

Request for Proposal: Evaluating Federal Funding Viability for Girls Inc.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Selected consultant agrees to sign an NDA while working with Girls Inc.; respondents agree (whether they are selected or not) not to disclose any information provided as part of the response process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ABOUT GIRLS INC.

Girls Inc. is the preeminent girls leadership organization, serving over 100,000 girls across the United States and Canada. Girls Inc. through its network, which consists of the National office as well as our 75 local Affiliates, spans 33 US states, Washington DC, and 2 Canadian provinces, inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold through direct service and advocacy. The National office and the Affiliates are all separate independent 501(c) 3 organizations. The National office has an operating budget of approximately \$20 million, and the Network as a whole has a budget of \$100 million.

Girls Inc.'s comprehensive approach to whole girl development equips girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers and grow up healthy, educated, and independent. These positive outcomes are achieved through three core elements:

- **people:** trained staff and volunteers who build lasting, mentoring relationships;
- **environment:** girls-only, physically and emotionally safe, where there is a sisterhood of support, high expectations, and mutual respect; and
- **programming:** research-based, hands-on and minds-on, age-appropriate, meeting the needs of today's girls.

Informed by girls and their families, we also advocate for legislation and policies to increase opportunities for all girls.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OVERVIEW/GOAL

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to assist Girls Inc. in evaluating the viability of pursuing federal funding for the Girls Inc. Network and to make recommendations to prepare the National office to pursue and manage potential federal funding.

SCOPE OF WORK

The National office seeks a consultant/consulting firm to explore the potential benefits and limitations of various federal funding opportunities for the Network, assess our readiness to manage federal funding, and develop a framework to decide whether and how to pursue federal funding. Key questions guiding this process include:

1. Are there sources of federal funding that would support the Girls Inc. Experience and weather political shifts? Would Girls Inc. qualify for funding with our level of evidence and evaluation capacity?
2. Is Girls Inc. National prepared for federal grant management and, if not, what changes would contribute to our readiness?
3. How can Girls Inc. National obtain adequate funding for the infrastructure needed to manage federal funding? Consultant or consulting firm should guide Girls Inc. in negotiating an indirect cost rate.
4. How should Girls Inc. evaluate the benefits of potential federal funding streams relative to the costs of administration and required deliverables?

The consultant or consulting firm will perform an analysis of relevant federal funding streams, deliver a decision making framework for the National organization to evaluate whether to pursue funding, guide Girls Inc. in negotiating an indirect cost rate, and provide recommendations for the National organization to prepare for potentially managing federal funding. All along, there is a consistent need to ensure that funding would support our core work—providing a high quality Girls Inc. Experience.

OVERVIEW OF EXPECTATIONS

We envision the work including data gathering and analysis of federal funding opportunities, an assessment of the National office's readiness for federal grant management, guidance in negotiating an indirect cost rate, and development of a framework for evaluating whether to pursue federal funding.

Deliverables for this work include:

- An overview and analysis of recommended sources of federal funding that are most likely to support the Girls Inc. Experience while minimizing mission drift and withstanding shifts in the political climate
- Recommendations to prepare Girls Inc. National to meet the demands of federal grant management
- Guidance on negotiating an indirect cost rate, including recommendation of an agency with which to establish the indirect cost rate
- A framework for evaluating whether and how Girls Inc. should pursue federal funding

Projected Timeline:

- Consultant selection by October 31, 2023
- Kickoff meeting by November 15, 2023
- Project completion by March 31, 2024

RFP SPECIFICATIONS

Please respond fully in writing to the information requested below. Each applicant will be evaluated based upon the depth and quality of the submitted proposal. The proposals

should include:

- Background information about the applicant, the firm's structure, culture, mission, and values, including whether the applicant is a certified minority, woman, or disabled service veteran-owned firm.
- Approach, work plan, timeline and deliverables
- Clear definition of scope of services and roles and responsibilities for Girls Inc. National and firm within the scope of work
- Each individual team member involved delineating roles, and biographies.
- At least three client references, the firm has represented within the last four years related to issues directly, or closely associated to those addressed in this RFP.
- Any and all associated fees, fee structure and payment structure. Also, indicate whether all services are provided in-house or if some are provided through outside vendors.
- Any adjustments to the timeline above and the rationale for that adjustment
- Statement of firm's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Girls inc. will review and evaluate all Proposals received and, in its discretion may request **additional** information and/or clarification or information contained in a submission.

Criteria

Cost (25%)

- Bidders will be evaluated on the cost of their solution(s) based on the work to be performed in accordance with the scope of this project

Overall proposal suitability (45%)

- Proposed solution(s) must meet the scope and needs and be presented in a clear and organized manner

Management judgment (30%)

- Organizational Experience: Bidders will be evaluated on their experience as it pertains to the scope of this project
- Previous work: Bidders will be evaluated on examples of their experience as well as client testimonials and references

Q&A

All questions pertaining to this RFP must be submitted in writing to the RFP mailbox, RFP2023@girlsinc.org, no later than **5:00pm EST on September 22, 2023.**

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must be submitted electronically, to RFP2023@girlsinc.org. Please include **GIRLS INC. FEDERAL FUNDING RFP RESPONSE** in the subject line.

All Proposals and all accompanying materials must be received by **5:00pm EST on September 30, 2023**. Girls Inc. reserves the right not to consider any Proposal received after this time.