**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Fiscal Agent For

**TWIN DISTRICTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Online Aptitude-based College and Career Assessment Tool**

**Program Year 2024**

The Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District (SMPDD) is advertising for sealed proposals for the online aptitude-based college and career assessment tool for its Accelerate MS Career Coach Program that is funded by Accelerate MS through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revival Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act of 2012, and/or State of Mississippi funds. The Career Coach Program does or will serve the following counties of Clarke, Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lamar, Lauderdale, Leake, Marion, Neshoba, Newton, Perry, Pearl River, Scott, Smith, Stone and Wayne. This advertisement is conducted pursuant to the requirements and conditions of ARPA, RESTORE Act and the applicable regulations and policies of the State of Mississippi, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Accelerate MS, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District.

Copies of the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available from Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District, beginning February 29, 2024. Copies of the RFP can be obtained on or after this date by downloading a copy of from the SMPDD website at [www.smpdd.com/rfp\_publicnotice](http://www.smpdd.com/rfp_publicnotice). Completed proposal packages should be submitted to Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District, 10441 Corporate Dr., Ste. 1, Gulfport, MS 39503. Proposals may also be submitted electronically via email to Grant Wesley at gwesley@smpdd.com no later than **10:00 a.m. CST March 18, 2024**. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered responsive to this RFP. The initial contract awarded will be through the June 30, 2025, with the option to extend the contract annually up to three years with the approval of both parties.

Minority and Woman Owned Business Enterprises are solicited to submit proposals on this project as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities, equipment, material and/or supply needs.

SMPDD is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and hereby notifies that all Proposers will be afforded the full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this advertisement for proposals and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual preference, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status in consideration for an award.

This project may be funded by ARPA, RESTORE Act of 2012 and the State of Mississippi. The rules and regulations therein apply. The successful Proposer shall comply with all 2 CFR 200 requirements.

SMPDD reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all Proposals with or without reason.

Questions or comments concerning this advertisement for proposals shall be directed to Allison Hawkins at SMPDD by email at ahawkins@smpdd.com no later than 4:00 p.m. March 8, 2024.