REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

FOR

FUND ATTORNEY

Issued by the
The Public Entity Joint Insurance Fund

Date Issued:
October 6, 2026

Responses Due by:
November 6, 2026
10:00 a.m. (EDT)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
FOR
FUND ATTORNEY

I. PURPOSE AND INTENT

Through this Request for Proposals ("RFP"), the Public Entity Joint Insurance fund (the "Fund") seeks to engage a vendor as Fund Attorney for the 2027 calendar year commencing January 1, 2027 or upon appointment, whichever is later. This contract will be awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to NJSA 19:44A-20.4 et. seq. ***All contracts, disputes, and resolutions shall be governed exclusively by New Jersey law and courts. Vendors will be required to carry insurance coverage.***

II. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Submit (a) one original paper copy, clearly marked as the "ORIGINAL" plus (b) an electronic copy in Word format on a Flash Drive. The proposal must be addressed to:

Public Entity Joint Insurance Fund
c/o NIP Group, Inc.
485 Route 1 South
Building E, Suite 300
Iselin, NJ 08830

The proposal must be received **by November 6, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.(EDT).**

Faxed or E-Mailed proposals will NOT be accepted.

Any inquiry concerning this RFP should be directed in writing to:

Madeline Delgado
Mdelgado@nipgroup.com

All documents/information submitted in response to this solicitation shall be available to the general public as required by the New Jersey Open Public Records Act N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et. seq. The Fund will not be responsible for any costs associated with the oral or written presentation of the proposals. The Fund reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, with or without cause, and waive any irregularities or informalities in the proposals. The Fund further reserves the right to make such investigations as it deems necessary as to the qualifications of any and all vendors submitting proposals. In the event that all proposals are rejected, the Fund reserves the right to re-solicit proposals.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE FUND

The Fund is organized pursuant to NJSA 40A: 10-36 to provide property/casualty insurance to its member local units. The Fund also provides its members with a comprehensive risk control and claims management program. The Fund is controlled by Board of Fund Commissioners that annually elects an executive committee. The Fund is regulated by the Department of Banking and Insurance and the Department of Community affairs.

IV. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

See Exhibit A

V. SCOPE OF SERVICES

a. Provide the necessary counsel and guidance so as to ensure that the Fund is in full compliance with all NJ legal and regulatory requirements.

b. Provide the Fund with ongoing reports and advice on legislative and regulatory changes which impact the Fund's operations and/or finances.

c. Review and analyze pertinent case law and provide the Fund with guidance and counsel on same.

d. Review contracts and service agreements for the Fund as needed.

e. Assist in the evaluation and hiring of claims defense attorneys. Conduct regular meetings with defense firms to ensure compliance with Fund Litigation Guidelines and uniform application of policy positions.

f. Conduct periodic reviews of defense firms' files, with particular attention to briefs submitted on behalf of the Fund.

g. Provide the Fund Claims Administrator with legal guidance where necessary, particularly in new and evolving areas of the law. This includes issuing periodic bulletins on emerging legal, regulatory, or case law matters.

h. Represent the Fund in the handling of Fund collection of outstanding payments from members and former members.

i. Represent the Fund in the handling of litigated matters, excluding the defense of the Fund and its members relating to ordinary member claims.

j. Attend all Fund Commissioner meetings as scheduled.

VI. MANDATORY CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL

In its proposal, the firm must include the following:

1) Contact Information: Provide the name and address of the firm, the name, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address of the individual responsible for the preparation of the proposal.

2) A fee proposal for the 2027 fund year. **All fees must be presented on an hourly basis with an annual maximum cap.**

3) An executive summary of not more than two (2) pages identifying and substantiating why the vendor is best qualified to provide the requested services.

4) A staffing plan listing those persons who will be assigned to the engagement if the vendor is selected, including the designation of the person who would be the vendor's officer responsible for all services required under the engagement. This portion of the proposal should include the relevant resume information for the individuals who will be assigned. This information should include, at a minimum, a description of the person's relevant professional experience, years and type of experience, and number of years with the vendor. Also include Data forms, in the format set forth in N.J.A.C. 11, Exhibit B, incorporating the appropriate and necessary professional qualifications for senior officers and directors of the organization.

5) A description of the vendor's experience in performing services of the type described in this RFP. Specifically identify client size and specific examples of similarities with the scope of services required under this RFP.

6) A description of resources of the vendor (i.e., background, location, experience, staff resources, financial resources, other resources, etc.).

7) The location of the office, if other than the vendor's main office, at which the vendor proposes to perform services required under this RFP. Describe your presence in New Jersey. Specifically, the vendor must state in its proposal whether or not the vendor is registered as a small business enterprise ("SBE") with the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission New Jersey's Set-Aside Program.

8) Provide references including the contact names, titles and phone numbers.

9) In its proposal, the vendor must identify any existing or potential conflicts of interest and disclose any representation of parties or other relationships that might be considered a conflict of interest with regard to this engagement, or the Fund.

VII. INTERVIEW

The Fund reserves the right to interview any or all of the applicants submitting a proposal. Although interviews may take place, the proposal should be comprehensive and complete on its face. The Fund reserves the right to request clarifying information subsequent to submission of the proposal.

VIII. SELECTION PROCESS

All proposals will be reviewed to determine responsiveness. Non-responsive or incomplete proposals will be rejected without evaluation. For vendors that satisfy the minimum requirements, the Fund will evaluate proposals based on the following evaluation criteria, separate or combined in some manner, and not necessarily listed in order of significance:

(a) The vendor's general approach to providing the services required under this RFP.
(b) The vendor's documented experience in successfully completing contracts of a similar size and scope to the engagement addressed by this RFP
(c) The qualifications and experience of the vendor's management, supervisory or other key personnel assigned to the engagement, with emphasis on documented experience in successfully completing work on contracts of similar size and scope to the services required by this RFP.
(d) The overall ability of the vendor to mobilize, undertake and successfully complete the engagement within the timeline. This criterion will include, but not be limited to, the following factors: the number and qualifications of management, supervisory and other staff proposed by the vendor to perform the services required by this RFP; the availability and commitment to the engagement of the vendor's management, supervisory and other staff proposed; the vendor's contract management plan, including the vendor's contract organizational chart.

IX. SELECTION CRITERIA AND CONTRACT

The Fund will select the vendor deemed most advantageous to the Fund, price and other factors considered. The contract between the Fund and the selected vendor(s) shall be comprised the contract attached as exhibit A, this RFP, any clarifications or addenda thereto, the selected vendor's proposal, and any changes negotiated by the parties.

Exhibit A

Public Entity Joint Insurance Fund

Request for Proposals for

Minimum Qualifications

Applicant vendors must establish that they meet the following minimum qualifications:

Fund Attorney:

As a minimum, the applicant shall have seven years' experience as Fund Attorney for a Joint Insurance Fund of the State of New Jersey. The applicant must demonstrate a consistent pattern of providing legal leadership and must quantify the results achieved in the area of litigation management. The applicant also must demonstrate a high degree of knowledge concerning (1) the finance and operation of local governmental units in New Jersey, (2) the management of a governmental entity comprised of numerous governmental entities and involving numerous vendors (3) workers compensation, liability and property matters involving New Jersey governmental entities, and (4) the regulations of the Department of Banking and Insurance and the Department of Community Affairs pertaining to joint insurance funds.