



Snohomish County Future Workforce Alliance & Workforce Snohomish Procurement

Policy

- Policy: Procurement
- Effective Date: March 1, 2021
- Policy Number: 160

Background

The Snohomish County Future Workforce Alliance Board (Board) and Workforce Snohomish (WFS) have created this joint policy to provide guidance regarding the procurement and purchase methods for allowable costs pursuant to federal and state regulations and to assure compliance with all federal, state and local policy specifically governing the selection of sub-awards serving the Snohomish County WorkSource system.

General Procurement Standards (2 CFR 200.318)

All procurement processes shall be consistent with current minimum federal and state regulation and guidance that pertain to the funds being utilized.

FWA or WFS policy may set forth stricter requirements than provided by federal and state guidance, but in no way will this policy fall short of meeting the minimum federal and state policy.

Any discrepancies arising between this policy with federal and state provisions due to revisions will default to the minimum federal guidance provider.

At the direction of the Future Workforce Alliance (FWA), WFS will conduct all procurement transactions in a manner providing full and open competition.

FWA's Conflict of Interest Policy provides standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts. No employee, officer or agent may participate in the selection, award of administration of a contract supported by a Federal award if he or she has a real perceived or potential conflict of interest. Conflicts of interest must be disclosed in writing when known in advance or announced to the voting body. The party with a potential conflict of interest must excuse themselves from any further discussion and/or vote on the matter in questions.

FWA nor WFS will not discriminate in the procurement and award process against any bidder because of race, color, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sexual preference, gender identity, age, or sex.

FWA and WFS shall ensure that minority and women-owned businesses are provided the maximum practicable opportunity to compete for contracts.

WFS will maintain oversight to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specification of their contracts.

WFS will verify all sub recipient or vendors for contracts over \$25,000 are not disbarred or suspended. The procurement officer will use the System for Award Management (SAM) website to complete this prior to approval of procurement form.

Competition (2 CFR 200.319)

All procurement transactions must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the standards provided in section 200.319 of 2 CFR 200. In order to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work or invitation for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements.

WFS procurement transactions will contain no requirements that unduly restrict competition as specified in 200.319(a) and (b).

Workforce Snohomish will procure goods and services using one of the following methods related to the total anticipated cost of procurement. (2 CFR 200.320)

Micro Purchases

Procurement by micro purchases is the acquisition of goods or services, whereby the aggregate dollar amount does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold. Micro purchases do not require the solicitation of competitive quotations or bids if the costs are determined to be reasonable. Micro purchases will be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers.

Small Purchases

Small purchase procedures are those relatively simple and informal procurement methods for securing services, supplies, or other property that do not cost more than the Simplified Acquisition Threshold. If small purchase procedures are used, price or rate quotations must be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources.

Procurement by Competitive Proposals

The technique of competitive proposals is normally conducted with more than one source submitting an offer, and either a fixed price or cost-reimbursement type of contract is awarded.

It is generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids. If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

- Procurements for new service providers or modifications of existing contracts over \$250,000 must be approved by the FWA Board of Directors or Executive Committee.
- Request for Proposals (RFP's) must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance.
- Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources.
- Description of required services or components, clear description of any technical requirements and evaluation factors will be identified in the request for proposal.
- Responses will be reviewed and evaluated based on consistent grading methods for each proposal. Review Committees will be established for evaluating delivery of services.
- When selecting contractors and service providers, awards will be made to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program.

- Selection consideration will be given to such matters as:
 - ◆ Fees or costs
 - ◆ The ability, capacity and skill of the bidder to perform the contract or provide the goods and services within the time specified without delay or interference.
 - ◆ The character, integrity, reputation, experience and efficiency of the bidder.
 - ◆ Previous and existing compliance by the bidder with laws and ordinance relating to contracts, goods, or services;
 - ◆ The sufficiency of the financial resources and ability of the bidder to perform the contract or provide the goods or services.
 - ◆ The quality, availability and adaptability of the goods or services to the particular use required.
 - ◆ The quality of performance of previous contracts, goods, or services.

- The Board will consider and approve all competitive procurement awards governed under this policy.

- WFS will maintain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement.

- Bidders will be notified with the results of the procurement. Bidders may file a written appeal within seven (7) business days after the award to the President/CEO of WFS and the Board Director. Appeals will be handled according to Workforce Snohomish complaint resolution procedures and with oversight by the Board Executive Committee.

Sealed Bids

This method is used when procuring the acquisition of services and other property through formal advertising.

- Typically used for construction contracts
- Bids must be publicly solicited
- Two or more bidders are willing and able to compete and qualified to do the work.
- Firm fixed-price contract is feasible; a bidder can be selected based on price

Noncompetitive Proposals (Sole Source).

Procurement by noncompetitive proposals, or sole source, is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source. Such noncompetitive procurements will be minimized whenever possible. It may be used only when one or more the following conditions apply.

1. The item is available only from a single source;
2. The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay related to the use of a competitive solicitation process
3. The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorized noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the non-Federal entity, or
4. After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

The Chair of the Future Workforce Alliance or their designee may authorize a waiver and permit sole source procurement of a subrecipient, except in circumstances where a vote of the Local Workforce Development Board is required to comply with federal and state regulations.

References:

OMB Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200

- Parts 200.318 – 200.326

Final Guidance: Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Federal Register Vol. 70, No. 244

- 2 CFR Part 2900, Department of Labor

Public Law 113-128 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Sections 107(d)(10), 107(g)(1), 123, 134(c)(2)(C)

WorkSource System Policy 5404: Procurement and Selection of One-Stop Operators and Service Providers.

Workforce Snohomish Policy 2050: Procurement and Selection of a One-Stop Operator Policy

Workforce Snohomish Policy 1080-3: Procurement Policy

Snohomish County Future Workforce Alliance Policy 170: Business Continuity Policy

Supersedes: N/A

Definitions:

Conflict of Interest: Conflict between the official responsibilities and the private interests of a person or entity that is in a position of trust. A conflict of interest would arise when an individual or organization has a financial or other interest in or participates in the selection or award of funding for an organization.

Contractor/ vendor: A contractor is an entity that is a dealer, distributor, merchant, or other seller providing goods or services that are required for the conduct of a Federal program to which the following characteristics apply:

- Provides the goods and services within normal business operations,
- Provides similar goods or services to many different purchasers,
- Operates in a competitive environment,
- Provides good or services that are ancillary to the operation of the Federal program,
- Is not subject to the Federal compliance requirements of the program

Sub-Award: - A sub-award is provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a federal program. A sub award may be provided through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the pass-through entity considers a contract.

Subrecipient: An entity that receives federal assistance passed through from a prime recipient or another subrecipient to carry out or administer a federal program. Distinguishing characteristics of a subrecipient include:

- Determination of eligibility for the Federally funded program,
- Has its performance measured against the objective of the Federal program,
- Has responsibility for programmatic decision-making,
- Has responsibility for adherence to applicable Federal program compliance requirements,
- Uses the Federal funds to carry out a program of the organization as opposed to providing goods or services for a program.

Procurement: For the purposes of this policy, the term procurement includes any action that obligates funds for the purchase of equipment, materials, supplies and services, beginning with the process for determining need and ending with contract completion and closeout. WIOA and Non-WIOA procurement will be governed either by the requirements specific to Federal or state granted funds or Washington law, as appropriate.

Request for Quotations (RFQ): A RFQ is a process that is used to acquire the price(s) and

pertinent information needed from a contractor. Since the quotation is not a formal offer, the awarding agency must reach a bilateral negotiated agreement before a binding agreement exists. A RFQ differs from an RFP in that it simply asks for a proposed price based on standard specifications that are generally known or apply industry-wide.