This RFP opens immediately and closes November 19, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern. Proposals received after this time may not be considered.

1. Purpose
The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. (the Endowment; www.usendowment.org) seeks proposals for an analysis of the socio-economic effects of economic incentives for enhanced forest carbon storage. These economic incentives can include carbon pricing or taxes, carbon offset and banking programs, direct government payments and enhanced demand for wood products (including development of new product or uses). This initial analysis will be used to help identify potential benefits as well as potential unintended consequences of investment from the Endowment’s Forest Carbon Program and will identify areas for additional inquiry or analysis.

2. Background
The Endowment is the nation’s largest non-profit dedicated to keeping working forests working for all their environmental, societal, and economic benefits and values. To achieve this, the Endowment works collaboratively with partners in the public and private sectors to advance systemic, transformative, and sustainable change for the health and vitality of the nation’s working forests and forest-reliant communities. Our programs range across traditional, future, and ecosystem markets, along with programs for asset creation and forest retention and health.

Endowment staff has developed an initial approach to creating a Forest Carbon Program. The Endowment’s goal is to position ourselves strategically in the forest carbon space where our resources and expertise are most needed to accomplish climate and carbon goals that are oriented to our mission.

Staff anticipates four projects for the initial phase of work. This phase is intended to help create the strategy and the design of our Forest Carbon Program. The Program’s initial effort is a partner and stakeholder gap analysis. The intent of the gap analysis is to survey prominent organizations working on forest carbon, learn their areas of focus, identify areas of need, and develop specific opportunities for the Endowment to meet sector-wide opportunities that align with our mission. In addition to this analysis, the Endowment is: 1) continuing our work to advance Forest Carbon Life Cycle Assessment Transparency, and 2) helping to convene key forest sector stakeholders around forest carbon offset projects, explore learnings from previous offset implementation, and advance opportunities to improve current protocols, and 3) developing a research effort to evaluate the economic impacts of pricing forest carbon and identifying the opportunities and implications of pricing for rural communities, stakeholders, and forestland owners and managers. This Request for Proposals will support and begin to address the third initial project area.
The desired outcome of these initial project areas is to identify opportunities for investment by the Endowment that will advance the understanding of and benefits to forest carbon and center ourselves within this space.

Our hope is this initial socio-economic analysis will be a starting point and that the Endowment and others will be able to build on the work when targeting investment and use the analysis to identify additional research, analysis, or areas of work.

3. Proposed Scope of Services

Consultant will prepare a report that addresses the following analysis of the impacts of forest carbon policies and incentives:

- Literature review summarizing existing and ongoing research into socio-economic effects of climate change mitigation policies, carbon incentives or pricing schemes, industrial market changes resulting from or associated with forest carbon policies or incentives (e.g. new product mix or changes in mill operations), policy analysis, and other appropriate work related to forests, forest owners and rural communities.
- Analysis of and considerations for changes to rural community culture, social structure, and economies. *(This analysis could be targeted to specific geographies, or a broader assessment and we invite proposers to suggest an approach that would be most effective)*
- Specific consideration on the socio-economic impacts on historically disadvantaged and minority landowners.
- Consider presenting case studies or scenarios of how the economic incentives will affect jobs and wages by industry sector, local tax implications, potential changes in industry mix or other areas in a small sample (perhaps 3-4) of representative rural, forest-reliant communities.
- Detailed recommendations for additional areas of research or analysis.

We invite flexibility in the specific scope that is proposed. Upon selection of a proposal, the Endowment staff will work with the consultant to refine and update the final scope of work to be included in the contract.

4. Process Schedule

Proposers are invited to submit questions on this RFP to the contact listed in Section 9. Questions and responses will be posted regularly on the Endowment’s website to enable all proposers to have the same responses.

Proposal review is anticipated to conclude on or around November 24. Applicants may be requested to interview with Endowment staff or to clarify or elaborate on specific points in the interim.

There are no extra points for length and we encourage proposals to be no longer than 5 pages with additional firm information, reference project descriptions, or other materials as attachments if desired.

5. Outcome and Performance Standards and Deliverables

The successful consultant/organization will work closely with the Endowment’s staff. Regular communication between the Endowment and the consultant/organization will be expected to help clarify the process and to ensure that the final product is satisfactory.
6. Method of Work Arrangement
The services agreement will be by written contract between the Endowment and the consultant/organization.

7. Budget and Timeline
The budget is heavily dependent on proposed methodology and time commitment. The Endowment will consider all budget ranges for this application. We anticipate this initial analysis to be completed within a year, depending on the exact Scope of Services proposed.

8. Application Review and Award Process
The Endowment will rate proposals on criteria including:
   i. Relevant work experience
   ii. Prior work or references
   iii. Proposed methods and deliverables
   iv. Total project price/timeline

9. Contact and Questions
Applicants are encouraged to send questions to general@usendowment.org or contact Endowment staff to discuss the project. Questions received will be collected and posted with responses on the Endowment’s website.

10. Application Process
Please submit proposals to general@usendowment.org.

11. Who May Apply
This application is open to applicants from government agencies, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and for-profit companies and consultants.

Decisions and practices of the Endowment are not and will not be unlawfully influenced or affected by race, color, creed, age, religion, national origin, sex, disability, genetic information, veteran status, uniformed services, sexual orientation (including transgender status, gender identity or expression), gender, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions or on any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

12. Submission Requirements
Please use the following template for guidance but other formats with the appropriate information will be accepted:
Request for Proposals
Analysis of the socio-economic effects of forest carbon incentives
RFP Number 2021 – 002

Organization/Consultant Information
Organization Legal Name
EIN
Applicant Contact Information

Relevant Work Experience
Please provide a summary of your work experience that you perceive as relevant to this project.

Proposed Scope of Services
Please provide a summary of your proposed process and how you plan to work with the Endowment on this.

Financial
Amount Requested
Project Budget and Narrative
Please use our project budget narrative template available for download here, and send as a separate excel document with your application.

Workplan
Please provide tangible, measurable anticipated outcomes for this program along with a timeline to achieve the proposed outcome.

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<th>Workplan Activity</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Timeline for this activity</th>
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Project Contacts
Please tell us which team members have the following responsibilities (if applicable):
1. Technical/Team Lead Contact
2. Report Contact
3. Financial/Contracting Contact

Attachments
Team member resumes
Relevant publications, reports, or supporting documents
Any references you’d like for us to contact regarding prior work