



**BUILD CHANGE**  
**Post-Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Technical Assistance Program**  
**January 12, 2010 Haiti Earthquake**  
**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**  
Last Update: July 16, 2010

Build Change is issuing this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for design of earthquake and hurricane resistant houses for the reconstruction following the January 12, 2010 earthquake near Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Build Change has been requested by Haitian architects, Haitian government officials, homeowners, and staff of relief agencies working in Haiti to provide inputs on safe housing reconstruction. Build Change wishes to engage an engineering firm, academic team or combination thereof willing to commit to work closely with Build Change staff and project partners to develop designs and design resources that are cost-efficient, earthquake and hurricane resistant, and built with locally available materials, skills and tools.

The design process will result in not only a set of detailed engineering plans for a set of generic floor plans, but also a set of design rules and component drawings that can be applied to a variety of floor plans, plot sizes, cultural and architectural preferences, and budgets. Bills of quantity and cost estimates will also be produced. The results of this work will be used to contribute to development and implementation of locally appropriate codes and guidelines specific to safe housing construction in Haiti.

This Request for Qualification pertains to the following structural systems. The consultant should state their structural system preference(s), and level of expertise relevant to that structural system.

- (1) Confined masonry (single and two story houses with timber, lightweight steel and reinforced concrete cast-in-place roof options)
- (2) Reinforced masonry (single and two story houses with timber, lightweight steel and reinforced concrete cast-in-place roof options)
- (3) Timber and steel framed transitional shelters which can be upgraded to permanent structures (single and two story)
- (4) Two and three story mixed use buildings with open ground floor for shops and upper floors for residential use (structural system to be suggested in the analysis).

**DESIGN CRITERIA:** A list of applicable codes and guidelines will be provided with the Request for Proposals (RFP). Design criteria include but are not limited to

- Earthquake and hurricane resistant
- Can be built with locally available materials, skills and tools
- Where possible, uses recycled materials or more environmentally friendly materials
- Low-cost (cost ceiling to be provided with project documents)
- Can be built incrementally, improved from transitional to permanent, and/or expanded horizontally or vertically.

House designs should comply with relevant regional codes and guidelines and other directives issues by the Government of Haiti. However, designers will be encouraged to use engineering judgment in order to increase affordability while ensuring protection of life safety.

**PRICING:** More details on pricing will be provided in the RFP. This work is funded by private foundations and a grant from USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) through Habitat for Humanity International – Haiti. Build Change is a non-profit social enterprise that designs earthquake-resistant houses in developing countries and trains builders, engineers, homeowners and government officials to build them. Build Change provides technical assistance services free of charge to homeowners rebuilding collapsed houses after earthquakes. In order reach as many homeowners as



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possible with technical assistance on safe construction, we seek to reduce costs paid to expatriate staff and engineering consultants. Proposals with reduced cost multipliers and/or in-kind contributions will be considered highly. Build Change is a registered US 501(c)3 non-profit charity; donations and in-kind contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**SOQ CONTENT:** Statement of Qualifications must include the following information:

1. Name, address, brief history and description of the firm.
2. Resumes of key personnel to be assigned to this project, with relevant experience. At least one licensed professional engineer must oversee the production of project deliverables.
3. A description of recent or related projects and areas of expertise and experience relevant to the scope of this proposed work. Include descriptions of other work in developing countries, and previous experience in Haiti as well as considerations on lessons learned and methods of improvement as applicable.
4. Contact information for at least three professional references.
5. Indication of which structural system(s) the Consultant wishes to propose for, and a brief description of the structural engineering analysis methods to be used.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Interested firms, teams or individuals must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Minimum of at least two recent years experience in designing earthquake and hurricane-resistant buildings of the structural systems listed, preferably in Haiti or similar environment.
2. Willingness to travel to Haiti if required.

**HOW TO SUBMIT SOQ:** Submissions must be made electronically to the e-mail address [buildchange@gmail.com](mailto:buildchange@gmail.com). Attachments should be limited to 10MB or less.

**TIMETABLE:**

Deadline to submit SOQ	July 23, 2010, 5:00 PM US PDT
Notification of invitation to submit Proposal	July 29, 2010
Deadline to submit full proposal	August 4, 2010, 5:00 PM US PDT
Interviews, if required by Build Change	Week of August 9, 2010
Selection of consultant(s)	August 13, 2010
Approximate deadline for completing work	September 17, 2010

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Please direct all questions to [buildchange@gmail.com](mailto:buildchange@gmail.com).