

**265—15.2(16) Methods of obtaining bids or proposals used by the authority.** Formal or informal bids or proposals are to be obtained by one of the following methods. If more than one method is applicable to the purchase of a particular item, the authority shall choose the method of bidding to be utilized.

**15.2(1) Formal bids.**

*a.* To solicit formal bids, the authority shall prepare a written invitation-to-bid document and shall send it via the United States Postal Service or electronic mail to selected vendors in the business of providing the goods or services sought by the authority. Goods or services may also be obtained by the authority using reverse auction methods via the authority's Internet Web site.

*b.* The invitation to bid shall contain the due date and time of the bid opening, a complete description of the item needed, and any other necessary or proper items.

*c.* Formal bids received prior to the submission deadline set in the bidding document shall be made available to any interested party on the date and hour designated on the bid form. As the bids are opened, they shall be tabulated, and the results of the tabulation shall be made available to any interested party. The original bids and the tabulations shall be maintained at the authority for one year following the date on which the bids were opened.

*d.* An award shall be made within 60 calendar days from the date of the bid opening, unless a different time frame is stated by the authority in the invitation to bid or subsequently agreed to by the vendors. The price quoted by the vendors shall remain binding throughout the applicable time period. If an award is not made within the applicable time frame, all bids shall be deemed rejected.

**15.2(2) Informal bids.**

*a.* Informal bids may be obtained by the authority through use of a written bid form, over the telephone, via facsimile transmission, or in electronic format, including over the Internet or through electronic mail. When requesting informal bids, the authority shall contact selected vendors supplying the goods or services sought by the authority and shall communicate to each vendor the date on which bids must be received, a complete description of the item to be purchased, and the time period during which the bid must remain valid. Goods or services may also be obtained by the authority using reverse auction methods via the authority's Internet Web site.

*b.* Written informal bids shall be opened as received, and informal telephone, facsimile, or electronic bids shall be recorded as received. If a bid is received over the telephone, a telephone bid form shall be used to record the bid received. If an electronic bid is received, a printout shall be used to record the bid received. Following the submission deadline, the authority shall tabulate the bids received and make the award. The bids and the tabulations shall be available to interested parties after the submission deadline and shall be maintained by the authority for one year following the submission deadline.

*c.* If an award is not made within the time frame indicated by the authority when requesting bids, all bids shall be deemed rejected.

**15.2(3) Request for proposals.** Whenever a requirement exists for an item and cost may not be the sole criterion for selection, the authority may issue a request for proposals. The purpose of a request for proposals is to provide the vendor with sufficient information about the authority's requirements and goals to allow the vendor to propose a solution to the authority's requirements.

*a.* The authority shall prepare a written request for proposals and shall send it via the United States Postal Service or electronic mail to selected vendors in the business of supplying the goods or services sought by the authority.

*b.* An award shall be made within 60 calendar days from the date of the proposal opening unless a different time frame is stated by the authority in the request for proposals or subsequently agreed to by the vendors. The terms quoted by the vendor shall remain binding throughout the applicable time frame. If an award is not made within the applicable time frame, all proposals shall be deemed rejected and not binding.

*c.* At a minimum, a request for proposals shall address the following criteria: the need for a proposal conference; the purpose and background of the request; important dates in the proposal and the award process, including the submission deadline; administrative requirements for submitting the proposal and the format required by the authority; the scope of the work to be performed and any specific

requirements which the vendor must meet; and any contractual terms and conditions which the authority anticipates may affect the terms of the vendor's proposal.