

A. PURPOSE AND INTRODUCTION

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) on behalf of the Mid America Local Emergency Planning Committee representing jurisdictions and agencies in Wyandotte, Johnson, and Leavenworth counties in Kansas seeks to hire an experienced planner and exercise contractor to assist in the Regional Hazardous Materials Plan update process, and the design, execution, and evaluation of a complex functional hazardous materials transportation exercise designed to provide hands-on, operational practice for regional hazmat teams. This exercise is anticipated to be conducted during the week of August 17-19, 2026, at a single location but with up to four (4) distinct separate functional activities to facilitate and evaluate. The exercise will be repeated daily during this three-day period.

B. BACKGROUND

The Mid America Regional Council provides support to the Mid America LEPC that brings together public and private agencies in the three-county area covering Wyandotte, Johnson, Leavenworth, and their mutual aid partners to understand the hazardous materials risks in the community, maintain a plan and exercise the plan annually.

The plan was updated in August 2025. The plan will need to be updated with the latest Tier-2 data and any other changes. The focus of this review and update is to identify and reduce redundancy while still ensuring it meets all state and federal requirements and local jurisdictions' needs. A copy of the latest plan is located at the following link: <https://www.marc.org/document/rhmepp>.

The exercise will focus on a challenging hazmat transportation incident. The exercise is intended to:

- Strengthen hazmat technician skills in initial size-up, site characterization, product identification, sampling, decontamination, medical response, and communications.
- Improve integration and coordination among multiple hazmat teams and mutual aid partners.
- Address challenges created by staff turnover across regional hazmat teams.

The scope of the incident will need to involve more than one jurisdiction. The exercise will have a transportation nexus, caused by a severe weather event, which will create a hazardous materials incident involving mixed cargo including a radiological element. The exercise should allow for appropriate scaling dependent on the number of players each day. The scenario will require the activation of multiple response teams, testing their ability to work together effectively. The exercise will include a medical element, such as a slip/fall or heat related illness.

Anticipate the participation of 40 or more individuals including representatives from Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte County hazmat teams from the Kansas Metro region, EMS, and other fire departments.

C. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Task 1. The contractor will review the current plan and work with the planning team to identify the data in [the plan](#) that needs to be updated because newer data is available and prioritized based on available funding. This will include but is not limited to:

1. Data captured in tables and maps, with an emphasis on data within sections 2 and 3 of the plan, to include but not be limited to the following:
 - a. Hazmat facility data and stakeholder contact information.
 - b. Population data and analysis.
2. Data assembled and reported from internal MARC resources, referred to as Tier 2 data.

Task 2. The contractor will review and update relevant planning framework and legal authorities.

Task 3. The contractor will complete a review of the entire plan and ensure the following:

1. The plan meets all required elements including federal and state.
2. The review includes a focus on reducing redundancy while preserving jurisdictional-specific information for easy extraction
3. Analysis of datasets to determine how often these datasets require updated.
4. Identifying additional recommended updates; gather and analyze data as needed.

Task 4. The contractor will update the LEPC plan and throughout the process bring recommended changes to the LEPC planning committee. The revisions will be reviewed and approved by the Planning Team.

Task 5. The contractor will work with the LEPC planning team to review the last Exercise AAR report and improvement plan.

Task 6. From this review, the contractor will design and produce an HSEEP-compliant functional exercise plan (ExPlan), to include the scope, objectives, and core capabilities; participant roles and responsibilities; rules of conduct; safety and security policies; logistics; communication methods; maps and directions; and duration, date, and time of the exercise and schedule of events.

The ExPlan will be focused on response to a hazardous materials transportation incident, designed to test plan components, familiarize agencies with key concepts in the plan, and coordinate response. The contractor will ensure subject matter expertise in the hazmat skill sets of a hazmat technician, and an industrial hygienist, are included in the design of the ExPlan. The ExPlan will include a medical element, to test response to such an incident. The contractor will produce all materials needed to support the ExPlan, including, but not limited to:

1. Controller and Evaluator (C/E) Handbook
2. Master Scenario Events List (MSEL)
3. Extent of Play Agreement (XPA)
4. Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEGs)
5. Participant Feedback Form

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Task 7. The contractor shall execute the functional exercise at a single location but with up to four (4) distinct separate functional activities to facilitate and evaluate, over a four (4) hour period, and repeat daily over a three-day period, to accommodate shift schedules and maximize responder participation. The contractor will ensure adequate resources are available for controllers and evaluators each day to support up to four (4) separate functional activities.

Task 8. The contractor will work with the planning team to conduct an after-action meeting and generate an HSEEP-compliant after-action report and improvement plan.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

Key deliverables of this project will include:

- Updated LEPC Plan: The contractor will provide an updated LEPC plan, approved by the LEPC subcommittee. The plan will reflect the latest regulations and best practices. The revised plan will be delivered electronically.
- Detailed HSEEP (Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program) compliant functional exercise documentation: (call out the 5 things here).
- Successful Exercise Conduct: The project will culminate in a well-executed exercise that effectively tests the exercise objectives and key components from the plan.
- Actionable After-Action Report (AAR): A comprehensive AAR will analyze the exercise results, highlighting successes, challenges, and key takeaways. This report will guide future preparedness efforts and ensure continuous improvement.

E. TIME OF PERFORMANCE

Term - Contractor shall begin performing the Services on EXECUTION OF CONTRACT and shall work diligently to complete the project to the satisfaction of MARC, in accordance with the terms provided herein, NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 18, 2026.

F. COMPENSATION AND BUDGET

The level of funding for this project will be based on the scope of work and is not expected to exceed \$120,000. This is estimated as \$30,000 for the plan review and update, and \$90,000 for the functional, complex exercise, to support this project depending on the approach and response.

G. PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Open Records Act and Proprietary Information

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is a public organization and is subject to the Missouri Open Records Act (Chapter 610, RSMo). All records obtained or retained by MARC are considered public records and are open to the public or media upon request unless those records are specifically protected from disclosure by law or exempted under the Missouri Sunshine Law. All contents of a response to a Request for Bids, Qualifications, Proposals, or information issued by MARC are considered public records

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and subject to public release following decisions by MARC regarding the bid request. If a proposer has information that it considers proprietary, a bidder shall identify documents or portions of documents it considers containing descriptions of scientific and technological innovations in which it has a proprietary interest or other information that is protected from public disclosure by law, which is contained in a Proposal. After either a contract is executed pursuant to the Request for Bids, RFQ or RFP, or all submittals are rejected, if a request is made to inspect information submitted and if documents are identified as “Proprietary Information” as provided above under Missouri Sunshine Law, MARC will notify the proposer of the request for access, and it shall be the burden of the proposer to establish that those documents are exempt from disclosure under the law. To be eligible for consideration, one electronic copy (PDF) of the proposal must be received by MARC no later than **5 PM CDT on March 20, 2026**. Late submittals will not be considered. Please submit proposals to Mike Hudson (mhudson@marc.org) and John Davis (jdavis@marc.org).

It is the responsibility of the person submitting a proposal by email to ensure that the proposal has been received by the appropriate MARC staff and is not blocked by a spam filter or rejected because of large attachments. To confirm receipt, you may contact John Davis jdavis@marc.org or Mike Hudson (mhudson@marc.org).

The following items must be addressed in all proposals:

1. **SCOPE OF WORK:** MARC staff has developed a general outline of work tasks associated with the Scope of Work and objectives. Respondents must provide a scope of work including specific methodologies and/or approaches that will be used to complete this project.
 - A. The name and address of the contracting firm, together with the name, telephone, and e-mail address of the primary contact person for purposes of this proposal
 - B. See Attachments A&B
2. **CONTRACT PRICE:** Proposals should indicate the cost of services to be provided broken down by 1. Plan review, 2. Plan update, 3. Design of exercise materials, 4. Exercise facilitation/control and documentation, 5. AAR development, and 6. total costs
3. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Proposals should indicate the qualifications of the proposer in planning and execution appropriate to this project. A brief narrative (two pages maximum) regarding the contractor’s capabilities to carry out this project, including areas of expertise to which the contractor may have access. Proposals should also include:
 - A. A listing of similar projects undertaken within the last five (5) years, by proposing contractor, showing contract amounts and description of work performed
 - B. Resumes of key professionals and staff who will be assigned to this project
 - C. References

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4. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CHECKLIST:** If applicable, proposers must complete and enclose with their proposal the company's Affirmative Action Plan (see *Attachment A*).
5. **CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT:** Each proposer is required to certify by signing the "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion" (*Attachment B*). "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion" is a certification that the proposer is not on the U.S. Comptroller General's Consolidated Lists of Persons or Firms Currently Debarred for Violations of Various Contracts Incorporating Labor Standards Provisions.

H. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The selection committee will review the responses received against the criteria and determine if follow-up telephone interviews are desired and decide to conduct follow-up interviews. If follow-up interviews are warranted, they will be scheduled for the week of March 23, 2026.

MARC reserves the right to negotiate a contract, including a scope of work, and contract price, with any proposers or other qualified party.

This Request for Proposal does not commit MARC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in preparation of a response to this Request, or to procure or contract for services or supplies. MARC reserves the right to accept or reject all responses received as a result of this Request or cancel this Request in part or in its entirety if it is in the best interests of MARC to do so. Proposers shall not offer any gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value to any officer, employee, agent, or director of MARC for the purpose of influencing favorable disposition toward either their proposal or any other proposal submitted because of the Request for Proposal.

MARC reserves the right to suggest to any or all proposers to the Request for Proposals that such proposers form into teams of firms or organizations deemed to be advantageous to MARC in performing the Scope of Work. MARC will suggest such formation when such relationships offer combinations of expertise or abilities not otherwise available. Proposers have the right to refuse to enter any suggested relationships.

All Proposals submitted hereunder become the exclusive property of MARC.

I. PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

The proposals submitted by each Contractor will be evaluated according to the following factors, in order of priority:

- A) Specialized experience and technical competence of the contractor and assigned staff relative to the scope of work and task requirements outlined in this RFP.

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- B) Understanding the nature of the project
 - 1) Understanding the proposed scope of work
 - 2) Understanding the required elements
 - 3) General understanding of the regional nature of the project
 - 4) General organization and clarity of the proposal

- C) References reflecting previous work experience of the project team and satisfactory accomplishment of contractor responsibilities.
 - 1) Quality of final product
 - 2) Ability to meet work schedules.
 - 3) Responsiveness to client input

- D) Project cost, schedule of persons
 - 1) Project schedule and timeliness of products
 - 2) Total project cost

J. INTERVIEW/PRESENTATION

The project selection team may require a virtual interview/ presentation from contractors submitting a proposal.

K. CONTRACT AWARD

MARC will notify the selected candidate by telephone and email. Following verbal notification, MARC will negotiate a standard professional service agreement with the selected candidate. The selected candidate's proposal will be incorporated by reference in the contract. Additionally, MARC will notify, via email, the candidates who are not selected.

L. PROTEST PROCEDURES

In the course of this solicitation for proposals and the selection process, a proposer (bidder of offer or whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of the contract) may file a protest when in the proposer's opinion, actions were taken by MARC staff and /or the selection committee which could unfairly affect the outcome of the selection procedure. All protests should be in writing and directed to Mr. David Warm, Executive Director, Mid-America Regional Council, 600 Broadway, Suite 200, Kansas City, MO 64105. Protests should be made immediately upon the occurrence of the incident in question but no later than three (3) days after the proposer receives notification of the outcome of the section procedure. The protest should clearly state the grounds for such a protest.

Upon receiving the protest, MARC's Executive Director will review the actual procedures followed during the selection process and the documentation available. If it is determined the action(s) unfairly changed the outcome of the process, notifications with the selected proposer will cease until the matter is resolved.

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M. PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative schedule for the Contractor selection process:

Activities	Schedule
RFP issued	February 26, 2026
Proposals Due	March 20, 2026 (5pm CDT)
Interviews as needed	TBD (if needed)
Selection	March 31, 2026
Contract Execution	Immediately after contract negotiation
Project Completion	September 18, 2026

ATTACHMENT A: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CHECKLIST

Federal regulations require that any firm of 50 or more employees soliciting an assisted federally funded contract must have an affirmative action program. If applicable, please provide a brief response to the following items that would typically be covered in any such program. You may provide a copy of your program and reference appropriate pages.

1. The date plan was adopted.
2. Name of Affirmative Action Officer
3. Statement of commitment to affirmative action by the chief executive officer
4. Designation of an affirmative action officer, assignment of specific responsibilities, and to whom the officer reports.
5. Outreach recruitment
6. Job analysis and restructuring to meet affirmative action goals.
7. Validation and revision of examinations, educational requirements, and any other screening requirements.
8. Upgrading and training programs
9. Internal complaint procedure
10. Initiating and ensuring supervisory compliance with affirmative action program
11. Survey and analysis of entire staff by department and job classification and progress report system
12. Recruitment and promotion plans (including goals and timetables)

ATTACHMENT B: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion

This Certification is required by the regulation implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 29 CFR Part 98 Section 98.510, Participants' responsibilities. The Regulations are published as Part II of June 1985, Federal Register (pages 33, 036-33, 043)

Read instructions for Certification below prior to completing this certification.

1. The prospective proposer certifies, by submission of this proposal that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
2. Where the prospective proposer is unable to certify any of the statements in this certification, such prospective proposer shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Date

Signed – Authorized Representative

Title of Authorized Representative

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Instructions for Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion:

1. By signing and submitting this agreement, the proposer is providing the certification as set below.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the proposer knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department, or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.