

**Combined Recommended Language for Invitations to Bid (ITB)  
Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned (Veteran Initiative) and  
Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative) Program**

This procurement has been designated as suitable for Louisiana certified small entrepreneurships participation.

The State of Louisiana Veteran and Hudson Initiatives small entrepreneurship programs are designed to provide additional opportunities for Louisiana-based small entrepreneurships (sometimes referred to as LaVet's and SE's respectively) to participate in contracting and procurement with the state. A certified Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned small entrepreneurship (LaVet) and a Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative) are businesses that have been certified by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development. All eligible vendors are encouraged to become certified. Qualification requirements and online certification are available at [https://smallbiz.louisianaforward.com/index\\_2.asp](https://smallbiz.louisianaforward.com/index_2.asp).

Bidders that are not eligible for certification are encouraged to use Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurships where subcontracting opportunities exist. To be responsive to this solicitation, the bidder shall be either a Veteran-Owned or Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned or Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship or have put forth a good-faith effort to use certified Veteran-Owned or Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurships as subcontractors(s). By signing and submitting this bid, the bidder certifies compliance with this requirement.

For a good faith effort, written notification is the preferred method to inform Louisiana certified Veteran Initiative and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurships of potential subcontracting opportunities. A current list of certified Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurships may be obtained from the Louisiana Economic Development Certification System at [https://smallbiz.louisianaforward.com/index\\_2.asp](https://smallbiz.louisianaforward.com/index_2.asp). Additionally, a current list of Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurships, which have been certified by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and have opted to enroll in the State of Louisiana Procurement and Contract (LaPAC) Network, may be accessed from <http://www.prd1.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/Vendor/srchven.cfm>. You may then determine the search criteria (i.e. alphabetized list of all certified vendors, by commodities, etc.), and select "SmallE".

Copies of notification to at least three (or more) certified Veteran Initiative and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurships will satisfy the notification requirements. Notification must be provided to the certified entrepreneurships by the bidder in writing no less than five working days prior to the date of bid opening. Notification must include the scope of work, location to review plans and specifications (if applicable), information about required qualifications and specifications, any bonding and insurance information and/or requirements (if applicable), and the name of a person to contact. If a certified Veteran-Owned or Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned or Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship was not selected, the bidder must certify and maintain written justification of the selection process. The state reserves the right to request confirmation of this information at any time.

In the event questions arise after an award is made relative to the bidder's good faith efforts, the bidder will be required to provide supporting documentation to demonstrate its good faith subcontracting plan was actually followed. If it is at any time determined that the contractor did not in fact perform its good faith subcontracting plan, the contract award or the existing contract may be terminated.

Contractors will be required to report Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor or distributor participation and the dollar amount of each. (*Agencies should indicate their specific requirement, i.e. where to send information and when - with bid, after clear lien, etc.*)

The statutes (R.S 39:2171 *et. seq.*) concerning the Veteran Initiative may be viewed at <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=671504>; and the statutes (R.S 39:2001 *et. seq.*) concerning the Hudson Initiative may be viewed at <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=96265>. The rules for the Veteran Initiative (LAC 19:VII.Chapters 11 and 15) and for the Hudson Initiative (LAC 19:VIII.Chapters 11 and 13) may be viewed at <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/se/se.htm>.

The State requires competitive pricing, qualifications, and demonstrated competencies in the selection of contractors.

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