



Mesalands Community College Feasibility Study

RFP# 24-950-5450-00037

Pre-Proposal Conference

November 28, 2023 10:00am

Questions & Responses

1. Who will be the main contact for this project from the College?

Answer: The President of Mesalands Community College Dr. Allen Moss

2. Is there an incumbent firm the College is working with on these priorities?

Answer: No, however there is an economic impact study which was recently completed by LightCast.

3. Regarding the economic study performed by LightCast, was it for NMHED or for Mesalands Community College?

Answer: The economic impact study was requested by the New Mexico Independent Community College Association as an aggregate study of all independent colleges in New Mexico. A separate report was generated for Mesalands Community College however it is currently in DRAFT form.

4. Does the LightCast study show any individual results for Mesalands Community College?

Answer: Yes. A separate report was generated for Mesalands Community College.

5. When will the final Lightcast economic study report be available?

Answer: The report is currently in draft form and NMHED does not know when it will be finalized and made available.

6. Since an economic study is part of the scope of work for the Mesalands Feasibility Study, can the results of the LightCast economic study be utilized or will additional elements be required?

Answer: The scope of work for the Mesalands Feasibility study by the NMHED is much broader in nature than the economic impact study performed by LightCast. Use of the information in the LightCast study will be up to the selected vendor.

7. Budgets for these types of projects can range drastically, and preparing a response that does not fit the College's needs precisely is a tedious task – what is the College's intended budget for this project?

Answer: The study is funded by a non-recurring 2023 state general fund appropriation in the amount of up to \$250,000.



8. Do you have any idea about the anticipated budget?

Answer: The amount of funding to support this study is up to \$250,000.

9. Can you give a bit of history and background on Mesalands and its status as an independent community college and what led to this RFP?

Answer: Mesalands Community College is a two-year community college in Eastern New Mexico which is governed by an elected Board of Trustees. Mesalands offers associate and certificate programs to students and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

In November of 2022, NMHED was notified of fiscal concerns by the college. The NMHED placed Mesalands on Enhanced Fiscal Oversight and took steps to address the fiscal concerns noted. During the 2023 Legislative Session, funding was appropriated to the Higher Education Department for Operational Costs at Mesalands Community College. This included up to \$200,000 to cover costs associated with a special audit by the office of the state auditor as well as up to \$250,000 to be used by the higher education department to gather community feedback, study the college's fiscal condition and make recommendation to the interim legislative committee on solvency measures undertaken and governance changes.

10. Do you anticipate the selected Consultant needing to get into student or protected files at the College?

Answer: We do not anticipate a need to get into the student files or any other FERPA protected documentation. If there are any requests from the selected Consultant needing such documentation, the NMHED will work with the consultant and Mesalands Community College to properly secure any confidential information.

11. Will proposal submissions be accepted through Bidnet or by other means?

Answer: Proposals must be submitted to NMHED's Procurement Manager. The contact and email address are provided on page 9 of the RFP.

12. Is there a timeline for completion for the Feasibility Study?

Answer: NMHED does not have a definitive timeline established for completion of the study. We are looking to the selected Consultant to determine the timeline for completion.

13. Does Mesalands maintain a database with present and past students and community members in order to conduct interviews as requested within the scope of work?

Answer: NMHED is not aware if the College maintains such information. Canvassing of students and community members would be facilitated by the President and Governing Board and NMHED can collaborate as needed.