

Request for Proposal

Building Community Resilience Through Regional Connections and Energy Investments Community Engagement – Orange County, NC

Issue Date: December 20, 2024

Updated: January 6, 2025

Response Deadline: February 14, 2025

Please direct all inquiries and responses concerning this RFP to:

Langston Alexander, Regional Recovery and Resilience Coordinator
Central Pines Regional Council | 4307 Emperor Blvd., Suite 110 | Durham, NC 27703
lalexander@centralpinesnc.gov | www.centralpinesnc.gov

About Us

Central Pines Regional Council educates and empowers local governments through direct assistance, regional planning, and technical expertise. As a resource and support hub for local governments, community members, and partners across Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Orange, and Wake counties, we believe that our region thrives when we come together with a common vision and plan for the future. Our work fosters constructive conversations and drives long-term change in our community to ensure our region is thriving, equitable, connected and resilient.

This Program

The Building Community Resilience Through Regional Connections and Energy Investments Project is focused on conducting a regional technical assessment and community planning process for a network of potential resilience hubs. During disasters and disruptions, these hubs deliver support during preparation and recovery, and provide backup power generation to communities through solar and storage. During regular operations, they will act as the focal point for implementing long-term community-based initiatives including but not limited to maximizing clean energy usage and affordability. This project is being led by the Central Pines Regional Council (Central Pines), and consists of the following counties, cities, and towns: Chatham

County, Orange County, the Town of Chapel Hill, the Town of Carrboro, the Town of Hillsborough, Durham County, and the City of Durham.

The Project is funded through the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Future Grant. The outcome will be a written report for each of the 18 facilities included in The Project, outlining the findings of the engagement and technical assessment processes.

Timeline

9 months; March 2025 - November 2025

Date	Event
February 14, 2025, by 5pm	CPRC receives proposals.
February 18, 2025	Shortlist of qualified consultants will be contacted for an interview
February 20-28, 2025	Interviews scheduled via Teams meeting, in-person at the CPRC office and/or hybrid will take place.
March 4, 2025, by 5pm	CPRC awards the contract to chosen consultant
March, 2025	Final contract signed
End of April, 2025	Community engagement plan completed
June-October, 2025	Community engagement workshops completed
November, 2025	Final data from each site is due to Central Pines

Scope of Requested Services

CPRC is seeking a qualified organization to conduct community engagement across five sites in Orange County, North Carolina. Those sites are:

- Cedar Grove Community Center
- Efland Cheeks Community Center
- Rogers Road Community Center
- Seymour Center
- Passmore Center

The purpose of the community engagement is to understand how community members are impacted by natural hazards, and ways they currently use the sites listed above, and how they envision those sites contributing to their resilience before, during, and after disasters. The data

collected through the community engagement process will be incorporated into final reports for each site indicating next steps for improving resilience.

Interested parties are requested to submit a comprehensive cost proposal not to exceed \$30,000 that includes the following:

- (1) Creating an engagement plan for Orange County.
- (2) Conducting outreach at community events and local meetings. The outreach should have two goals:
 - a. Let community organizations and residents know about upcoming in-person engagement sessions.
 - b. Collect information about the impact of disasters on their lives, their use of community facilities for disaster preparation and recovery, and ideas for how to best address resilience challenges.
- (3) Hosting at least one on-site engagement workshop at each of the sites listed above.
 - a. Must include food, childcare, and translation services for all materials (Spanish translation at a minimum).
 - b. Will be focused on collecting input from residents who use the facility and live nearby on how the facility could be improved to bolster their resilience before, during, and after disasters.
- (4) Host one county-wide engagement workshop.
 - a. Must include food, childcare, and translation services for all materials (Spanish translation at a minimum).
 - b. Will include discussion of how a network of resilience hubs across the County could be organized.
- (5) Present progress to county advisory taskforce periodically.
 - a. Every other month at a minimum.
- (6) Collect and organize data collected from workshops and outreach activities.
 - a. Data must be presented to Central Pines in an accessible, digital format.

Even if your organization cannot complete every item listed above, we still encourage you to apply. Central Pines understands that smaller organizations may only have the capacity to complete a subset of the work outlined. For example, if your organization works specifically with two of the sites listed above and you would only like to do engagement at those sites, please state that in your submission and Central Pines will take it into account.

Evaluation criteria

- (1) Quotes, not to exceed \$30,000.
- (2) Complete and timely proposal demonstrating ability to provide campaign components requested above during allotted time frame.

- (3) Responsible, responsive company as determined by qualifications and past performance on similar projects. Please provide references with contact information from previous projects if available.
- (4) Demonstrated familiarity with the Orange County communities served by the sites listed above.
- (5) As part of CPRC's 2023 to 2025 Strategic Business Plan organizational principles, we encourage subcontracting opportunities with diverse businesses (i.e. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, Minority Business Enterprise, Woman Business Enterprise, Small Business Enterprise, Small Professional Services Firm, Historically Underutilized Businesses, Disability Owned Business Enterprise, Veteran-owned Small Business).

To promote community-centered engagement, Central Pines strongly encourages proposals from organizations that are based in Orange County or have established relationships within the community. Preference will be given to contractors and subcontractors that:

- Are locally headquartered or maintain a significant presence in Orange County or neighboring areas.
- Demonstrate familiarity with and commitment to the specific neighborhoods and communities served by the project sites.
- Engage local talent, businesses, or service providers as subcontractors or partners, enhancing alignment with community priorities.

This preference reflects Central Pines' commitment to fostering sustainable local partnerships that support long-term community resilience and equity in Orange County.

Submission of Bids

All bids shall be emailed to Langston Alexander at laalexander@centralpinesnc.gov or received at the Central Pines Regional Council office, either by mail or in-person drop off, by 5:00pm on Friday, February 14, 2025. No bids will be accepted after this date and time. The office is located at 4307 Emperor Blvd., Suite 110, Durham, NC 27703 and is open from 8:30-5:00pm Monday through Friday. For hard copy proposals—the proposal will not be considered received until it is given to a person in the Central Pines offices and they sign, date, and timestamp the proposal. Proposals shall not be left on an unattended desk.

Mailed bids should be addressed as follows:

Langston Alexander
Central Pines Regional Council
4307 Emperor Blvd., Suite 110
Durham, NC 27703

Bids should clearly be marked “**Bid Proposal - Building Community Resilience Through Regional Connections and Energy Investments.**” All bids will be opened and read the following day, February 17, 2025.

General Bidding Requirements

All submitted bids should include:

1. A cover letter including the organization’s background, contact information, experience with community engagement broadly, and any connection to the communities identified in this RFP.
2. Price for services. Please fill out the attached bid form to provide these prices by facility.
3. Resume of primary personnel assigned to this project.
4. Qualifications and past performance on similar projects.

Terms and conditions

Central Pines will pay for services monthly following an invoice from the contractor. Start date for the contracted work is contingent on a cooperative agreement being signed with the funder of the project, the U.S. Department of Energy. No work will commence until a cooperative agreement is signed