

THE BENEFITS

OF EXTENSION OF STAFF TO FEDERAL CLIENTS

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In today's economy, federal clients face unique challenges with construction projects. They are confronted with issues related to cost, schedule, quality and risk, while contending with multiple stakeholders, procurement regulations, and shrinking budgets.

The federal government has an annual budget of up to \$1.3 trillion for construction projects, yet thousands of federal projects still seek funds annually because of the large amount of design and construction work, limited construction and management budgets.

When budgets are challenged, project management staff can be stretched thin, this results in reduced efficiency and greater risk for the client. This is especially true for projects requiring specialized skills and experience that are not immediately available with current staffing levels.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Engaging an outside project/construction management firm(s) with the requisite skills and experience to augment current staff provides a proven, flexible, and cost effective solution to the challenges faced by federal clients.

Extension of staff consultants can successfully integrate with federal staff to manage and deliver design and construction projects, and be scalable for the projects at hand. These Cotter staff members embed themselves into the organization both physically and culturally, and collaborate with current staff to ensure projects are executed successfully.

THE BENEFITS ARE NUMEROUS.

Engaging an extension of staff consultant can further assist federal clients in controlling cost to the extent that additional staff can be engaged on a project-by-project basis. Additional benefits are that best practices by experienced outside professionals further enhance the skill sets of current staff. Accordingly, your initial investment in hiring an outside consultant even on a limited basis will pay dividends for projects and years to come.

In 2012, **COTTER CONSULTING** was engaged by a federal client in Wisconsin to provide professional, technical and administrative services for a federal facilities management department. The department is responsible for a high volume of projects annually ranging from new construction, additions, interior renovations, MEP system replacements, medical equipment upgrades, and historic preservation.

Cotter's support of the department included critical activities during the design, bidding and construction phases of the various projects. As extension of staff, Cotter worked as an integrated part of the team providing constructability reviews, technical assistance, identification of issues, and construction inspection services. Cotter's expertise with these services provided the department with a valuable resource throughout the design process.

By providing a new perspective and fresh set of eyes, our staff was able to review the contract documents in order to verify that the client's stated requirements and expectations were met; identify items that were missing, incomplete or needed further clarification; and assist in mitigating change orders. During construction Cotter provided site inspections to document construction progress, monitor adherence to construction documents, and establish compliance with project and OSHA safety standards.

The Cotter team added significant value to this federal agent's efforts in successfully completing their construction projects. With Cotter available to augment their team, the agency was able to meet their demanding workload while still successfully managing cost, schedule, quality and risk. Cotter was able to scale up and scale down staff as required to meet the evolving needs of the individual projects, and was also able to provide specialized expertise when needed by tapping into the firm's depth of professional resources. This collaborative effort resulted in projects which met the stringent cost, schedule, quality and risk requirements that are a part of all federal construction projects, while maintaining stakeholder and staff relations.

ABOUT COTTER CONSULTING:

Cotter Consulting works with its clients to provide comprehensive program management, project management, and construction management services for planning and implementing projects in the built environment. We have over 25 years of experience providing our clients in the transportation and buildings markets with the exceptional services needed for a successful project. Cotter is certified as a Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) by the City of Chicago and the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC).

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