

Negocian para evitar cierre del gobierno

El muro entre México y EE.UU. es la ficha de tranque entre demócratas y republicanos

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON.— El presidente Donald Trump podría evitarse el riesgo de un cierre del gobierno la semana próxima si abandona su demanda de que los legisladores aprueben fondos para su prometido muro fronterizo junto a México dentro de una vital ley de gastos, dijeron ayer dos importantes congresistas demócratas.

"Si el presidente no se inmiscuye, pudiéramos tener un presupuesto listo para el viernes", dijo el líder de la minoría senatorial demócrata Chuck Schumer en una teleconferencia con reporteros, refiriéndose a los negociadores presupuestarios demócratas y republicanos.

La líder de la minoría demócrata en la Cámara de Representantes Nancy Pelosi concordó. Dijo que aunque Trump prometió durante su campaña construir el muro, "no prometió que iba a quitarles comida de las bocas a bebés" ni recortar programas para ancianos, educación y el ambiente para poder pagar por la construcción. Dijo que el muro es "una propuesta inhumana, inefectiva e imprudente".

Los demócratas hicieron su llamado cuando se acerca la marca de los 100 días de la presidencia de Trump, que se cumplen el sábado. Dijeron que Trump ha incumplido reiteradamente sus promesas de campaña de ayudar a la clase trabajadora y mencionaron

una propuesta de ley de salud que Pelosi llamó "una monstruosidad", recortes propuestos a programas nacionales y la inhabilidad de alcanzar políticas comerciales más duras.

El sábado es el mismo día en que el gobierno federal se quedaría sin fondos a menos que el Congreso apruebe una ley para financiar sus agencias.

Funcionarios de la Casa Blanca y líderes de ambos partidos dicen que no quieren un cierre del gobierno. Pero los allegados de Trump siguen demandando la inclusión de dinero para el muro en la ley de gastos y esa propuesta ha emergido como el mayor obstáculo para un acuerdo presupuestario.

"En lugar de arriesgar un cierre del gobierno al forzarle ese muro al Congreso y el pueblo estadounidense, el presidente debería dejarnos llegar a un acuerdo", dijo Schumer.

En un mensaje en Twitter el lunes, Trump dijo que su propuesta muro fronterizo sería "una herramienta muy importante para impedir que drogas entren a nuestro país y emvenenen a nuestros jóvenes (y muchos otros)".

El fin de semana, Trump criticó a los demócratas, que se oponen abiertamente al financiamiento del muro.

"Los demócratas no quieren que se use dinero del presupuesto para el muro fronterizo, pese a que el mismo frenará drogas y pandilleros de MS 13 muy malos"

DONALD TRUMP
presidente de EE.UU.



El presidente Trump asegura que, eventualmente, México pagará por la construcción del muro.

AP/FOTO: SUEAN WALSH

Public Notice

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR THE SALE OF PROPERTY TAX DEBTS AND ASSOCIATED TAX LIENS (APRIL 25, 2017)

Introduction
The purpose of this RFO is to identify possible prospect(s) to serve as financial advisor(s) for the following transaction: The Puerto Rico Municipal Revenue Collection Center (Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales or "CRIM") and its assigned certain delinquent tax debts corresponding to fiscal years 1997 through 2014 (the "Offered Tax Debts") and associated real property tax liens (the "Offered Tax Liens") to one or more third parties in accordance with the provisions of the "Sale of Delinquent Tax Debts Act of 1997" (Act No. 21 of June 26, 1997, as amended, "Act 21"), 21 L.P.R.A. §§5921 et seq., and its regulations, subject to the approval of CRIM's Governing Board and the consent of the Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority ("FAFAA" or the "Authority"). The sale will be conducted as a bulk sale transaction with one or more aggregate proposals for all Offered Tax Debts. The Offered Tax Debts represent a portfolio of "credits for transferred tax debts", which are defined in Act 21 as those transferable delinquent tax debts that have been sold pursuant to the provisions thereof, including interest, surcharges and penalties accrued up to the date of the sale and an additional fee for the expense of handling the transaction as specified in Act 21. "Transferable delinquent tax debts" are defined as those property taxes in arrears, that have not been paid within the term of one year from the date they became delinquent, and the statute of limitations on which has not expired, including interest, surcharges and penalties applicable to tax debts in default under the "Municipal Property Tax Act of 1991" (Act No. 80 of August 30, 1991, as amended, the "1991 Act"). CRIM will work with FAFAA to sell and assign the Offered Tax Debts to one or more third parties in accordance with the provisions of Act 21, subject to approval by CRIM's Governing Board. CRIM is responsible for the appraisal, assessment, notice of imposition, and collection of all municipal property taxes, including real property taxes within the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The par amount of the Offered Tax Debts for sale totals approximately \$1,466,666 (Ranging from Real Property Tax imposed since Fiscal Year 1997 through Fiscal Year 2014, and representing approximately 62% of CRIM's Real Property Tax Receivables Portfolio). In Fiscal Year 2016 CRIM assessed Real Property Taxes totaling \$770MM, based upon Real Property Assessed Tax Value base on the current assessment methodology of 1957 replacement cost values. This valuation was not adjusted to reflect any applicable real property tax exemptions. All Real Property Taxes are assessed based on the replacement cost of the related property in year 1957, regardless of when such property was constructed. The Offered Tax Debts represent approximately 330,000 individual tax accounts on CRIM's books.

This RFO will serve as the initial phase of a process that will enable CRIM, with the consent of the Authority, to select a firm or firms that will advise on the sale of the Offered Tax Debts. The responses to the RFO will be evaluated to determine, among other things, which firms demonstrate (1) the capability to serve as an advisor for the sale of the Offered Tax Debts, (2) the experience to provide input on how to ensure that Offered Tax Debt purchasers might properly manage and collect on the Offered Tax Debts in accordance with the provisions of Act 21, (3) the managerial, organizational and technical resources to develop a plan to execute the sale of the Offered Tax Debts, (4) the ability to work with CRIM and FAFAA to manage the overall transaction and processes, (5) the ability to provide input on how to adequately manage customer service and community relations, and (6) that the firm has a favorable reputation in the industry. The firm will also have to demonstrate that it has no conflicts of interest that may arise from its existing business activities and relationships in Puerto Rico.

Contents of the Response to the Request for Qualifications

- Description of the Firm** - Provide a brief overview of your firm and its primary areas of business. Also, include any additional team members, partners, advisors or consultants you might work with to advise on the sale of the Offered Tax Debts.
- Experience and Qualifications Related to the Scope of Work and Required Expertise** - Provide a summary of the firm's experience in advising on the sale of tax debts and/or tax liens, or other distressed debt for other governmental entities. Describe your firm's approach and staffing for the assignment. Provide brief case studies of relevant situations in which your firm provided these services to governments, governmental instrumentalities or subdivisions, with discussion of any examples where your firm was instrumental in assisting a governmental entity in realizing full potential of tax debt, tax lien or other distressed debt values. Discuss your technical capability for advising in the areas of: operational expertise, customer service, and ability to work with high volume collections and real estate foreclosure while maintaining customer service standards.
- Listing of Individuals Assigned to Purchasing Tax Debt or Advising on such Transactions** - Include a description of their relevant experience and any history of working with the Government of Puerto Rico. Provide an organization chart for your team with the designation of primary leadership and day-to-day professionals.
- The Firm's Prior Work for Puerto Rico Public Corporations** - Responses to the RFO should also contain a description of any prior work done for the Government of Puerto Rico and/or its Public Corporations in the past five years. Please provide information related to involvement in litigation and/or investigations related to the jurisdiction of Puerto Rico, if any.
- Related Activities** - In order to allow CRIM to conduct an initial assessment of potential conflicts of interest, please provide a brief description of any work you have performed for any creditors or guarantors of Public Corporation debt in relation to their activities in Puerto Rico. Indicate whether this activity is ongoing and, if not, when the prior assignment was concluded.
- References** - Provide contact information for references for two separate assignments that are directly relevant to those anticipated by CRIM.

Selection Criteria

Financial advisory candidates responding to the RFO will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Qualifications on the required areas of expertise.
 - Experience with governmental entities, and any focus on distressed governmental entities.
 - Experience and credentials of the team staffed for this engagement.
 - Understanding of the engagement.
 - Conflicts of interest review.
 - Completeness and quality of the response to RFO.
 - Presentation and quality of responses throughout the selection process.
 - Presence or current plans to establish physical presence in Puerto Rico as evidence of the entity's contribution and commitment to Puerto Rico's economic development.
- However, the expected competitiveness of any future proposals, and the overall economic outcome of the sale of the Offered Tax Debts will be of critical importance to CRIM.

RFO Responses

The response to the RFO is due no later than 6:00 p.m. Puerto Rico time on May 4, 2017. Please respond in a thorough and timely fashion, but as concisely as possible. Proposals submitted beyond the deadline may not be accepted. CRIM reserves the right not to consider responses to the RFO or revisions after the response due date.

CRIM prefers that firms submit individual responses and not submit joint proposals. However, if you feel your firm, or group of firms, would only be able to respond fully to the RFO by joining with other firms, then submit a joint response, including an explanation of why your firm, or group of firms, would not be able to assist the Authority through a sole response to the RFO. All proposals received shall remain in effect for thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the proposal. CRIM, with the consent of the Authority will evaluate the responses and make the ultimate selection. CRIM, with the advisory of the Authority, may review the RFO responses and conduct further discussions with a short list of firms. However, it is possible that CRIM, with the advisory of the Authority, could proceed directly to scope and fee negotiations with selected firms based on the RFO responses.

Responses to this RFO are to be jointly addressed to CRIM at crimtaxliens2017@crim.pnet.net and FAFAA at RFO@ad.fafaa.gov.

Respondents are encouraged to confirm receipt of responses by either return e-mail or telephone. Any initial questions concerning the RFO or responses should be addressed to the email addresses listed above. Any questions or comments, and related responses, may be made public for the benefit of all potential respondents to the RFO. Under no circumstances should any representative of your firm make any contact concerning the RFO with any representatives not authorized by CRIM or the Authority, unless instructed to do so by CRIM.

