



One Walnut Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 227-5551

2022 QUALIFICATIONS-BASED SELECTION AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Date: March 14, 2022
To: ACEC/MA Members
From: Abbie Goodman, ACEC/MA Executive Director
Subject: Nominations for 2022 QBS Awards
Deadline for Massachusetts: April 29, 2022

Each year, ACEC and NSPE partner to administer the QBS Awards, recognizing public and private entities and/or individuals making exemplary use of the **Qualifications-Based Selection** process at the federal, state, and local levels. QBS Award winners serve as examples of how well the QBS process works, and they help ACEC and NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services.

ACEC and NSPE are now seeking nominations for the 2022 QBS Awards. **The first step is to enter at the state level. The deadline for nominations to ACEC/MA is 11 AM, Friday, April 29, 2022.**

Three QBS Awards

A maximum of one QBS Award may be presented in each of the following categories:

- Federal Government Sector
- State Government Sector (includes all governmental units under the state level)
- Nongovernment Sector

Nominations may originate from an ACEC Member Organization, an NSPE State Society, a public or private entity, or an individual in the public or private sector. Self-nomination is not permitted.

Each nomination shall require, before submission, the signed endorsement of both the ACEC Member Organization Executive Director (ACEC/Massachusetts) and the NSPE State Society of the nominee's state, in this case MSPE. Nominations submitted that do not meet this requirement shall be returned for the necessary endorsements, and if such are not provided, the nomination shall be disqualified.

Governmental entities eligible for nomination include, but are not limited to, federal governmental departments or agencies, state governmental departments or agencies, municipalities, local

governments, school districts, university systems, public utility systems, publicly funded research laboratories, and special purpose districts.

Nongovernmental entities and individuals eligible for nomination include, but are not limited to, private corporations, privately funded research labs, private utility companies, design professionals, construction contractors, developers, and any nongovernmental entity that uses design professionals' services on a regular basis.

Mandated and Non-Mandated QBS

Public entities operating under mandated QBS procedures (the federal Brooks Act or state "mini-Brooks laws") are eligible to receive the QBS Award if they have demonstrated exceptional leadership in using Qualifications-Based Selection. However, nominations for public entities that use QBS where no legal mandate applies will receive priority consideration if all other criteria are rated equally.

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation criteria for the QBS Award may include the following elements, depending on their relevance to the agency's program and process:

- **Market Survey**, including performing a market survey and publicizing the results of the survey prior to the RFQ.
- **Public Notice**, including the use of pre-solicitation notices, allowing a reasonable number of firms to submit qualifications, and sufficient public notice to allow for research and teaming actions.
- **Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**, including the level of detail in the RFQ describing the professional services requested, clarity in the scoring criteria used in evaluating responses, the response requirements (appropriate submittal length, past performance, and reference information requirements), and the duration provided to prepare responses to the RFQ.
- **Evaluation Methodology**, including the implementation of standardized scoring correlated to the requirements stated in the RFQ, appropriateness of selection board configuration, timeliness of the selection and notification of both selected and non-selected offerors, and use of references in the evaluation.
- **Interview** (if applicable), including an appropriate number of firms shortlisted for interviews, suitability of the interview content and structure for the project, standardization of interview format and questions, providing reasonable notice of the interview schedule, and prompt notification of results.
- **Debriefings**, including providing useful and adequate feedback in a timely manner to all submitters.
- **Negotiations**, including whether negotiations were performed in timely manner and in good faith.
- **Public Benefit**, including demonstrating benefits such as lower overall cost, projected life cycle cost, reduction in change orders, and promoting innovation, durability, and value.

Recognition at the 2022 ACEC Fall Conference

The National QBS Award winner(s) will have an opportunity to receive a trophy and be recognized during the **2022 ACEC Fall Conference, October 16-19, 2022, in Colorado Springs, CO.**

In addition to the QBS Awards, this program generally designates up to four National QBS Merit Award winners. These winners will each be presented with a plaque at a state-level event.

Program Coordination Between ACEC and NSPE

Since the QBS Awards is a joint awards program, coordination between the appropriate ACEC and NSPE state organizations is critical. Therefore:

- Please consult with the appropriate ACEC Member Organization **and** NSPE State Society before seeking a nominee's consent for award consideration.
- Please then confirm your nominee's consent for award consideration.

ACEC Nominations should be sent to acecma@engineers.org

Public and Private entities that employ a Two-Envelope procurement process or that include fees or rates in the determination of the most highly qualified respondent are NOT eligible for consideration under this awards program.

If you have any questions, contact [Abbie Goodman](#)

Thank you for your interest in Qualifications-Based Selection.

Download the Nomination Form on this page: <https://www.acecma.org/about/news/acec-ma-qbs-award-nominations-due-april-29-2022-at-11-am-1601>