

The City of Columbus (Ohio), Department of Development is seeking qualifications from national consulting firms to perform an analysis of the city’s current incentive offerings for residential, office and industrial development.

The City of Columbus (City) is the capital and largest city in the state of Ohio.  It is the 15th largest city in the United States with a population of 835,957 (2014 estimate).  It is the core city of the Columbus, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which encompasses a ten county area.

The City of Columbus Department of Development team is comprised of approximately 170 employees charged with improving the economy and neighborhoods of the City.  The Department of Development is responsible for housing, code enforcement, economic development, land redevelopment and planning.  The Department of Development has an operating budget of $32.8 million and oversees $44.6 million in Capital Budget Funds.

The City is seeking to better understand the impacts of its current incentive programs on the City’s development patterns and competitiveness, and if advisable, is seeking recommendations for modifications to its current incentive policies and program offerings to achieve the desired industry growth patterns that foster job expansion, competitive wages, workforce attraction and economic inclusion.

For office and industrial development specifically, we are looking to analyze the City’s competitive position both nationally against the Columbus Region’s competitive set and locally in relation to our suburban communities.  This analysis should compare the City’s cost to construct and operate against MSAs the City often contend with for globally competitive site selection attraction and retention projects.  The objective of this national analysis will be to set a baseline competitive standard for the City and the Columbus Region as a whole setting a clear, universal standard for office and industrial development incentives, including both property tax and income tax incentives, within the City.

**Qualifications Deadline:**

Deadline and submission proposals are due in **no later than close of business on** **May 20, 2016** to Quinten L. Harris, Deputy Director of Economic Development, City of Columbus Department of Development, 150 South Front Street, Suite 220, Columbus, OH 43215.  Please provide us with 5 copies of the proposal.  Please also provide a copy in electronic format.  For additional information, please call or email: Quinten Harris at 614-645-0772 or qlharris@columbus.gov.

**The Schedule**

* **May 2, 2016** – RFQ issued.
* **May 20, 2016** – Proposals due by close of business.
* **May 30, 2016** – Interviewees selected and notified by telephone; other firms notified of decision by e-mail.
* **June 13, 2016** – Selection of firms to invite to respond to Request for Proposals (RFP)
* **June 17, 2016** – Issue RFP to selected firms
* **July 8, 2016** – RFP Response Due