Funding Request to the
Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Foundation

Project Title	Interactive Residential Guide to High Winds Construction
Submitted By	Masonry Association of Florida, Inc.
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Amount Requested	$25,000

Request Summary

The Masonry Association of Florida, Inc. (MAF) is requesting funding to create an online website to promote and facilitate the use of the new ICC 600 Standard for Residential Construction in High-Wind Regions. This subject matter, while critically important, as written and produced in the ICC 600-2020 is very difficult to comprehend and even more difficult to navigate its myriad tables of formulas to arrive at an accurate answer. We propose to create a website where all the major design professionals, building officials, and builder/contractors can find solutions to their high wind problems. The initial phase will include an interactive users guide with pop-up explanations and code references. Once the project is finished we expect individual users will be able to input building envelope information into our graphic user interface and get specific methods relative to their regions wind-resistant design needs. Most regions of the United States are susceptible to windstorm damage. Atlantic and Gulf coastal states are especially prone to hurricanes which occur every year. This project would have national appeal.

If funded, Please Make Check(s) Payable to

Masonry Association of Florida, Inc.

6353 Lee Vista Blvd

Orlando, FL 32822

1. Project Description and Scope of Project:

The Interactive Residential Guide to High-Wind Construction will be produced in five phases.

Phase One - Draft website layout, database creation and the design and data upload of the User-Guide for ICC-600. Completion by end of 4th quarter 2021

Phase Two–Online draft of the Interactive Residential Guide to High-wind Construction companion to the User Guide for ICC 600. Completion by end of 1st quarter 2022

Phase Three – Creation of a series of calculators to complement the tables in ICC 600. Completion by end of 2nd quarter 2022

Phase Four – Launch website to select group (TMS, ICC, NCMA) for peer review. Completion by end of 3rd quarter 2022

Phase Five – Launch website to the general public. Completion by end of 4th quarter 2022

2. Project Objective:

The main purpose of creating the interactive guide is to encourage the use of masonry in all residential buildings. Complex calculations are reduced to a series of questions relative to the specific building and through the internal programming sequences produce a response. The burdensome chore of checking endless tables and graphs is eliminated.

3. Background Information:

Currently there are several code publications which address residential building resiliency. They share a similar format and presentation. They are difficult and cumbersome to use. None, to our knowledge, have interactive user guides or offer the ease of use this project will bring to the end user.

4. Summary of Qualifications:

This project is led by and supported by capable, trained professionals with recent and relevant experience in the masonry industry. The MAF was created in 1987 as a trade association dedicated to expanding the market share of masonry construction in the State of Florida. Through its educational programs and outreach to the design community they have become the expert go-to-source for all things masonry in Florida. Don Beers, Structural Staff Engineer, has been a subject matter expert for ICC 600-2020 as well as Florida Building Code work groups and annually hosts the Masonry Certification Workshop, a required course for many Florida Building Inspectors Departments.

Jason Thompson, NCMA Vice President of Engineering and a Consensus Committee member of the ICC 600 -2020 and his staff are working on the user guide to ICC 600 available on the proposed website during Phase Two and which will complement the interactive guide available by end of Phase Four.

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7. Anticipated Impact:

Although the program idea was initially designed for Florida, the impact of this program is national in scope. Wind load resistance is a national issue, Hurricanes are a danger to multiple states along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

8. Budget:

The MAF is requesting $25,000 in grant funds to successfully complete this project. The requested budget for this project by line item:

Line Item	Requested Amount
Contract with IT Group Phase 1-3	$20,000.00
Marketing to Design Professionals	$5,000.00
Total Budget Requested	$25000.00

We anticipate the total cost of the program to be $66,000-70,000 to include annual web-hosting fees and development of training courses to design professionals, building departments and contractors. However, we are only asking MCAA for a portion of this cost and will leverage other resources to fund the difference. The MAF is working with local area development boards in Florida and other national associations to fund the remainder of the development costs.

9. Requested Payment Procedure:

Assuming an award notification date of September 2021, the MAF is requesting a four (4) payment procedure: 1) 25 percent of the total awarded October 1, 2021; 2) 25 percent on December 1, 2021; 3) 25 percent payment February 1, 2022, and 4) final payment at completion of Phase Three (Second Quarter 2022).

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10. Reporting Schedule:

MAF will provide three reports to the MCAA during the grant period throughout the life of the grant. The first two reports will coincide with the request for payment and summarize the activities and progress on deliverables within the selected timeframe, and any impediments to timely achievement. The third report will be a final report to include all activities and deliverables during the life of the grant.