



## BETTER TOGETHER FUND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RFQ

The Better Together Fund (BTF) has released a Technical Assistance RFQ for providers of technical assistance in various areas related to strategic partnerships. This is the response of the applicant below:

What is the legal name of the consulting firm or independent consultant?	Mendrygal Law, PLLC
Please provide the legal structure of the firm.	We are woman-owned and WBE certified law firm. We have a team of seven attorneys and two paralegals, as well as support staff.
What year was the firm founded? (if applicable)	2015
How many individuals work in the firm?	10
Please provide the names and title of key individuals in the firm who would potentially be working as part of this RFQ.	Danika H. Mendrygal, Attorney/Owner; Genevra M. Williams, Attorney; Kristen Sitchler, Attorney; Amy C. Bellah, Attorney; Misty Burns, Attorney; Kelly Bohne, Attorney; Lynne Howard, Paralegal; BarbDobell, Paralegal
Please provide the consultant's or firm's website.	<a href="http://www.mendrygallaw.com">www.mendrygallaw.com</a>
For an independent consultant. How long has the applicant been working as a consultant? (if applicable)	Danika has been practicing for 20 years. Experience of the remaining members of the legal team ranges from 10-20 years.
Please provide a list of languages spoken by staff.	English only; support staff speaks Spanish

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name	Danika H. Mendrygal
Address	3963 Cole Avenue,
City/Town	Dallas
State/Province	Texas
Zip/Postal Code	75204
Country	United States
Email Address	<a href="mailto:danika@mendrygallaw.com">danika@mendrygallaw.com</a>
Phone Number	214-242-0930

<p>Please describe the geographic area served by the firm.</p>	<p>Nationwide, with a focus on Texas and the DFW metroplex. We have attorneys in Austin as well.</p>
<p>What are your firm’s primary areas of practice?</p>	<p>We are exclusively devoted to representing nonprofits and exempt organizations, as well as their Boards, officers, and staff on related issues.</p>
<p>How many Better Together Fund projects that were awarded funding have you been involved with?</p>	<p>None to date.</p>
<p>Please list all Better Together Fund projects that were awarded funding that you have been involved with. You can list a project as anonymous if it is confidential.</p>	<p>None to date.</p>
<p>Briefly describe 1-3 examples of restructuring negotiations with which you have been involved; and/or examples of projects where you have helped facilitate, explore, or implement a formal collaboration as defined by the Better Together Fund.</p>	<p>We spent three years restructuring a group of 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) affiliates to address operational, tax, and reporting efficiencies. We worked fully effect the transition of operations between entities and complete the acquisition and dissolution of two 501(c)(3) entities, resulting in a highly streamlined and sound structure for the client. As part of this process, we developed new organizational documents policies, and reorganized the relationship between membership, the Board of Directors, and the Advisory Board. We also completed two asset acquisitions. Throughout the process, we addressed myriad issues such as Form 990 disclosures, employee-sharing, and appropriate interactions between a 501(c)(3) and its affiliated 501(c)(6). We recently worked with a very large family foundation addressing a generational transition. As the founders prepared to phase out of day-to-day management, we worked with the three generations of family members to carry out their succession plan and address the transition of foundation governance and grant-making procedures. Our work allowed the clients to successfully prioritize and cement the intent of the founders for future</p>

	<p>generations while also incorporating flexibility as the family evolved in size and geography. We have also completed a number of transitions for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) organizations, resulting in various forms of distributions and asset acquisitions, including addressing federal tax implications, as well as related governance issues.</p>
<p>How would you describe the range of diversity reflected in your firm?</p>	<p>We are all women, and bring a variety of backgrounds to our practice. Although we all have big law and boutique backgrounds, we have very different work experiences that inform our guidance.</p>
<p>Please list all nonprofit issue areas within which you have worked as a paid employee or consultant.</p>	<p>*Providing ongoing guidance regarding the operation, management, and taxation of tax-exempt organizations, including maintaining and reinstating federal and state tax exemptions. *Addressing corporate and internal governance, fundraising issues, grant-making and distributions, and general business and liability concerns. *Advising on sophisticated tax and business issues such self-dealing, foundation excise taxes and prohibited transactions, intermediate sanctions, international activities, establishment of nonprofit and for-profit subsidiaries and affiliates, acquisitions and mergers, reorganization, investment funds, unrelated business taxable income or UBTI. *Establishing endowment funds and foundations, and counseling regarding donor intent, UPMIFA, and spending and investment policies. *Forming tax-exempt organizations, including obtaining and federal and state tax exemptions. Providing ongoing guidance to officers, directors, and trustees regarding their roles and fiduciary duties, and potential conflicts of interest. *Assisting high net worth clients with the formation of private and family foundations and donor advised funds, with a particular focus on long-term charitable goals and intra-family</p>

	governance issues. Current and former clients are diverse with respect to size and industry, and include: *Public charities *Private foundations *Endowments *Corporate foundations *Employer-sponsored scholarship funds *Employer-sponsored crisis/disaster assistance funds *Supporting organizations *Business leagues and trade associations *Performing arts and cultural groups *Amateur athletic organizations *International aid organizations *Educational organizations, schools, and universities *Public improvement district corporations *Social welfare organizations *Churches and religious organizations
Please provide any other information you feel would aid in understanding the value the firm can bring to Better Together Fund grantees and any specific expertise you have in a specific BTF grant phase(s).	As a boutique firm, we are well situated and accustomed to working collaboratively with other advisers and firms.

CONSULTANT #1 DETAILS	
Name	Danika H. Mendrygal
Email Address	danika@mendrygallaw.com
Education (list only name of school, major, and degree)	J.D., with honors, University of Texas at Austin, School of Law B.B.A., cum laude, University of Miami
Employment History (list only name of employer, title, and dates employed)	Mendrygal Law, PLLC (2015-Present) Haynes and Boone, LLP, Dallas (2003-2015)
Awards or Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion in Texas Super Lawyers for Nonprofit Organizations (2018-2022)</li> <li>• Inclusion in Texas Super Lawyers Top Women Attorneys (January 2019)</li> <li>• Inclusion in Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars for Nonprofit Organizations (2014-2017)</li> <li>• The Pro Bono College, State Bar of Texas (2013-2017)</li> </ul>
Nonprofit Board Membership (list only name of organization and the dates served)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TEGE Exempt Organizations Council (2018-Present)</li> <li>• Gulf Coast Area TEGE (Tax Exempt/Government Entities) Council (2017)</li> <li>• Partnership for Philanthropic Planning,</li> </ul>

	North Texas Chapter (2010-2015) • Uptown Dallas, Inc. (2011-2014) • Montessori Children's House and School (2015-2016)
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CONSULTANT #2 DETAILS	
Name	Genevra M. Williams
Email Address	genevra@mendrygallaw.com
Education (list only name of school, major, and degree)	J.D., cum laude, SMU Dedman School of Law B.B.A., cum laude, University of Iowa
Employment History (list only name of employer, title, and dates employed)	Attorney, Mendrygal Law, PLLC (2016-Present) Associate, Weycer, Kaplan, Pulaski & Zuber, P.C. (2014-2016) Associate Legal Counsel, The Dallas Foundation (2011-2014) Law Clerk to the Honorable Justice Douglas S. Lang, Fifth Court of Appeals of Texas (2010-2011)
Awards or Certificates	• Inclusion in Texas Super Lawyers (2022) and Rising Stars for Nonprofit Organizations (2020)
Nonprofit Board Membership (list only name of organization and the dates served)	•Communities Foundation of Texas Advisory Council (2018-Present) •TEGE Exempt Organizations Council (2020-Present) •Texas Bar College (2021-Present) •Texas Bar CLE Governance of Nonprofit Organizations Conference, Planning Committee (2015) •The Dallas Foundation, Advisory Council (2014-2016) •The Dallas Foundation, Women's Philanthropy Institute (2019-2020)

CONSULTANT #3 DETAILS	
Name	Kristen E. Sitchler
Email Address	kristen@mendrygallaw.com
Education (list only name of school, major, and degree)	J.D., University of Texas at Austin, School of Law B.A., magna cum laude, Trinity University
Employment History (list only name of employer, title, and dates employed)	Attorney, Mendrygal Law, PLLC (2017-Present) Owner, Law Firm of Kristen E. Sitchler (2015-2017) General Counsel &

	Grant Program Manager, FoodCorps (2011-2015) Senior Associate, Nonprofit Organizations Practice, Venable, LLP (2007-2011) Associate, Estate & Charitable Planning, Giordani, Schurig, Beckett & Tackett (2005-2006) Law Clerk to the Honorable Edward C. Prado, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (2003-2005)
Awards or Certificates	
Nonprofit Board Membership (list only name of organization and the dates served)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile Loaves &amp; Fishes, Farm Coordinator (2017-Present)</li> <li>• SAFE Alliance, Survivor Advocate (2015-2017)</li> <li>• Urban Roots, Community Advisory Committee Member (2013-2016)</li> <li>• DC Greens, Board Member (2010-2013)</li> </ul>

<b>CLIENT REFERENCE #1</b>	
Name of Organization	Downtown Dallas, Inc. / Downtown Dallas, Inc. Foundation
Please provide the name(s) of other organizations involved in the collaboration or negotiations.	No longer in existence, due to acquisition
Client Reference – Contact Name	Amy Tharp, Chief Operating Officer
Client Reference – Contact Email Address	tharp@downtowndallas.com
Client Reference – Phone Number	214.744.1270
Please briefly describe the engagement.	Advice regarding tax, compliance, and governance issues, including restructuring and acquisition.