

Kawerak Request for Proposal

Brownfields Assessment Project Proposal

DUE JANUARY 7, 2022

KAWERAK ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

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I. Document Purpose and Background

Kawerak, Inc., a non-profit tribal consortium located in northwest Alaska, provides a multitude of services to residents of the Bering Strait Region, in one of the most remote parts of the world. Kawerak represents 20 federally recognized tribes residing within 16 communities. Most local residents of the Bering Strait Region have ancestral ties to the area dating back thousands of years, and many still speak Indigenous languages. Residents generally maintain a subsistence way of life and depend on fishing as well as hunting for walrus, whale, seal, caribou, and reindeer. Recently, climate change has affected the viability of subsistence life ways. Normally locked in sea ice from October to June, the villages now experience reductions in ice cover, which impact marine mammal harvests, terrestrial erosion rates, and infrastructure. Major storms bombard the land with no protection from sea ice and residents are concerned that contamination from local brownfields sites is spreading and potentially impacting residents and the wildlife upon which they depend.

Kawerak, Inc.'s Environmental Program seeks a contractor to conduct a series of assessments, meetings, and plans for six sites within the Bering Strait Region. This project will provide the stepping stones needed to move these properties from contaminated to clean, and will ultimately lead to the reincorporation of valuable property back into the community.

Over the course of three years, the contractor will complete one Qualified Environmental Plan (QEP) contract, develop one community Involvement Plan, host 4 initial meetings, host 4 focused planning sessions, 12 phone conferences and web updates, update one Brownfields site inventory, 6 fact sheets, and one program brochure. For site assessment, the contractor will submit one EPA-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP); 6 executed site access agreements; 6 executed site eligibility forms; 6 ASTM-compliant Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) reports; 4 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved Sampling Analysis Plans (SAP), 4 Health & Safety Plans, and 4 ASTM-compliant Phase II ESA reports. And finally, for cleanup and reuse development, the contractor will complete two conceptual cleanup plans, one Site Reuse Assessment, one Community Health Assessment, and two sites cleared for reuse/redevelopment.

The intent of this project is to assist villages in obtaining the information and documentation they need in order to pursue future cleanup of project sites and develop reuse projects which will reincorporate land back into their communities.

II. Summary of Deliverables

To be considered, Responders must deliver proposals to the address below, on or before the deadline, and in the number of copies indicated below.

Deadline: Proposals will be accepted until Friday, January 7, 2022 at 5pm Alaska Standard Time (AKST).

Address Responses To: Kawerak Environmental Program, Attention Anahma Shannon, Environmental Program Director, P.O. Box 948, Nome, Alaska, 99762 or email to ashannon@kawerak.org

Mark Proposals as Follows: “Brownfields Assessment Project Proposal” – Kawerak Environmental Program”

Cover Letter: 2 page maximum
Narrative: 20 pages maximum
Resumes: 4 pages maximum

III. Project Information

Contractor will complete A-C:

- A. Community Involvement: contractor will complete one QEP contract, develop one community Involvement Plan, host 4 initial meetings, host 4 focused planning sessions, 12 phone conferences and web updates, update one brownfields site inventory, 6 fact sheets, and one program brochure.
- B. Site Assessment: contractor will submit one EPA-approved QAPP; 6 executed site access agreements; 6 executed site eligibility forms; 6 ASTM-compliant Phase I ESA reports; 4 EPA-approved SAPs, 4 Health & Safety Plans, and 4 ASTM-compliant Phase II ESA reports.
- C. Cleanup and Reuse Development: contractor will complete two conceptual cleanup plans, one Site Reuse Assessment, one Community Health Assessment, and two sites cleared for reuse/redevelopment.

Community Involvement

The contractor will work with Kawerak’s Brownfields Coordinator and Program Director to develop a Community Involvement Plan and set that plan into motion over the following three years. The contractor will develop fact sheets for each of the brownfields sites assessed which will inform community members about their brownfield site, and best strategies for cleanup. Public meetings will be set up in each of the four villages to share the project information with the community, gather information from locals, garner village leadership support, and conduct site visits. The public meeting will inform Kawerak staff and contractors about who should be in the planning meetings for each site. Planning meetings will be conducted to keep information flowing around each site's assessment development.

Site Prioritization and Assessment

The site prioritization and selection will be guided by input from Kawerak staff, the local communities and the QEP. Although sites were originally identified, some site priorities may have changed depending on any development that happened within the community in subsequent months. The preliminary list of key sites has been identified and was developed with community involvement. Final selection of priority sites for assessments will emphasize those properties that can be reused as already envisioned for the benefit of the residents. Standard site access agreements and written site eligibility determinations will be formalized.

The Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will ensure fulfillment of data quality objectives and will be produced by the contractor to cover all sites. ASTM-compliant Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) will be completed to identify Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) and other environmental concerns. Preparation of Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs) and completion of ASTM-compliant Phase II ESAs to evaluate the extent and severity of contamination for those sites with RECs. All onsite activities will be performed in accordance with applicable EPA rules and regulations, grant requirements, state regulations, and Kawerak and village environmental guidance. Due to the remoteness of the communities, assessment methodologies will be selected in order to minimize the need for specialized equipment (e.g., excavation of test pits using community-owned equipment in place of borehole drilling).

Cleanup and Reuse Development

Although no actual cleanup or reuse projects will take place through this contract, planning of these topics with the community will take place. Contractor will complete two conceptual cleanup plans, one Site Reuse Assessment, one Community Health Assessment, and two sites cleared for reuse/redevelopment.

IV. Evaluation Process

Bids will be evaluated based on contractor’s proposed narrative, experience, and the overall feasibility of the proposal.

1. A narrative will outline how contractor proposes to develop this project, including an overall timeline, an activity matrix including major projects and deadlines outlined in this RFP, and ideas for working with Kawerak staff. This is the approach to providing the services and should address who, what when, where, how, and in what sequence the work would be performed. 30 points
2. A project budget will include staff time, supplies, travel and other expenses. 30 points
3. Previous Experience: Provide a summary of projects similar in size and complexity that demonstrate relevant experience, preferably in rural Alaska. 15 Points
4. Specialized Experience: Working knowledge and preferably previous experience within the fields of contaminated sites, brownfields, community engagement, and rural economic development. 25 Points

Contractor Selection Criteria	Weight
1. Narrative	30
2. Budget	30
3. Previous Experience	15
4. Specialized Experience	25

Total 100

In the event that Kawerak cannot successfully negotiate a contract with the highest ranked Responder, staff will terminate negotiations with that Responder and initiate negotiations with the next highest ranked Responder. This process will be followed until Kawerak and a Responder have reached agreement and a contract is executed, if at all, unless circumstances warrant otherwise.

V. Additional Information

1. Responders should be aware that the information presented in this document is preliminary, and subject to change.
2. Any costs incurred in response to this request are at the Responder's sole risk and will not be reimbursed by Kawerak or any project funders.
3. Kawerak reserves the right to define and waive informalities, and to make a selection as deemed in its own best interest. This includes the right to decline to enter into any contracts based on this solicitation, withdraw, cancel or reissue this solicitation for any reason, or reject all proposals and proceed utilizing a different process, all at its sole discretion and without liability.
4. The successful Contractor must agree to comply with Kawerak's Mandatory Vaccine Policy, which requires that any personnel of Contractor that will be performing the Scope of Work and who will be on site within Kawerak facilities or in physical contact with Kawerak staff or clientele while providing such services, will be vaccinated. Should the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") recommend that COVID 19 boosters are necessary, all such personnel will have received a booster to the extent recommended by CDC.

Questions:

Interested firms may submit questions in writing to the aforementioned address, by fax at (907) 443-4445 (attn.: Anahma Shannon) or by email to ashannon@kawerak.org, by December 30, 2021.

VI. Other

Travel

No additional travel funding can be requested. All travel costs must be outlined within the proposal's budget. Contractor and Kawerak staff can determine if it is appropriate to travel during this time or if digital meetings can be conducted. Travel may not be possible due to COVID-19 restrictions. If this is the case, contractor and Kawerak staff will work together to amend the proposal.