

Government Relations RFP

Project Overview:

Tulalip is seeking a Government Relations Firm to provide lobbying services for Tulalip during the 2020 Washington State Legislative Session. Work during this period will include all subjects deemed necessary by the Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors or its designee, including but not limited to Natural Resources, Transportation, Health Services, and Education.

Description of Tulalip:

The Tulalip Tribes (Tribes) is a Federally Recognized Treaty Tribal Government located in Tulalip, Washington. The Tribes have a 22,000 acre reservation north of Everett, WA, including the Tulalip Resort Casino and a number of other economic development properties. Tulalip Tribes Government provides services to its members ranging from education support to elders programs and more.

Scope of Work:

The successful proposer will, in accordance with the highest legal, ethical and professional standards, provide Washington State lobbying services including, but not limited to:

1. Facilitating an initial meeting with The Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors for the purposes of introduction of the firm and personnel, discuss the scope of work, scheduling, reporting and strategy.
2. Lobby the Washington State legislature and advocate within state agencies and other organizations as necessary to pursue the Tribes' interests and objectives.
3. Proactively identify, monitor, and analyze legislative and administrative developments that may impact the tribe, its programs, services, legal rights, natural resources, economic development, and its government-to-government relationship with the State of Washington.
4. Provide assistance for developing and implementing the Tribes' state legislative and administrative strategic agenda.
5. Assist in drafting appropriate and necessary responses to pending legislation, regulatory notice, or administrative actions.
6. Assist and inform the Board of Directors and staff in advance of in person lobbying activities with the State Legislature, State Agencies and other organizations.
7. Assist the Tribe with establishing necessary and appropriate relations with elected leaders, appointed and career officials that will advance the tribes' State agenda and protect its interests.
8. Work and collaborate with Tulalip Treaty Rights Office staff and Federal lobbying team on all matters deemed appropriate by Tulalip.
9. Provide legislative updates no less than weekly to Board of Directors or staff during the legislative session and no less than monthly when session is in recess.

10. Provide timely telephone or email updates with designated staff, create written reports regarding advocacy activities performed, and provide applicable reports during the legislative session to ensure the Tribe's objectives are being effectively met.
11. Provide timely political and campaign contribution recommendations to the Tribe.
12. Provide testimony on behalf of the tribe as directed.

Conflict of Interest:

In the event the Contractor becomes aware of any conflicts or potential conflicts between the interest of The Tulalip Tribes and another client, the Contractor will immediately notify the Tribe's Treaty Rights Office Program Manager, or designee, in writing. Written notice may be in the form of email notification. In the event the Tribe becomes aware of any conflicts or potential conflict between the interest of the Tribe and the interest of a client of the Contractor, the Tribe shall notify the Contractor of such conflict. The Tribe and the Contractor shall attempt to resolve any such conflict in a manner mutually acceptable to the Tribe and the Contractor.

Elements of Proposal:

1. Introduction to the firm including qualifications and capabilities of providing service.
2. Name of individual(s) that will serve as the primary contact and lobbyist for the tribe who will be responsible for the performance of any work assigned including all contact information.
3. Biographies and summary of the relevant experience of each person that may interact with the tribe in performing requested services
4. Description of services provided to tribal or other clients over the last five years, including examples of successful results as well as unsuccessful results.
5. Description of deliverables to the client and frequency of such deliverables.
6. List of tribal clients and any potential conflicts with Tulalip positions.
7. Terms and cost of services, including a description of your firm's billing procedure, expenses, etc.
8. Three reference from current or former clients, including tribal clients if possible.
9. Verification of licenses or good standing if a law firm and where the personnel are licensed to practice.
10. Verification of registration to lobby and list of all entities for which registrations have been filed in the last two years.

Selection Criteria:

- Organization, presentation, and content of proposal;
- Organizational expertise and experience, particularly as it relates to Native American tribes;
- Experience and demonstrated record of successful advocacy and representation of Native American tribal governments;
- Cost proposal;
- Bipartisan representation;

- References;
- Lack of conflicts with Tulalip Tribes' positions; and
- Native American preference.

Procedures for Submission:

Applicants are invited to submit electronic copies of their written proposal no later than:

Monday November 4th, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. PT

ATTN: Santana Sheldon, Board of Directors Office Manager

6404 Marine Drive

Tulalip, Washington 98271

Email: Ssheldon@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Sovereign Rights:

Nothing in this Agreement is intended or shall be interpreted to subject or limit in any way the sovereign rights of The Tulalip Tribes or its officers, agents, or employees.

Thank you for your interest and time in responding to this project. We look forward to receiving your proposal.