

**New York State Insurance Fund U.S. High Yield Corporate Bonds and Bank
Loans Asset Manager Search
2019-01-INV**

Description of Services:

New York State Insurance Fund (“NYSIF”) is seeking one or more asset manager(s) of separate portfolios of either U.S. High Yield Corporate bonds or Bank Loans. Firms may submit for one or both portfolios. A separate response for each portfolio must be submitted and will be individually scored and awarded. NYSIF reserves the right to award to one or more asset manager(s) for each portfolio.

Asset Mandate Description:

1. Portfolio of US high yield corporate bonds or bank loans
2. Weighted average credit quality of no lower than B+
3. Invested as a separately managed account
4. Limited by the following constraints:
 - No bonds/loans that are not issued in USD
 - No derivatives usage
 - No short selling
 - No purchases below B-
 - 2% limit on hybrids
 - No leverage

The Bidder is expected to accept the BAML ICE HY Constrained BB-B Index for the high yield mandate. The Loan mandate would be benchmarked to the Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index or the S&P Leveraged Loan BB/B Index.

Minimum Reporting Requirements:

- Quarterly performance reports
 - Advisory on Other Than Temporary Impairment (OTTI)
 - Distressed sales reporting
- Performance attribution analysis
- High yield market commentary
- Credit watchlist
- Semiannual reviews
- Annual ADV disclosures

Dates and Submission Requirements:

Interested firms can find search details on the NYSIF website at: www.nysif.com/procurement beginning on 4/25/19. Candidates should check this website frequently. Addenda, and/or any other information relative to this search, will be posted to the NYSIF procurement webpage

All firms must fulfill the minimum qualification requirements as outlined in Attachment 1. Failure to satisfy each of the minimum qualifications may result in the immediate rejection of the proposal. A completed Attachment 1 must be returned to NEPC by 5/17/19 at NYSIF.HY.BL@NEPC.com.

In addition, the appendices listed in Attachment 2 must be completed and returned to contracts@NYSIF.com by 5/17/19. NYSIF’s Exhibit A, B, and C are hereby incorporated into this solicitation by reference. Bidders do not need to return Exhibit A, B and C.

Evaluation Requirements:

The evaluation criteria will consist of three separate parts: (1) Technical Proposal, (2) a Financial Proposal, and (3) a quantitative factor for M/WBE, SBE or SDVOB certification in accordance to State Finance Law 163 (1) (j). Each part will be evaluated separately and independently. The relative weights of each part are as follows:

- (1) Technical Proposal: 75%
- (2) Financial Proposal: 20%
- (3) Minority and Woman-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) Certification, Small Business Enterprise (SBE) status, Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB) Certification: 5%

For the Technical Proposal evaluation, proposals received will be evaluated in a multiple-step process. Following a review of data submitted to eVestment Alliance, bidders selected will be issued additional questions to facilitate the Technical proposal evaluation. MWBE, SBE and SDVOB status will also be evaluated at this step.

A group of finalists may be selected for in-person interviews at a mutually agreed date. Financial Proposals will also be evaluated at this finalist step.

Participation of NYS Business Enterprises (MWBE):

It is the policy of NYSIF to encourage the greatest possible participation by Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) as Bidders, subcontractors and suppliers on its procurement contracts, consistent with New York State laws. NYSIF has established a goal of 30% MWBE participation for this contract.

Bidders are required to submit the completed forms within Appendix M, contained in Attachment 2, by 5/17/19 to contracts@nysif.com.

Participation of Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB):

Article 17-B of the New York State Executive Law provides for more participation in public procurement by certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (“SDVOBs”). For purposes of this procurement, NYSIF conducted a comprehensive search and determined that the Contract does not offer sufficient opportunities to set specific goals for participation by SDVOBs. Nevertheless, Bidders are encouraged to make good faith efforts to promote and assist in the participation of SDVOBs on the Contract. The directory of New York State Certified SDVOBs can be viewed at: <https://ogs.ny.gov/veterans/>.

Designated Contacts:

Until a candidate(s) is selected, and the selection is announced by NYSIF via its webpage, candidates are only allowed to communicate with NEPC via the designated email below. Any unauthorized contact may disqualify the candidate from further consideration (NY State Finance Law Sections 139-j and 139-k). Do not contact eVestment Alliance for specific details of the search.

Prospective candidates shall direct all questions for this search electronically to NEPC using the following email address: NYSIF.HY.BL@NEPC.com