

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Economic Impact Study: *Raise the Rock Recovery Action Plan*

Chimney Rock Village | Rutherford County Tourism Development

Authority Submittals Due: 11:00 AM, January 15, 2026

Estimated Budget: Up to \$50,000

1. Project Overview

Chimney Rock Village and the Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority (RCTDA) are seeking statements of qualifications from experienced economic research and planning firms to conduct an Economic Impact Study aligned with the [Raise the Rock Recovery Action Plan](#). This study will analyze the current and projected economic value of priority recovery and redevelopment efforts—including infrastructure, business development, riverfront activation, and outdoor recreation enhancements—in and around Chimney Rock Village.

2. Purpose

The goal of this analysis is to quantify the potential return on investment from proposed recovery and revitalization strategies. Results will support federal and state grant applications, public-private investment attraction, and stakeholder advocacy efforts.

3. Scope of Work

The selected firm will be expected to provide the following services:

3.1 Data Collection and Research

- Review existing planning documents, including the *Raise the Rock Recovery Action Plan* (raisetherock.com)
- Conduct site visits and interviews with local stakeholders (businesses, residents, public agencies)
- Gather local and regional tourism, economic development, and employment data
- Compile relevant historical data on Hurricane Helene impacts (economic loss, business displacement, etc.)

3.2 Economic Modeling

- Model the economic and fiscal impacts of proposed capital projects (e.g., infill commercial redevelopment, riverwalk enhancements, instream recreation, recreation infrastructure, streetscape infrastructure, new state park access)
- Identify direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts using widely accepted input-output modeling approaches consistent with current industry standards for economic impact analysis.
- Estimate job creation, business attraction potential, and tax revenue generation

3.3 Case Study / Benchmarking

- Provide at least two comparative case studies of similar rural downtown revitalization or disaster recovery projects
- Extract applicable best practices and potential performance benchmarks for Chimney Rock Village

3.4 Reporting and Presentation

- Develop a concise, visually engaging summary report that communicates findings to grant reviewers, elected officials, and the general public
 - Present results in a public or joint council meeting, with additional availability for virtual presentations as needed
 - Deliver source files, data outputs, and editable templates for future updates
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4. Budget

A total budget of **up to \$50,000** has been allocated for this work, inclusive of all travel, labor, data licenses, and production costs.

5. Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- Relevant project experience in rural economic impact studies
- Technical capacity and qualifications of assigned staff
- Demonstrated ability to communicate complex findings to non-technical audiences
- Familiarity with FEMA, EDA, and other disaster-recovery funding frameworks (preferred)
- Availability to complete work within the established timeline

6. Submittal Requirements

Interested firms should submit a **digital PDF** including:

- Statement of interest and understanding of the project
- Resumes or bios of key personnel
- Up to 3 relevant project examples with references
- Proposed project approach and timeline
- Timeline and associate fees for each project approach phase/task

Submittals should be no longer than 20 pages.

7. Submission Instructions

All qualifications must be submitted by **11:00 AM on January 15, 2026**, via email

to: **Format:** Digital PDF

Delivery: Email proposals to:

- Mayor Peter O'Leary: bubbaolearys@bellsouth.net
- Town Administrator Stephen Duncan: tevierides@aol.com
- Project Consultant Eric Woolridge: eric@dbdplanning.com
- Project Consultant Ron Hancock: ron@dbdplanning.com

Email Subject Heading: CRV Econ Impact RFQ Response

For questions or additional information, contact:

Eric Woolridge, Project Consultant, DbD Planning

Email: eric@dbdplanning.com | Phone: 828.719.1109

Late submissions will not be considered.

8. Anticipated Timeline

Milestone	Date
RFQ Release	December 22, 2025
Qualifications Due	January 15, 2026 @ 11:00 AM
Selection Notification	January 21, 2026
Final Report Due	April 2026