

Alberta SCI Action Strategy Request for Proposals release date: October 29, 2010

Project Title: An awards program recognizing excellence in accessible housing design among Alberta builders

The Alberta Spinal Cord Injury Solutions Alliance (AB SCI SA) is seeking a consultant to develop an award concept that recognizes excellence in the design, development and marketing of accessible homes in Alberta.

Deadline for submissions: November 19, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

Background

The Alberta SCI Solutions Alliance (AB SCI SA) is a provincial network of individuals and organizations passionate about making a positive difference for Albertans living with spinal cord injury (SCI). Comprised of people with SCI, service providers, researchers, health care practitioners and others, the AB SCI SA works at local, regional and provincial levels to identify needs and facilitate the delivery of customized solutions, from point of injury to full community participation.

The formation of the AB SCI SA is but one step in the creation and implementation of the Alberta SCI Initiative to enhance the wellbeing of persons living with SCI and to initiate a collaborative and systemic improvement of SCI services and research in the Province of Alberta. In furtherance of the Alberta SCI Initiative, the Province of Alberta made a 5 year \$12 million dollar commitment to fund the Alberta SCI Initiative and out of this, the Alberta SCI Action Strategy (Strategy) was launched.

The purpose of the Strategy is:

- To provide a conceptual and planning framework for collaborative effort in the SCI Community
- To identify priorities, develop action plans and launch related initiatives, all intended to significantly improve health and quality of life outcomes for Albertans with SCI
- To position this work on the agendas of the communities and government that must ultimately support implementation
- To give the SCI community one voice and a shared purpose.

The Strategy was developed through a process of extensive consultation with stakeholders, including consumers (i.e. people with SCI and similar physical disabilities).

Out of this consultation, three priority areas for action were identified: affordable accessible housing; home care/attendant care; and adaptive equipment/devices. Task Teams were assigned to each priority area. They developed a total of eight action plans designed to bring about improvements in these areas. The action plans have been approved for funding through the AB SCI SA. The timeframe for implementation and evaluation is November 1, 2010 through March 31, 2012.

This request for proposals pertains to one of three action plans developed by the Task Team on Affordable Accessible Housing.

Need

In Alberta, there is a small but growing number of builders who have recognized the social and economic benefits of building accessible homes for the aging and disabled population. The Task Team recognizes that their ability to increase the supply of accessible housing at a variety of price points depends upon the support of the building industry and its various players. They must understand the needs of the SCI population (and those with similar physical disabilities), and be willing to build accessible homes at a variety of price points, and in a variety of neighbourhoods to satisfy the physical and social needs of the disabled population. The builders' award program will recognize those developers and builders who have demonstrated drive and commitment in this area and aim to inspire others to follow in their lead.

It is important that the award be considered "mainstream," e.g. it could be incorporated into an existing awards program such as SAMS or the Alberta Home Builders Association Alberta Awards of Excellence in Housing.

Funding only covers the creation of the concept and finding an organization to "adopt" it. Having achieved that, the project team would look to reorganizing and working closely with the hosting agency to develop the actual award and market it. New sources of funding would be sought.

Project Team

Larry Pempeit (Lead), Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta)
Ron Wickman (Architect)
Marlin Styner (Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities)
representatives from building industry (TBD)
Project Assistant (TBD)

The consultant will work the project team and will have the support of a project assistant who will schedule meetings, ensure timely response to consultant requests, and perform other tasks as deemed appropriate by the project lead.

Deliverables

1. A concept design for the award based on research of similar award programs and an assessment of the Alberta context.
2. Test receptivity to the concept with key players in the Alberta building industry.
3. Work with the project team to identify an agency, organization, or group of stakeholders willing to adopt the award concept. "Adoption" involves taking

responsibility for fully developing the concept, securing funding, marketing and implementing the award program.

Timelines

Deliverables are due on or before June 30, 2011

Requirements for submission

Proposals in response to this RFP should include:

- executive summary identifying the main features and benefits of the proposed work
- description of how the work will be carried out, including the number of individuals who will be involved and their qualifications to do the work described
- a detailed workplan that lists tasks and timelines
- a detailed, itemized budget (identifying hourly fee and itemizing expenses)
- company overview
- two references for recently completed projects
- key contact name, title, address, telephone numbers, fax number and e-mail address

Criteria for review

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- capacity and creditability of the consulting firm
- demonstrated expertise and experience of the consultant and his/her team
- the vendor's understanding of the project requirements
- commitment to project deadlines
- detailed workplan
- overall cost
- references

Submit one electronic copy of your proposal to:

Attention: Heather Lissel
Coordinator, AB SCI Action Strategy
hlissel@telus.net

Applicants short-listed for interviews will be contacted by Dec. 3, 2010
The successful applicant will be contacted by Dec. 10, 2010

For further information, contact:

Heather Lissel
Coordinator, AB SCI Action Strategy
780-467-4418
or go to: www.alberta-sci-initiative.blogspot.com

About The Alberta Paraplegic Foundation

The Alberta Paraplegic Foundation (The APF) was established in 1987 and its purpose is to fund worthwhile SCI scientific research and community development projects or otherwise providing assistance for persons with SCI. The APF is responsible for the oversight, monitoring and distribution funds related to the Alberta SCI Action Strategy.