



ERIE COUNTY

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
TO PROVIDE FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND
MEDICAL EXAMINER TRANSPORT SERVICES**

RFP # 2026-001VF

**EDWARD A. RATH COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
95 FRANKLIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202**

COUNTY OF ERIE, NEW YORK

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (“RFP”) # 2026-001VF

TO PROVIDE FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND MEDICAL EXAMINER TRANSPORT SERVICES

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I. INTRODUCTION

The County of Erie, New York (the "County") is currently seeking proposals from qualified agencies ("Proposer") interested in providing Funeral Director and Medical Examiner Transport services for Erie County. Proposers interested in providing these services are invited to respond to this request.

In responding to this RFP, Proposers must follow the prescribed format as outlined. By so doing, each Proposer will be providing comparable data, and thus, be assured of fair and objective treatment in the review and evaluation process. It is the county's intent to select the Proposer that provides the best solution for the Erie county's needs.

The County reserves the right to amend this RFP, reject any or all the proposals, or any part thereof, submitted in response to this RFP, and reserves the right to waive any irregularities or informalities, if such action is deemed to be in the best interest of the County. The County reserves the right to request additional information from any Proposer, and to award negotiated contracts to one or more Proposers.

This RFP is not intended and shall not be construed to commit the County to pay any costs incurred in connection with any proposal or to procure or contract with any firm.

The County will only contract with firms that do not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, citizenship status or any other status protected by New York State and Federal laws.

II. FUNDING AND BUDGET

The award is subject to annual contract renewal, contingent upon the Proposer's successful performance of project objectives and the continued need and desire for such services as articulated by Erie County. Initial award and renewals are subject to inclusion of funding in the County Executive Recommended Budget and as adopted by the Erie County Legislature, as well as contingent upon availability of New York State funds appropriated for this purpose. All contract appropriations are subject to Legislative approval.

Future awards will be dependent on available funds and subject to the demonstrated fiscal and programmatic stability of the applicant agency, as well as their meeting all Erie County requirements. More than one provider may be selected for 2026-27.

III. PROPOSAL TIMEFRAMES

The following schedule is for informational purposes only. The County reserves the right to amend this schedule at any time.

Issue RFP: January 12, 2026

RFP Informational Meeting: January 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. via Webex

Register for the Informational Meeting by contacting Carrie.Godfrey@erie.gov by January 14, 2026.

Join from the meeting link

<https://erie.webex.com/erie/j.php?MTID=md75e285b00193179eecf99747ce508e7>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2493 167 3761

Meeting password: rM8Pajyid23

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)
[+1716-858-2250,,24931673761##](tel:+1716-858-2250,,24931673761##) United States Toll (Buffalo)
[+1415-655-0003,,24931673761##](tel:+1415-655-0003,,24931673761##) United States Toll

Join by phone
+1 716-858-2250 United States Toll (Buffalo)
+1-415-655-0003 United States Toll
[Global call-in numbers](#)

Join from a video system or application
Dial 24931673761@webex.com
You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Proposals Due: February 16, 2026 by 4:00 p.m.

Selection Made by: April 2026

Contract Signed: Following all necessary County approvals.

IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Each proposal shall be prepared simply and economically, avoiding the use of elaborate promotional materials beyond what is sufficient to provide a complete, accurate and reliable presentation.
2. Your proposal must be comprised of 3 sections:

Appendix A

- Proposal to Provide Service
- Signed Schedule A

Appendix B

- Signed Fiscal Form

Appendix C

- Most recent Audit report prepared by an independent CPA
- Most recent Management Letter
- Listing of Officers and Board of Directors

Failure to follow the prescribed format for responses may result in disqualification.

3. Proposals MUST be signed using the attached Schedule A: Proposer Certification. Unsigned proposals will be rejected.
4. Submission of the proposals shall be uploaded as three separate documents (Appendix A, B and C) to: [OnBase Unity Form](#). *You will receive an email confirming if it has been submitted.*

If unable to upload the proposal, a printed submission may be submitted to: Erie County Department of Social Services, Attn: Carrie Godfrey, 95 Franklin Street Room 804, Buffalo, NY 14202. Note: must be on 8.5x11 paper, one-sided and no staples.

5. All proposals must be submitted on or before February 16, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Regardless of cause, proposals received after the above date and time will not be considered. Requests for extension will not be granted. The County is under no obligation to return proposals.

6. Requests for clarification of this RFP must be written and submitted to Carrie Godfrey at the above address, or at Carrie.Godfrey@erie.gov no later than 4:00 pm on January 14, 2026. A list of questions and answers will be posted on the County website by January 20, 2026, if applicable. No communication of any kind will be binding against the county, except for the formal written responses to any request for clarification.
7. Proposers may be required to give an oral presentation to the County to clarify or elaborate on the written proposal. Those Proposers will be notified to arrange specific times.
8. No proposal will be accepted from nor any agreement awarded to any Proposer that is in arrears upon any debt or in default of any obligation owed to the County. Additionally, no agreement will be awarded to any Proposer that has failed to satisfactorily perform pursuant to any prior agreement with the County.
9. Information on the Standard Insurance Provisions required of agencies selected as a contractor of this service is included in this RFP. This document is for informational purposes only and is not to be submitted by the Proposer for the purposes of this RFP.
10. All potential contract-holders with Erie County shall agree to comply with Executive Order 13 (2014), and the Agency shall make such records available, upon request, to the County's Division of Equal Employment Opportunity for review. (A copy of Executive Order 13 is available here: [Executive Order 13](#)). All contract holders will be required to sign the Erie County Equal Pay Certification (attached). The County shall have the right, upon reasonable notice and at reasonable times, to inspect the books and records of the Agency, its offices and facilities, for the purpose of verifying information supplied in the Erie County Equal Pay Certification and for any other purpose reasonably related to confirming the Agency's compliance with Erie County Executive Order No. 13 (2014). Violation of the provisions of Executive Order 13 (2014), which is attached hereto and made a part hereto and made a part hereof, can constitute grounds for the immediate termination of a contract, and may constitute grounds for determining that a bidder is not qualified to participate in future county contracts.
11. All potential contract-holders with Erie County shall agree that administrative costs may not exceed 15% of the requested funds.
12. Certified Minority Business Enterprise/ Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) proposers shall include the Erie County MBE/WBE Certification letter with their proposal.
13. A business that is a certified Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB) under the New York State Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act shall include the letter indicating their company is 51% or more veteran-owned with their proposal.
14. All proposers must disclose the name, title, and department of any employee or officer who is or was an employee or officer of Erie County within 12 months immediately prior to the proposal.
15. If requested, proposers must provide a list of at least three references from community partners and collaborators or an individual with knowledge of and experience with the specific services being offered.
16. All proposers must provide a list of all prime contractors and subcontractors that their agency does business with related to the service in this RFP.
17. All proposers must include the name of their Language Access Coordinator. A copy of your Language Access Policy is required at contract.
18. All proposers must include the name of their Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator. A copy of a written ADA policy is required at contracting.

V. SCOPE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED

INTRODUCTION

The intent of this Request for Proposal is to establish a contract with a licensed Funeral Director to provide funeral services and medical examiner transport services as of May 1, 2026.

The selected provider shall care for, remove and bury or cremate all bodies of persons who are the responsibility of Erie County that have died where such burial or cremation is requested without designation of an undertaker and where there are no known relatives, friends or personal representatives of such deceased liable or willing to become responsible for the expense of the care, removal and burial or cremation of such bodies, or where relatives, friends or personal representatives are known to exist and request burial or cremation at County expense or through the Burial/Resources Unit of the County of Erie Department of Social Services, without designating in writing a specific County Funeral Director to the appropriate named official, except as may otherwise be provided by General Municipal Law Section 148 (1)(c) or other general laws of the State of New York.

In addition, the selected provider shall transport bodies from site of death to the Medical Examiner's office and/or to the Funeral Home. The selected provider shall care for all bodies coming under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiners of the County of Erie, all such bodies to be removed only on orders from said Medical Examiners or their designee. They shall convey and deliver bodies, records, specimens, personnel belongings, and transfer paperwork to the Medical Examiner's Office.

HISTORY AND CONTEXT

Historically, the funeral director's firm has removed approximately 400 bodies annually for burials.

SCOPE OF WORK

A. Funeral services

The Funeral Director or Funeral Home shall supply the following services and materials:

- Timely prepare and dispose of bodies either by burial or cremation, as directed by ECDSS, in a professional manner following all laws and professional practices of their profession.
- Pick up unclaimed decedents from the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office, hospital or other location within 48 hours from receiving social services approval. Note: Decedents may require transport from outside Erie County.
- Removal to funeral home in a suitably covered vehicle.
- Preparation of the remains so as not to allow them to become a public health hazard.
- Inventory personal effects and transfer valuables to Erie County Purchasing. Cash on hand shall be applied to the cost of disposition and documented.
- Obtain and file the necessary certificates and permits.
- Provide a cloth covered casket with four handles and suitably lined; such casket will be of fair quality and standard make.
- Provide a shroud where necessary.
- Provide a minimum wooden, single top outside case of fair quality and standard make whose cover shall not be fastened until just before interment when required by cemetery.
- Transport the deceased to the final place of disposition in a hearse or other comparable covered vehicle.
- Provide death or burial notice(s) in the Buffalo or local daily newspaper. A notice is to be placed prior to being released from the Medical Examiner's Office with the permission of the family, if known, and a second notice is to be placed subsequently if needed. Example: Name of deceased, address where desired, date of death, day and time of funeral service and name of funeral home.
- Fill out the correction form and death certificate, secure cremation permit, encasement of remains in combustible containers acceptable to crematory, transfer human remains from funeral home to crematory. The cremated remains shall remain in possession of said County Funeral Director for

not longer than three (3) years. At the end of that period, they shall be interred in a common container with other such remains in a cemetery plot established or purchased by the County Funeral Director for that purpose and shall be listed by name insofar as it is possible in the records of the cemetery to be used for such interment. After such burial of the cremains, the County Funeral Director shall provide a listing of the pertinent information concerning such burial including, but not limited to the names, dates of birth and death, if available.

- Transport and dispose of unclaimed fetus' of over twenty (20) weeks gestation. It shall be the duty of the County Funeral Director, when so ordered by the Commissioner of the Erie County Health Department or designee, the Erie County Medical Examiners, to dispose of all human remains of unclaimed fetus' of over twenty (20) weeks gestation via burial or cremation. The services rendered will include the transfer of remains from the hospital to the funeral home and the preparation of the remains. The following professional services will be performed by duly licensed personnel; filling out the form required pursuant to the Public Health Law Section 4162, filing of fetal death certificate, and securing necessary certificates and permits.

B. Transport

The Funeral Director or Funeral Home shall supply the following services and materials:

- Provide PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) including gloves, masks, shrouds, body bags and any other equipment that is commonly used in the industry to protect employees from CBRNE hazards (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive).
- Pick up body immediately or within one (1) hour, weather permitting, upon notification from Erie County and deliver to requested destination immediately after pick up.
- Secure all bodies in a body bag prior to arrival to the medical examiner.
- Have capabilities of picking up at least seven (7) bodies at a time.
- Be responsible for the removal of bodies in all conditions including removals which warrant additional personnel due to size of deceased and/or difficult environmental settings. All reasonable attempts will be made to alert bidder to situations that might warrant the need for additional personnel for removal.
- Supply twenty-four (24) hour service, seven (7) days a week, for the entire County under all conditions.
- Be equipped with a functioning system which will allow for 24/7 contact. The system will be bought and maintained in good working order by the Funeral Director for communications.
- Upon arrival at the Medical Examiner's Office, successful bidder staff will assist Medical Examiner staff in transport of deceased into refrigeration system.
- To accommodate Erie County Emergency Services and Disaster Preparedness, the successful Funeral Director must demonstrate that they have received training for mass body removals. In the event of a mass disaster, the Funeral Director will be paid for those cases and only those cases they actually transport. If additional services are required, successful bidder will only be paid for their actual removals.
- Care for all bodies coming under the jurisdiction of the Erie County Medical Examiner, all such bodies to be removed only on orders from said medical examiner; that the said Funeral Director agrees that they will convey and deliver such bodies, records, specimens, personal belongings, and transfer paperwork to the Erie County Medical Examiner; that they will perform any other acts incidental thereto and will promptly comply with and execute all orders of the Medical Examiner made in connection with such bodies; such funeral director shall receive payment of the sum hereinafter provided for a pick-up charge, even though no pick-up is actually made, provided said pick-up was duly ordered by the medical examiner, and provided further said funeral director complies with such order in good faith. Selected provider shall be compensated for those cases where completed pickup and delivery has occurred. Completed pickups will be compensated at set fee regardless of duration or complications at pickup.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Provide culturally appropriate services to individuals with special needs, i.e. disabilities, language and cultural barriers, etc., including language translation services, which can be included in budgeted direct operating costs.
- Conduct a criminal history check for all prospective employees/volunteers as a condition of employment and at minimum yearly subsequently.
- Verify the credentials and licensing of staff and employees as contained in county, state, and federal requirements.
- Maintain regular communication with the county in a timely manner.
- Adhere to documentation standards as set forth by Federal and State regulation, as well as county policies.
- Abide by Federal and State confidentiality statutes and regulations.
- Maintain accurate records of services performed stating nature of work and retain records for 6 (six) years for inspection/ audit by county, ECDSS and/or Comptroller.
- Conduct internal quality assurance audits on a regular basis.
- Manage funds from a government funding source and maintain billing systems.
- Submit required data and abide by designated documentation regulations in a timely manner, as instructed by County to claim reimbursement for services.
- Furnish a performance bond as well as provide proof of insurance naming the County of Erie as an additional insured on all business policies, including liability and fire insurance in a form acceptable to the Director of Purchasing and the County Attorney.

COMPENSATION

The Funeral Director or Funeral Home shall submit an itemized request for payment within fifteen (15) days of disposition with a statement of cemetery charges (Received bill must accompany voucher when burial is out of New York State.) If Erie County Department of Social Services accepts responsibility, vouchers will be forwarded to the Funeral Director for completion. Payment will be processed upon return of voucher with copy of death certificate.

The Funeral Director or Funeral Home shall submit an itemized request for payment within fifteen (15) days from end of month to the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office. Payment is net 30 days.

The selected provider will be paid one set fee per case regardless of the duration of time spent or complicated nature of a specific case. Prior to being contacted, the body or bodies shall have been confirmed released.

SSL §141 regulations applicable to burials at public expense shall apply also when payment from assets assigned to our Agency is requested. However, no formal application by a relative is required, and if no relative is available, funeral arrangements may be made by unrelated persons.

VENDOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

- The Funeral Director must be a licensed and registered Funeral Director.
- Demonstrate that they have received training for mass body removals, to accommodate Erie County Emergency Services and Disaster Preparedness.

VI. STATEMENT OF RIGHTS

UNDERSTANDINGS

Please take notice, by submission of a proposal in response to this request for proposals, the Proposer agrees to and understands:

- that any proposal, attachments, additional information, etc. submitted pursuant to this Request for Proposals constitute merely a suggestion to negotiate with the County and is not a bid under Section 103 of the New York State General Municipal Law,
- submission of a proposal, attachments, and additional information shall not entitle the Proposer to enter into an agreement with the County for the required services,
- by submitting a proposal, the Proposer agrees and understands that the County is not obligated to respond to the proposal, nor is it legally bound in any manner whatsoever by submission of same,
- that any and all counter-proposals, negotiations or any communications received by a proposing entity, its officers, employees or agents from the County, its elected officials, officers, employees or agents, shall not be binding against the County, its elected officials, officers, employees or agents unless and until a formal written agreement for the services sought by this RFP is duly executed by both parties and approved by the Erie County Legislature and the Office of the Erie County Attorney.

In addition to the foregoing, by submitting a proposal, the Proposer also understands and agrees that the County reserves the right, and may at its sole discretion, to exercise the following rights and options with respect to this Request for Proposals:

- To reject any or all proposals,
- To issue amendments to this RFP,
- To issue additional solicitations for proposals,
- To waive any irregularities or informalities in proposals received after notification to Proposers affected,
- To select any proposal as the basis for negotiations of a contract, and to negotiate with one or more of the Proposers for amendments or other modifications to their proposals,
- To conduct investigations with respect to the qualifications of each Proposer,
- To exercise its discretion and apply its judgment with respect to any aspect of this RFP, the evaluation of proposals, and the negotiations and award of any contract,
- To enter into an agreement for only portions (or not to enter into an agreement for any) of the services contemplated by the proposals with one or more of the Proposers,
- To select the proposal that best satisfies the interests of the County and not necessarily on the basis of price or any other single factor,
- To interview the Proposer(s),
- To request or obtain additional information the County deems necessary to determine the ability of the Proposer,
- To modify dates,
- All proposals prepared in response to this RFP are at the sole expense of the Proposer, and with the express understanding that there will be no claim, whatsoever, for reimbursement from the County for the expenses of preparation. The County assumes no responsibility or liability of any kind for costs incurred in the preparation or submission of any proposal,
- While this is an RFP and not a bid, the County reserves the right to apply the case law under General Municipal Law § 103 regarding bidder responsibility in determining whether a Proposer is a responsible vendor for the purpose of this RFP process,
- The County is not responsible for any internal or external delivery delays, which may cause any proposal to arrive beyond the stated deadline. To be considered, proposals MUST arrive at the place specified herein and be time-stamped before the deadline.

EVALUATION

The following criteria, not necessarily listed in order of importance, will be used to review the proposals. The County reserves the right to weigh its evaluation criteria in any manner it deems appropriate:

- A determination that the Proposer has submitted a complete and responsive proposal as required by this RFP.

- Proposers MUST sign the Proposal Certification attached hereto as Schedule “A”. Unsigned proposals will be rejected.
- The Proposer’s demonstrated capability to provide the services.
- Evaluation of the professional qualifications and experience of program staff.
- The Proposer’s experience in performing the proposed services.
- The Proposer’s financial ability to provide the services.
- Evaluation of the Proposer’s fee submission. It should be noted that while price is not the only consideration, it is an important one.
- An evaluation of the Proposer’s projected approach and plans to meet the requirements of this RFP.
- Proposers may be required to give an oral presentation to the County to clarify or elaborate on the written proposal. Any information shared by the Proposer’s presentation will be considered while scoring.
- No proposal will be accepted from nor any agreement awarded to any Proposer that is in arrears upon any debt or in default of any obligation owed to the County. Additionally, no agreement will be awarded to any Proposer that has failed to satisfactorily perform pursuant to any prior agreement with the County.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Each proposal will undergo an initial administrative review for completeness. In order for a proposal to be evaluated, it must include all required documents. Upon completion of the administrative review, and at the sole discretion of the Commissioner, the Department will request any missing documentation from the Proposer and will review all documents for completeness upon receipt of the missing documents. All required documents for a complete proposal, as set forth in this RFP, must be submitted and be completed to the satisfaction of the Department within forty-eight (48) hours of request in order for the proposal to be deemed responsive and eligible for Contract award.

Complete proposals will be judged by a scoring committee. The proposal should be written so as to clearly articulate the services provided to someone not familiar with service delivery. The proposals will be scored based on the overall proposal, infrastructure, experience, MWBE/SDVOB participation, compliance with RFP requirements and fiscal components.

CONTRACT

After selection of the successful Proposer, a formal written contract will be prepared by the County and will not be binding until signed by both parties and, if necessary, approved by the Erie County Legislature, the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority and the Office of the County Attorney. NO RIGHTS SHALL ACCRUE TO ANY PROPOSER BY THE FACT THAT A PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE COUNTY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND/OR IF NECESSARY, THE ERIE COUNTY FISCAL STABILITY AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL. THE APPROVAL OF SAID LEGISLATURE AND/OR AUTHORITY MAY BE NECESSARY BEFORE A VALID AND BINDING CONTRACT MAY BE EXECUTED BY THE COUNTY.

The contract will include the submitted proposal and any subsequent agreement with the Department to service provision. The award period will be for a one-year term, with the option to renew for additional terms, subject to annual contract renewal, contingent upon the Proposer’s successful implementation of the program, data collection, monitoring, goal attainment, and compliance with required reporting. Initial award and renewals are subject to inclusion of funding in the County Executive Recommended Budget and as adopted by the Erie County Legislature, as well as contingent upon availability of New York State funds appropriated for this purpose.

INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

The Proposer accepts and agrees that language in substantially the following form will be included in the contract between the Proposer and the County:

"In addition to, and not in limitation of the insurance requirements contained herein the Proposer agrees:

- (a) that except for the amount, if any, of damage contributed to, caused by or resulting from the negligence of the County, the Proposer shall indemnify and hold harmless the County, its officers, employees and agents from and against any and all liability, damage, claims, demands, costs, judgments, fees, attorneys' fees or loss arising directly or indirectly out of the acts or omissions hereunder by the Proposer or third parties under the direction or control of the Proposer; and
- (b) to provide defense for and defend, at its sole expense, any and all claims, demands or causes of action directly or indirectly arising out of this Agreement and to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto.

Upon execution of any contract between the Proposer and the County, the Proposer will be required to provide proof of the applicable insurance coverage.

Insurance coverage in amount and form shall not be deemed acceptable until approved by the County Attorney.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Proposer accepts and agrees that language in substantially the following form will be included in the contract between the Proposer and the County:

All deliverables created under this Agreement by the Proposer are to be considered "works made for hire". If any of the deliverables do not qualify as "works made for hire", the Proposer hereby assigns to the County all right, title and interest (including ownership of copyright) in such deliverables and such assignment allows the County to obtain in its name copyrights, registrations and similar protections which may be available. The Proposer agrees to assist the County, if required, in perfecting these rights. The Proposer shall provide the County with at least one copy of each deliverable.

The Proposer agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the County for all damages, liabilities, losses and expenses arising out of any claim that a deliverable infringes upon an intellectual property right of a third party. If such a claim is made, or appears likely to be made, the Proposer agrees to enable the County's continued use of the deliverable, or to modify or replace it. If the County determines that none of these alternatives is reasonably available, the deliverable will be returned.

All records compiled by the Proposer in completing the work described in this Agreement, including but not limited to written reports, source codes, studies, drawings, blueprints, negatives of photographs, computer printouts, graphs, charts, plans, specifications and all other similar recorded data, shall become and remain the property of the County. The Proposer may retain copies of such records for its own use.

NOTE: All contracts executed by the Erie County Department of Social Services will be posted electronically on the County's website.

NON-COLLUSION

The Proposer, by signing the proposal, does hereby warrant and represent that any ensuing agreement has not been solicited, secured or prepared directly or indirectly, in a manner contrary to the laws of the

State of New York and the County of Erie, and that said laws have not been violated and shall not be violated as they relate to the procurement or the performance of the agreement by any conduct, including the paying or the giving of any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity or consideration of any kind, directly or indirectly, to any County employee, officer or official.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All Proposers must disclose with their proposals the name of any officer, director or agent who is also an employee of the County. Further, all Proposers must disclose the name of any County employee who owns, directly or indirectly, an interest of ten percent (10%) or more in the firm or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates.

There shall be no conflicts in existence during the term of any contract with the County. The existence of a conflict shall be grounds for termination of a contract.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

By submitting a proposal, the Proposer represents and warrants that it is familiar with all federal, state and local laws and regulations and will conform to said laws and regulations. The preparation of proposals, selection of Proposers and the award of contracts are subject to provisions of all Federal, State and County laws, rules and regulations.

CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL

The New York State Freedom of Information Law as set forth in Public Officers Law, Article 6, Sections 84 et seq., mandates public access to government records. However, proposals submitted in response to this RFP may contain technical, financial background or other data, public disclosure of which could cause substantial injury to the Proposer's competitive position or constitute a trade secret. Proposers who have a good faith belief that information submitted in their proposals is protected from disclosure under the New York Freedom of Information Law shall:

- a) insert the following notice in the front of its proposal:

“NOTICE

The data on pages ____ of this proposal identified by an asterisk (*) contains technical or financial information constituting trade secrets or information the disclosure of which would result in substantial injury to the Proposer's competitive position.

The Proposer requests that such information be used only for the evaluation of the proposal but understands that any disclosure will be limited to the extent that the County considers proper under the law. If the County enters into an agreement with this Proposer, the County shall have the right to use or disclose such information as provided in the agreement, unless otherwise obligated by law.”

and

- b) clearly identify the pages of the proposals containing such information by typing in bold face on the top of each page "*** THE PROPOSER BELIEVES THAT THIS INFORMATION IS PROTECTED FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE STATE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW.**"

The County assumes no liability for disclosure of information so identified, provided that the County has made a good faith legal determination that the information is not protected from disclosure under applicable law or where disclosure is required to comply with an order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction.

The contents of the proposal, which is accepted by the County, except portions "Protected from Disclosure", may become part of any agreement resulting from this RFP.

EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF PROPOSALS

All proposals must state the period for which the proposal shall remain in effect (i.e. how much time does the County have to accept or reject the proposal under the terms proposed). Such period shall not be less than one hundred eighty (180) days from the proposal date.

(For Informational Purposes Only)

ERIE COUNTY EQUAL PAY CERTIFICATION

In order to comply with Executive Order 13 dated November 6, 2014, we hereby certify that we are in compliance with federal law, including the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and New York State Labor Law Section 194 (together "Equal Pay Law"). We understand that this certification is a material component of this contract. Violation of the provisions of Executive Order 13, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, can constitute grounds for the immediate termination of this contract and may constitute grounds for determining that a bidder is not qualified to participate in future county contracts.

We have evaluated wages and benefits to ensure compliance with the Equal Pay Law. We certify that we have not been the subject of an adverse finding under the Equal Pay Law within the previous five years and, in the alternative, if we were the subject of an adverse finding under the Equal Pay Law within the previous five years, we have annexed a detailed description of the finding(s). In addition, we have annexed a detailed description of any currently pending claims under the Equal Pay Law in which we are involved.

Contractor Signature

Verification

STATE OF _____)
COUNTY OF _____) SS:

A)

_____, being duly sworn, states they are the owner of (or a partner in) _____, and is making the foregoing Certification and that the statements and representations made in the Certification are true to their own knowledge.

OR

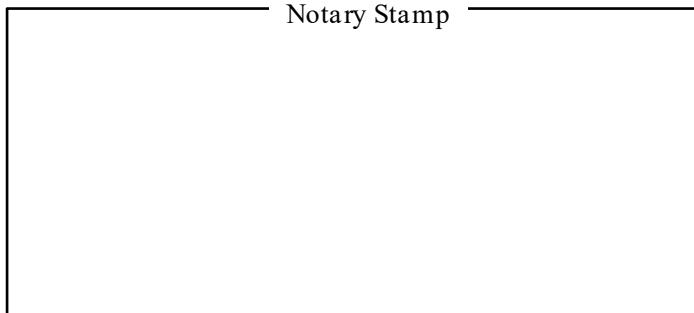
B)

_____, being duly sworn, states that they are the _____, of _____, the enterprise making the foregoing Certification, that they have read the Certification and knows its contents, that the statements and representations made in the Certification are true to their own knowledge, and that the Certification is made at the direction of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Sworn to before me this _____
day of _____, 20____

Notary Stamp

Notary Public



GUIDELINES FOR STANDARD INSURANCE PROVISIONS REQUIRED

Commercial General Liability	\$1,000,000 minimum each occurrence
Umbrella/ Excess	\$1,000,000 minimum each occurrence * If CGL general aggregate is \$2,000,000 or more, Umbrella/ Excess is not necessary
Automobile	\$1,000,000 minimum combined single limit * If transporting; otherwise, a Waiver must be executed
Professional Liability	\$5,000,000 minimum * Not needed for all contracts
Workers' Compensation	NYS Certificate

Certificate holder must be listed as:

County of Erie or Erie County 95
Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

It can include "Department of Law".

It cannot include "Department of Social Services" or any other department of Erie County (i.e. Department of Health, Youth Bureau, etc.).

The County must also be listed as an Additional Insured for all the above policies. That can be done by placing a "Y" or "X" in the "ADDL INSR" column next to each policy, or it can be specifically noted in the "Description" box near the bottom of the page.

The "ACORD" form certificate may be used in place of the County of Erie Standard Insurance Certificate, provided that all of the above referenced requirements are incorporated into the "ACORD" form certificate.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

In order for Proposers to be considered for an award, the terms, conditions and instructions contained in this RFP and attachments must be met. Any proposals which do not meet these criteria may be considered non-responsive. Currently funded programs must re-apply to be considered for continued funding.

Your proposal must be comprised of 3 sections, presented as separate documents:

- Appendix A
 - Proposal to Provide Service
 - Signed Schedule A
- Appendix B
 - Signed Fiscal Form
 - Budget Forms
- Appendix C
 - Most recent Audit report prepared by an independent CPA
 - Most recent Management Letter
 - Listing of Officers and Board of Directors

Submission of the proposals shall be uploaded as three separate documents (Appendix A, B and C) to: [OnBase Unity Form](#). *You will receive an email confirming if it has been submitted.*

Electronic versions of Appendix A and B are available on the Erie County Department of Purchasing website as additional files to the RFP at: [EC Purchasing](#)

Please note: Indirect Administrative Costs must be itemized, or a copy of your Federal Indirect Cost Rate must be attached.

By application, you certify that your agency can provide the following documentation at any time during the course of the selection process: (You do not need to provide it now, only if asked.)

- Proof of 501(c)(3) status, if applicable.
- Agency's most recent organizational chart and a letter of support signed by the CEO and the Board President.
- Resumes for all program staff (associated with the proposed service), including administrators, program supervisors, direct service staff and aides.
- References or letters of testimony from other agencies for whom you have provided this or a similar service with contact information.

Applications are expected to comply with stated guidelines including but not limited to desired program outcomes identified in the Request for Proposal (RFP). It will be the responsibility of the applicant to submit proposals consistent with the RFP requirements. By applying, your agency asserts that the Request for Proposal document has been reviewed in its entirety and that, if selected, the agency will abide by the conditions for funding set forth therein.



RFP APPENDIX A: Proposal to Provide Service

Department of Social Services

RFP#2026-001VF

All fields must be completed. If not applicable, list "N/A". Incomplete proposals may be considered non-responsive.

AGENCY INFORMATION

(If submitted electronically, this information will be completed upon upload)

Official Agency Name		
Agency Name –List another name if used.		
Agency Telephone Number		
Agency Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Website address (if applicable)		
Leadership - List the name of your agency's Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director, or President.		
Leader's E-mail Address		
Contact Person for proposal		
Contact Person's Telephone Number		
Contact Person's E-mail Address		
Federal Employer ID# (FEIN) - Please provide your agency's Employer Identification Number.		
501(c)(3) not-for-profit entity		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Certified Minority Business Enterprise/ Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Subcontractors - List all subcontractors that your agency does business with related to this service.		
Amount of Funding Request to ECDSS for this proposed contract		
\$		
Unit of Service for this proposal (e.g.: hour):		
Number of units to be served		
Cost per unit of service for this proposal (county funding + in-kind)/# units		
Name, title, and department of any employee or officer who was an employee or officer of Erie County within the 12 months immediately prior to the proposal		



RFP APPENDIX A: Proposal to Provide Service

Department of Social Services

RFP#2026-001VF

Vendor Profile

Company History

Office locations, personnel and expertise

Services offered

Description of experience

Describe your ability to implement services in a timely manner, effective the date noted in the RFP.

Describe relevant partnerships including company names, nature of relationship, and how the partnership is relevant to providing support services.

Provide any additional information that would distinguish your organization in its service to Erie County.

SCHEDULE A

PROPOSER CERTIFICATION

The undersigned agrees and understands that this proposal and all attachments, additional information, etc. submitted herewith constitute merely an offer to negotiate with the County of Erie (the "County") and is NOT A BID. Submission of this proposal, attachments, and additional information shall not obligate or entitle the proposing entity to enter into a service agreement with the County for the required services. The undersigned agrees and understands that the County is not obligated to respond to this proposal nor is it legally bound in any manner whatsoever by the submission of same. Further, the undersigned agrees and understands that any and all proposals and negotiations shall not be binding or valid against the County, its directors, officers, employees or agents unless an agreement is signed by a duly authorized County officer and, if necessary, approved by the Erie County Legislature, the Office of the County Attorney and/or the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority.

It is understood and agreed that the County reserves the right to reject consideration of any and all proposals including, but not limited to, proposals which are conditional or incomplete. It is further understood and agreed that the County reserves all rights specified in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

It is understood and agreed that the undersigned, prior to entering into an agreement with Erie County, will properly execute the County of Erie Standard Insurance Certificate (example on pp. [] of this RFP), and that it will be complete and acceptable to Erie County.

It is represented and warranted by those submitting this proposal that except as disclosed in the proposal, no officer or employee of the County is directly or indirectly a party to or in any other manner interested in this proposal or any subsequent service agreement that may be entered into.

Proposer Agency Name

By:

Signature

Name and Title



RFP APPENDIX B: Fiscal
Department of Social Services
RFP#2026-001VF

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Payee Name of Agency (if different than Legal Name)		
Financial Contact Person Name/Title		
Street Address/City/State/Zip		
Financial Contact Person Phone Number	Financial Contact Person Email	
Agency's Fiscal Year (Start date - End date)		

Services	Fee-for-Service		
	2026	2027	2028
Cost per Cremation (including burial, plot, services and materials and transportation from ME or hospital to Funeral Home)	\$	\$	\$
Cost per Burial (including burial, plot, services and materials , and transportation from ME or hospital to Funeral Home)			
Stillborn	\$	\$	\$
Birth to 1 year	\$	\$	\$
1 Year to 5 Years	\$	\$	\$
5 Years & Up (Adult)	\$	\$	\$
Oversized Decedent	\$	\$	\$
Medical Examiner Transport Services (no burial/cremation)	\$	\$	\$
Per Mile Rate for Bodies Picked Up Outside the County (To the county line to pick up point and to the point of entry to the county line)	\$	\$	\$

V. CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that they are the principal officer of the applicant agency and have knowledge of and certifies that the information contained herein is complete and accurate.

Furthermore, the undersigned certifies that the applicant sponsored programs, services and activities are available to the general public, advertised as such, and not subject to discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion or national heritage.

SIGNATURE

DATE

NAME/TITLE



RFP APPENDIX C: Supplemental Information

Department of Social Services
RFP#2026-001VF

Provide one copy of the most current information as noted below. These materials cannot be returned.

- Most recent Audit report prepared by an independent CPA
- Most recent Management Letter
- Listing of Officers and Board of Directors

If not available, the latest tax return may be submitted in lieu of the audit report and/or management letter. Tax-Exempt Organizations not required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ, shall submit Form 990-N.