

COUNTY OF TUSCALOOSA)
STATE OF ALABAMA)

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

TO: Qualified Firms
FROM: Tuscaloosa County, Alabama
RE: Request for Qualifications for Professional Material Testing & Special Inspection Services for a Site Built FEMA 361 and ICC-500–250 MPH Rated Tornado Safe Room
DATE: May 1, 2026

Section 1. Introduction

This is a Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) containing information concerning the above-referenced matter, an abbreviated scope of work, and evaluation items. Firms expressing interest should be fully capable of providing the end results requested.

This is a procurement of professional services, conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with standards of 2 CFR 200.317-327. To wit:

- a. This is a qualifications-based procurement of Professional Material Testing and Special Inspection Services. Each firm’s experience and qualifications will be evaluated and the most qualified firm will be selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. Consideration will be given to such matters as firms integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial technical resources.
- b. Submitted Statements of Qualifications will be reviewed and rated. The rating system will consist of a numerical grading system and a pass/fail grading system, as set forth in Section 3. The County may or may not elect to interview any of the responding firms.
- c. The County has exclusive and sole discretion to determine the firm whose services will be most advantageous to the County and reserves the right to reject all firms.

The purpose of this inquiry is to determine the qualifications of firms in providing the professional services required. A number of firms may be asked to express their interest in regard to these services in the form of a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ). Following the receipt of SOQs, a certain firm or firms may be selected for further consideration.

Section 2. General Scope of Services

Tuscaloosa County Commission seeks Statements of Qualifications from professional material testing and special inspection firms who have the knowledge, experience, and expertise to provide post-award services for a FEMA-funded community tornado safe room project. Services may include, but are not limited to, soil testing for compaction, proper depth and width of footers, rebar placement and ties,

concrete pour testing for footers, building pad, block walls, and roof systems as required by FEMA 361 and ICC-500.

The project of interest is as follows:

The project involves construction of a stand-alone, site built, dual-purpose, FEMA 361 and ICC-500 – 250 MPH rated community tornado safe room in Duncanville, Alabama. The site built tornado safe room will be designed and constructed to meet the latest version of FEMA Publication 361 and ICC-500 tornado safe room criteria and will be able to withstand 250 mph winds.

The County requires material testing and special inspections experience based on FEMA 361 and ICC-500 requirements. Significant additional consideration will be given to firms with material testing and special inspections experience related to FEMA and ICC-500 safe room projects.

Material Testing and Special Inspection Services will include: **review, reporting, and certification of the soil compaction, footer depth/width, rebar placement and ties, concrete pour testing for footers, concrete block wall system, and roof system based on architectural/engineering schematic and final drawings, engineering (Civil, MEP, and Structural) plans and specifications.**

The selected material testing and special inspection firm will be responsible for a team approach working with the general contractor for scheduling testing and inspections, providing the architectural/engineering, and building owner review, reporting and certification for each required area of testing.

The selected firm must comply with all applicable state, local, and federal regulations related to the services provided to the County. The County reserves the right, subject to negotiation and agreement, in writing, with the selected firm, to either expand or limit the scope of services as needed. The selected firm will be required to have sufficient personnel to complete the tasks required by this scope of services. The selected firm will complete the required tasks in a timely and efficient manner. The selected firm would be expected to enter into a contract for services based upon an agreed-upon not to exceed amount.

Section 3. Statement of Qualifications Requirements

Firms interested in performing the work will be considered on the basis of a SOQ containing information submitted in response to this request in a form limited to four (4) pages in 12-point font or larger of either Times New Roman or Arial, not including any E-Verify or Licensure Attachments. Front and back shall be considered 2 pages. SOQs must be signed by an authorized representative or contracting agent of the firm. **Qualifications are due by Monday, May 18th, 2026 @ 2pm.**

All Qualifications should be submitted in 8 ½” x 11” paper size. Each submission shall be prepared simply and economically, providing straightforward, concise delineation of the firm’s capabilities to satisfy the requirements of this RFQ.

**Provide one (1) printed, sealed copy to:
Tuscaloosa County Commission,
ATTN: Lauren Benson
G68, 714 Greensboro Ave,
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401**

The selected firm must be experienced and qualified to provide the required scope of services. The firm or firms selected must have expertise related to the general Scope of Services set forth in Section 2. The following information must be submitted with the SOQ on the date indicated above and, in the order, indicated below:

- a. *Recently Completed Projects*: Evidence of satisfactory performance of at least three (3) recently completed projects of the type indicated above. Provide at least three (3) references. (20 points possible)
- b. *Experience and Qualifications*. A statement of the firm's qualifications to perform the work and years in business. The statement should include the following:
 1. The general experience of the firm. (10 points possible)
 2. The specific experience of the proposed personnel who will be in the field performing the requested services, their qualifications, years of experience, professional certifications, and availability to perform the work. (10 points possible)
 3. The firm's experience with material testing and special inspections of site built FEMA 361 and ICC-500 tornado safe room projects. (20 points possible)
- c. *Capacity to Perform*: Description of the proposed approach to completing the services: how your firm will review, report, and certify the site and pad soil compaction, footer depths, width and compaction, rebar placement and ties, block/rebar placement/ties, concrete pour testing including footers, block wall system, and roof systems as specified by architectural/engineering schematic and final drawings, engineering (Civil, MEP, and Structural) plans and specifications. (40 points possible)
- d. Statement as to potential general conflicts of interest that would prevent Tuscaloosa County from entering into an agreement with your firm. If none exists, such a statement should be made. (pass/fail)
- e. Documentation demonstrating enrollment in U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security's E-Verify program. (pass/fail)
- f. Firm must be licensed for work in the State of Alabama; please include a statement to this effect. (pass/fail)

Any questions by the firm related to this RFQ should be submitted in writing along with the firm's proposal. In the interest of fairness and in order to maintain impartiality, the County may not respond to questions from individual firms during the RFQ process.

Tuscaloosa County is an Equal Opportunity Employer without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age, disability, status as a veteran or current or prospective member of a uniformed service, family medical history, workers' compensation claims, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law.

END RFQ.