



HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE GENERAL PROCUREMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Note: Throughout this document the terms Proposer, Contractor, Company, Vendor, Firm or Bidder are used interchangeably and refer to any organization submitting a response to any solicitation. Additionally, the terms quote, bid or proposal are also used interchangeably and refer to the submission in response to any solicitation.

1. **ACCEPTANCE:** All terms and conditions in this invitation are deemed to be accepted by the bidder and incorporated in the bid, except the provision(s) which are expressly excluded by the bid specifications.
2. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Bidders are cautioned that any statement made by any individual or employee of Hamilton County that materially changes any portion of the bid document, either before or after the issuance of the bid documents, shall not be relied upon unless subsequently ratified by a formal written amendment to the bid document.
3. **ALTERATION OR AMENDMENTS:** No alterations, amendment, changes, modifications or additions to any contract resulting from this bid shall be binding on Hamilton County without the prior written approval of the County.
4. **ALTERNATE BIDS:** Alternate bids (defined as bids that do not comply with the bid terms, conditions, and specifications) are not acceptable and will be rejected unless authorized by the invitation to bid. Vendors may submit more than one bid providing that all such bids comply with bid terms, conditions and specifications.
5. **ASSIGNMENT:** Contractors shall not assign or sub-contract this agreement, its obligations or rights hereunder to any party, company, partnership, incorporation or person without the prior written consent of Hamilton County.
6. **AUTHORIZATION TO BIND:** All bids shall be signed by an authorized officer or employee of the bidder.
7. **AWARD:** Award will be made to the most responsive, responsible bidder(s) meeting specifications, who presents the product of service that is in the best interest of Hamilton County. Hamilton County reserves the right: (1) to award bids received on the basis of individual items, or groups of items, or on the entire list of items; (2) to reject any or all bids, or any part thereof; (3) to waive any informality in the bids; and (4) to accept the bid that is considered lowest and best.
8. **BID AMENDMENT:** If it becomes evident that an invitation must be amended, a formal written amendment will be issued to all known Bidders. If necessary, a new due date will be established.
9. **BID COPIES:** Hamilton County requires that bids be submitted in duplicate, unless otherwise stated in the bid package.
10. **BID DELIVERY:** Hamilton County requires that all bids be submitted and time/date-stamped by the date and before the time specified in the bid documents to be considered, regardless of method of delivery. The time clock in the Procurement Department shall be the official record of the time. The County is not responsible for any technical difficulties of any vendor in the delivery of its bid. No late bids will be accepted, opened or returned.
11. **BID FORMS:** Vendors must complete bid forms contained in the bid package. Failure to fully complete the bid forms may result in rejection of the bid.

All information shall be entered in ink or typed/computer generated. Mistakes may be crossed out and corrections inserted before submission of your bid. Corrections shall be initialed in ink by the person signing the bid. Corrections and/or modifications received after the closing time specified will not be accepted.

- 12. BID PREPARATION:** Prospective bidders are solely responsible for their own expenses in BID preparation and subsequent negotiations with Hamilton County, if any.
- 13. BID PRICING:** Any bid, and its associated pricing, shall remain valid for at least three (3) months after the bid due date, unless otherwise indicated in the bid specifications. Unit price must be shown for all products or services. In case of error in extension, unit price will govern.
- 14. BID SUBMISSION AND TRANSMISSION:** Bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the Bid Number/Name, the closing date and time, as well as your company name provided on the envelope. If your response envelope is enclosed in another envelope/package for delivery, the latter should also be clearly labeled with the same identifying information.

All bids are to be F.O.B. Hamilton County, TN. All responses to this invitation become the property of Hamilton County.

Bids/Proposals submitted via e-mail or facsimile machine are unacceptable.

- 15. BRAND NAMES:** Brand names and numbers, when used, are for reference to indicate the character or quality desired. Equal items will be considered, provided they are clearly identified by manufacturer, part number, diagrams, brochures and other related material, *unless stated otherwise in the bid specifications*. When brand, number, or level of quality is not stated by the bidder, it is understood the offer is exactly as specified.
- 16. CODE OF ETHICS:** Hamilton County, through its Procurement Rules, has adopted the National Institute of Government Purchasing (NIGP) as well as the Hamilton County Government Code of Ethics. All suppliers are expected to adhere to business ethics and professional behaviors as outlined in these documents.
- 17. COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LAWS:** Companies submitting bids must agree to observe and comply with all federal, state, and local laws, statutes, ordinances, and regulations, including but not limited to Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued there under by the federal government, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued there under by the federal government, in any manner affecting the provision of goods and/or services, and all instructions, prohibitive orders issued, and shall obtain all necessary permits.
- 18. DECLARATIVE STATEMENT:** Any statement or word (e.g., must, shall, will) are declarative statements and the vendor must comply with the conditions. Failure to comply with any such statement may result in their bid being deemed non-responsive and disqualified.
- 19. DEFAULT:** In case of default by the bidder, the County may procure the articles or services from other sources and may deduct from any monies due, or that may thereafter become due to the vendor, the difference between the price named in the contract or purchase order and actual cost thereof to the County. Prices paid by the County shall be considered the prevailing market price at the time such purchase is made. Periods of performance may be extended if the facts as to the cause of delay justify such extension in the opinion of the Procurement Director.
- 20. DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS:** Time of delivery shall be stated as the number of calendar days following receipt of the order by the vendor to receipt of the goods or services by the County. *Note: Time of delivery may be a consideration in the award.*
- 21. DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS PROGRAM:** Hamilton County has established a Disadvantaged Business Program, which has the responsibility of increasing opportunity for small, minority and women owned businesses. This is

being accomplished through community education programs, policy edification, active recruitment of interested businesses and process re-engineering.

Hamilton County is committed to ensuring full and equitable participation for all disadvantaged businesses. Hamilton County welcomes submittals from those disadvantaged businesses that have an interest in providing goods and/or services to Hamilton County. In addition, Hamilton County strongly encourages the inclusion of disadvantaged businesses by non-disadvantaged contractors who may wish to partner or subcontract with disadvantaged businesses in order to accomplish the successful delivery of goods and/or services.

If you would like additional information about our Disadvantaged Business Program please contact:

Ken Jordan, EEO Officer/DBE Liaison
Telephone: 423.209.6146
Fax: 423.209.6145
Email: DBE@HamiltonTN.gov

- 22. DISCOUNTS FOR PROMPT PAYMENT:** Bidders may include an option for cash discounts off of their quoted price, with terms of payment to be a minimum of Net 20. If a discount for prompt payment is offered by the bidder, it must be shown in the bidder's response; however, discounts for prompt payment will not be considered in the evaluation of bids or proposals. If earned, the County will take all discounts offered for prompt payment, provided correct and proper invoices, prepared in accordance with the terms of the purchase order or contract, are processed and payment is issued or post-marked to the successful bidder within the stipulated time frame.
- 23. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE PROGRAM FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES:** Law prohibits state or local governments from contracting for construction services with any private entity having five or more employees who has not furnished a written affidavit by its principal officer at the time of the bid or contract stating that the contractor is in compliance with the provisions of this act. Companies, other than construction services, are also encouraged to have and maintain drug-free workplace policies.
- 24. EXCEPTIONS:** Bidders taking exceptions to any part or section of this invitation shall indicate such exceptions on the bid form. Failure to indicate any exception will be interpreted as the bidder's intent to comply with and/or supply the requirements as written in the bid document and these General Terms and Conditions.
- 25. GRANT FUNDED PURCHASES:** For purchases that are grant funded, the Grant Agreement may contain/require special terms and conditions. If there is a conflict between the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and the General Terms and Conditions of the Bid or RFP, the Grant Agreement Terms and Conditions shall prevail.
- 26. INDEMNIFICATIONS/HOLD HARMLESS:** The vendor shall hold the County, its officers, agents, servants, and employees, harmless from liability of any nature or kind because of use of any copyrighted, or un-copyrighted composition, secret process, patented or unpatented invention, articles or appliances furnished or used under this bid, and agrees to defend, at his own expense, any and all actions brought against the County or himself because of the unauthorized use of such articles.
- 27. IRAN DIVESTMENT ACT:** By submission of a bid, each bidder and each person signing on behalf of any bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that each bidder is not on the list created pursuant to T.C.A. §12-12-106.
- 28. NEW EQUIPMENT:** The bidder shall guarantee that the units submitted for this bid shall be new, and the latest and most improved model of current production, and shall be first quality as to workmanship and materials used in said units. All modifications shall be made at the factory. Demonstrators shall not be acceptable. *NOTE: When the bid is for services, this item does not apply.*

29. **NON-COLLUSION:** Vendors, by submitting a signed bid, certify that the accompanying bid is not the result of, or affected by, any unlawful act of collusion with any other person or company engaged in the same line of business or commerce, or any other fraudulent act punishable under Tennessee or federal law.
30. **NON-CONFLICT STATEMENT:** Vendors, by submitting a signed bid, agree that it has no public or private interest and shall not acquire directly or indirectly any interest that would conflict in any manner with the provision of its goods or performance of its services. Supplier warrants that no part of the total Contract amount provided herein shall be paid directly or indirectly to any officer or employee of Hamilton County as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as officer, agent, employee, subcontractor or consultant to the Contractor in connections with any goods provided or work contemplated or performed relative to the agreement.
31. **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:** Supplier must agree that no person on the grounds of age, color, disability, gender, genetic information, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran's status shall be excluded from participation in, or be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of this agreement, or in the employment practices of Vendor. Supplier shall upon request show proof of such non-discrimination, and shall post in conspicuous places available to all employees and applicants notices of non-discrimination. Suppliers covenants that it complies with the Fair Wage and Hour Laws, the National Labor Relations Act, and other federal and state employment laws as applicable. Supplier covenants that it does not engage in any illegal employment practices.
32. **PAYMENT TERMS:** Hamilton County payment terms are Net 30 after receipt/inspection of merchandise and receipt of invoice unless otherwise stated in the bid documents.
33. **PUBLIC ACCESS TO PROCUREMENT INFORMATION:** Subject to the requirements of the TN Open Records Act, information relating to the award of a particular contract shall be open to the public only after evaluation of that bid or proposal has been completed. All public records pertaining to procurement shall be open for inspection during normal business hours as scheduled in advance with the Procurement Department.
34. **PROTEST OF AWARD:** Any vendor who has submitted a timely bid or proposal in response to a solicitation may protest the recommendation of award for a contract by submitting such protest to the County's Director of Procurement. Any protest must be submitted in writing and be in the possession of the Procurement Department before noon (ET) of the 2nd working day following the public recommendation of contract award.

FAILURE OF A VENDOR TO FOLLOW THE PROTEST REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE TIME FRAMES PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION CONSTITUTES A WAIVER OF THE PROTEST AND ANY RESULTING CLAIMS.

35. **QUALIFICATIONS OF BIDDERS:** A bidder may be required, before the award, to show to the complete satisfaction of Hamilton County that it has the necessary facilities, ability, insurance, and financial resources to provide the service or goods specified.
36. **RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS SPECIFICATIONS:** It is the responsibility of the prospective bidder to review the entire invitation to bid (ITB) or request for proposal (RFP) packet and to notify the Procurement Department if the specifications are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition. Any such protest or question regarding the specifications of bidding procedures must be received in the Procurement Department *not less than seventy-two hours* prior to the time set for bid opening. These requirements also apply to specifications that are perceived to be ambiguous.
37. **SAMPLES:** Samples of articles, when required, shall be furnished free of cost of any sort to the County and may be retained for future comparison. Samples which are not destroyed by testing or which are not retained for future comparison will be returned upon request *at bidder expense*.
38. **SAFETY DATA SHEETS:** After award, the successful bidder(s) will be required to provide the County with a master set of Safety Data Sheets for any applicable products.

39. **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE NEGOTIATIONS:** In certain circumstances, as authorized in the Procurement Rules, after a competitive process has been utilized, the contract may be competitively negotiated and awarded.
40. **TAXES:** Hamilton County is a tax exempt organization. Sales, use or federal excise taxes should not be included in your bid.
41. **TERMINATION FOR CAUSE:** In the event of any breach of contract by the successful service provider(s), Hamilton County may serve written notice to the service provider of its default, setting forth with specificity the nature of the default. If the defaulting party fails to cure its default within thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice of default, then Hamilton County shall have the right to terminate the contract upon thirty (30) days written notice and pursue all other remedies available to Hamilton County, either at law or in equity.
42. **TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE:** Contract may be terminated for convenience by either party by giving written notice to the other, at least sixty (60) days before the effective date of termination unless otherwise specified in the solicitation and/or contract documents. Said termination shall not be deemed a Breach of Contract.
43. **TERMINATION DUE TO NON-APPROPRIATION:** Hamilton County shall not be obligated for the Contractor's performance hereunder or by any provision of this Contract during any of the County's future fiscal years unless and until the County appropriates funds for this Contract in the County's Budget for each such future fiscal year.
44. **TN COOPERATIVE PURCHASING:** Also known as piggybacking, Hamilton County reserves the right to extend the terms, conditions, and prices of this contract to other Institutions (such as State, Local and/or Public Agencies) who express an interest in participating in any contract that results from bids and/or proposals. Each of the piggyback institutions will issue their own procurement documents for purchasing of the goods. Bidder agrees that Hamilton County shall bear no responsibility or liability for any agreements between Bidder and the other Institution(s) who desire to exercise this option.
45. **TN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE REQUIREMENTS:** Before the Contract resulting from this solicitation is signed, the apparent successful Proposer must be registered with the Department of Revenue for the collection of Tennessee sales and use tax. The County shall not approve a contract unless the Proposer provides proof of such registration. The foregoing is a mandatory requirement of an award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation.
46. **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** In the event of a conflict between the bid specifications and these terms and conditions, the specifications will govern.
47. **VISA ACCEPTANCE:** Awarded contractors should have the capability of accepting the Hamilton County's authorized VISA Procurement Card (P-card) as a method of payment. Price changes or additional fee(s) may not be assessed when accepting the p-card as a form of payment. The successful bidder may receive payment from the County by the p-card in the same manner as other VISA purchases. VISA acceptance is preferred but is not the exclusive method of payment.
48. **WARRANTIES:** All warranty information must be furnished.
49. **WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES:** Hamilton County reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities when it is in the best interest of Hamilton County.

HAMILTON COUNTY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF AGE, COLOR, DISABILITY, GENDER, GENETIC INFORMATION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, RACE, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR VETERAN'S STATUS IN THE EVALUATION AND AWARD OF BIDS.