



4845 US Highway 271 North, Pittsburg, Texas 75686

## **TIPS COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT 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 Texas 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 solicitations are drafted by the TIPS legal team of attorneys and notices posted on the web at [www.tips-usa.com/rfp.cfm](http://www.tips-usa.com/rfp.cfm), Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Smartbuy site, [www.RFPDB.com](http://www.RFPDB.com). The solicitations are currently advertised locally once a week for two consecutive weeks, per Texas law, in the Pittsburg Gazette (Pittsburg, Texas), in the USA Today (National Publication), and in multiple newspapers in states throughout the nation. Please email [bids@tips-usa.com](mailto:bids@tips-usa.com) to request the specific advertising performed for any TIPS Contract. The advertising affidavit or tear sheets, along with the corresponding proposal documents, can be accessed on the TIPS website from any vendor profile. To comply with transparency statutes, TIPS does not post pricing or other information on the public website that was declared confidential by the proposer, but the information is available to all Members upon request. Proposals are posted for a minimum of 21 days (most are posted for 5 or 6 weeks to provide plenty of time for vendors to respond) and scored by the TIPS legal team of attorneys. The scoring process applies evaluation criteria required by Texas Education Code 44.031(b) or as permitted by Texas Government Code 2269 for construction services found at:

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.44.htm#44.031>, and:  
<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.2269.htm#2269.055>.

Each solicitation lists the evaluation criteria and its corresponding point value. Vendors must meet a minimum score as specified in the solicitation to be awarded. Solicitation scoring can be provided upon request. The proposals received are sealed until the opening date and time and the opening is open to anyone that desires to attend. Most solicitations provide for multiple awards for the vendor price agreements. Vendor agreement/contract awards are made when scoring is completed pursuant to a delegation of authority by the Region 8 Board of Directors and reported to the Board 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>. The Board may rescind an award based on the termination for convenience included in all TIPS Vendor agreements. Vendor Contracts are awarded for a term of years and may be renewed for an additional term if specified in the solicitation. Vendor award compliance with Federal Regulations 2 CFR Part 200 for expenditure of certain Federal Grant Funds (EDGAR) are noted with the vendor award information provided by TIPS at the vendor's page at [www.TIPS-USA.com](http://www.TIPS-USA.com). Awards may not be compatible with USDA Federal Child Nutrition funds expenditures, depending on the value of the purchase or other criteria due to 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, if possible. As Federal Regulations require, it is the responsibility of the grant recipient or sub-recipient to review the solicitation documents and ensure they meet the requirements of the specific grant. **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 procedures under 2 CFR part 200. For additional information please contact:

**The TIPS Team** at [tips@tips-usa.com](mailto:tips@tips-usa.com) or (866) 839-8477.

**TIPS Legal Team** - Texas Education Service Center Region 8/TIPS General Counsel at (866) 839-8477 or [legal@tips-usa.com](mailto:legal@tips-usa.com). No attorney/client relationship is created and no legal advice is provided via this contact.

**NOTE: IT IS ALWAYS THE TIPS MEMBER ENTITY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REVIEW ANY TIPS CONTRACT AWARD FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE TIPS MEMBER'S JURISDICTIONAL PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS.**