

South Carolina Office of Resilience

Request for Qualifications for: Benefit Cost Analysis, Modeling, and Low-to-Moderate Income Benefit Verification for Proposed Projects

State Project # D30-N060-SG

SECTION 1: GENERAL SCOPE

Overview and Background:

The South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR) exists to increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, suffering, and hardship by lessening the impact of future disasters. To that end, SCOR has developed the Strategic Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan and utilizes state and federal funds to implement strategies and activities that mitigate future risks. To support and inform mitigation activities, SCOR seeks Engineering Services to provide **modeling, benefit-cost analysis (BCA), and Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) benefit verification for project proposals** submitted across all SCOR divisions and program areas.

The State will utilize the modeling, BCA, and LMI verification in the review, recommendation, and determination of project proposals. While the BCA is not the only factor considered in the evaluation of proposed projects for funding, it is an important criterion in quantifying net benefits and prioritizing projects.

Proposed projects will vary in location, application periods, and funding availability within each of the program areas. **Firms must demonstrate a methodology for conducting, documenting, and reporting the deliverables in an accurate and timely manner.**

The results of this service will be highly scrutinized and shared publicly. **Firms must have the capacity and capability to defend their work in accordance with industry standards.**

NOTE: The selected firm will not be excluded from the opportunity to compete for other contracts with SCOR. The selected firm must identify the staff members who will work on this specific project to avoid any potential conflict of interest and to document the separation from any other related work with SCOR.

SECTION 2: SPECIFICATIONS

Scope of Work and Deliverables:

The BCA procedure must assess, model, and document the viability of both the proposed project(s) benefits and estimated costs.

Firms must demonstrate experience and qualifications related to their use of the current FEMA Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) toolkit. Firms should include their staff expertise and capacity related to engineering, GIS, and economic analysis.

The combination of modeling, BCA, and LMI benefit verification must be used to determine the future risk reduction benefits; compare those benefits to its costs; and identify the LMI population the project will serve. Firms must identify the proposed project impacts in the project area, service area, as well as any impacts up and downstream of the project. The result is a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) and project service area LMI percentage.

Normally, infrastructure projects are considered cost-effective only when the BCR is 1.0 or greater. However, SCOR has developed scoring criteria that will recognize the long-term impact and effectiveness of innovative, green infrastructure projects. Similarly, buyout projects will not require a minimum BCA, but the BCR will be used for a portion of the overall scoring criteria.

The LMI verification must analyze and document the proposed project benefit(s) to LMI persons and communities. Provider will prepare a report documenting LMI and BCA methods, assumptions, flood risk results, and the cost-effectiveness of the proposed mitigation actions.

- Conduct a comprehensive (qualitative and quantitative) assessment of the impact of the determined projects on Low-to-Moderate Income communities and provide that data set, as well as a formal report, to SCOR.
- Access all relevant databases to obtain accurate data for the final analysis.
- Identify the costs and benefits, clarify the potential impact of the activity and the type of costs and benefits it would generate.
- Value the costs and benefits express (as far as possible) the value of benefits and costs in monetary terms. Identify which of these can be valued and how.
- Aggregate the costs and benefits of the proposed project.
- Determine the project's cost effectiveness (include the BCR and include the dataset)
- Model the project area before and after implementation of the proposed project and provide visuals to SCOR that document the flood reduction achieved, if any, by the project
- Verify the source of flooding to the project area (riverine, surface, tidal, etc.) and quantify the flood reduction achieved by the proposed project (e.g., 25-yr storm, 24-hr event protection; Above 25-yr, 24-hr event protection)
- Identify and document the number of structures that receive a flood risk reduction benefit from the proposed project.
- Identify and document any mobility improvements to major highways, thoroughfares, emergency routes, and/or evacuation routes.
- Prepare a prioritized list of projects along with recommendations for implementation for those deemed cost-effective and recommendations to improve the BCR of projects deemed not cost-effective.

Provider will process data in GIS to inform building inputs and flood depths for each building in the project area. Damages will be calculated using the FEMA methodology (including the generic residential depth-damage functions) in a separate spreadsheet-based approach. Damage estimates from this analysis will be totaled and entered into the current version of the FEMA BCA Toolkit.

Considerations in this decision will include overall proposed project cost, feasibility, grant funding eligibility, schedule, and availability of required federal grant and local matching funds.

The final deliverable must have the highest level of credibility based upon data-driven, expert analysis. Therefore, the State seeks an experienced firm that is familiar with these types of projects and can work

within the intent of the program. The selected firm will provide a comprehensive data analysis, which will stand intense public scrutiny, and the final product must be easily defensible due to its intellectual rigor.

Deliverables:

- Create a Summary Report of findings, including but not limited to:
 - GIS data;
 - List of prioritized projects;
 - Documentation of methods;
 - Before and after risk reduction modeling images; and
 - Technical data and related information.
- A Benefit-Cost Analysis on each of the prioritized projects.
 - The firm will provide that dataset to the South Carolina Office of Resilience.

Unless otherwise directed, all briefings will be conducted at the South Carolina Office of Resilience at 632 Rosewood Drive in Columbia, South Carolina.

SECTION 3: SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

Submittal shall include, at a minimum, information required in the solicitation, responses to all selection criteria required by the SC Consolidated Procurement Code (found in Chapter 4 of the OSE Manual) and the following:

1. Firm's staffing proposal for this project to include:
 - a. Staffing diagram; and
 - b. Names and resumes of staff working on the project
2. Firm's listing of completed flood mitigation studies performed within the last 5 years with Executive Summary. Include staff involved in the assessment.
3. If any responding firms include proprietary and/or trademark information, please be sure to make note of that in the submittal.

Submittal Format:

Provide one (1) electronic copy and three (3) printed copies to the South Carolina Office of Resilience's Mitigation Department.

Printed submittals must be clearly labeled on the outside of the envelope with the following wording: "RFQ for BCA, Modeling, LMI Verification", and the State Project Name and Number. All late submittals will be rejected. The South Carolina Office of Resilience is not responsible for late submissions caused by delays in mail delivery or delays in any other method of delivery.

Print size shall be 12 pt. font minimum, on 8½ by 11 paper, double-sided and must include all of the information required in this RFQ and may include any additional information that the A/E deems pertinent to the understanding and evaluation of its response.

Provide a cover page that includes: Company Name, Address, Point of Contact (Email Address and Phone Number); RFQ for BCA, Modeling, and LMI Verification; Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), Date of Submission, and include the signed certification below:

I certify that this submittal is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a response to this RFQ, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. I agree to abide by all conditions of the RFQ and certify that I am authorized to submit this response.

Authorized Signature (Print)

Authorized Signature w/ Title

E-mail Address

Electronic submittals must be delivered on a USB flash drive along with the printed copies to: South Carolina Office of Resilience, 632 Rosewood Drive, South Carolina 29201, Attention: Phleisha Lewis.

Submittal Deadline:

Deadline for submission: Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 3:00 PM to the South Carolina Office of Resilience Mitigation Department at 632 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201, Attention: Phleisha Lewis.

Any questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing via email no later than 3:00 PM on Thursday, September 25, 2025. Questions should be emailed to Phleisha.Lewis@scor.sc.gov. Responses will be provided via email no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, September 29, 2025.