



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance
Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 2024-106
Purpose: Government Relations Services**

The procurement by competitive negotiation is desired by Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance (hereinafter "KEMI") for Government Relations Services.

Responses must be submitted electronically, in a single PDF document limited to 100MB, via KEMI's online procurement submission portal at: www.kemi.com/rfp

The online procurement submission portal utilizes a two-step process to upload responses. Vendors must complete the access request form by providing contact information and a valid email address. An access link will be sent to the email address provided. Vendors must then follow the access link to the proposal submission form.

Proposals must be submitted on or before: **12:00 PM Eastern Time on January 8, 2025**

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I. RFP SPECIFICATIONS

A. Purpose and Scope of Services

KEMI is accepting proposals from qualified individuals and firms to provide KEMI's government relations services for both the executive and legislative branches of state government. Additionally, KEMI may have a need in the future for government affairs services at the federal level.

The winning Offeror will assist KEMI on a continuous basis under an annual contract in all facets of governmental relations at the state level including, but not limited to, the following:

- Developing legislative strategy, including assessing opportunities and areas of concern for KEMI
- Attending relevant committee hearings with or without KEMI staff during session and the interim. The relevant committees include but are not limited to Banking and Insurance, State and Local Government and Government Contract Review Committee
- Reviewing all bills filed and notification of all relevant bills within 24 hours of being filed
- Drafting legislation and amendments in addition to policy statements and/or testimony
- Recommending and arranging meetings with legislative leadership, committee chairmen and other key legislators
- Advocating, opposing and educating legislators and executive branch staff on issues important to KEMI
- Facilitating ongoing positive relationship and communicate with key decisionmakers at the Kentucky Department of Insurance, Kentucky Department of Workers' Claims, the Governor's office and other relevant agencies as needed
- Assisting in completion of all ethics reports
- Presenting or attending Board of Director or Board Committee meetings

KEMI expects the winning Offeror during the term of the contract to provide the following:

- Written summaries of relevant committee meetings
- Written summaries of all relevant bills during the legislative session
- Weekly teleconferences during session to review and discuss legislation

The winning Offeror may assist KEMI on a specific issue or issues at the federal level under a fee for service contract to be entered into when the situation warrants.

B. Scoring

A committee will evaluate all responses to ascertain which Offeror(s) best meets KEMI's business needs and requirements based on the selection criteria below:



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	Maximum Points Possible
Offeror Qualifications	70
Costs	25
Business Continuity Form	5
MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE	100
Interviews/Discussions, if selected	100
MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE With Interviews/Discussions	200

C. Schedule of Events

The following schedule of events represents KEMI’s best estimate of the schedule that shall be followed. KEMI, in its sole discretion, may alter and/or amend this schedule at any time, including not conducting virtual interviews/discussions. Any adjustments to the schedule of events will be emailed to the prospective offeror’s contact on record with Sarah Kosin.

- RFP Publication Date – Wednesday, November 13, 2024
- Deadline for Inquiries – Friday, December 6, 2024
- KEMI Response to Inquiries – Tuesday, December 10, 2024
- Deadline for Submission of Proposals – Wednesday, January 8, 2025
- In-person Interview/Discussions (Optional) – Friday, January 31, 2025
- Estimated Contract Award – July 1, 2025

II. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Offeror Qualifications

- The firm name, primary address, phone number and the number of years the business has been in operation.
- The name, title, and resume of the person who will be designated as KEMI’s principal contact for all aspects of the contract.
- The name, title and resume for each person who will handle matters assigned by KEMI. Please discuss relevant information regarding each person’s experience.
- A listing of any Personal Service Contracts with any agencies of the Commonwealth of Kentucky



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you or your firm currently have or have had at any time during the past three (3) years.

- e. Describe your and your firm's experience in providing the requested services to clients (please see Section I.A. Scope of Service).
- f. Describe your and your firm's experience in representing insurance clients (specifically property and casualty insurance). Provide the percentage of your time/experience providing services to insurance clients and a description of services provided in the last five years.
- g. Describe your and your firm's experience in representing specifically workers' compensation insurance carriers, self-insured carriers, and/or group funds. Provide the percentage of your time/experience providing services to workers' compensation clients and a description of services provided in the last five years.
- h. Do you or anyone in your firm currently represent, or have you represented in the past five years, any medical provider that treats workers' compensation claimants? If so, list all.
- i. Do you or anyone in your firm currently represent, or have you represented in the past five years, any associations that advocate on behalf of workers' compensation claimants or providers? If so, list all.
- j. Describe in detail how you and your firm will assure the quality and timeliness of the requested services. (please see Section I.A. Scope of Service)
- k. Has a complaint ever been filed against you or anyone in your firm alleging a violation of the legislative or executive branch code of ethics? If so, please provide details.
- l. Describe in detail how conflicts of interest will be handled by you and your firm?
- m. Have you or your firm ever provided government relation services at the federal level? If yes, please provide a summary of those services and the outcome.

B. Costs

- a. Provide the monthly fee for providing the services as outlined in Section I.A. Scope of Service for government relations services at the state level **only**. Include any expenses you anticipate under the contract.

C. Business Continuity Form



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- a. Complete the Business Continuity Form which is attached to this RFP, and return it as a separate attachment with your response. You must utilize the Business Continuity form for your answers.

D. References

- a. Provide at least three executive-level client references for which you have provided similar services as outlined in this RFP. If you are able, provide references related to your experience with workers' compensation carriers. You must include the client's name and address, as well as the name and phone number of a contact person. You may also include other references such as other businesses or other resources with whom you are associated and can provide a relevant, specific assessment of your qualifications to provide the services requested in this RFP.

III. INSTRUCTIONS

**READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.
FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE AT THE OFFEROR'S RISK.**

- A. Proposals must set forth full, accurate, and complete information as required by this RFP. Failure to follow these requirements may be cause for rejection of the proposal.
- B. KEMI is not liable for any expenses incurred in the preparation and presentation of the proposal.
- C. The Offeror Form located in the addendum must be signed by the person submitting the proposal and must include the signee's printed or typed name, business address, email address, company website, telephone number, and date. This form must be submitted with your proposal.
- D. The Sworn Statement Regarding Campaign Finance Laws Form located in the addendum must be signed, notarized, and submitted with your proposal.
- E. The Proposal Submission Checklist located in the addendum is included to ensure accurate and complete submissions.
- F. Proposals must be submitted electronically via KEMI's online submission portal as specified on the first page of this RFP. Unless stated otherwise in the RFP, it is **strongly preferred** that the entire proposal is submitted in a single PDF document. If separate attachments are also submitted, they must be clearly labeled and timely submitted. Please note that only a maximum of ten (10) attachments can be submitted through the online submission portal. No other method of correspondence will be accepted.
- G. **The Proposal Deadline Date and Time are the date and time indicated on the first page of this RFP. The date and time that KEMI actually receives the proposal will determine whether the applicant has met the deadline for response.**
- H. All inquiries concerning the form and method or specific services/products as well as requests for copies of the RFP must be made in writing to:

Sarah Kosin
rfp@kemi.com



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Responses to inquiries will be shared with all potential Offerors having received a copy of this RFP from KEMI. Therefore, distribution of this RFP must be handled directly by KEMI. Any unauthorized contact with any KEMI staff other than as specified above may disqualify the Offeror from further consideration.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background

KEMI was created in 1994 by the Kentucky General Assembly to provide workers' compensation insurance to Kentucky employers. KEMI is Kentucky's largest writer of workers' compensation insurance with its headquarters located in Lexington, Kentucky. For additional information about KEMI, please visit www.kemi.com.

B. Discussions with Offeror

Discussions may be conducted with all responsible Offerors who submit proposals and are determined to be reasonably qualified and susceptible of being selected for award. Discussions may be for the purpose of clarification to assure full understanding of, and conformance to, the proposal requirements; however, Offerors will not be permitted to change their original proposal. Offeror should clearly understand that any verbal representations made or assumed to be made during any oral discussion held between Offeror and KEMI are not binding.

KEMI may require Offerors among the top scoring proposals to participate in a virtual interview. See aforementioned Schedule of Events. The principal contact for KEMI will be required to participate in the interview.

C. Proposal Modifications

Any changes, amendments or modifications to a proposal after it has been submitted must be made prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals, must be in writing, and must be submitted in the same manner as the original proposal.

Proposals or modifications received by KEMI after the exact hour and date specified shall not be considered.

F. Confidentiality

Matters relating to this RFP and any resulting contracts shall not be discussed with anyone other than KEMI staff without the prior written consent of KEMI. No opinions, reports, summaries, letters, or other documents prepared with respect to the RFP shall be released without approval of KEMI, except as required by state or federal law.



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Except as required by law, information furnished by any Offeror in response to this RFP will not be disclosed by KEMI without the prior written consent of the Offeror.

G. Reservation of Rights

KEMI reserves the right to:

- I. Reject any or all proposals and waive any requirement, informality, or condition of proposals.
- II. Cancel the RFP and not award the RFP.
- III. Prohibit sub-contractors of the Offeror from performing any of the Services outlined in this RFP without the prior written consent of KEMI.
- IV. Categorize Offeror as an independent contractor, denying any employee/employer relationship between KEMI and Offeror.
- V. Approve the time and format of payment for the Offeror(s). KEMI will audit fees for reasonableness and accuracy.
- VI. Add items or services within the scope of the resultant contract if mutually agreeable by both the Offeror and KEMI.
- VII. Amend this RFP. Any amendment or information provided to a prospective Offeror will be provided to all prospective Offerors. If necessary, an RFP based on revised specifications will be issued as promptly as possible.
- VIII. Perform services in-house, or to contract with another company to perform like services.
- IX. Require a contract with the winning Offeror(s). Contract negotiations will commence at the conclusion of the RFP process.

H. Type of Contract

Contracts entered into as a result of this RFP will be Personal Service Contracts pursuant to KEMI's procurement policy, and a Personal Service Contract will be filed with the Commonwealth of Kentucky Legislative Government Contract Review Committee. The personal service contract template is available on the KEMI RFP Website.

I. Registration with the Kentucky Secretary of State

By responding to this RFP, the Offeror agrees and acknowledges that:

1. If the Offeror is a foreign entity as defined under Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 14A.1-070(10), and it is awarded a contract, it will ensure that it is properly registered with the Kentucky Secretary of State in accordance with KRS 14A.9-010 during the life of any contract awarded, or otherwise document the legal exemption which applies.
2. If the Offeror is a Kentucky entity as defined under KRS 14A.1-070(7), and it is awarded a contract, it will ensure that it is properly registered with the Kentucky Secretary of State in accordance with KRS Chapter 14A, or otherwise document the legal exemption which applies.



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The aforementioned information shall be maintained during the life of any contract awarded and provided to KEMI upon request.

I. Protest

Any offeror who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of a contract may file a written protest to KEMI's Internal Auditor within fourteen (14) calendar days after such aggrieved offeror knows or should have known of the facts giving rise to the protest.

Patrick Simpson
psimpson@kemi.com



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OFFEROR INFORMATION:

IMPORTANT: SUBMISSION MUST CONTAIN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE

Signed by: _____
 Date: _____
 Type or Print Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____

 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone No. _____ (Area Code) _____
 Fax No. _____ (Area Code) _____
 Email Address: _____
 Company Website: _____
 Federal ID or SSN # _____
 Type of ownership: _____ Individual _____ Sole Proprietorship
 _____ Corporation _____ Partnership

In addition to the principal contact listed above, please include below any additional contacts you would like to receive communication regarding the RFP. KEMI will only send communication regarding the RFP to the principal contact and the contact(s) listed below. The information includes, but is not limited to, KEMI's responses to inquiries, status updates about the RFP, any modifications to the RFP, requests for interview scheduling, etc.

Contact Name(s) for RFP Communication:

Contact Email(s) for RFP Communication:



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PROPOSAL SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

The vendor **MUST** include the following with the proposal submission.
If the items below are not submitted with the proposal submission,
KEMI will reject the proposal and the Offeror will be disqualified.

- SIGNED OFFEROR INFORMATION FORM**

- SIGNED AND NOTARIZED SWORN STATEMENT REGARDING CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS**

- COMPLETED BUSINESS CONTINUITY FORM**

- ORIGINAL COPY OF THE PROPOSAL**
(prepared in accordance with the Specifications and Requirements described in this RFP)