

CITY OF SPOKANE – Accounting/Grants 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Spokane, Washington accountinggrantsadmin@spokanecity.org

2023 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

American Rescue Plan Act

Youth Behavioral Health

NOFA COORDINATORS:

Vlad Lukin, Caleb Stanton

<u>NOFA TITLE:</u> Youth Behavioral Health	Proposal Submittal:
NOFA COORDINATORS: Vlad Lukin, Caleb Stanton	All applications shall be submitted electronically through the City of Spokane <u>Neighborly</u> portal before the due date and
PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETING: None	time.

Table of Contents

1.	GEN	IERAL INFORMATION
	1.1	BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE
	1.2	DEFINITIONS
	1.3	COMMUNICATION
	1.4	MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
	1.5	CONTRACT PERIOD
	1.6	ADDENDA
	1.7	TERMS AND CONDITIONS
	1.8	ESTIMATED SCHEDULE
	1.9	FUNDING5
2.	SCC	PE OF SERVICES5
3.	APP	LICATION CONTENTS
	3.1	APPLICATION5
	3.2	ORGANIZATION INFORMATION5
	3.3	MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL
	3.5	COST PROPOSAL
4.	APP	LICATION SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION8
	4.1	SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS
	4.2	EVALUATION PROCEDURE
	4.3	EVALUATION SCORING
	4.4	AWARD/REJECTION OF APPLICATION9
5.	GRA	ANT REQUIREMENTS9
6.	NO	FA ATTACHMENTS9
	ATT	ACHMENT 1: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The City of Spokane, through its Accounting and Grants Department (hereinafter "City"), is initiating this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to solicit applications from Behavioral Health Organizations that have the capacity to expand their already existing services to at risk youth. This program's purpose is to provide last-in capital dollars to assist in a construction project or expansion of an existing facility. This construction must result in and/or expand services to at risk youth that have been disproportionately impacted by Covid. Qualifying organizations should meet the following parameters:

- Demonstrate need to carry out a capital project for expanded services.
- Demonstrated unmet need of target clientele.
- Demonstrated history of or ability to serve at risk youth.
- Demonstrated history of serving members of historically marginalized communities.
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility through policy and procedures.
- Demonstrated and/or planned partnerships that provide a greater community connection to the target demographic.
- Demonstrate the ability to complete the proposed project budget by 12/31/2026.

This Notice of Funding of Availability will award a grant up to \$1,000,000 to provide "last dollars" ***(see definition in section 1.2)** to a Behavioral Health Organization that serve at risk youth to assist in completing Capital Improvements for expansion of services. This project should be made through a competitive bid process. These dollars may not be used as a federal match to a project, they are intended to be last dollars needed to complete a project or expansion.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

Definitions for the purposes of this NOFA include:

Applicant - Individual or company who is seeking funding and has been selected for an award by the City and award is fully executed by a written contract.

ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act, ARPA was signed into law on March 11, 2021, to provide additional financial relief in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. ARPA includes a significant amount of "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds" (SLFRF) for state and local governments to use over a period of several years.

City – The City of Spokane, a Washington State municipal corporation, the agency issuing this NOFA.

Debarred – Excluded from Federal procurement and non-procurement programs throughout the U.S Government (unless otherwise noted) and from receiving Federal contracts or certain subcontracts and from certain types of Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits. The SAM system combines data from the Central Contractor Registration, Federal Register, Online Representation and Certification Applications, and the Excluded Partied List System.

Last-in Dollars – Capital funding needed to finish a capital project in its entirety. A project can be funded, in part, by this award, if there are no additional funds needed to complete the project.

NOFA – Notice of Funding Availability

Organization or Consultant – Individual or company whose Proposal has been accepted by the City and is awarded a fully executed, written contract.

1.3 COMMUNICATION

All communication between the Proposer and the City shall be submitted by email to <u>accountinggrantsadmin@spokanecity.org</u>. Any communication directed to other parties is prohibited. All questions received will be answered by the City through a publicly posted Q and A so all proposers have access to the information. It is the responsibility of Proposers to check the City of Spokane's ARPA website for this information.

1.4 MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Eligible Applicants Include:

- Organization registered in the City limits of Spokane
- Be a Public or Private non-profit organization or,
- Be a Private for-profit organization

Additionally, applicants must be able to demonstrate the legal, financial, and programmatic ability to administer the proposed project and meet the City contracting requirements, such as: insurance thresholds, audit and financial requirements, and business licensing requirements. As well as possess an active Unique Entity ID (generated by SAM.gov) and not debarred. See Agreement Terms section and the guidelines specific to ARPA/Federal programs.

Please note: No individual shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefit of, subjected to discrimination under, or denied employment in the administration of or in connection with contracts of agreements that may result from the NOFA because of age, sex, race, color, religion, creed, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation including gender expression or gender identity, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or use of a service by a person with disabilities.

1.5 CONTRACT PERIOD

Any contract resulting from this NOFA will be negotiated and subject to available funding. It is anticipated this will be a multi-year contract based on the completion date of the construction project in progress. Funds must be contracted before 12/31/24 for project completion date prior to 12/31/26.

1.6 ADDENDA

It is the responsibility of Applicants to check the City of Spokane's website for Addenda or other additional information that may be posted regarding this NOFA. However, the City will provide any addenda to organizations who request addenda or submit a response to this NOFA. The City will not provide individual notice of changes; and applicants are responsible for regularly checking the City of Spokane's website for answers to questions, process updates, clarifications, or amendments. The City will not pay for any costs the organization may incur while they are preparing their proposal, providing information requested by the City, or participating in the selection process.

1.7 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Terms and Conditions applicable to this NOFA are included herein by reference and attached to this NOFA in the certification section of the proposal.

1.8 ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Public Workshop	September 27 th 2023	
Notice of Funding Availability	September 27 th 2023	
Deadline for Questions	October 13 th 2023	
Application Deadline	November 3 rd , 2023, 5pm	
Evaluation, Negotiation and Contract Award	November 24 th 2023	
Begin Contract Work	January 1 st 2024	

*The City reserves the right to revise the above schedule.

1.9 FUNDING

This project is solely funded by funds received through the United States Department of Treasury under the American Rescue Plan (ARP)/Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) - Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 21.027. Submitting a Project Proposal indicates acceptance of all requirements listed within ARP/CSLFRF CFDA 21.027.

2. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The City is initiating this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to solicit applications from qualified and experienced organizations/agencies for last in dollars to an existing capital project within the City that will be used to expand services to youth at risk.

3. APPLICATION CONTENTS

3.1 APPLICATION

Applications shall be clear, concise, and have all proper documentation in order. All applications shall be submitted electronically through the City of Spokane <u>Neighborly</u> portal. Application shall be signed and dated by a person authorized to legally bind the organization to a contractual relationship.

3.2 ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Include the following information about the organization and any proposed sub-consultants: Include the following information about the organization and any proposed sub-consultants:

- Name, address, principal place of business, telephone number, and e-mail address of legal entity or individual with whom contract would be written.
- Identification of any current or former employees from the participating Agencies employed by or on the applicants governing board as of the date of the application or during the previous twelve (12) months.
- Acknowledgement that the organization will comply with all terms and conditions set forth in the Notice of Funding Availability, unless otherwise agreed by the Agencies.

3.3 MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

Application content for this section shall include experience, capabilities, and qualifications to convey the ability to perform the scope of services by clearly addressing the following criteria:

YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSE

1. Do you currently have staff dedicated to managing federal Grant Funding?

2. A brief history of the applying organization's programs and accomplishments as they pertain to its ability to accomplish the objectives in this grant application.

3. What makes your organization the most qualified for selection?

- 4. What constraints, limitations or restrictions will impact the project performance?
- 5. Provide a measurable goal that will be used to determine the success and impact of this project.

Specifically define outcomes of this goal and how it would be measured.

6. How will your project expand culturally appropriate behavioral health services to at risk youth?

RACIAL EQUITY AND CLIENT ENGAGEMENT

- 1. Describe the steps the applicant(s) have taken (or plans to take) in order to establish, develop, or to continue policies, practices, and procedures that increase racial and social equity in the following areas: training, hiring and retention, plan development, community engagement and partnerships, and other organizational work.
- 2. Describe the areas which represent the applicant organization's/partnership's strengths or assets, and describe the areas in which the applicant organization has room for growth?
- 3. Describe how the applicant's engagement and service delivery model assures access to underserved communities who are typically not able to respond to formal NOFAs. Include efforts related to service design, staffing, outreach and engagement approach, and language access.
- 4. How will the organization accommodate and make adjustments in response to these underrepresented populations and what systems are in place (or will be) to track this data?

The City of Spokane is committed to equitably and effectively utilizing ARPA resources to help our community bounce back as we can and in the best way possible. To do this we look to fund organizations and businesses that take into consideration past inequities and will go forward to honor the expertise, relationships, and resilience within communities of color and those historically impacted by inequalities providing them with lasting partnerships and co-created solutions to eliminate systemic hardships

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

- 1. Briefly describe the capital project and/or the planned expansion.
- 2. Outline goals and objectives, outcomes, and outputs from completion of the project and how they

match the desired purpose that has been proposed by this NOFA?

3. Provide a detailed timeline for the project.

STAFFING PLAN

- 1. Describe the existing staffing model.
- 2. Describe the staffing model for the proposed capital project.
 - a) Outline which supportive services your organization/partnership envisions being offered to participants and when.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION

Applicant organizations are required to continuously monitor the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and sustainability of their projects through targeted and feasible performance evaluations.

- 1. Outline a plan that details how the applicant organization/partnership will continually ensure that project performance meets or exceeds the performance standards as outlined by the City of Spokane.
- 2. The plan should address the following:
 - Explain your organization's prior experience with a project of this type, and/or client population.
 - Describe how your organization has involved clients input into project/program design, evaluation, and/or decision-making.
- 3. Describe what technical assistance may be needed for successful implementation of the deliverables indicated in this NOFA.

3.5 COST PROPOSAL

Applicants will be required to complete and submit a **Detailed Budget** which outlines a composite annual budget for the proposed services. The Detailed Budget must have an accompanying budget narrative and justification that provides, in detail, the total amount for implementation of the project your organization is proposing. If multiple agencies will be partnering on this proposal, provide a cost breakdown of the expenses that will be incurred by each individual agency

- 1. Describe if the applicant organization has other committed sources of funding that will support the sustainability of this project. Please detail the source and the terms for when the funds will be available for this project, if any.
- 2. Describe what the applicant organization is doing to attract, develop, and leverage a variety of financial, volunteer, and other in-kind resources to support this project.
- 3. If the budget includes indirect costs, please provide an explanation of the proposed indirect cost method.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Explain how the requested funds will be used to support this project and how participants will be served. For each line item listed with a dollar figure (except expense category subtotals), provide a brief narrative detailing:

- a) How the item relates to the project.
- b) The method used to determine the cost.

4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION

4.1 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications shall be submitted with most favorable terms that can be proposed. There will be no best and final offer procedure. All applications shall be submitted electronically through the City of Spokane's online procurement system portal: <u>Neighborly</u> before the due date and time. **Hard paper e-mailed or faxed copies will not be accepted. Late applications shall not be accepted.** Applicants must register if they have not done so previously and follow the steps below to enter and submit the electronic Proposal:

- 1. Register email address
- 2. Verify email address
- 3. Log in
- 4. Select Notice of Funding Available
- 5. Fill out required application and supply required documents
- 6. Certify application
- 7. Submit Application.

*Once an application is submitted it is final, no revisions or edits can be made.

4.2 EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Responsive applications to this NOFA will be evaluated in accordance with the requirements stated in this solicitation and any addenda issued. The City, at its sole discretion, may elect to select the top-scoring organizations as finalists for an oral presentation and evaluation. The NOFA Coordinator may contact the organization for clarification of any portion of the organization's proposal.

4.3 EVALUATION SCORING

The Proposal will be evaluated as follows: Capital dollars to expand services to at risk youth.

SCORING DESCRIPTIONS	TOTAL POINTS EARNED	TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE
MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL – 75%	75 Points (Maximum)	75 points
 Youth Behavioral Health Response – 15 points 		75 points
 Racial Equity and Client Engagement – 15 points 		
 Program Overview and Description – 20 points 		
 Staffing Plan – 10 points 		

GRAND TOTAL FOR WRITTEN PROPOSAL		100 POINTS
COST PROPOSAL –25%	25 Points (Maximum)	25 points
 Project Performance and Evaluation – 15 points 		

4.4 AWARD/REJECTION OF APPLICATION

This NOFA does not obligate the City to award a contract. Any contract awarded as a result of this solicitation is contingent upon the availability of funding.

The City of Spokane reserves the option of awarding this contract in any manner most advantageous for the City and without further discussion of submitted Application. Failure to comply with any part of the NOFA may result in rejection of Application as non-responsive. The City also reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive minor irregularities, reject any and all proposals received without penalty and to not issue a contract from this NOFA. More than one contract may be awarded. Contract negotiations may incorporate some or all of the Proposal in the application.

Award of contract, when and if made, will be to the proposer whose Application is the most favorable to the City including consideration the evaluation criteria. Contract is optional (non-exclusive) use.

5. GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Initial project funding is provided by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP/CSLFRF) funding is utilized for this grant. See Terms and Conditions accompanying this NOFA. Attachment 1.

6. NOFA ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. CONTRACTING WITH CURRENT OR FORMER CITY EMPLOYEES

Specific restrictions apply to contracting with current or former City officers and employees pursuant to the Code of Ethics in chapter 1.04A of the Spokane Municipal Code. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the requirements prior to submitting a Proposal that includes current or former City officers or employees.

2. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION / PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

All materials submitted to the City in responses to this competitive procurement shall become the property of the City.

All materials received by the City are public records and are subject to being released pursuant to a valid public records request. Washington state law mandates that all documents used, received or

produced by a governmental entity are presumptively public records, and there are few exemptions. Chapter 41.56 RCW.

When responding to this competitive procurement, please consider that what you submit will be a public record. If you believe that some part of your response constitutes legally protected proprietary information, you MUST submit those portions of your response as a separate part of your response, and you MUST label it as "PROPRIETARY INFORMATION." If a valid public records request is then received by the City for this information, you will be given notice and a 10-day opportunity to go to court to obtain an injunction to prevent the City from releasing this part of your response. If no injunction is obtained, the City is legally required to release the records.

The City will neither look for nor honor any claims of "proprietary information" that are not within the separate part of your response.

3. OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS

Any and all data, reports, analyses, documents, photographs, pamphlets, plans, specifications, surveys, films or any other material created, prepared, produced, constructed, assembled, made, performed or otherwise produced by the Business or the Business's subcontractors or consultants for delivery to the City under this Agreement shall be the sole and absolute property of the City. Such property shall constitute "work made for hire" as defined by U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 101, and the ownership of the copyright and any other intellectual property rights in such property shall vest in the City at the time of its creation. Ownership of the intellectual property includes the right to copyright, patent, and register, and the ability to transfer these rights. Material which the Business uses to perform this Agreement, but is not created, prepared, constructed, assembled, made, performed or otherwise produced for, or paid for, by the City is owned by the Business and is not "work made for hire" within the terms of this Agreement.

4. REVISIONS TO THE RFP

In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP or provide any other pertinent information, it shall be posted to the City of Spokane's website. The City also reserves the right to cancel or reissue the RFP in whole or in part, prior to final award of a contract.

5. ACCEPTANCE PERIOD

Proposals shall remain in effect for ninety (90) days for acceptance by the City from the due date for receipt of Proposals.

6. COSTS TO PROPOSE

The City will not be liable for any costs incurred by the Proposer in preparation of a Proposal submitted in response to this RFP, in conduct of a presentation, or any other activities related to responding to this RFP

7. DEBRIEFING OF UNSUCCESSFUL PROPOSERS

Upon request, a debriefing conference will be scheduled with an unsuccessful Proposer. Discussion will be limited to a critique of the requesting Firm's Proposal. Debriefing conferences may be conducted in person or on the telephone.

8. MINORITY & WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

The City encourages participation in all of its contracts by Firms certified by the Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE). Proposers may contact OMWBE at (360)753-9693 to obtain information on certified Firms.

9. NONDISCRIMINATION No individual shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefit of, subjected to discrimination under, or denied employment in the administration of or in connection with this Contract because of age, sex, race, color, religion, creed, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation including gender expression or gender identity, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or use of a service animal by a person with disabilities. The Firm agrees to comply with, and to require that all subcontractors comply with, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as applicable to the Firm.

10. BUSINESS REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

Section 8.01.070 of the Spokane Municipal Code states that no person may engage in business with the City without first having obtained and currently being the holder of a valid annual business registration or temporary business registration as provided in this chapter. The Firm shall be responsible for contacting the State of Washington Business License Services at http://bls.dor.wa.gov or 1-800-451-7985 to obtain a business registration. If the Firm does not believe it is required to obtain a business registration, it may contact the City's Taxes and Licenses Division at 509-625-6070 to request an exemption status determination.

11. PAYMENT

Payment will be made via direct deposit/ACH except as provided by state law. A completed ACH application is required before a City Order will be issued. If the City objects to all or any portion of the invoice, it shall notify the Company and reserves the right to only pay that portion of the invoice not in dispute. In that event, the parties shall immediately make every effort to settle the disputed amount.

12. ANTI-KICKBACK

No officer or employee of the City of Spokane, having the power or duty to perform an official act or action related to this contract shall have or acquire any interest in the contract, or have solicited, accepted or granted a present or future gift, favor, service or other thing of value from or to any person involved in the contract.

13. DISPUTES

This contract shall be performed under the laws of Washington State. Any litigation to enforce this contract or any of its provisions shall be brought in Spokane County, Washington.

14. TERMINATION

A. For Cause: The City or Consultant may terminate the Agreement if the other party is in material breach of this Agreement, and such breach has not been corrected to the other party's reasonable satisfaction in a timely manner. Notice of termination under this Section shall be given by the party terminating this Agreement to the other, not fewer than thirty (30) business days prior to the effective date of termination.

B. For Reasons Beyond Control of Parties: Either party may terminate this Agreement without recourse by the other where performance is rendered impossible or impracticable for reasons beyond such party's reasonable control, such as, but not limited to, an act of nature, war or warlike operation, civil commotion, riot, labor dispute including strike, walkout or lockout, except labor disputes involving the Consultant's own employees, sabotage, or superior governmental regulation or control. Notice of termination under this Section shall be given by the party terminating this Agreement to the other, not fewer than thirty (30) business days prior to the effective date of termination

C. For Convenience: Either party may terminate this Agreement without cause, upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party.

D. Actions upon Termination: if termination occurs not the fault of the Consultant, the Consultant shall be paid for the services properly performed prior to the actual termination date, with any reimbursable expenses then due, but such compensation shall not exceed the maximum compensation to be paid under the Agreement. The Consultant agrees this payment shall fully and adequately compensate the Consultant and all subconsultants for all profits, costs, expenses, losses, liabilities, damages, taxes and charges of any kind (whether foreseen or unforeseen) attributable to the termination of this Agreement.

E. Upon termination, the Consultant shall provide the City with the most current design documents, contract documents, writings and other products the Consultant has produced to termination, along with copies of all project-related correspondence and similar items. The 13 City shall have the same rights to use these materials as if termination had not occurred; provided however, that the City shall indemnify and hold the Consultant harmless from any claims, losses, or damages to the extent caused by modifications made by the City to the Consultant's work product.

15. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELEGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION

A certification form will accompany the contract to be signed confirming that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, Firm and its principals.

A. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency.

B. Have not within a three-year period preceding this contract been convicted or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, receiving stolen property, making false claims, or obstruction of justice;

C. Are not presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and,

D. Have not within a three-year period preceding this contract had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

16. LIABILITY The Firm shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City, its officers and employees from all claims, demands, or suits in law or equity arising from the Firm's negligence or breach or its

obligations under the contract. The Firm's duty to indemnify shall not apply to liability caused by the sole negligence of the City, its officers and employees. The Firm's duty to indemnify for liability arising from the concurrent negligence of the City, its officers and employees and the Firm, its officers and employees shall apply only to the extent of the negligence of the Firm, its officers and employees. The Firm's duty to indemnify shall survive termination or expiration of the contract. The Firm waives, with respect to the City only, its immunity under RCW Title 51, Industrial Insurance.

17. INSURANCE COVERAGE

During the term of the contract, the Firm shall maintain in force at its own expense, each insurance coverage noted below:

A. Worker's Compensation Insurance in compliance with RCW 51.12.020, which requires subject employers to provide workers' compensation coverage for all their subject workers and Employer's Liability Insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000; and

B. General Liability Insurance on an occurrence basis, with a combined single limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage. It shall include contractual liability coverage for the indemnity provided under this contract. It shall provide that the City, its officers and employees are additional insureds, but only with respect to the Firm's services to be provided under this contract; and

C. Automobile Liability Insurance with a combined single limit, or the equivalent of not less than \$1,000,000 each accident for bodily injury and property damage, including coverage for owned, hired and non-owned vehicles.

D. Professional Liability Insurance with a combined single limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each claim, incident or occurrence. This is to cover damages caused by the error, omission, or negligent acts related to the professional services to be provided under this contract. The coverage must remain in effect for at least three (3) years after the contract is completed.

There shall be no cancellation, material change, reduction of limits or intent not to renew the insurance coverage(s) without forty-five (45) days written notice from the Firm or its insurer(s) to the City. As evidence of the insurance coverages required by this contract, the Firm shall furnish acceptable insurance certificates to the City at the time it returns the signed contract. The certificate shall specify all of the parties who are additional insured, and include applicable policy endorsements, and the deductible or retention level, as well as policy limits. Ensuring companies or entities are subject to City acceptance and must have a rating of A- or higher by Best. Copies of all applicable endorsements shall be provided. The Firm shall be financially responsible for all pertinent deductibles, self-insured retentions, and/or self-insurance.