



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR LEGAL SERVICES

INQUIRIES AND PROPOSALS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

**Cindy Emerick
School Director
Alee Academy Charter School
1705 E. County Road 44
Eustis, FL 32736
emerickc@aleeacademy.org**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. **Purpose.** This request for proposal (RFP) is to contract for legal services to be provided to the **Alee Academy, INC** – a public charter school.

B. **Who May Respond.** Attorneys currently licensed to practice law in **Florida**, or law firms including such attorneys, may respond to this RFP.

C. **Instructions on Proposal Submission.**

1. **Closing Submission Date.** Proposals must be submitted no later than **4:00 pm on August 1, 2024**

2. **Inquiries.** Inquiries concerning this RFP should be mailed to:

**Cindy Emerick
School Director
Alee Academy Charter School
1705 E. County Road 44
Eustis, FL 32736**

Or e-mailed to: emerickc@aleeacademy.org

3. **Conditions of Proposal.** All costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal responding to this RFP will be the responsibility of the Proposer and will not be reimbursed by the Alee Academy, INC (hereinafter referred to as Alee Academy).

4. **Instructions to Prospective Contractors.** Your proposal should be addressed as follows:

**Cindy Emerick
School Director
Alee Academy Charter
School
1705 E. County Road 44
Eustis, FL 32736
emerickc@aleeacademy.org**

It is important that the proposal be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked in the lower left-hand corner with the following information:

Request for Proposal

4:00 pm, August 1, 2024

SEALED PROPOSAL For Legal Services

Failure to do so may result in premature disclosure of your proposal. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to insure that the proposal is received by Alee Academy, INC, by the date, time and in the manner specified above. Late, unsealed proposals will not be considered.

5. **Right to Reject.** Alee Academy reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP. A contract for the accepted proposal will be drafted based upon the factors described in this RFP.

6. **Notification of Award.** It is expected that a decision selecting the successful proposal will be made within two (2) weeks of the closing date. Upon conclusion of final negotiations regarding the successful proposal, all other Proposers will be informed, in writing, of the name of the successful Proposer. It is expected that the contract shall be a three-year contract.

- D. **Description of Entity.** Alee Academy Charter School is a public charter high school, serving students in grades 9 - 12 throughout Lake County, Florida. Alee Academy Charter School was established in 1999 with a mission to serve students in need of an alternative learning environment from that of the public high school.

Alee Academy Charter School is fully accredited through Cognia, and has maintained full accreditation since first applying in 2007. Alee Academy is a school of choice, accepting students from all areas of Lake County, Florida. Students and parents choose Alee Academy Charter School for various reasons, including: smaller classes, small campus, individual student success plans, credit recovery, acceleration, and dual enrollment opportunities with the local technical college and state college, among others.

- II. **SCOPE OF SERVICES.** The Proposer shall be readily available to perform the following legal services, as requested by the Executive Director and/or Board of Directors:

- A. Review drafts of contracts and leases.

- B. Advise on legal issues related to agency and tax-exempt organization status.
- C. Advise on individual labor and employment matters.
- D. Review personnel, fiscal and other policies, as well as agency bylaws.
- E. Advise on Human Resources policies and/or procedures.
- F. Advise on responses to subpoenas, court orders, and requests for information from third parties.
- G. Defend lawsuits, administrative claims, or other legal claims.
- H. Conduct litigation as necessary.

Although it is preferable for an attorney or firm to submit a proposal covering all of the above areas, Alee Academy will consider proposals emphasizing expertise in subsets of these areas.

III. PROPOSAL CONTENTS. The Proposer, in its proposal, shall, as a minimum, include the following:

A. **Legal Experience.** The Proposer should describe its experience related to the areas outlined in the scope of services above. There is a particular interest in the following topic areas: nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations; real estate, including bond financing; government grants and contracts; and general business operations. Additionally, if applicable, provide a description of any experience advising organizations comparable to Alee Academy that offer similar programs and government-funded services.

B. **Organization, Size, Structure, and Areas of Practice.** The Proposer should describe its organization in terms of the following:

- size
- structure,
- areas of practice
- office location(s)
- small or minority-owned business

Please include a copy of the Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy, if available.

C. **Attorney Qualifications.** The Proposer should separately attach a description of the qualifications of attorneys to be assigned to the representation. Descriptions should include:

1. Professional and education background of each attorney.
2. Overall supervision to be exercised.

3. Prior experience of the individual attorneys with respect to the required experience listed above. Include resumes only of attorneys likely to be assigned to the representation. Education, position in firm, years and types of experience, and continuing professional education will be considered.

D. **Price.** The Proposer's proposed price should include information on the hourly billing rates of each attorney or other legal staff who are expected to work on this representation and charges for expenses, if any, such as legal research, copies, faxes and electronic communication. Also include a retainer amount that would be charged to advise Alee Academy on routine matters that could be handled over the telephone or otherwise without extensive research or other legal work. Alee Academy reserves the right to negotiate with the Proposer on the structure of the billing and/or retainer fee.

IV. PROPOSAL EVALUATION.

A. **Submission of Proposals.** All proposals shall include one (1) original and three (3) copies.

B. **Evaluation Procedure and Criteria.** Alee Academy's Executive Director and appropriate staff will review proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for final approval. The Executive Director and/or Board of Directors may request a meeting with some qualified Proposers prior to final selection. Proposals will be reviewed in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Proposed approach to scope of work.
2. Level of experience of the individual(s) identified to work on this matter.
3. The Proposer's experience with similar clients and legal matters.
4. Cost.
5. Interviews, if conducted.

C. **Required Format for Proposals.** All proposals must follow the required format. Failure to follow the required format may result in disqualification of a proposal:

1. Page Limit: 12, including cover page
2. Attorney Qualifications section should be attached and is not included in the page limit
3. Page Size: 8 ½ x 11; portrait
4. Font Size: 12
5. Font Type: Times New Roman
6. Double-spaced
7. Margins: 1" minimum on the top, bottom, and sides of all pages
8. All pages must be numbered; double-sided printing is acceptable

9. Do not use material in proposals dependent on color distinctions, animated electronics, etc.
10. Do not place proposals in notebooks or binders. Metal clips may be used to bind pages together.
11. Do not include attachments other than those requested or required by this RFP.

V. PROPOSAL TIMELINE.

During the period from your organization's receipt of this Request for Proposals and until a contract is awarded, your organization shall not contact any employee of Alee Academy for additional information except in writing directed to Cindy Emerick via email: emerickc@aleeacademy.org

VI. QUESTIONS.

Questions for the purpose of clarifying the RFP must be submitted **in writing by email** and must be received no later than **4:00 p.m. on July 22, 2024**.

Questions must be emailed to Cindy Emerick at emerickc@aleeacademy.org. Questions and responses will be posted as an "Addendum to the Alee Academy, INC RFP for Legal Services" on the Alee Academy website at www.aleeacademy.org by 4:00 p.m. on July 19, 2024. Please note that submissions of questions for response do not in any way enhance or guarantee the chances of receiving a contract through this proposal.

VII. GENERAL INFORMATION.

A. Contract Award

Alee Academy, INC reserves the right to award the contract in a manner deemed to be in the best interests of Alee Academy, INC.

B. Stability of Proposed Prices

Any price offerings from Proposers must be valid for a period of 30 days from the due date of the proposals.

C. Amendment or Cancellation of the RFP

Alee Academy, INC reserves the right to cancel, amend, modify, or otherwise change this RFP at any time if it deems it to be in the best interests of Alee Academy, INC.

D. Proposal Modifications

No additions or changes to any proposal will be allowed after the proposal due date, unless such modification is specifically requested by Alee Academy. Alee Academy, at its option, may seek Proposer retraction and clarification of any discrepancy or contradiction found during its review of proposals.

E. Proposer Presentation of Supporting Evidence

Proposers must be prepared to provide any evidence of experience, performance, ability, and/or financial surety that Alee Academy deems necessary or appropriate to fully establish the performance capabilities represented in their proposals.

F. Proposer Demonstration of Proposed Services and/or Products

Proposers must be able to confirm their ability to provide all proposed services.

G. Erroneous Awards

Alee Academy, INC reserves the right to correct inaccurate awards. This includes revoking the awarding of a contract to a Proposer and subsequently awarding the contract to a different Proposer.

Such action shall not constitute a breach of contract on the part of Alee Academy, INC because the contract with the initial Proposer will be deemed voided as if no contract were ever in place.

H. Ownership of Proposals

All proposals shall become the property of Alee Academy, INC and will not be returned.

I. Ownership of Subsequent Products

Any product, whether acceptable or unacceptable, developed under a contract awarded as a result of this RFP shall be the sole property of Alee Academy, INC unless otherwise stated in the contract.

J. Oral Agreement or Arrangements

Any alleged oral agreements or arrangements made by Proposers with Alee Academy, INC will be disregarded in any proposal evaluation or associated award.

K. Not a Contract

This RFP is not a contract and, alone, shall not be interpreted as such. Rather, this RFP serves only as the instrument through which proposals are solicited. Alee Academy, INC will pursue negotiations with the highest scoring proposal. If, for some reason, Alee Academy, INC and the initial Proposer fail to reach consensus on the issues relative to a contract, then Alee Academy, INC may commence contract negotiations with other Proposers. Alee Academy, INC may decide at any time to start the RFP process again.

The selected Proposer will be required to sign a formal contract.

L. Subcontractors

Alee Academy, INC must approve any and all subcontractors utilized by the successful Proposer prior to any such subcontractor commencing any work. Proposers acknowledge by the act of submitting a proposal that any work provided under the contract is work conducted on behalf of Alee Academy and that Alee Academy's Executive Director or designee may communicate directly with any subcontractor as Alee Academy deems necessary or appropriate.

It is also understood that the successful Proposer shall be responsible for all payment of fees charged by the subcontractor(s). A performance evaluation of any subcontractor shall be provided promptly by the successful Proposer to Alee Academy, INC upon request. The successful Proposer must provide the majority of services described in the specifications.

Posted 7/18/2024