

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

For Update of Region Q Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)



About Mid-East Commission Council of Governments

The Mid-East Commission Council of Governments is one of 16 multi-county planning and development regions in North Carolina. The Mid-East Commission delivers programs and services to member governments on a local and regional level encompassing Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin, and Pitt counties. Furthermore, the Mid-East Commission is a Lead Regional Organization responsible for administering and coordinating state and federal programs and an Economic Development District as certified by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). Each Economic Development District is required to have a CEDS to be eligible for Federal funding through EDA.

Background and Purpose of Update

The COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing federal and state response has prompted a review of existing plans and programs with a renewed focus on developing and enhancing the resilience of economic and social systems. The social disruptions and economic turmoil of the past few months have impacted everyday ways of life across the country.

The purpose of this update of the CEDS is to identify previously unforeseen threats and relative opportunities while improving the resilience of local systems and institutions in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A Steering Committee will be formed consisting of public, private, and non-governmental organizations from all five counties. Workshops will be held via webinar to solicit input from the Steering Committee. Workshops will highlight the capabilities of state, county, regional, and local organizations to respond to, prevent, and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen regional relationships, foster enhanced local coordination, and encourage information sharing for planning and disaster and emergency response actions.

Update Objectives:

1. Facilitate conversations to identify gaps in current disaster and public health response plans, specifically as they relate to business recruitment, retention & marketing, physical infrastructure, healthy & safe communities, and small business & workforce development, all within the framework of regional cooperation in responding to, preventing, or recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Examine organizational roles and responsibilities, especially within authorities and actions during a regional disaster event or public health emergency, to validate policies and procedures as well as identifying gaps therein.
3. Gather meaningful input from Steering Committee members that will inform the development of the CEDS pandemic response update, using the existing CEDS as the framework and maintaining a focus on the Mid-East Commission region.

Update Deliverables

The update to the CEDS will include:

- Addition of a Pandemic Recovery Section
- Update to Resiliency Section
- Minor data updates as needed

Proposed Project Schedule

The project will occur between October 2021– February 2022.

Format of Proposals:

Submit: Company information (including information of principals); resume(s) or CV(s) of project participants(s), prior experience with CEDS, a proposed scope of work, and hourly rate schedule to Director of Planning, Economic Development, and Community Services, Kevin Richards, at krichards@mideastcom.org or mail to 1502 N. Market Street, Suite A, Washington, NC 27889 Attn. Kevin Richards by September 20, 2021.

A copy of the current CEDS is available on the Mid-East Commission website at:
<http://www.mideastcom.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Final2020CEDS.pdf>