

Application to Prequalify Planning Services Providers

TxCDBG Cycle Type: 2020

Firm Name: The Antero Group, LLC	DUNS Number: 076209848	Federal EIN: 47-3959204
Prequalification Contact First, Last Name and Title: Michael Schmitz, Director	Phone Number: +1 (312) 772-5085	Prequalification Contact E-mail Address: mschmitz@anterogroup.com
Firm Web Address www.anterogroup.com	Firm Mailing Address 3104 Windy Hill, Denton, TX 76209	Name of Firm's President/Managing Officer: Eric V. Neagu, PE, LEED, AP, AICP

Application for Prequalification to Provide Planning Services

IMPORTANT: The term "respondent" refers to the individual or firm responding to this RFQ. Responses to the items in Part 1 will be posted on TDA's website with the Approved Vendor List for Planning Services. Responses to the items in Part 2 will be disclosed to participating local governments during the project-based solicitation. The applicant must verify their eligibility through the System for Award Management (SAM) and demonstrate they are not listed on the government-wide exclusion list. Attach printout(s) of verification page with date. **With the exception of SAM verification, TDA will not accept or publish any attachments to the application. A response is required for all questions.**

Part 1

1. Provide a brief history or background of the respondent including number of years in the business of providing planning services.

The Antero Group, LLC ("Antero") is a civil engineering, urban planning, and strategic consulting firm established in October 2014 with more than 100 years of collective civil engineering, urban planning, grant writing, and economic development experience, including extensive experience working in the State of Texas.

2. Describe the respondent's experience with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and in particular the state CDBG program.

Michael Schmitz, Director at Antero Group, is a certified Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator and has assisted numerous communities in Texas with pre- and post-award grant administration including several municipal and county-wide capital improvement projects.

3. Describe the respondent's experience with the following:

- a. Comprehensive plans

Antero Group has substantial experience with preparing Comprehensive Plans and Comprehensive Master Plans for clients throughout the country.

- b. Community development plans

Our team of talented urban planners have helped local, regional, and national governments and firms develop and implement a variety of transformative projects including community development plans.

- c. Functional plans (e.g. housing, land use, economic development, open space, energy use, flood plain/wetlands, etc.)

Antero Group has successfully developed numerous functional plans for clients integrating actionable, data-driven information to address development opportunities for clients.

- d. Economic development plans

Antero Group's experience in planning work has helped communities obtain millions of dollars in grant funding while spurring economic development.

- e. Other plans/studies (e.g. neighborhood plans, capital improvement programs, individual project planning, environmental/historic preservation, etc.)

Antero has considerable experience planning and developing an array of programs including those which address environmental assessments, community planning, capital improvement plans, and more with substantial economic impact and quality of life improvements.

- f. Policy planning-management-capacity building activities

We understand that most municipalities are resource and capacity restrained and have a proven track record of identifying

	community engagement, complete a market analysis, create a Revitalization, Reuse and Resource Roadmap to guide site development, and complete and oversee environmental site assessment activities and any resulting cleanup or remediation needs.
Roles & Responsibilities	Environmental Site Assessment, Due Diligence, Community Engagement, Grant Administration, Project Management, Site Master Planning
Project Cost	\$821,400
Financing/Funding Source	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Project Schedule -Start and End Dates -Describe if project was completed on schedule or delayed	February 2020 - present Project is still underway and on schedule for completion by December 2022.
Project Personnel List all personnel associated with this project and their roles and responsibilities (only list those who may be assigned to a project).	Eric Neagu, PE, Project Team Lead, Antero Group - Cooperative Agreement Oversight, Community Involvement & Engagement, Site Reuse and Revitalization Planning, Site-Specific Activities Michael Schmitz, Senior Project Manager, Antero Group - Cooperative Agreement Oversight, Community Involvement & Engagement, Site Reuse and Revitalization Planning, Site-Specific Activities Dave Laney, CHMM, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. subconsultant - Cooperative Agreement Oversight, Site Reuse and Revitalization Planning, Site-Specific Activities Benjamin Stewart, PG, PMP, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. subconsultant - Site-Specific Activities Claude Brown, PG, Sigma Environmental Solutions, Inc. subconsultant - Site-Specific Activities Paul D. Laman, IAC, Sigma Environmental Solutions subconsultant - Site-Specific Activities Vicki Oppenheim, AICP, Green Leaf Environmental Planning subconsultant - Site Reuse and Revitalization Planning Karen Andrews, President, Intercon Environmental Inc. subconsultant - Site-Specific Activities
Contact Information Current phone and e-mail address of local government representatives you worked with.	Giles Brown, (903) 463-8620, browng@grayson.edu
<input type="button" value="Remove Project"/> Project Name	Texas Gateway Logistics Center
Project Type	Planning & Design, Civil Engineering
Project Location (Jurisdiction)	Denison, Texas
Project Description	In 2017, the Denison Development Alliance engaged Antero Group to provide redevelopment support on a former asbestos pipe manufacturing facility along the Red River in Grayson County, Texas, which includes approximately 400 acres of undeveloped land. Antero Group developed a reuse strategy to address legacy environmental conditions, reduction of floodplain burden, and provide clear economic incentives.
Roles & Responsibilities	Preliminary Cost Estimation and Schematic Design, Environmental Coordination, Grant Management Support, Final Design, Construction Management & Administrative Support, Marketing & Branding
Project Cost	\$1,000,000
Financing/Funding Source	United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Agency
Project Schedule -Start and End Dates -Describe if project was completed on schedule or delayed	November 2021 - Present Project is still underway and on schedule for completion by December 2022.

Project Personnel List all personnel associated with this project and their roles and responsibilities (only list those who may be assigned to a project).	Eric Neagu, PE, Project Team Lead, Antero Group - EDA Grant Administration Services, Comprehensive Master Plan, Site Engineering, Site Readiness, Utility Coordination Jeffrey Ekegren, CFM, Antero Group - Comprehensive Master Plan, Site Engineering, Site Readiness, Utility Coordination Michael Schmitz, Senior Project Manager, Antero Group - EDA Grant Administration Services, Comprehensive Master Plan, Site Engineering, Site Readiness, Utility Coordination Vita Khosti, Senior Planner, Antero Group - EDA Grant Administration Services, Comprehensive Master Plan Sean Norton, Planner, Antero Group - EDA Grant Administration Services, Comprehensive Master Plan, Marketing & Branding
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Contact Information Current phone and e-mail address of local government representatives you worked with.	Tony Kaai, President, Denison Development Alliance, (903) 464-0883, tkaai@denisontx.org
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<input type="button" value="Remove Project"/>	Project Name	Whitewright Downtown Plan
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Project Type	Planning & Design
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Project Location (Jurisdiction)	Whitewright, Texas
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Project Description	Antero Group was engaged to establish a redevelopment plan for the City of Whitewright, Texas, a rapidly growing community in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area. With Antero's help, Whitewright was awarded a US EPA Area-Wide Brownfields Planning Grant to establish the redevelopment plan and address several blighted properties in the downtown area. The planning process incorporated a detailed analysis of existing conditions that inhibit the downtown's success, with a focus on identifying strategies to address infrastructure, site cleanup planning, reuse strategies, transportation impacts, and market conditions. The redevelopment plan as leveraged to apply for and win a \$1.2M Texas Department of Transportation grant to address connectivity and transportation alternatives.
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Roles & Responsibilities	Grant Writing, Redevelopment Plan, Existing Conditions Assessment, Land Reuse Planning, Regional Analysis
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Project Cost	\$200,000
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Financing/Funding Source	United States Environmental Protection Agency Area-Wide Brownfields Planning Grant
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Project Schedule -Start and End Dates -Describe if project was completed on schedule or delayed	2016 - 2018 This project was completed on schedule
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Project Personnel List all personnel associated with this project and their roles and responsibilities (only list those who may be assigned to a project).	Eric Neagu, PE, Project Team Lead - Antero Group Michael Schmitz, Senior Project Manager - Antero Group Beth Woodson, City Administrator Beau Heistand, Building Inspector
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Contact Information Current phone and e-mail address of local government representatives you worked with.	Beth Woodson, (903) 965-7744, cityadmin@cityofbells.org
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<input type="button" value="Remove Project"/>	Project Name	Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) Regional Solid Waste Management Plan
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Project Type	Planning & Design
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Project Location (Jurisdiction)	Texoma Region (Cooke County, Fannin County, and Grayson County - Texas)
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Project Description	Antero Group was selected to develop a twenty-year solid waste management plan for the Texoma Region (Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson counties) in northeast Texas. This plan
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	<p>serves to identify concerns, goals, objectives, and recommendations for solid waste management and addresses both environmental and economic concerns to ensure the generation and management of municipal solid waste is conducted in a safe manner to protect human health and the environment as an opportunity to improve quality of life.</p>
Roles & Responsibilities	Stakeholder and public meeting facilitation, data collection and analysis, plan development
Project Cost	\$30,000
Financing/Funding Source	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Project Schedule -Start and End Dates -Describe if project was completed on schedule or delayed	July 2020 - August 2021 This project was initially anticipated to take 18 months but was completed ahead of schedule.
Project Personnel List all personnel associated with this project and their roles and responsibilities (only list those who may be assigned to a project).	Eric Neagu, PE, Project Team Lead Michael Schmitz, Senior Project Manager Randal Bernthal, Planner
Contact Information Current phone and e-mail address of local government representatives you worked with.	Eric Bridges, Executive Director, Texoma Council of Governments, (903) 813-3512, ebridges@tcog.com
<input type="checkbox"/> Remove Project	Project Name
	Indiana Enterprise Center (IEC) Area Management Plan
Project Type	Comprehensive Master Plan
Project Location (Jurisdiction)	St. Joseph County, Indiana
Project Description	The Antero Group was selected to provide St. Joseph County, Indiana and the surrounding region with a management strategy for the approximately 7,200-acre mixed-use Indiana Enterprise Center. The Core Development Area has grown into a 2,920-acre hub of business activity that employs over 1,500 people across 32 businesses and generates \$459 million of annual sales revenue. The Master Plan aligns with the county's comprehensive plan and delivers a vision for a more prosperous and resilient future for the area, guiding principles for future planning and development, a prioritized Capital Improvement Plan and integrated land use and transportation plan.
Roles & Responsibilities	Master Planning, Infrastructure Analysis, Public Engagement and Outreach, Due Diligence, Data Collection
Project Cost	\$800,000
Financing/Funding Source	St. Joseph County Economic Development Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
Project Schedule -Start and End Dates -Describe if project was completed on schedule or delayed	October 2017 - September 2020 This project was completed on schedule
Project Personnel List all personnel associated with this project and their roles and responsibilities (only list those who may be assigned to a project).	Eric Neagu, PE, Project Team Lead Michael Schmitz, Senior Project Manager Jeffrey Ekegren, CFM Curtis Witek, Senior Project Manager
Contact Information Current phone and e-mail address of local government representatives you worked with.	Bill Schalliol, Economic Development Executive Director, St. Joseph County, (574) 235-9812, bschalliol@sjcindiana.com

9. Describe the experience, competence and training of personnel with respect to provision of planning services, and related work. Use the following table to present background on **key** personnel who will potentially be assigned responsibility for a core project task.

Antero Group has qualified personnel on-staff including engineers and urban planners with the technical expertise to successfully advance and complete projects.

Key Personnel Profile(s)		Add Personnel
Remove Personnel	Full Name	Eric V. Neagu, PE, LEED, AP, AICP
Potential Role Base Location	Principal Chicago, IL	
Current Employment Current job title Job responsibilities Number of years with respondent	Principal (since founding)	
Overall Total Years or relevant experience Other relevant experience or accomplishments	Mr. Neagu's 20 years of experience spans public, private, and institutional clients. With a background that encompasses civil engineering, urban planning, and economic development, Mr. Neagu has a holistic approach to solving client problems. Mr. Neagu's skills include infrastructure design; economic development analysis; owner's representative; master planning; and cost benefits analysis.	
<i>NOTE: More detailed information, that expands upon staff experience, training background and other relevant information, may be provided at the request of interested communities who are in the process of soliciting proposals for planning services.</i>		
Remove Personnel	Full Name	Michael Schmitz
Potential Role Base Location	Lead Project Manager Denton, TX	
Current Employment Current job title Job responsibilities Number of years with respondent	Director 3 years	
Overall Total Years or relevant experience Other relevant experience or accomplishments	Michael E. Schmitz serves as a Senior Project Manager for the Antero Group. Mr. Schmitz has twelve years of GIS and planning experience with clients in the public and private sectors. Michael focuses on providing innovative, strategic and visioning planning solutions for small, mid-sized and large cities experiencing challenges related to growth. Michael has been lead GIS consultant on projects ranging from asset and infrastructure planning, to enterprise GIS and public safety solutions for next generation 9-1-1 systems.	
<i>NOTE: More detailed information, that expands upon staff experience, training background and other relevant information, may be provided at the request of interested communities who are in the process of soliciting proposals for planning services.</i>		
Remove Personnel	Full Name	Jeffrey Ekegren, CFM
Potential Role Base Location	Senior Project Engineer Denver, CO	
Current Employment Current job title Job responsibilities Number of years with respondent	Senior Project Engineer 5 years	
Overall Total Years or relevant experience Other relevant experience or accomplishments	Mr. Jeffrey Ekegren, serves as a Senior Project Engineer and Chief Operations Officer for Antero Group. He is responsible for a number of civil engineering projects that encompass a broad range of scopes from roadway design to green infrastructure. He has a strong background in sidewalk and trail design, residential, commercial, industrial and capital improvement projects including a multi-million dollar dam rehabilitation project and hospital	

expansion project.

NOTE: More detailed information, that expands upon staff experience, training background and other relevant information, may be provided at the request of interested communities who are in the process of soliciting proposals for planning services.

10. Provide a statement on the availability and commitment of the firm and personnel to undertake the project.

Antero Group has qualified personnel on-staff including engineers and urban planners with the technical expertise to successfully advance and complete projects.

11. Is the respondent certified or self-identified as a small business, minority- or woman- owned business enterprise, or Section 3 business?

Small Business		Woman Owned		Minority Owned		Section 3	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No

12. State the respondent's policy regarding affirmative action.

Antero Group provides equal employment opportunities to all employees, applicants, and job seekers, and is committed to making decisions using reasonable standards based on everyone's qualifications as they relate to an employment action (e.g., hiring, training, promotions). No person shall be discriminated against in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a physical or mental disability unrelated to job ability, protected veteran status, military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, citizenship status, genetic information, marital status, parental status, ancestry, source of income, credit history, housing status, order of protection status, and actual or perceived association with such a person or other classes protected by law.

Antero Group complies with all federal and state laws concerning the employment of persons with disabilities and acts in accordance with such regulations and guidance including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended.

13. Provide any additional information that the respondent feels is essential to the respondent's statement of qualifications.

Antero Group has a proven track record of meeting project deadlines and operating within the established budget. We understand the financial position in which many municipalities operate. It is with that understanding that we approach all projects – from the due diligence phase to project closeout and inspection. While each project is unique, our experience has taught us to anticipate any issues that may arise and address them with innovative approaches.