

BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Bergen County Board of Social Services (the "Board") is soliciting Qualification Statements from interested persons and/or firms for the provision of listed services. Inclusion of a position in this notice, however, does not constitute a warranty that the Board will fill the position at this time or through this process. Through a Request for Qualification process, persons and/or firms interested in assisting the Board with the provision of such services must prepare and submit a Qualification Statement in accordance with the procedure and schedule in the RFQs. The Board will review Qualification Statements only from those firms that submit a Qualification Statement which includes all the information required to be included as described (in the sole judgment of the Board). The Board intends to select (a) person(s) and/or firm(s) that (a) possess(es) the professional, financial and administrative capabilities to provide the proposed services, and (b) agrees and meets the terms and conditions determined by the Board that provide the greatest benefit to the taxpayers of Bergen County.

The selection of Qualified Respondents is not subject to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. The selection is, however, subject to the "New Jersey Local Unit Pay-to-Play" Law, (the "Law"), N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. The Board has structured a procurement process that seeks to obtain the desired results, while establishing a competitive process, to assure that each person and/or firm is provided an equal opportunity to submit a Qualification Statement in response to the RFQ.

Qualification Statements must be submitted to, and received by William Connelly, Chairman, Bergen County Board of Social Services, 218 Route 17 North-4TH Floor, Rochelle Park, New Jersey 07662, before 11:00 a.m. on December 22, 2020. Qualification Statements will not be accepted by facsimile transmission or e-mail. The responses will be publicly opened and announced at 2:00 p.m. on December 22, 2020 via Lighthouse Audio Conference in the Conference Room of the Board's offices. Interested parties may access the opening of the proposals by dialing in to: 1 (866) 305-0232 and entering Access Code: 585292. The Board is requesting Qualification Statements for the following positions:

- (1) General Counsel
- (2) Labor Counsel
- (3) Insurance Consultant
- (4) Auditor

Copies of specifications will be on file at the Director's Office and may be requested by contacting the Bergen County Board of Social Services, 218 Route 17 North, Rochelle Park, New Jersey at (201) 368-4203 commencing December 7, 2020, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. prevailing time, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, or by accessing the Board's website at www.bcbss.com.

Qualification Statements must be submitted in the manner designated in the Instructions, must be enclosed in sealed envelopes bearing name and address of the bidder and the name of the work on the outside, addressed to the Bergen County Board of Social Services.

Adina Yacoub, Director
Bergen County Board of Social Services

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

FOR THE PROVISION OF: GENERAL COUNSEL
LABOR COUNSEL
INSURANCE CONSULTANT
AUDITOR

ISSUE DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2020

DUE DATE: DECEMBER 22, 2020 AT 11:00 A.M.

NOTE: MUST CLEARLY IDENTIFY THEIR RFQ DOCUMENT WITH THE RFQ NAME AND RFQ OPENING DATE

NOTE: The Bergen County Board of Social Services will consider proposals only from firms or organizations that have demonstrated the capability and willingness to provide high quality services in the manner described in this Request for Qualifications.

GLOSSARY

The following definitions shall apply to and are used in this Request for Qualifications:

"Board" - refers to the Bergen County Board of Social Services.

"Qualification Statement" - refers to the complete responses to this RFQ submitted by the Respondents.

"Qualified Respondent" - refers to those Respondents who (in the sole judgment of the Board) have satisfied the qualification criteria set forth in this RFQ.

"RFQ" - refers to this Request for Qualifications, including any amendments thereof or supplements thereto.

"Respondent" or "Respondents" - refers to the interested firm(s) that submit a Qualification Statement.

1.1 Procurement Process and Schedule.

The Bergen County Board of Social Services has structured a procurement process that seeks to obtain the desired results described above, while establishing a competitive process to assure that each firm is provided an equal opportunity to submit a Qualification Statement. Responses to the RFQ will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set forth in later section(s) of this RFQ, which will be applied in the same manner to each Qualification Statement received. The selection of Qualified Respondents is not subject to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq). The selection is, however, subject to the New Jersey Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq).

Qualification Statements will be reviewed and evaluated by the Bergen County Board of Social Services with assistance from its financial and legal advisors; under no circumstances will a party reviewing or evaluating a qualification statement do so if their involvement would present conflict of interest as that term defined in New Jersey's Local Government Ethics Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.1 et seq. The Qualification Statements will be reviewed to determine if the Respondent has met the minimum professional, administrative and financial criteria described in this RFQ. Based upon the totality of the information contained in the Qualification Statement, including information about the reputation and experience of each Respondent, the Bergen County Board of Social Services will (in its sole judgment) determine which Respondents are qualified (to perform the contemplated services). Each Respondent that meets the requirements of the RFQ (in the sole judgment of the Board) will be designated as a Qualified Respondent and will be given the opportunity to submit a detailed Proposal in response to subsequent RFQ's issued by the Bergen County Board of Social Services.

The RFQ process commences with the issuance of this RFQ. The steps involved in the process and the anticipated completion dates are set forth in Table 1, Procurement Schedule. The Bergen County Board of Social Services reserves the right to, among other things, amend, modify, alter or cancel the Procurement Schedule upon notice to all potential Respondents.

All communications concerning this RFQ or the RFQ process shall be directed, in writing, to the Board's Designated Contact Person s set forth herein.

Subsequent to issuance of this RFQ, the Bergen County Board of Social Services may modify, supplement, amend or cancel the provisions of this RFQ in order to respond to inquiries received

from prospective Respondents or as otherwise deemed necessary or appropriate by and in the sole judgment of the Board.

**TABLE 1
ANTICIPATED PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE**

ACTIVITY	DATE
1. Issuance of Request for Qualifications and or Quotes	December 7, 2020
2. Receipt of Qualification Statements/Quotes	December 22, 2020 At 11:00 a.m.
3. Opening of Submissions	December 22, 2020 At 2:00 p.m.
4. Board Review	January 12, 2021
5. Designation of Qualified Respondents	January 12, 2021

Section 1.2 Conditions Applicable to RFQ.

Upon submission of a Qualification Statement in response to this RFQ, the Respondent acknowledges and consents to the following conditions relative to the submission and review and consideration of its Qualification Statement.

- This document is an RFQ and does not constitute a Request for Proposals ("RFP").
- This RFQ does not commit the Bergen County Board of Social Services to issue an RFP or to award a contract for the services contemplated by this RFQ.
- The Board reserves the right (in its sole judgment) to reject for any reason any and all responses and components thereof and to eliminate any and all Respondents responding to this RFQ from further consideration for this procurement.
- The Board reserves the right (in its sole judgment) to seek additional information, waive requirements or reject any Respondent that submits incomplete responses to this RFQ.

- The Board reserves the right (in its sole judgment) to determine those Respondents that are qualified to perform the services contemplated by this RFQ.
- The Board reserves the right, without prior notice to supplement, amend, otherwise modify this RFQ, or otherwise request additional information.
- All Qualification Statements shall become the property of the Bergen County Board of Social Services and will not be returned.
- All Qualification Statements will be made available to the public at the appropriate time, as determined by the Bergen County Board of Social Services (in the exercise of its sole discretion and in accordance with law).
- Responses to this RFQ are the property of the Bergen County Board of Social Services and will be "public record". Responses that are labeled "confidential", or that contain information identified as "confidential", will not be acceptable for consideration to the Board.
- The Bergen County Board of Social Services may request Respondents to send representatives to the Bergen County Board of Social Services for interviews or via Teleconference.
- Any and all Qualification Statements not received on or before the time set forth herein for receipt may be rejected.
- Neither the Bergen County Board of Social Services, nor their respective staffs, consultants or advisors shall be liable for any claims or damages resulting from the solicitation or preparation of the Qualification Statement, nor will there be any reimbursement to Respondents for the cost of preparing and submitting a Qualification Statement or for participating in this procurement process.

1.3 Rights of Bergen County Board of Social Services.

The Board reserves, holds and may exercise, at its sole discretion, the following rights and options with regard to this RFQ and the procurement process in accordance with the provisions of applicable law:

- To determine that any Qualification Statement received complies or fails to comply with the terms of this RFQ.
- To supplement, amend or otherwise modify the RFQ through issuance of addenda to all prospective Respondents who have received a copy of this RFQ.
- To waive any technical non-conformance with the terms of this RFQ.
- To change or alter the schedule for any events called for in this RFQ upon the issuance of notice to all prospective Respondents who have received a copy of this RFQ.
- To conduct investigations of any or all of the Respondents, as the Board deems necessary or convenient, to clarify the information provided as part of the Qualification Statement and to request additional information to support the information included in any Qualification Statement.
- To suspend or terminate the procurement process described in this RFQ at any time (in its sole discretion.) If terminated, the Board may determine to commence a new procurement process or exercise any other rights provided under applicable law without any obligation to the Respondents.
- Pursuant to P.L. 2012c c.25, State and local public contracts are not permitted with persons or entities engaging in certain investment activities in energy or finance sectors of Iran.

The Board shall be under no obligation to complete all or any portion of the procurement process described in this RFQ.

1.4 Addenda or Amendments to RFQ.

During the period provided for the preparation of responses to the RFQ, the Board may issue addenda, amendments or answers to written inquiries. Those addenda will be noticed by the Board and will constitute a part of the RFQ. All responses to the RFQ shall be prepared with full consideration of the addenda issued prior to the RFQ submission date.

1.5 Cost of Preparation.

Each Qualification Statement and all information required to be submitted pursuant to the RFQ shall be prepared at the sole cost and expense of the Respondent. There shall be no claims whatsoever against the Board, its staff or consultants for reimbursement for the payment of costs or expenses incurred in the preparation of the Qualification Statement or other information required by the RFQ.

1.6 Proposal Format.

Responses should cover all information requested in this RFQ. Responses which in the judgment of the Bergen County Board of Social Services fail to meet the requirement of the RFQ or which are in any way conditional, incomplete, obscure, contain additions or deletions from requested information, or contain errors, may be rejected.

**SECTION 2
COSTS**

2.1 Costs should be outlined for all usual and customary fees' including hourly rates, inclusive fees and so on. Respondent's proposal for services shall include an annual cost as well as a cost not to exceed \$_____. The Bergen County Board of Social Services does not pay for travel time and expenses, invoices showing these items will not be paid.

2.2 The Bergen County Board of Social Services typically caps the hourly rates at \$150.00 per hour however, special litigation needs and projects will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**SECTION 3
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Section 3.1 General Requirements.

The Qualification Statement submitted by the Respondent must meet or exceed the professional, administrative and financial qualifications set forth in this Section 3 and shall incorporate the information requested below.

In addition to the information required as described below, a Respondent may submit supplemental information that it feels may be useful in evaluating Qualification Statement. Respondents are encouraged to be clear, factual and concise in their presentation of information.

Section 3.2 Administrative Information Requirements.

The Respondent shall, as part of its Qualification Statement, provide the following information:

1. An executive summary (not to exceed two (2) pages) of the information contained in all the other parts of the Qualification Statement.

2. An executed Letter of Intent (See Appendix A to this RFQ).

3. An executed Certification (See Appendix "B" to this RFQ).

4. Name, address and telephone number of the firm or firms submitting the Qualification Statement pursuant to this RFQ, and the name of the key contact person.

5. A description of the business organization (i.e., corporation, partnership, joint venture, etc.) of each firm, its ownership and its organizational structure.

(a) Provide the names and business addresses of all Principals of the firm or firms submitting the Qualification Statement. For purposes of this FRQ, "Principals" means persons possessing an ownership interest in the Respondent. If the Respondent is a corporation, "Principals" shall include each investor who would have any amount of operational control over the Respondent and every stockholder having an ownership interest of 10% or more in the firm.

(b) If a firm is a partially owned or a fully-owned subsidiary of another firm, identify the parent company and describe the nature and extent of the parents' approval rights over the activities of the firm submitting a Qualification Statement. Describe the approval process.

(c) If the Respondent is a partnership or a joint venture or similar organization, provide comparable information as required in (a) and (b) above for each member of the partnership, joint venture or similar

organization together with a copy of the redacted joint venture agreement.

(d) A statement that the Respondent has complied with all applicable affirmative action (or similar) requirements with respect to its business activities, together with evidence of such compliance.

(e) Respondents are required to provide an Employee Information Report demonstrating compliance with the affirmative action requirements set forth at P.L. 1975, c. 127.

6. The number of years Respondent has been in business under the present name.

7. The number of years the business organization has been under the current management personnel.

8. Any judgments within the last three years in which Respondent has been adjudicated liable for professional malpractice. If yes, please explain.

9. Whether the business organization is now or has been involved in any bankruptcy or re-organization proceedings in the last ten (10) years. If yes, please explain.

10. Confirm appropriate federal and state licenses to perform activities.

11. A copy of Respondent's State of New Jersey Business Registration Certificate (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54A:7-1.2), a Stockholder Disclosure Certificate, Employee Information Report (demonstrating compliance with the affirmative action requirements set forth at P.L. 1975, c. 127) and any other requirements set forth herein.

12. REQUIRED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EVIDENCE: The Provisions of Chapter 127, Public Laws of 1975, (N.J.A.C. 17-27) are applicable to this contract. All successful vendors must submit within seven (7) days of the notice of intent to award or the signing of the contract, one of the following:

a. A photocopy of their Federal Letter of Affirmative Action Plan Approval.

b. A photocopy of their Certificate of Employee Information Report or

c. A completed Affirmative Action Employee Information Report (AA302).

13. IMPORTANT - a listing of Respondent's hourly rates and charges for all services to be provided which shall include an annual cost as well as a cost not to exceed \$_____.

14. A detailed profile of the Individual or Firm and number of staff by role, if applicable.

15. Three (3) client references from each Individual or Firm.

16. A completed State of New Jersey Disclosure of Investment Activities (App. F to this RFQ).

Section 3.3 Professional Information Requirements.

1. Respondent shall submit a description of its overall experience in providing the type of services sought in the RFQ. At a minimum, the following information on past experience should be included as appropriate to the RFQ:

- a. Description and scope of work by Respondent
- b. Name, address and contact information of at least three references
- c. Explanation of perceived relevance of the experience to the RFQ
- d. Describe the services that Respondent would perform directly.

2. Describe those portions of the Respondent's services, if any, that are sub-contracted out. Identify all subcontractors the Respondent anticipates using in connection with this project.

3. Does the Respondent normally employ union or non-union employees?

4. Resumes of key employees.

5. A narrative statement of the Respondent's understanding of the Board's needs and goals to be accomplished by the appointment or contract for which this RFQ is made.

6. List all immediate relatives of Principal(s) of Respondent who are employees or elected officials of the Board or the County of Bergen. For purposes of the above, "immediate relative" means a spouse, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, child, stepchild, direct-line aunt or uncle, grandparent, grandchild, and in-laws by reason of relation.

Section 3.4 Other Terms and Conditions

A. Non-Discrimination: There shall be no discrimination against any employee engaged in the work required to produce the commodities covered by any contract resulting from this bid, or against any applicant to such employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin, creed, color, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, familial status, liability for service in the Armed Forces of the United States or nationality. This provision shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment upgrading, demotion, transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor shall insert a similar provision in all subcontracts for services to be covered by any contract resulting from this bid.

B. Statement of Corporate Ownership.

In accordance with N.J.S.A.52:25-24.2, no corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability corporation, limited liability partnership, Subchapter S corporation or sole proprietorship, shall be awarded a contract, unless prior to the receipt of the bid or accompanying the bid of the corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability corporation, limited liability partnership, subchapter S corporation or sole proprietorship, there is submitted to the Board a statement setting forth the names and addresses of all stockholders who own 10% or more of the stock, of any class or of all individual partners who own a 10% or greater interest in the corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability corporation, limited liability partnership, Subchapter S corporation or sole proprietorship. If one or more such stockholder or partner is itself a corporation or partnership, the stockholders holding 10% or more of that corporation's stock, or the individual partners owning 10% or greater interest in that partnership, as the case may be, shall also be listed. The disclosure shall be continued until names and addresses of every non-corporate stockholder and individual partner, exceeding the 10% ownership criteria established in this act has been listed. This form shall be signed and submitted with the bid/proposal whether or not a stockholder or partner owns less than 10% of the business submitting the bid. Failure to comply requires mandatory rejection of the bid/proposal.

C. Ownership of Material

a. The owner shall retain all of its rights and interest in any and all documents and property both hard copy and digital furnished by the owner to the contractor for the purpose of assisting the contractor in the performance of this contract. All such items shall be returned immediately to the owner at the expiration or termination of the contract or completion of any related services, pursuant thereto, whichever comes first. None of the documents and/or property shall, without the written consent of the owner, be

disclosed to others or used by the contractor or permitted by the contractor to be used by their parties at any time except in the performance of the resulting contract.

b. Ownership of all data, materials and documentation originated and prepared for the owner pursuant to this contract shall belong exclusively to the owner. All data, reports, computerized information, programs and materials related to this project shall be delivered to and become the property of the owner upon completion of the project. The contractor shall not have the right to use, sell, or disclose the total of the interim or final work products, or make available to third parties, without the prior written consent of the owner. All information supplied to the owner may be required to be supplied on CD-ROM or other media compatible with the owner's computer operating system, windows based, Microsoft Office Suite 2000.

D. HIPPA (If Applicable)

a. Both parties agree to comply with all requirements of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPPA") as may be amended from time to time, and the corresponding HIPPA regulations for the confidentiality and security of medical information.

b. The Contractor shall:

i. not use or disclose protected health information other than as permitted or required by law.

ii. use appropriate safeguards to protect the confidentiality of the information.

iii. report any use or disclosure not permitted.

c. The Contractor, by execution of the contract, shall thereby indemnify and hold the Board harmless from any and all liabilities, claims, actions, costs and penalties which may be insured as a result of the failure of the contractor to comply with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) or any other statute or case law protecting the privacy of persons using its services.

**SECTION 4
SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Firms and/or persons responding to this RFQ shall be able to demonstrate that they will have the continuing capabilities to perform the services set forth below:

Board of Social Services- Description of Scope of Services

1. General Counsel

Respondent must have significant experience representing New Jersey governmental entities as General Counsel and must have prior representation of County Boards in the past. The successful Respondent will be expected to provide to the Board, its Director and Staff, legal advice and services, including but not limited to: performing legal research and providing advisory opinions as needed; representing the Board in federal and state courts and administrative forums; reviewing, and or preparing resolutions; attending meetings of the Board, Director and Staff, and acting as head of the Legal Department. In addition, General Counsel's office is expected to handle day to day legal proceedings as they arise. The General Counsel must have experience in employment and personnel matters.

2. Labor Counsel

The successful Respondent must have significant experience representing New Jersey governmental entities as Labor Counsel and must have prior representation of County Boards in the past. The successful Respondent will be expected to provide to the Board and General Counsel legal advice and services, in connection with employment matters, including but not limited to: performing legal research and providing advisory opinions; attending meetings of the Board and/or employees upon request; preparing collective bargaining agreements and/or contracts or other legal documents; conducting programs on specific legal issues for the Board and/or employees upon request, and any other matters as directed by the Board. Labor Counsel shall be part-time and report to the General Counsel.

3. Insurance Consultant

Respondent will provide insurance consulting services to the Board including, but not necessarily limited to: assisting the Board in identifying its insurable exposures and recommending professional methods to reduce, assume or transfer the risk or loss; assisting the Board in understanding and selecting the various coverages available; reviewing with the Board any additional coverages that the Respondent feels should be carried but are not available; assisting the Board in the preparation of any application, statements of values, or similar documents requested; reviewing the Board's assessment and assisting the Board in the preparation of its annual insurance budget; reviewing the loss and engineering reports and generally assisting the Board in its loss containment objectives; assisting where needed in the settlement of claims made; and any other services relating to insurance consulting that may be required by the Board.

4. Auditor

The successful Respondent must have significant experience representing New Jersey governmental entities as a financial auditor. The successful Respondent will be expected to review and audit the Board's un-audited financial statements, an annual budget, annual and supplemental debt statements and other financial/accounting services, including but not limited to, the development of accounting policies and procedures and review and evaluation.

Respondent must have significant experience in public sector auditing. Further, the Respondent shall be licensed as a Certified Public Accountant. The successful Respondent will provide the Board with consulting services related, but not necessarily limited to: assisting in the preparation of the budget; making routine investigations, examinations, and audits of books and financial records and preparing reports thereof; making inspections of varied financial transactions and records to ensure that concerned regulations and accounting procedures are observed; auditing expense invoices and preparing audits and reports of costs and other financial summaries and statements; preparing detailed reports of audits containing findings, conclusions, and recommendations; maintaining essential auditing records and files; and any other thing necessary and proper for completion of the duties of the Board Auditor as director by the Board. Additionally, the Auditor shall complete and prepare the audit report for calendar year 2020. The Auditor shall report directly to the Chairperson and the Director of the Board of Social Services.

SECTION 5 INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENTS

Qualification Statements must be submitted to and be received by the Bergen County Board of Social Services' Designated Contact Person, via mail by 11:00 A.M. prevailing time as set forth on Page One. Qualification Statements forwarded by facsimile or e-mail will not be accepted. Qualification Statements received after this time will not be considered. The Board will not bear responsibility for delays in delivery for any reason.

Board's Designated Contact Person:

William Connelly, Chairman
Bergen County Board of Social Services
218 Route 17 North
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

Respondents must submit an original and four (4) copies plus one(1) on a CD or other digital medium, of the Qualification Statement to the Designated Contact Person.

With their Qualification Statement, Respondents must submit a New Jersey Business Registration Certificate and an Ownership Disclosure Certificate (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-23.2) the Federal EIN of the entity they are doing business under and any other requirements set forth herein.

To be responsive, Qualification Statements must provide all requested information, and must be in strict conformance with the instructions set forth herein. Qualification Statements and all related information must be bound, and signed and acknowledged by the Respondent.

SECTION 6 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Board's objective in soliciting Qualification Statements to enable it to select a firm or organization (or multiple firms or organizations) that will provide high quality and cost effective services to the citizens of Bergen County. The Board will consider Qualification Statements only from firms or organizations that, in the Board's judgment, have demonstrated the capability and willingness to provide high quality services to the citizens of the County of Bergen in the manner described in this RFQ.

Request For Qualifications will be evaluated by the Board on the basis of the most advantageous submission, all relevant factors considered. The evaluation will consider:

1. Experience and reputation in the field;
2. Knowledge of the Board and the subject matter addressed under the contract;
3. Availability to accommodate the required meetings of the Board; and
4. Other factors demonstrated to be in the best interest of the Board.

**APPENDIX A
LETTER OF INTENT**

(Note: To be typed on Respondent's Letterhead. No Modifications may be made to this letter)

Respondent's Federal EIN: **[INSERT DATE]**

William Connelly, Chairman and
Members of the Board
Bergen County Board of Social Services
218 Route 17 North
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

Re: (Insert Title of RFQ and Position Sought)

Dear Chairman Connelly and Members of the Board:

The undersigned, as Respondent, has submitted the attached Qualification Statement in response to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), issued by the Bergen County Board of Social Services (the "Board"), dated December 7, 2020, in connection with the Board's need for **(INSERT POSITION)**.

(Name of Respondent) HEREBY STATES:

1. The Qualification Statement contains accurate, factual and complete information. We affirm that the contents of our Qualification Statement (which Qualification Statement is incorporated herein by reference) are accurate, factual and complete to the best of our knowledge and belief and that the Qualification Statement is submitted in good faith upon express understanding that any false statement may result in the disqualification of the undersigned Respondent.

2. The undersigned Respondent is interested in being invited to respond to the Bergen County Board of Social Services Request For Qualifications (RFQ). It is the intent of Respondent, to complete and submit a Qualification Statement for the provision of the services set forth above and to enter into a contract for said services if selected and awarded a contract by the Bergen County Board of Social Services.

3. The undersigned Respondent agrees (agree) to participate in good faith in the procurement process as described in the RFQ and to adhere to the Board's procurement schedule.

4. The undersigned Respondent agrees (agree) that all costs incurred by it (them) in connection with the preparation and

submission of the Qualification Statement and any proposal prepared and submitted in response to the RFQ, or any negotiation which results therefrom shall be borne exclusively by the Respondent.

5. The undersigned Respondent hereby declares (declare) that the only persons participating in this Qualification Statement as Principals are named herein and that no person other than those herein mentioned has any participation in this Qualification Statement or in any contract to be entered into with respect thereto. Additional persons may subsequently be included as participating Principals, but only if acceptable to the Board. The undersigned Respondent further declares that this Qualification Statement is made without connection with any other person, firm or parties who has submitted a Qualification Statement, except as expressly set forth below and that it has been prepared and has been submitted in good faith and without collusion or fraud.

6. The undersigned Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the Board may modify, amend, suspend and/or terminate the procurement process (in its sole judgment). In any case, the Board shall have any liability to the Respondent for any costs incurred by the Respondent with respect to the procurement activities described in this RFQ.

7. The undersigned Respondent acknowledges that any contract executed with respect to the provision of the above referenced services must comply with all applicable affirmative action and similar laws. Respondent hereby agrees to take such actions as are required in order to comply with such applicable laws.

8. The undersigned Respondent acknowledges (acknowledge) and agrees (agree) that it will be obligated to satisfy the requirements of this RFQ at the time of submission of its Qualification Statement. The Respondent hereby states that (as of the date hereof) it has a reasonable expectation that it will be able to satisfy such criteria and requirements as of the date of its submittal.

(Respondent shall sign and complete the space provided below. If a joint venture, appropriate officers of each company shall sign.)

(Signature of Chief Executive Officer)

(Typed Name and Title)

Dated: _____ (Typed Name of Firm)*

*If a joint venture, partnership or other formal organization is submitting a Qualification Statement, each participant shall execute this Letter of Intent.

EXHIBIT B

CERTIFICATIONS

In addition to responding to the foregoing items, the undersigned Respondent certifies that:

A. The firm's participation in the matters contemplated by the RFQ will not create any conflict of interest for the firm or any of its officers or employees.

B. The firm is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against applicants or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin, or ancestry.

C. The firm is not currently in violation of or under any investigations or review for a violation of any state or federal law or regulation that might have a material adverse impact on the firm's ability to serve if selected.

D. The firm understands and agrees that during the time it is a member of the group of qualified firms, it will not be eligible to serve as financial advisor to the Bergen County Board of Social Services, and that it does not and will not during that time have a financial interest in any firm providing financial advisory services to the Bergen County Board of Social Services.

Firm: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____