (i) Demonstrate your Firm's familiar with other current GASB requirements which may affect one or more of the Agencies, including GASB No. 54 (*Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*) and GASB No. 68 (*Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*).
- (j) Discuss a general outline of your auditing approach. Include any special expertise that your Firm will bring to this engagement. Demonstrate your Firm's ability to provide all of the deliverables within the timetable described herein, in accordance with your Firm's auditing approach.
- (k) If your Firm has served as an auditor for the Agency, discuss your Firm's audit performance. If your Firm has not served as an auditor for any of the Agencies, discuss your audit performance with respect to a similar governmental housing finance agency, public authority or not for profit agency.
- (l) Include the nature and amount of assistance your Firm expects from the Agencies for the timely completion of the audits, including availability of Agency staff during other than normal business hours, if any. The Agencies recognize their obligation to prepare the financial statements.
- (m) Provide a summary of comparable engagements, either as a lead or supporting firm, including a brief description of how three (3) of these experiences are relevant or complementary to the Scope of Work described in this RFP.
- (n) Describe the experience of key personnel, including lead and supporting staff, responsible for performing work under a contract(s) with the Agencies. Attach a copy of the proposed organizational chart together with resumes, titles and contact information for all key and supporting staff. The information required herein must also be provided for any subcontractors or partners.
- (o) Provide a minimum of three (3) references for the Proposer and at least two references for any subcontractors or partners. Each reference should include the name, title, telephone number, and email address for each contact person and each company. Attach a brief summary of the relationship between the reference and the Proposer. The reference contract information should include an individual of the client that can speak with authority as to work performed for the client.

The Agencies are not responsible for the degree of or lack of responsiveness of the references listed by a Proposer, subcontractor or partner. The Agencies are not required to alert Proposers about a reference's unresponsiveness during the evaluation of a proposal.

### **15.3 TAB 3: Cost Proposal**

Tab 3 is comprised of the Cost Proposal for this RFP. A Proposer must complete the Cost Proposal [hyperlinked hereto as Form B](#). Annual costs should be inclusive of all out-of-pocket expenses. If there are additional fees for deliverables not included in the Scope of Services section of the RFP that Auditor wishes to provide, please include fees and a description of fees in a separate attachment. The Agencies' reserve the right to negotiate costs with Proposers.

### **15.4 TAB 4: Administrative Proposal**

Proposers are subject to the requirements indicated in the Agencies' [Standard Clauses and Requirements for Solicitations](#), hyperlinked herein as Exhibit A. Such requirements include, but are not limited to, submission of the following information and forms: (a) [Vendor Information FORM](#); (b) [Lobbying Procurement Law FORM 1](#) and [Lobbying Procurement Law FORM 2](#); (c) [Non-Collusive Bidding Certification FORM](#); (d) [Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire for For-Profit Business Entity](#) OR [Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire for Not-For-Profit Entity](#); (e) [Vendor Assurance of No Conflict of Interest and Detrimental Effect](#); and (f) [Executive Order #16 – Prohibiting Contracting with Businesses Conducting Business in Russia](#).

In addition to completion of the forms hyperlinked in the paragraph above, Proposers must provide all other information indicated in this section for TAB 4.

#### **15.4.1 Insurance Requirements**

The following requirements may be subject to change and negotiation with the successful Proposer/Bidder. Where the Proposer/Bidder is proposing insurance coverage that deviates from the requirements below, please provide an explanation in the Bid Proposal for why the coverage proposed is sufficient.

The successful Proposer (“**Contractor**”) and its subcontractors, if any, are required to provide and maintain, at its (their) sole cost and expense, the required insurance coverage, issued on an occurrence basis<sup>3</sup>, at the minimum limits specified herein during the term of the contract and for two (2) years after completion of work. All required insurance policies shall be maintained with

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<sup>3</sup> Occurrence basis are insurance policies under which all Claims occurring during the period of the policy are covered, irrespective of when the Claim is made.



insurance companies licensed within the State of New York and holding an AM Best rating of no less than A- VIII. Said policies shall contain a provision that coverage will not be canceled, non-renewed or materially changed, until at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice has been provided to the Agencies. The Agencies and their Affiliated Agencies<sup>4</sup> and any and all other parties-in-interest as the Agencies may designate in writing from time to time (collectively, the "Additional Insureds"), all as their interests may appear, shall be named as additional insureds. Contractor (*and its subcontractors, if any*) agrees to have included in each of the above policies for Contractor's Parties<sup>5</sup>, a waiver of the insurer's right of subrogation against the Additional Insureds. The Agencies reserve the right to set minimum insurance limits in any subcontracting agreement between the Contractor and its subcontractor(s), if any.

The Contractor (*and its subcontractors, if any*) shall furnish to the Agencies evidence of the insurance requirements indicated below prior to execution of awarded Agreement. The Agencies reserve the right to modify these insurance requirements.

1. Workers' Compensation Documentation. The successful Proposer will be required to provide the Agencies with written evidence of their workers' compensation insurance coverage utilizing ONE of the following forms:

- ✓ **Form C-105.2** – Certificate of Workers' Compensation Insurance issued by private insurance carriers; **OR**
- ✓ **Form U-26.3** issued by the State Insurance Fund; **OR**
- ✓ **Form SI-124** – Certificate of Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance; **OR**
- ✓ **Form GSI-105.2** - Certificate of Participation in Workers' Compensation Group Self- Insurance; **OR**
- ✓ **CE-2006** – Certificate of Attestation of Exemption from NYS Workers' Compensation and/or Disability Benefits Coverage.

2. Disability Benefits Documentation. The successful Proposer will be required to provide the Agencies with written evidence of disability benefits insurance coverage utilizing ONE of the following forms:

- ✓ **Form DB-120.1** - Certificate of Disability Benefits Insurance; **OR**
- ✓ **Form DB-155** - Certificate of Disability Benefits Self-Insurance; **OR**
- ✓ **CE-200** – Certificate of Attestation of Exemption from New York State Workers' Compensation and/or Disability Benefits Coverage.

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<sup>4</sup> Affiliated Agencies shall mean the agencies comprising New York State Homes and Community Renewal that are not parties to the contract resulting from this RFP process.

<sup>5</sup> Contractor's Parties shall mean Contractor and those working on its behalf including, but not limited to, subcontractors and vendors.

3. Professional Errors and Omissions Liability – Errors and Omissions (*or Professional Liability*) insurance with limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) in the general aggregate. The coverage must include the following:
- Insure loss arising from any claim or claims made arising out of the scope of services during the policy period by reason of any covered error, omission or negligent act committed in the conduct of the insured’s professional business during the policy period;
  - If coverage is written on a claims-made policy, the Contractor warrants that any applicable retroactive date precedes the start of work; and that continuous coverage will be maintained, or an extended discovery period exercised, throughout the performance of the services and for a period of not less than three years from the time work under the Contract resulting from this RFP process is completed; Written proof of this extended reporting period must be provided to the Agency prior to the policy’s expiration or cancellation; and
  - The policy shall cover professional misconduct or lack of ordinary skill for the positions defined in the scope of services of the Contract resulting from this RFP process.

This policy requirement applies to both primary and excess liability policies, as applicable.

4. Data Breach and Privacy/Cyber Liability Insurance, which shall include individual limits of not less than One Million Dollars U.S. Dollar (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and Five Million Dollars U.S. Dollars (\$5,000,000) in the general aggregate. Such coverage shall include failure to protect confidential information and failure of the security of the Primary Contractor’s computer systems or the users of the Agency’s/Agencies’ systems due to the actions of the Primary Contractor that result in unauthorized access to the Agency’s/Agencies’ users or their data. Said insurance shall provide coverage for damages arising from, but not limited to, the following: 1) breach of duty to protect the security and confidentiality of nonpublic proprietary corporate information; 2) personally identifiable nonpublic information (e.g., medical, financial, or personal in nature in electronic or non-electronic form); 3) privacy notification costs; 4) regulatory defense and penalties; 5) website media liability; and 6) cybertheft of customer’s property including, but not limited to, money and securities. If the policy is written on a claims-made basis, Primary Contractor must submit to the Agency(ies) an Endorsement providing proof that the policy provides the option to purchase an Extended Reporting Period (tail coverage) providing coverage for no less than one year after work is completed if coverage is cancelled or not renewed. This requirement applies to both primary and excess liability policies, as applicable.

Certificates of Insurance, presented on Acord form 25, accompanied with additional insured endorsement CG2010 (1001) and CG2037 (0704), if determined it is necessary, or, if acceptable to the Agencies, their equivalent, shall be delivered to the Agencies, prior to beginning the Scope of Work, evidencing the coverage required hereunder and showing all such coverages as noted above being in force. All insurance policies provided by the Contractor's Parties shall be maintained under terms and conditions reasonably satisfactory to the Agencies, and Contractor's Parties shall provide such other insurance coverage as the Agencies may reasonably request from time to time. The Agencies will not accept any exculpatory language such as "endeavor to" and "but failure to do so shall impose no obligation or liability of any kind upon the insurer, its agents or representatives" on the Certificate of Insurance, i.e., the certificates shall meet the insurance requirements above.

For additional information regarding workers' compensation and disability benefits requirements, please refer to [www.wcb.ny.gov](http://www.wcb.ny.gov).

In the event, any insurance coverage is cancelled, the Agencies must be notified immediately.

5. In addition to the foregoing, Contractor and any subcontractors, if any, shall procure and maintain any and all insurance which is required by any applicable current or future law, rule, regulation, ordinance, permit, license, order or other legal requirement.
6. All insurance shall be primary and non-contributory and shall waive subrogation against the Agencies and all of either of their former, current, or future officers, directors, and employees. No deductible of more than \$50,000 shall be permitted without advance written approval by the Agencies, which the Agencies may withhold, condition or deny in their sole and exclusive discretion.
7. The Contractor shall provide Certificates of Insurance to the Agencies prior to the commencement of work and shall provide full and complete copies of the actual policies and all endorsements upon request. Subcontractors, if any, shall be required to maintain insurance meeting all of the requirements set forth above for items 1-4; however, Contractor shall require subcontractors, if any, to maintain greater limits and/or other or additional insurance coverages if greater limits and/or other or additional insurance coverages are (a) generally imposed by the Contractor given its normal course of business for subcontracts for similar work or services to those being provided by the subcontractor at issue; or (b) reasonable and customary in the industry for similar work or services to those anticipated hereunder.

### 15.4.2 Financial Capacity

The Proposer must provide the last two years of their firm's most recent tax returns or, if available, audited financial statements.

### 15.4.3 Licenses, Certifications and other Credentials

The Proposer must respond affirmatively that it, and its subcontractors (if any), will have, prior to commencement of work under the contract(s) resulting from this RFP, all necessary licenses, certifications, approvals, and other needed credentials to perform the Scope of Work in the RFP, if applicable.

## 15.5 TAB 5: EEO, Diversity and SDVOB Proposal

For Tab 5, submission of the following information and forms, hyperlinked herein, is required: (a) [EEO Staffing Plan, PROC-1](#); (b) [Utilization Plan, PROC-2](#); [MWBE & EEO Policy Statement, PROC-4](#); (c) [Company Demographic Profile PROC-7](#); (d) [EEOC Statement, PROC-8](#), applicable to Proposers with 15 or more employees; and (e) [Diversity Practices Questionnaire, PROC-9](#).

## 16. Proposal Submission Requirements

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Proposals must be delivered, by email, no later than the proposal due date and time indicated in the “*Calendar of Events and Milestones*” section of this RFP.

Proposals must be submitted by email to [Nyhomes.proposal@hcr.ny.gov](mailto:Nyhomes.proposal@hcr.ny.gov) in searchable portable document format (“**PDF**”) compatible with Adobe Reader XI. The Agencies will not accept discs, flash drives, or FTP file references that require the Agencies to download information from the Proposer's or a third party's site.

The proposal must be bookmarked and divided into five parts: (i) Tab One: Proposal Cover Sheet, Cover Letter and Proposal Certification; (ii) Tab Two: Technical Proposal; (iii) Tab Three: Cost Proposal; (iv) Tab Four: Administrative Proposal; and (v) Tab Five: EEO, Diversity and SDVOB Proposal. Proposals must be sent in two emails and labeled as follows: (a) one email to include Tabs One, Two and Three and the subject line of the email must be labeled: “2025 Independent Auditor Services RFP: Tabs 1, 2 and 3”; and (b) the other email must include Tabs Four and Five and the subject line of the email must be labeled “2025 Independent Auditor Services: Tabs 4 and 5”.

Any proposal delivered after the date and time designated as the proposal submission deadline listed in the “*Calendar of Events and Milestones*” section of this RFP may be deemed ineligible. It is the Proposer's sole responsibility to ensure that all emails and attachments are delivered on time in a legible format. Proposers assume all risk for proposal delivery.

A proposal may be deemed to be non-responsive because it is materially incomplete. The Agencies reserve the right to seek clarification or request additional information.

The determination of whether any proposal is complete or was received on time is at the sole discretion of the Agencies.

All submitted proposals shall become the property of the Agencies.

## **17. Evaluation of Proposals and Selection**

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The Agencies reserve the right to reject all proposals received after the RFP due date and time. All proposals will be reviewed to determine if they contain all required submittals specified in this RFP. Incomplete proposals may be rejected.

### **17.1 Evaluation and Criteria for Selection**

The evaluation process will begin with the review and evaluation of each of the written proposals. The purpose of the evaluation is two-fold: (1) to examine the responses for compliance with the requirements of this RFP; and (2) to identify the complying firm(s) that have the highest probability of satisfactorily performing the Scope of Work, described herein. The evaluation will be conducted in a comprehensive and impartial manner as set forth herein.

Proposals will undergo an evaluation process conducted by the Agencies' committee ("Committee"). The Committee will evaluate proposals based on the qualifications of both the firm and its current personnel utilizing the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated ability and capacity to perform the types of services which have been described herein;
2. Expertise, experience and availability of the Proposer to provide the Agency(ies) with the services described in the Scope of Services section of this RFP;
3. The price for the firm's services;
4. Maintenance of an office in the State of New York;
5. Diversity and commitment to equal employment opportunity and MWBE and SDVOB participation/programs;
6. Avoidance of any potential conflict of interests or appearance of impropriety and policies designed to ensure the avoidance of such conflicts in the future;
7. Financial stability;
8. Overall completeness of all information provided in the proposal; and
9. Interviews to clarify or expand on the responses (*to be conducted at the Agencies' discretion*).

## **17.2 Scoring of Written Proposals**

### **17.2.1 Technical Proposal Evaluation – 65 Points**

The Agency(ies)' Committee will independently score each Technical Proposal to identify Proposers with the highest probability of satisfactorily providing the services described in the Scope of Services of this RFP. Evaluations will be based on the Proposer's demonstration of its ability to provide the services required through its Technical Proposal.

### **17.2.2 Cost Proposal – 25 Points**

The Agency(ies)' Committee will independently score each Cost Proposal for cost reasonableness.

### **17.2.3 MWBE Scoring – 10 Points**

The Agencies' Department of Empowerment, Compliance and Opportunity ("DECO") will examine the MWBE/SDVOB documents and review them for responsiveness to MWBE/SDVOB requirements. Proposals that have identified MBEs, WBEs, MWBEs or SDVOBs as the Proposer to meet the Scope of Services are eligible to receive five (5) percentage points.

All proposals are eligible to receive up to five (5) percentage points if the Proposer's Staffing Plan demonstrates that a majority of its staff are comprised of minority, women or disabled veterans.

## **17.3 Interviews**

The Agencies reserve the right to determine whether interviews will be necessary. If the Agencies deem interviews necessary, the three highest ranking firms selected will be notified. The Proposer's primary staff person who would be responsible for the Agencies' relationship with the Proposer, as well as other key personnel proposed to provide services, including its subcontractor's primary staff person, if any, must be present and participate in the interview. The purpose of the interview is to further document the Proposer's ability to provide the required services, and to impart to the Agency Committee an understanding of how specific services will be furnished. The interview will be evaluated on the basis of whether it substantiates the characteristics and attributes claimed by the Proposer in its written response to this RFP and any other information requested by the Committee prior to the interview.

The Agencies reserve the right to negotiate or hold discussions with any Proposer.

Final selection will be based upon the above factors, as well as the interview performance. The final selection will be a "best value" selection.

## **17.4 Selection and Notification Process**

The selected Proposer(s) will be notified via U.S. mail or email. Proposers who are not selected will be notified of the Agencies' determination via U.S. mail or email.

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# FORM A: Intent to Submit Proposal Form

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## Intent to Submit Proposal Form

New York State Housing Finance Agency  
State of New York Mortgage Agency  
New York State Affordable Housing Corporation,  
State of New York Municipal Bond Bank Agency  
Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation

### Request for Proposals for 2025 Independent Auditor Services

This is to notify you that it is our present intent to **submit** a proposal in response to the above-referenced RFP and to acknowledge that we have read the list of experience required to meet the minimum qualifications set forth in the Scope of Services section of the RFP.

The individual to whom all information regarding this RFP should be transmitted is:

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name and \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, & \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Fax Number:

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized \_\_\_\_\_

Signature:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Number  
Fax Number

Email completed Intent to Submit Bid form to:

[ContractUnitInfo@hcr.ny.gov](mailto:ContractUnitInfo@hcr.ny.gov)



## **FORM B: Cost Proposal**

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The cost proposal may be downloaded at the following hyperlink: [Cost Proposal- Form B](#)

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## Attachment A: Proposal Checklist

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### CHECKLIST FOR VARIOUS REQUIRED FORM RELATED ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED:

- Tab 1 - Proposal Coversheet, Cover Letter and Certification, Attachment I
  
- Tab 2 – Technical Proposal
  
- Tab 3 – Cost Proposal, [Form B hyperlinked herein](#)
  
- Tab 4 - Administrative Proposal
  - [Vendor Information Form](#)
  - [Lobbying Reform Law Form 1](#)
  - [Lobbying Reform Law Form 2](#)
  - [Non-Collusive Bidding Certification Form](#)
  - Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire for [For- Profit Business Entity](#) OR [Not-For-Profit Business Entity](#)
  - [Vendor Assurance of No Conflict of Interest and Detrimental Effect](#)
  - [Executive Order #16 – Prohibiting Contracting with Businesses Conducting Business in Russia](#)
  - Proposer’s most recent two years of financial statements or federal tax returns
  - Evidence of Insurance (required upon contract award)
  - [W-9 Form](#) (required upon contract award)
  
- Tab 5 - Diversity and SDVOB Proposal
  - [EEO Staffing Plan, PROC-1](#)
  - [Utilization Plan, PROC-2](#)
  
  - [MWBE & EEO Policy Statement, PROC-4](#)
  - [Company Demographic Profile, PROC-7](#)
  - [EEOC Statement, PROC-8](#)
  - [Diversity Practices Questionnaire, PROC-9](#)

### **Policies, Standard Clauses and Requirements**

- [Standard Clauses and Requirements for Solicitations, Exhibit A](#)
- [Standard Clauses for Contracts, Appendix I](#)
- [MWBE Participation Requirements and Procedures for Contracts](#), hyperlinked herein as Appendix II.

# Attachment I

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## *Proposal Coversheet*

*Attach this form to the top of your Proposal Submission.*

***ALL PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE ELECTRONICALLY MAILED TO THE E-MAIL ADDRESS SPECIFIED IN THE PROPOSAL SUBMISION INSTRUCTION SECTION OF THE RFP.***

**APPLYING FOR: 2025 Independent Auditor Services**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION ON FIRM:**

Legal Name of Firm:

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Firm's Mailing Address:

---

Firm's Website:

---

Firm's Main Telephone Number (including area code):

---

Federal Tax ID Number:

---

Data Universal Numbering System Number (DUNS) (if applicable):

---

SEC Registration Number (if applicable):

---

Statewide Financial System (SFS) Vendor ID Number (if applicable):

---

MWBE Registration Number (if applicable):

---

Indicate name(s) of MWBE subcontractor(s) (if applicable):

---

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB) Control / Registration Number (if applicable):

---

Indicate name(s) of SDVOB subcontractor(s) (if applicable):

---

**MAIN CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPOSAL:**

Please list the individual that will be the main contact *regarding this proposal*:

Contact Name:

---

Contact Telephone Number (including area code):

---

Contact E-mail Address:

---

Contact Facsimile Number (including area code):

---

**PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE:**

Please list the primary staff person(s) who will provide services to the Agency. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Contact Name:

---

Contact Telephone Number (including area code)

---

**ADDITIONAL CONTACTS (if applicable):**

Contact Name:

---

Contact Telephone Number (including area code):

---

Contact E-mail Address:

---

Contact Facsimile Number (including area code):

---

Contact Name:

---

Contact Telephone Number (including area code):

---

Contact E-mail Address:

---

Contact Facsimile Number (including area code):

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## *Proposal Certification*

The Proposal Submission must be fully and properly executed by an authorized person. By signing this Proposal Certification you certify your express authority to sign on behalf of the Proposer and acceptance of the terms included in (i) this RFP, (ii) Appendix A (Agencies’ Standard Clauses For New York State Contracts) and (iii) State Finance Law §139-j and §139-k (Procurement Lobbying), and that all information provided in the proposal is complete, true and accurate. By signing this Proposal Certification, the Proposer affirms that it understands and agrees to comply with Agency procedures relative to permissible contacts as required by State Finance Law §139-j (3) and §139-j (6) (b). Proposer also affirms that it has reviewed the Minimum Insurance Requirements within the RFP and agrees to be bound by said terms.

<b>Legal Business Name of Proposer:</b>	<b>D/B/A Name of Proposer:</b>
<b>Federal Tax Identification Number:</b>	<b>New York State Identification Number:</b>
<b>Printed or Typed Name of Authorized Firm Signatory:</b>	<b>Proposer Signature:</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Date:</b>