



Commissioner Kevin L. Boyce • Commissioner Marilyn Brown • Commissioner John O'Grady  
President

## **Franklin County, Ohio Comprehensive Strategy to Mitigate Poverty**

### **Request for Proposals**

January 12, 2018

#### **Background**

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners seeks proposals for development of a county-wide poverty assessment and strategic plan. Work will include a review of current national poverty mitigation trends and methodologies, local projects and initiatives, facilitation of a county-wide steering committee appointed by the Board of Commissioners, branding and completion of the strategic plan.

Franklin County, Ohio ([www.franklincountyohio.gov](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov)) is the largest county in Ohio with a diverse population of more than 1,300,000 residents. The County, in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code, is governed by three elected County Commissioners. The County Administrator is the highest unelected post in county government and leader of 13 county agencies with more than 1,400 employees and oversees the County's annual \$1.5 billion budgeting process for 35 agencies.

The current poverty rate in the county is 16.7%; nearly 33% for African Americans and 25% for children, with similar inequalities among New Americans, Somalis, Latinos and other disadvantaged groups. The Board of Commissioners is responsible to the residents for the delivery of human services, and funds workforce and economic development programs for the county's most vulnerable populations. Consequently, the Board desires to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy that elevates the urgent need to mitigate local

poverty by convening stakeholders to co-create community-wide innovations that improve economic mobility, family stability, and equitable access to opportunity across Franklin County.

### **Scope of Work**

The selected team will create a detailed work plan; collect data and research, including promising practices and models from other communities; perform data analysis where appropriate; advance advocacy strategies; create a successful plan development process; create a visual identity for the initiative; develop messaging and communications strategies; coordinate the steering committee and related subcommittees (organizational management); complete the strategic plan; and implement adoption and county-wide roll-out strategy. The selected consultant team will be responsible for managing and facilitating steering committee presentations and communications (e.g. Agendas, PowerPoint presentations, meeting notes etc.) and weekly project management updates.

Deliverables will include a detailed work plan which will be finalized within 10 days of notice to proceed; summaries of data research/analysis and plan development process best practices; at least three (3) options for visual brand identity; a completed and vetted plan with recommendations for innovative solutions for poverty mitigation.

## **Proposal Submission**

The successful policy consulting team will: be diverse; be knowledgeable of the collective impact methodology; demonstrate success in community consensus-building and managing multiple groups of stakeholders with varied and sometimes competing interests by implementing effective, best practice engagement techniques; demonstrate success developing plans and strategies that systematically address social community issues like poverty and income inequality for comparable communities.

A qualified team should have no less than five years' experience working in human services and community and economic development sectors. Responsive proposals will include evidence of previous direct engagements facilitating discussions about the causes and impacts of poverty as well as experience in both quantitative and qualitative social sciences and poverty research. The selected prime organization or lead proposer must demonstrate the capacity to coordinate, perform certain administrative activities, and serve as a fiscal agent for the consulting team. Nationally-based teams or consultants headquartered outside Franklin County should consider including local expertise where applicable.

In addition to demonstrating the above criteria, submissions will include a high-level work plan (to be detailed upon notice to proceed) and pricing. Responders should note that while pricing is a component of evaluation it is not solely determinative of award.

Questions regarding this RFP shall be submitted in writing to Keena Smith at the above email address no later than 12:00pm (noon, Eastern Standard Time) on January 31, 2018. The county will reply to all questions by close of business on February 7, 2018. Answers will be posted to the Franklin County Purchasing webpage at <https://purchasing.franklincountyohio.gov/>.

Proposals may be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word or by PDF to Keena Smith, Deputy County Administrator, by email to: [KMSmith@FranklinCountyOhio.gov](mailto:KMSmith@FranklinCountyOhio.gov) by no later than 12:00pm (noon, Eastern Standard Time) on Monday February 26, 2018. Proposals must be no more than 30 pages (15 pages, if double-sided) in length on 8.5 x 11 paper, no less than 12pt font, at least 1.5 line spacing. Team member resumes and three (3) references can be included in an appendix and will not count toward the 30 page limit.

If hard copies are submitted, please submit five (5) copies using 3-ring binders by 12:00pm (noon, Eastern Standard Time) Monday, February 26, 2018 to:

Keena M. Smith  
Franklin County Deputy Administrator  
373 S. High St., 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Any proposals submitted by email after 12:00pm (noon, Eastern Standard Time) on Monday, February 26, 2018 will not be accepted. Any hard copy proposals submitted after 12:00pm (noon, Eastern Standard Time) on Monday, February 26, 2018 will not be accepted. Proposers should select one method of submittal. If both methods are used, the response received earliest will be evaluated, with the response received later discarded.

The Board of Commissioners may request live presentations from selected proposers.

The Board of Commissioners desires to begin work in March of 2018 for an anticipated duration of six months from notice to proceed.

Franklin County's standard consulting contract will be utilized for this procurement.

The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to decline to make an award on this scope of services solely at their discretion.