

**COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT POLICY**

A. Procurement Policy

1. Procedure for determining whether Procurements are subject to Competitive Bidding – The procedure for determining whether a procurement of goods and services is subject to competitive bidding shall be as follows:
 - a. The CEO or an authorized designee shall make the initial determination as to whether competitive bidding is required. This determination will be based on Section 103 of the GML which requires competitive bidding for expenditures of (1) more than \$35,000 for the performance of any public works contract (services, labor or construction), and (2) more than \$20,000 for any purchase contract (acquisition of commodities, materials, supplies or equipment).
 - b. The CEO or such authorized designee shall review the purchase request against prior years' expenditures and a good faith effort will be made to determine whether it is known or can reasonably be expected that the aggregate purchases of a similar nature will exceed the above competitive bidding procedures shall be followed for said expenditure.
 - c. The CEO or such authorized designee shall present any legal issues regarding the applicability of the competitive bidding requirements stated herein to the Corporation's Counsel.
2. Methods of Competition to be used for Non-Bid Procurements and Procurements Exempt by Statute – Alternative proposals or quotations for goods and services shall be secured by use of written requests for proposals or written quotations, verbal quotations or any other method of procurement which furthers the purposes of this Section except for items excepted herein (see 7 below) or procurements made pursuant to:
 - a. GML, Section 103 (3) (through county contracts), or
 - b. GML, Section 104 (through state contracts), or
 - c. State Finance Law, Section 175-b (From agencies for the blind or severely handicapped), or
 - d. Correction Law, Section 186 (Articles manufactured in correctional institutions).
3. Procedures for the Purchase of Commodities, Equipment or goods under \$20,000.
 - a. Up to \$5,000 The discretion of the CEO or authorized designee.
 - b. \$5,001 - \$10,000 Documented verbal quotations from at least three vendors.
 - c. \$10,001 - \$20,000 Written/fax quotations from at least three vendors.

4. Procedures for the Purchase of Public Works or Services under \$35,000.
 - a. Up to \$ \$5,000 The discretion of the CEO or authorized designee.
 - b. \$5,001 - \$15,000 Documented verbal quotations from at least three vendors.
 - c. \$15,001 - \$35,000 Written/fax quotations from at least three vendors.
5. Basis for the Awards of Contracts – Contracts will be awarded to the lowest responsible vendor who meets the specifications.
6. Circumstances justifying an Award to other than the Lowest Cost quoted.
 - a. Delivery requirements
 - b. Quality requirements
 - c. Past vendor performance
 - d. The unavailability of three or more vendors who are able to quote on a procurement.
 - e. It may be in the best interests of the Agency to consider only one vendor who has previous expertise with respect to a particular procurement.
7. Documentation
 - a. The basis for any determination that competitive bidding is not required shall be documented, in writing, by the CEO or such authorized designee, and filed with the purchase order or contract therefore.
 - b. For those items not subject to competitive bidding such as professional services, emergencies, purchased under city contracts or procurements from sole sources, documentations should include a memo to the files which details why the procurement is not subject to competitive bidding and include, as applicable:
 1. A description of the facts giving rise to the emergency and that they meet the statutory criteria; or
 2. A description of the professional services; or
 3. Written verification of city contracts; or
 4. Opinions of Counsel, if any; or
 5. A description of sole source items and how such determinations were made.
 - c. Whenever an award is made to other than the lowest quote the reasons for doing so shall be set forth in writing and maintained in the procurement file.
 - d. Whenever the specified number of quotations cannot or will not be secured, the reasons for this shall be indicated in writing and maintained in the procurement file.

8. Exceptions to Bidding

- a. Emergency Situation – An emergency exists if the delay caused by soliciting quotes would endanger the health, welfare or property of the municipality or of the citizens. With approval by the CEO such an emergency shall not be subject to competitive bidding or the procedures stated above.
- b. Resolution Waiving Bidding Requirements – The Agency may adopt a resolution waiving the competitive bidding requirements whenever it is determined to be impracticable.
- c. Sole Source – Defined as a situation when there is only one possible source item which to procure goods and/or services and it is shown that the item needed has unique benefits, the cost is reasonable for the product offered and there is no competition available. In this situation, a request for a resolution waiving bidding requirements, as described above, is required.
- d. True Lease – Prices will be obtained through quotations whenever possible. The award shall be made on the basis of goods and/or services to be provided, ability to meet the specifications desired and price.
- e. Insurance – All insurance policies shall be procured in accordance with the following procedures:
 1. Premiums of \$3,000 or less at the discretion of the CEO
 2. Premium more than \$3,000 but less than \$10,000 – documented telephone quotations from at least three agents (if available).
 3. Premium over \$10,000 – written quotations/fax or proposals from at least three agents (if available).
- f. Professional Services – Professional services are not subject to this Procurement Policy.
- g. Minority and Women Business Enterprises – The Corporation shall comply with all applicable legal requirements relating to the hiring of such businesses.
- h. Input from members of the Corporation – Comments concerning the procurement policy may be solicited from the members of the Corporation from time to time.
- i. Annual Review – The Corporation shall annually review and approve its policies and procedures.
- j. Unintentional Failure to Comply – The unintentional failure to comply with the provisions of Section 104-b of the GML shall not be grounds to void action taken or give rise to a cause of action against the Corporation or any officer thereof.