



The Interlocal Purchasing System – TIPS

Region 8 Education Service Center

4845 US Hwy 271 North | Pittsburg, Texas 75686

1-866-839-8477 | www.tips-usa.com

TIPS COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS

The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) is a National Cooperative Purchasing Program for use by member schools, colleges, universities, cities, counties, and other government entities in all 50 states as authorized by each entity's jurisdictional legal requirements. Region 8 Education Service Center, located in Pittsburg, Texas is the lead government agency for the cooperative. The Education Service Centers were established by the Texas Legislature by Chapter 8 of the Texas Education Code: <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.8.htm> The primary procurement statute for the lead agency is Chapter 44.031 of the Texas Education Code:

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.44.htm> Construction Contracts are procured pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2269 Other state and federal statutes and regulations may apply as well.

TIPS procures and awards all vendor contracts according to Texas statutes and other applicable federal EDGAR regulations, 2 CFR Part 200 as interpreted by the US Department of Education.

All proposals are posted on the web at www.tips-usa.com/rfp.cfm and www.RFPDB.com. The proposals are advertised locally in the Pittsburg Gazette (Pittsburg, Texas), The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA) and in the USA Today (National Publication). The advertising affidavit, along with the corresponding proposal documents, can be accessed on the TIPS website from any vendor profile. Proposals are posted for a minimum of 21 days, and scored by a Review Committee. The scoring process applies evaluation criteria required by Texas Education Code 44.031(b) found at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.44.htm#44.031>.

Vendors must meet a minimum score as specified in the solicitation to be awarded. Bid tabulations can be provided upon request. Recommendations for Vendor Contract Awards are made to the Region 8 Board of Directors for approval at regular scheduled monthly meetings held in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act found at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.551.htm>. Vendor Contracts are awarded a term of years and may be renewed for an additional term as specified in the solicitation. Vendor awards that are compliant with Federal Regulations 2 CFR Part 200 for expenditure of certain Federal Grant Funds are noted with the vendor award information provided by TIPS. Awards are not compatible with USDA Federal Child Nutrition funds expenditures due to new expanded requirements and interpretations by USDA/TDA issued in 2016 and periodically updated. When further clarification of interpretations of 2 CFR Part 200 is received, TIPS will adjust its processes to meet any new guidance.

Note: For child nutrition and, other federal funds as well, members may use our contracts for the small purchase (multiple quote process. TIPS recommends you get at least 3 quotes) and micro-purchase (<\$3500) procedures under 2 CFR part 200.

For additional information please contact:

Kristie Collins – TIPS Contracts Compliance – kristie.collins@tips-usa.com or (866) 839-8477

Meredith Barton – TIPS Vice-President of Operations – meredith.barton@tips-usa.com or (866) 839-8477

David Mabe – TIPS Vice-President of Construction – david.mabe@tips-usa.com or (903) 243-4759

Jeff Shokrian – TIPS Vice-President of Sales – jeff.shokrian@tips-usa.com or (832) 752-5978

For legal questions contact:

Rick Powell – Texas Education Service Center Region 8/TIPS General Counsel

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No attorney/client relationship is created and no legal advice is provided via this contact.