

## Vendor Manual

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### Authority and Responsibility

#### Introduction

The purpose of this manual is to provide vendors (suppliers and providers) with information on:

- The general rules and regulations governing procurements made by Colonial Behavioral Health. Specific contract terms will overrule these general guidelines.
- How to sell goods and services to Colonial Behavioral Health.
- Methods of resolving disputes regarding procurements.

#### Authority

Colonial Behavioral Health (CBH) is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia under the provisions of Sections 198 and 199 of Title 37.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Procurements by CBH are conducted in accordance with the provisions of:

- The Virginia Public Procurement Act as contained in Sections 2.2-4300 through 2.2-4377 of the Code of Virginia (except those sections or portions of sections that apply only to State agencies).
- CBH Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA) Guidelines.
- The purchasing procedures contained in this Vendor's Manual.

#### Virginia Public Procurement Act

<https://dgs.virginia.gov/procurement/policy-consulting--review/policy/>

#### CBH Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA) Guidelines

PPEA Guidelines are limited to only “qualifying projects”; which are projects for facilities, related to acquisition, design, construction, demolition, renovations or remodeling, and all related property and improvements.

<https://www.colonialbh.org/media/p2ddy3hs/cbh-ppea-guidelines-signed.pdf>

#### Responsibility

The responsibility for purchasing goods and services for CBH is vested in the position of the Executive Director.

This responsibility is delegated as follows:

- Purchases of goods and services not exceeding \$500 must be approved by the Program Coordinator.

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- Purchases of goods and services of \$500 or more must be approved by the Program Director.
- Purchases of goods and services of \$5000 or more must be approved by the Executive Director.

## Procurement Methods

### Policy

Procurements of goods or services from non-governmental vendors or providers will be made on a competitive basis utilizing Invitations for Bids or Requests for Proposals unless otherwise authorized by law. In the solicitation and award of contracts, CBH will not discriminate because of race, religion, color, sex, or national origin of the bidder or offeror. (Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-4310)

### Exceptions to Competitive Procurements

Competition is not required, by the Virginia Public Procurement Act, for the following procurements:

**Small Purchases:** Small purchases are low dollar purchases where obtaining competition is considered impractical. CBH has defined small purchase as goods and services not exceeding \$5,000 in value.

**Emergency Purchases:** Emergency purchases are defined as those procurements that are necessary to correct situations that are deemed, by CBH, to endanger life, health, safety, or property.

**Sole Source:** Sole source procurements are those in which the goods or service is not practicably available from any other source.

**Used Equipment:** Used equipment is identified as equipment that has been previously owned and used. It is offered "as is" and amounts to less than \$50,000. Demonstration or factory rebuilt, or remanufactured equipment is not considered used since it must meet a specified standard.

**Term Contracts:** Goods or services available under State or Local Government or CBH contracts. Since these contracts were established through a competitive process, they can be used without the necessity for further competition. CBH may also participate in cooperative procurements with other CSBs or governmental entities.

**Other governmental entities:** Goods or services procured from other state agencies and political subdivisions.

These purchases may include:

- Surplus property.
- Products and services produced by the Virginia Department of Corrections and the Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped.

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- Products sold through the Commonwealth of Virginia's Central Warehouse.
- Products and services sold by other state agencies and counties.

**Sheltered Workshops:** Goods or services may be purchased from sheltered or supported employment workshops.

**Real Estate:** The purchase or rental of real property is not covered under the Virginia Public Procurement Act. CBH will make every effort to procure real property in a competitive manner; however, there may often be only one piece of property available that meets CBH's requirements in the areas of location, space and accessibility.

**Other Acquisitions:** Competitive methods are not required for the procurement of:

- Equipment and supplies amounting to less than \$50,000 for testing or evaluation.
- Services of the following providers where the total amount of expenditures per year is less than \$50,000:
  - Academic/research consultants.
  - Honoraria and entertainment.
  - Royalties and film rentals when only available from the producer or protected distributors.
  - Membership dues.
  - Writers.
  - Artists and photographers.
  - Equipment, supplies, or services that are offered on a no cost basis to CBH. CBH has the right, however, to either accept or reject such donations.

## Preferences

Preferences are allowed by the Virginia Public Procurement Act only in procurements involving:

- **Tie bids** in which the one of the tied bids is from a Virginia vendor or is for Virginia-produced goods while the other bid(s) is from out-of-state. The award will be made to the Virginia vendor or to the Virginia-produced product. Otherwise, the tie will be broken by drawing or a flip of the coin.
- **The low bidder is from a state with an in-state preference:** In this case, the amount of that state's preference may be subtracted from the next highest Virginia vendor's price. If the Virginia vendor's price is then lower than the out-of-state vendor's price, the award may be made to the Virginia vendor.

**EXAMPLE:** If out-of-state Bidder "A" (from a state having an in-state preference of 4%) bid \$1.00 each and a Virginia bidder bid \$1.03 on an equal product, the

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award could be made to the Virginia bidder because his/her price of \$1.03 is within 4% of Bidder A's price.

### Specifications or Scopes of Work

The Virginia Public Procurement Act requires specifications, scopes of work or statements of need to be expressed in a manner that is:

- Sufficiently complete and specific to ensure users' needs are adequately met,
- Broad enough to ensure competition and
- "Reflect the procurement needs of the purchasing body rather than being drawn to favor a particular vendor." (Section 2.2-4300-C of the Code of Virginia)
- The following types of specifications may be used to describe the needs of CBH:

**Generic Specification:** Generic specifications describe requirements without reference to a brand name or model number. Generic specifications include:

- Performance-type specifications which describe what the product or service must do rather than how the product or service must be designed.
- Life Cycle Costing (LCC) is a variation of a performance-type specification. A contract award, based upon LCC, takes into account all known cost factors associated with the procurement, installation, maintenance and ultimate disposal of the item purchased.
- Design-type specifications describe how the product or service is to be designed and usually:
  - Includes those requirements that are necessary to provide the level of quality and performance needed by the user.
  - Is brand neutral.
  - Does not include any requirements which are unnecessary and might restrict other acceptable brands from competition.
- Qualified Products Lists (QPL) are used when the time necessary to evaluate competing brands is too lengthy to be conducted during the procurement process. The award of a solicitation which includes a QPL will be made only to a bidder or offeror quoting on a





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product listed on the QPL. Bidders or offerors wishing to offer another product on future solicitations must apply to CBH to have that product evaluated.

- Qualified Contractors List (QCL) are used when it is necessary to pre-qualify contractors to perform a particular service prior to issuing a solicitation. The award of a solicitation which includes a QCL will be made only to a bidder or offeror listed on the QCL. Bidders or offerors wishing to participate in future solicitations must apply to be CBH to be evaluated.

**Brand Name or Equal:** Unless otherwise stated in the solicitation, "the name of a certain brand, make, or manufacturer does not restrict bidders to the specific brand, make or manufacturer named". Rather, the use of a brand name "conveys the general style, type, character, and quality of the article desired, and any article which the public body in its sole discretion determines to be the equal of that specified, considering quality, workmanship, economy of operation, and suitability for the purpose intended, shall be accepted". (Section 2.2-4315 of the Code of Virginia)

**Proprietary:** A proprietary specification restricts the acceptable product to that of one manufacturer or a particular brand or model. Competition may be available from several distributors of the specified product; however, only one brand may be acceptable due to reasons such as:

- The required product is to be a component of a system already in use, or
- The use of another brand would require considerable reorientation and training.

**EXAMPLE:** A sheltered workshop may have eight sewing machines of the same brand and model. The purchase of an additional sewing machine of a different brand with different features and controls may not be practical for this environment where extensive training is necessary in order for a worker to become proficient on a particular machine.

## Competitive Procurement Procedures

Procurements that are not exempt from competition (see section 2.2) will be handled as follows:

**Small Purchases:** Small purchases are defined by the Virginia Public Procurement Act as those under \$100,000. Based upon the estimated value of the procurement, CBH will use the following procedures:

- Up to \$5,000 - Verbal (telephone) or written quotations may be used. Competition may be obtained but is not required.



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- \$5,001 to \$29,999 - Written quotations will be solicited from at least three (3) potential suppliers or providers. A record will be kept of each quotation, indicating the name of the individual giving the quotation, the date, the price and the product or service offered. This requirement may be waived if in the best interest of CBH.
- \$30,000 to \$99,999 – Written quotes will be obtained from at least four (4) potential sources.
- \$100,000 - Follow the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

Professional Services contracts of \$50,000 or greater will follow procedures in the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

**Sealed or Formal Bids:** Invitations for Bids (IFB) are issued to request sealed or formal bids. Sealed or formal bids are primarily used for procurements of goods or services where the estimated value is \$100,000 or more. The sealed or formal bid procedures include:

- Public posting for at least ten (10) days.
- Written sealed bids submitted by bidders.
- Public bid opening where bidder's names, prices, are read aloud.
- Bid evaluation based upon the requirements as set forth in the IFB.
- Award made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder(s).
- Late bids will be returned unopened.

**Two-step Sealed Bidding:** The two-step bid procedure may be used where there are inadequate specifications or where CBH wishes to obtain the latest technology or to take advantage of vendor innovation.

- **Step One:** Solicitations are issued to request an unpriced technical proposal. The technical proposals are evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria indicated in the IFB.
- **Step Two:** Invitations for Bids (IFB) are issued to those bidders who responded to Step One and whose technical proposals were determined to be acceptable. Award is made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder(s).
- **Combination of Steps One and Two:** Both the technical proposal and the bid prices may be requested at the same time but in separate sealed envelopes. Only those price envelopes from bidders submitting acceptable technical proposals will be opened.



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**Competitive Negotiation (RFP):** Competitive Negotiation is used to procure goods or services upon determination in writing that competitive sealed bidding is:

- Not practicable or,
- Not fiscally advantageous to CBH.

(Section 2.2-4303-C of the Code of Virginia)

**EXAMPLE:** Providers of the required service have different approaches to achieve the end result. Also, CBH wishes to consider the varying levels of experience and expertise of the potential offerors; therefore, an award cannot be based upon the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

The competitive negotiation procedures includes:

- Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by CBH. Stated in the RFP will be:
  - The due date and time for the proposals.
  - The evaluation criteria.
  - Terms and conditions pertaining to the procurement. Any special requirements.
- Public posting for at least ten (10) days.
- Publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the contract is to be performed.
- The selection of two or more of the best suited offerors, based upon the evaluation criteria.
- Question and answer clarification conference with one or more offerors may be scheduled if CBH deems it advisable.

This conference:

- May be conducted either in person or via the telephone.
  - Is limited to a clarification or verification of the offeror's written proposal.
  - Will not include negotiations.
  - May require the offeror to document an answer if a written clarification is deemed, by CBH, to be advisable.
- Negotiations conducted with the two or more best suited offerors unless only one offeror is determined by CBH to be fully or most highly qualified.



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- Award to the offeror which, in CBH's opinion, has made the best proposal or is the most highly qualified.

### Professional Services:

- Definition - Professional services are defined, in Section 2.2-4301 of the Code of Virginia, as "work performed by an independent contractor within the scope of the practice of accounting, actuarial services, architecture, land surveying, landscape architecture, law, dentistry, medicine, optometry, pharmacy or professional engineering".
- Procedure - The procedures for Competitive Negotiation are used in the procurement of professional services with the following exceptions:
  - The RFP will not request estimates of man-hours or cost for services.
  - Repetitive informal interviews may be conducted in which non-binding estimates of total project cost and methods used in arriving at that cost may be discussed.
  - Offers will be ranked in order of preference.
  - Negotiations are conducted with two or more offerors (unless only one offeror is deemed by CBH to be fully qualified) beginning with the first-ranked offeror.
  - If agreement cannot be reached with the first-ranked offeror, negotiations are formally terminated with that offeror and negotiations are conducted with the second-ranked and so on until an agreement is reached.

At any time during the negotiations, CBH may terminate all negotiations and re-advertise the requirement.

### Procurement of Conference Facilities

The cost of renting conference facilities is comprised of:

- Rental of guest rooms.
- Rental of meeting rooms.
- Purchase of food.
- Rented items (such as audio-visual equipment, etc.)

The rental of guest rooms and meeting rooms is considered rental of real estate and may be purchased without competition. The purchase of food and the rental of equipment is considered a procurement and,

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if these costs are expected to exceed \$5,000, they will be added to the anticipated cost of the rooms and the entire package will be purchased competitively.

### General Rules Pertaining to Bids and Contracts

The following rules are applicable to all solicitations (IFBs or RFPs) and contracts issued by CBH.

- **Bid Evaluation:** CBH reserves the right to reject any and all bids in whole or in part and to waive any informality in the bid. In the case of errors in the extension of prices, the unit price will govern.
- **Multiple Awards:** Unless otherwise specifically indicated in the solicitation, CBH may award a multi-line program in whole, in part, or on an individual line-item basis.
- **Assignment of Contract:** A contract shall not be assignable by the vendor in whole or in part without the written consent of CBH office issuing the contract.
- **Contract Renewal or Extension:** A contract may contain a renewal clause describing the conditions under which a term contract may be renewed. A contract not containing a renewal clause may be extended by mutual consent for a limited period of time, not to exceed six (6) months. CBH may extend the term of an existing contract for services to allow completion of any work undertaken but not completed during the original term of the contract.
- **Negotiations with Bidders:** Sealed bid (IFB) programs may be canceled or rejected by CBH. If not canceled or rejected, a contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder based upon the bid submitted except that if the bid exceeds available funds, CBH may negotiate with the apparent low bidder to obtain a contract price within available funds.
- **Contract Modification:** A contract may include provisions for renewal, extension, or modification as permitted by CBH.

## Responsibilities of Vendors and Providers

### Application and Registration

Vendors or providers wishing to provide products or services to CBH may submit a written request to the General Services Office indicating the products or services being offered. CBH may require additional information pertaining to the organization, financial condition and capabilities of the vendor or provider prior to the inclusion of that firm on a CBH solicitation mailing.

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In addition, CBH may:

- Make on-site inspections to verify the capability of the vendor or provider prior to being placed on the list.
- Remove a vendor or provider from the mailing list for failure to respond to two consecutive solicitations.

NOTE: Approval of a vendor or provider to be placed on a CBH solicitation mailing does not constitute any commitment on the part of CBH to include that vendor or provider on the mailing list for all solicitations for the goods or services offered. CBH will attempt to provide all vendors and providers an opportunity to respond to solicitations on a rotational basis; however, the mailing list for each solicitation will, of necessity, include responsible vendors or providers who consistently offer responsive bids and proposals.

Prospective vendors and providers may check the solicitations posted on CBH's Procurement webpage (<https://www.colonialbh.org/about-us/procurement/>) and eVA Virginia's Marketplace (<https://eva.virginia.gov/index.html>) to learn of IFBs or RFPs for which they may not have been on the mailing list. Copies of these solicitations will be provided upon request.

### Responsible Bidder or Offeror

In determining a responsible bidder or offeror, several factors including but not limited to the following are considered.

The vendor should:

- Be a regular dealer, supplier and/or an authorized dealer of the goods or services offered.
- Have the ability to comply with the required delivery or performance schedule, taking into consideration other business commitments.
- Have a satisfactory record or performance.
- Have a satisfactory record of integrity.
- Have the necessary facilities, organization, experience, technical skills, and financial resources to fulfill the terms of the purchase order or contract.

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### Debarment

Debarment is action taken by the state to exclude individuals or firms from contracting for particular goods or services for specified periods of time. Debarment applies to contracts with the state (Section 2.2-4321 of the Code of Virginia), but will, in general, be honored by CBH. Debarment does not relieve the vendor or provider of responsibility for existing obligations.

Vendors are directed to consult appropriate state sources for further information on debarment.

### Debarment Notification

An individual or firm being debarred from contracting will be notified in writing. Vendors are directed to consult appropriate state sources for further information on debarment.

### Debarment Period

Debarment shall generally be for a period of one (1) year. Vendors are directed to consult appropriate state sources for further information on debarment. Notwithstanding the prescribed duration of the debarment, at the discretion of CBH, a debarment may be waived with respect to CBH contracts at any time if it is in the best interest of CBH.

### Vendor Assistance to CBH

Vendor sales efforts of a consultative or advisory nature are encouraged. These efforts provide information to keep CBH up-to-date. The furnishing of product or service information by a vendor is considered to be normal sales effort and does not entitle the vendor to preferential treatment in the awarding of contracts.

### Personal Interest and Gifts

No vendor shall offer any gift, gratuity, favor, or advantage to any CBH employee who exercises official procurement responsibility, develops procurement requirements, or otherwise influences procurement decisions. CBH employees may attend vendor-sponsored seminars or trade shows where the buying staffs will benefit from receiving product information and learning of new techniques and trends. Food, drinks, and give-away items offered to all participants at such functions may be accepted by CBH employees attending.

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### Copyright

No vendor may copyright any work contracted for by CBH and produced for CBH without the written consent of CBH.

### Ownership of Artwork, Negatives, etc. for Printing

All artwork, negatives, dies, overlays, or similar materials used to print a job shall be the property of CBH and must be returned CBH upon completion.

### Overruns, Underruns for Printing Jobs

CBH is not required to accept overruns unless so stated in the solicitation. CBH may, at its discretion, accept up to ten (10) percent overrun. Prices for overruns shall not exceed the quoted base price per unit, or the quoted price for additional copies run at the same time. Whichever price is less will prevail. CBH can, at its discretion, accept an underrun, provided that credit is allowed CBH at the full base price per unit for the quantity of the underrun.

## Solicitation – General Rules

### Selection of Bidders and Offerors

All qualified vendors have access to CBH business unless they have been officially suspended or disbarred. It may not be practical, due to a large number of qualified vendors, for CBH to mail solicitations to every known vendor for a particular goods or service; however, all formal solicitations will be posted on CBH Procurement Bulletin Board and website ([www.colonialbh.org](http://www.colonialbh.org)) and any vendor may request a copy.

On occasion, a competitive procurement may be restricted to:

- Manufacturers;
- Vendors who possess certain licenses or other qualifications.

When vendor restrictions are applicable to a solicitation, the restriction(s) will be so stated in the IFB or RFP.

### Response Time

Normally, the time set for return of sealed bids or proposals is thirty (30) days after publication of the IFB or RFP. The minimum time will not be less than ten calendar days and, if time is not critical, more time may be allowed.



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### Pre-bid or Preproposal Conference

Pre-Bid or Pre-Proposal conferences may be scheduled for certain solicitations, especially when the product or service being purchased is complex or contains critical elements. The date, time and place of the conference will be noted in the solicitation. Attendance at some conferences may be mandatory and, if so, this fact will also be noted in the solicitation.

When attendance is mandatory, only bids or proposals submitted by vendors who were represented at the conference will be considered.

### Receipt of Bids or Proposals

The solicitation will state where the bids or proposals are to be delivered and the due date and time. Bids or proposals not received in the designated place by the due date and time are automatically disqualified and will not be considered. The official time used in the receipt of responses is that time on the clock or automatic time stamp machine in the office that receives the bids or proposals.

The outside of the envelope containing a sealed bid or proposal must be marked with the name, number and due date of the solicitation. Sealed bids or proposals not marked may be inadvertently opened and the information compromised which may cause the bid or offer to be disqualified.

Vendors should not combine two or more responses to separate IFBs or RFPs into one envelope since they may have different due dates.

### Canceling or Amending a Solicitation

CBH may cancel or withdraw a solicitation in whole or in part and reject any and all bid or proposals at any time prior to an award.

### Facsimile Bids or Proposals

“Electronic” (fax, telephone, e-mail, etc.) responses may be accepted for unsealed (or informal) solicitations.

“Electronic” (fax, telephone, e-mail, etc.) responses will not be accepted for sealed or formal solicitations.

### Signature on Bid or Proposal

Proposals, bids, and all addenda returned by the vendor must be signed in ink as instructed in the solicitation documents. The person signing the bid or proposal must be a person authorized by the vendor to sign bids or proposals. Facsimile or typewritten signatures are not acceptable responses to a formal IFB or RFP in which

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sealed responses are required. The person signing must include their title, and if requested, must verify their authority to bind their company in contract.

**Failure to sign the face of the bid or proposal in the space provided will result in rejection of the bid or proposal except if the unsigned bid or proposal is accompanied by other signed documents indicating the bidder's or offeror's intent to be bound.**

### Bonds and Insurance

Bid bonds, a performance and a payment bond may be required in a solicitation. When a bid bond is required, the amount required will not exceed five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid. A bid bond, when specified, must accompany the bid. (Section 2.2-4336 of the Code of Virginia) Performance bonds and payment bonds, if requested, must be in an amount at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the accepted bid or proposal unless otherwise specified. (Section 2.2-4337 of the Code of Virginia).

CBH (upon approval of its legal advisor) may accept, in lieu of a bid, payment or performance bond:

- Certified check.
- Cashier’s check.
- Cash escrow.
- Personal bond.
- Property bond.
- Bank or savings and loan association's letter of credit on certain designated funds in the face amount required for the bid, payment, or performance bond.

(Section 2.2-4338-B of the Code of Virginia)

<b>Minimum Insurance Coverages Required</b>	
Kind of Insurance	Amounts/Additional Terms
Professional Liability Insurance	\$1,000,000 per occurrence. Limit may be increased based on professional service required
Worker’s Compensation and Employer’s Liability	Coverage A – Statutory Requirement Coverage B - \$100,000; \$100,000; \$500,000

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Comprehensive Automobile Liability, including owned and non-owned	\$1,000,000. per occurrence bodily injury or property damage. CBH shall be listed as additional insured
General Liability Insurance	\$1,000,000 per occurrence and at 2,000,000 in the aggregate to include but not limited to bodily injury or property damage. CBH shall be listed as additional insured.
Contractual Liability	Include the contractual liability assumed hereunder.
Completed Operations Insurance	This is to remain in effect until the date of acceptance by CBH of any project which is part of the Services and shall not apply to those Services which do not involve such a project.

### Specification – Questions and Comments

CBH intends to use specifications that encourage competition. Vendors are encouraged to inform the General Services Office in writing whenever they have comments or questions concerning specifications or solicitation requirements. Suggestions concerning new products or services are also encouraged. This information should be provided to the General Services Office as early as possible in order to provide time to consider the suggestion and take any necessary action before the scheduled receipt date.

### Contractor Registration (License)

All vendors bidding on construction, demolition, repair, or improvements to facilities which are estimated to be \$1,500 or more, must be registered contractors with the Department of Commerce, in accordance with Title 54, Chapter 7 of the Code of Virginia. In addition, all nonresident contractors and subcontractors submitting bids on the above work who are not registered with the Department of Commerce shall register with the Department of Labor and Industry under the provisions of Subsection 40.1-30 of the Code of Virginia.

### Terms and Conditions

Solicitations may contain general terms and conditions which incorporate the procedures and provisions of this manual as well as all statutory provisions. Special terms and conditions may change or rescind the procedures

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and provisions of this manual, and the solicitation should be read with care prior to submission of a bid or proposal. Modification of or additions to any portion of an IFB made by a bidder which affects quality, quantity, price or delivery may cause rejection of the bid as being non-responsive. In the case of modifications or additions to IFBs which do not affect quality, quantity, price and delivery, CBH may, in its sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis, reject them as non-responsive, or waive them as informalities in appropriate situations or require the bidder to withdraw the non-responsive language within a specified period of time as a condition to not being declared non-responsive. Modifications or additions to any portion of an RFP, including but not limited to contractual terms and conditions and the requirements for that which is to be procured, are adequate grounds for rejecting the proposal unless undesired modifications or additions are amended or withdrawn to the satisfaction of CBH during the course of discussions and negotiations. No modification of or addition to any provisions of a solicitation shall be effective unless reduced to writing and signed by the parties to the contract.

### Pricing and Discounts

Solicitations normally request net price FOB destination for the unit, item or service specified. Cash discounts offered for prompt payment must be clearly shown and will be taken if payment is made within the specified time frame, i.e., 2%-20 days. Cash discounts may be used as a factor in award.

### Samples

Samples of items, when called for in a solicitation, must be furnished free of charge or expense. Samples submitted by the successful bidder or offeror may be held for comparison with merchandise furnished. All samples submitted may be subjected to tests and evaluation by either a qualified laboratory or test panel, and the results may be a factor in making the award. Samples not destroyed in testing will, if requested, be returned to the bidder or offeror at his or her own expense. Requests for the return of samples must be made within thirty (30) days following the due date for the solicitation. Requests for return of samples will be honored upon the completion of testing and evaluation. Samples not claimed within 60 days will be disposed of.

### Alternate Bids

An alternate bid is a bid submitted in response to an IFB which is in knowing variance from the specifications. CBH cannot accept an alternate bid, however, if it does not meet the requirements of the specifications or scope of work. If CBH believes the alternate specification better meets its needs, it may reject all bids and re-bid the

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requirement with a revised specification using the features of the alternate. Information on products or services with alternate specifications or scopes of work should be submitted to CBH as early as possible in order for an evaluation to be made prior to issuing the solicitation.

### Taxes

CBH is exempt from Federal Excise Taxes and Virginia State Sales Tax. Contractors doing business with CBH are not exempt from sales tax on materials and supplies that are installed and become part of real property. The sales taxes paid by a contractor on such materials or supplies are a cost of doing business and should be considered in pricing when preparing a solicitation response. (See Virginia Retail Sales and Use Tax Regulations, Sections 630-10-27 and 630-10-45 D and E.)

### Amending or Withdrawing Bids or Proposals

The conditions under which bids or proposals may or may not be amended or withdrawn by a bidder or offeror are as follows:

**Amend a bid or proposal prior to opening date and hour-** This action is permitted if a written request is received by the office which issued the solicitation.

**Alter or amend a bid or proposal prior to opening date and hour-** The person authorized to submit bids or proposals may request the return of the bid or proposal. They should then:

- Draw a single line through the information to be changed.
- Insert the desired information.
- Initial the change.
- Refrain from erasing or opaquing information on the bid or proposal.

### **OR**

The person authorized to submit bids or proposals may submit a letter outlining the changes to be made in the bid or proposal.

**Correct an informality discovered in a bid after the opening date and hour-** An informality is a minor defect or variation of a bid or proposal that may be waived or corrected without prejudice to other bidders. It does not affect:

- Price,



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- Quality
- Quantity
- Delivery schedule, or
- Contractual conditions.

CBH may, in its sole discretion, waive such informalities or permit the bidder to correct them, whichever procedure is in the best interests of CBH. Examples of informalities that may be corrected in this manner are:

- Return of less than the number of signed bids required by the IFB.
- Failure to sign the face of the bid in the space provided, but only if the unsigned bid is accompanied by other signed documents indicating the bidder's intent to be bound.
- Failure to acknowledge receipt of an addendum to the IFB, but only if it is clear from the bid that the bidder received the addendum and intends to be bound by its terms, or the addendum involved had a negligible effect on price, quantity, quality, or delivery.

**Errors of judgment in a bid-** Bids may not be withdrawn or corrected due to mistakes which are attributable to errors in judgment and the fact that an error was made is not obvious to the person with the procurement responsibility.

**Non-Judgmental errors in a bid-** Errors in bids may be corrected or withdrawn if the following conditions are present:

- Mistakes are present but the intended quotation is evident to the person with the procurement responsibility. CBH may correct the bid or allow the bidder to withdraw the bid.
- **EXAMPLES** Typographical errors, errors in extending unit prices, transposition errors, and arithmetical errors.
- Mistakes that are evident to the person with the procurement responsibility; however, the intended quotation is not evident. The bid cannot be corrected; however, CBH may permit the bidder to withdraw the bid.
- **EXAMPLES** A price that is significantly lower than the other bids received or a quote on an item that the bidder obviously does not supply.

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- **Mistakes discovered in a bid or contract after award-** Mistakes may not be corrected or withdrawn after the award of a contract.
- **Construction bids-** Please review Colonial Behavioral Health's [Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act \(PPEA\) of 2002 Guidelines](#).

### Open Records

Procurement records are open to the inspection of any citizen or any interested person, firm or corporation, in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

The following exceptions apply:

- Cost estimates relating to a proposed procurement transaction prepared by or for CBH are not open to public inspection (section 2.2-4342-B, Code of Virginia).
- Bid and proposal records are not available to the public for inspection until after the award except that any bidder or offeror, upon request, shall be afforded the opportunity to inspect bid or proposal records within a reasonable time after the opening, evaluation, and negotiation (if applicable) of the bids or proposals but prior to award, except in the event that CBH decides not to accept any of the bids or proposals and to re-solicit.
- Any inspection of records shall be subject to reasonable restrictions to ensure the security and integrity of the records (section 2.2-4342-C of the Code of Virginia).
- CBH may make reasonable charges for the copying, search time and computer time expended in the supplying information requested under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The charge shall not exceed the actual cost of supplying such records. Upon request, CBH will furnish in advance an estimate of the charges for supplying procurement records.
- Trade secrets or proprietary information submitted by a bidder or offeror in connection with a procurement transaction is not subject to public disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; however, the bidder or offeror must invoke the protection of Section 2.2-4342 of the Code of Virginia "prior to or upon submission of the data or other materials, and must identify the data or other materials to be protected and state the reasons why protection is necessary".

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### Prohibited Purchases

Section 2.2-4374 of the Code of Virginia prohibits the procurement of building materials to be used in the construction of a building or structure from the architect or engineer (or a sub-contractor thereof) who designed the building unless that architect or engineer has a design-build contract with the public body (CBH).

### Vendor Performance

#### Purchase Order or Contract Document, Authority and Shipment

The execution of a contract may take several different forms:

- A purchase order form may be used by CBH to execute a purchase transaction or establish a contract. A purchase order may also be used to order out goods or services contracted for under the terms of a single signature or two-party contract form.
- A single signature contract form may also be used to establish a contract. This document will refer to the contractor's bid, proposal, memorandum of understanding, and/or best and final offer. The contractor's signature on these documents and the authorized CBH official's signature on the contract document will constitute mutual acceptance of the contract provisions. This contract document may authorize immediate shipment of product or the beginning of the performance of services or this action may be provided for by issuance of a purchase order.
- A two-party contract form, signed by the contractor and the authorized CBH official may be used to establish a contract. This document will contain, either by inclusion or by reference, all of the provisions of the contract. As with the single signature contract form, this document may either authorize immediate provision of service or shipment of goods or it may provide for the issuance of a purchase order to authorize action by the contractor.

### New/Used/Altered

All supplies and equipment furnished to CBH must be new and in first class condition unless the contract specifies used items. Demonstration, previously rented or reconditioned items are not considered new. No equipment is acceptable if serial numbers or any other manufacturer's identifying labels or marks have been removed, obliterated, or changed.



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### Packaging

Shipping containers shall be legibly marked or labeled on the outside with the commodity description and number, size and quantity. A packing slip or invoice must accompany all shipments and should reference the purchase order number.

### Substitutions

Substitution is defined as delivery of any item or provision of a service that does not conform to the specifications or scope of work of the purchase order or contract. Substitutions on purchase orders or contracts require the approval of CBH official who signed the purchase order or contract. Any items or services that do not meet specifications may be rejected or returned to the contractor at the contractor's expense. When a shipment, item or service is returned or rejected, the contractor must make immediate replacement with acceptable merchandise or service or be considered in default.

### Loss of Damage in Transit

Delivery by a vendor to a common carrier does not constitute delivery to CBH. Any claim for loss or damage incurred during delivery shall be between the vendor and the carrier. CBH accepts title only when goods are received regardless of the FOB point. CBH will note all apparent damages in transit on the freight bill and notify the vendor. Discovery of concealed damage or loss must be reported by CBH to the carrier and the vendor within seven days of receipt and prior to removal from the point of delivery. The vendor shall make immediate replacement of the damaged or lost merchandise or be in default of the contract. It shall be the vendor's responsibility to file a claim against the carrier. If damage is to a small quantity, the vendor may, with the approval of CBH, deduct the amount of damage or loss from his or her invoice to CBH in lieu of replacement.

### Freight

By signing a bid or proposal, bidders or offerors certify that the prices offered for FOB destination include only the actual freight rate costs at the lowest and best rate and are based upon the actual weight of the goods shipped. Freight charges are, therefore, established for each individual purchase. If a requirement is offered FOB origin, the vendor shall prepay the charges and add the amount to the invoice. A copy of the freight bill should be attached to all invoices that include freight charges. In a solicitation specifying FOB origin, CBH will consider freight cost in the evaluation of bids and proposals.

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### Delivery Time

Delivery or performance of goods or service must be made by the date or period specified in the purchase order or contract or the vendor will be considered to be in default. If a vendor cannot make delivery or perform a service as specified under any existing purchase order or contract, the vendor must immediately notify CBH. The vendor may offer a new delivery date; however, if it is not acceptable to CBH and delivery cannot be made as originally specified, the vendor will be considered in default.

### Receipt of Goods

Shipments will be checked against a copy of the purchase order or contract. Quantities, units, etc., must match the purchase order or contract. Over shipments may be rejected and returned at the vendor's expense. Vendors should ensure that they have been given a specific delivery location and receive a signed receipt for goods delivered.

### Inspection

All materials, equipment, supplies, and services are subject to inspection and testing. Failure to reject upon receipt, however, does not relieve the vendor for liability for latent or hidden defects subsequently revealed when goods are put to use or tested. If latent defects are found, the vendor is responsible for replacing the defective goods and is liable for any resulting expenses incurred by CBH.

### Failure to Deliver

Vendors unable to deliver goods or services when specified must notify CBH. The vendor may offer a new delivery date; however, if it is not acceptable to CBH and delivery cannot be made as originally specified, the vendor will be considered in default.

### Termination for Default

In case of default by the vendor for failure to deliver or perform in accordance with specifications or scope of work, CBH may procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the defaulting vendor responsible for any excess cost incurred. CBH will normally repurchase from the next low bidder or the next highest rated offeror or purchase competitively by re-solicitation; however, if this is not practical because of restraints of time or availability, CBH may procure the goods or service from a vendor based solely on that vendor's capacity to deliver the required goods or services in the time frame required. If the repurchase results in increased cost to

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CBH, a letter will be sent to the defaulted contractor requiring payment for additional costs. When repayment is requested, the Contractor will be suspended from the mailing list for purchase solicitations for a specified period of time or until the repayment has occurred, whichever occurs first. The vendor shall not be liable for any excess cost if the failure to perform arises out of any act of war, order of legal authority, strikes, act of God, or other unavoidable causes not attributed to the fault of negligence of the vendor. The burden of proof rests with the vendor.

### **Cancellation of Purchase Order and Contracts**

No cancellation of purchase orders or contracts may be made except by the office that issued the purchase order or contract. Orders or contracts may be canceled without the consent of the vendor in cases of default. A vendor may request cancellation, and CBH will grant relief if the vendor is prevented from specific performance, including timely delivery, by an act of war, order of legal authority, act of God, or other unavoidable causes not attributed to the fault or negligence of the vendor. The burden of proof for need of such relief rests with the vendor. CBH reserves the right to cancel all contracts with any vendor who fails to perform for any one contract.

### **Purchase Order or Contract Changes**

A purchase order change or contract change is used to correct errors, to add or delete small quantities of goods, or to make other minor adjustments in the original contract. They may also be used to cancel orders. Vendors who deviate from the requirements of a purchase order or contract prior to the receipt of any authorized change order do so at their own risk.

### **Claims**

Contractual claims whether for money or other relief shall be submitted in writing no later than sixty (60) days after final payment; however, written notice of the contractor's intention to file such claim must be given at the time of the occurrence or beginning of the work upon which the claim is based. Nothing herein shall preclude a contract from requiring submission of an invoice for final payment within a certain time after completion and acceptance of the work or acceptance of the goods. Pendency of claims shall not delay payment of amounts agreed due in the final payment.

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A contractor may not institute legal action prior to receipt of Colonial Behavioral Health's decision on the claim unless CBH fails to render such decision within thirty (30) days. The decision of CBH shall be final and conclusive unless the contractor, within six (6) months of the date of the final decision on the claim, institutes legal action as provided in Section 2.2-4364 of the Code of Virginia.

### Disputes

#### Disputes

Any bidder or offeror submitting a bid or proposal in response to a solicitation may protest the award or decision to award a contract by submitting such protest in writing to the Executive Director of Colonial Behavioral Health no later than ten (10) calendar days after the award is made or the notice of intent to award is posted, whichever occurs first.

Any potential bidder or offeror on a contract negotiated on a sole source or emergency basis who desires to protest the award or decision to award such contract shall submit such protest in the same manner no later than ten calendar days after posting or publication of the notice of such contract.

The rules governing the filing of a protest are as follows:

- The written protest must be received in the Executive Director's office not later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth day. If the tenth day falls on a weekend or an official CBH holiday, the ten-day period expires at 5:00 p.m. on the next regular workday.
- The protest shall include the specific basis for the protest and the relief sought.
- The Executive Director shall issue a decision in writing within ten days stating the reason for the action taken. The decision shall be final unless the bidder or offeror institutes legal action as provided in Section 2.2-4364 of the Code of Virginia.
- If the protest of any actual or potential bidder or offeror depends in whole or in part upon information contained in public records pertaining to the procurement transaction which are subject to inspection, then the time within which the protest must be submitted shall expire ten days after those records are available for inspection by such bidder or offeror, or at such later time as provided in Section 2.2-4360 of the Code of Virginia.
- No protest shall lie for claim that the selected bidder or offeror is not a responsible bidder or offeror.

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### Appeals Procedure

The rules regulating the reasons and procedure for appeals are contained in Article 3 of the Virginia Public Procurement Act (Sections 2.2-4357 through 2.2-4365 of the Code of Virginia). As per Section 11-71, CBH may, in its sole discretion, establish an administrative procedure to hear appeals of decisions on disputes.

CBH does not currently choose to establish such an administrative appeal, therefore, the remaining sections of Chapter 6 that refer to such an appeal do not apply.

### Exhaustion of Administrative Procedures

A bidder, offeror or contractor need not use the appeals procedure; however, if they initiate this procedure, it must be exhausted prior to instituting legal action concerning the same procurement transaction unless CBH agrees otherwise. (Section 2.2-4364-F of the Code of Virginia).

### Effect of the Appeal on Procurement Proceedings

Pending final determination of a protest or appeal, the validity of a contract awarded and accepted in good faith shall not be affected by the fact that a protest or appeal has been filed. (Section 2.2-4361 of the Code of Virginia).

An award need not be delayed for the period allowed a bidder or offeror to protest or appeal, but in the event of a timely protest or appeal, no further action to award the contract will be taken unless there is a written determination by CBH that award of the contract is necessary to protect the public interest or unless the bid or offer would expire. (Section 2.2-4362 of the Code of Virginia). When such a written determination is made, copies will be sent to all parties to a protest or appeal, and in the case of an appeal, to the individual or panel hearing the appeal.

### Time and Place of Hearings

If CBH determines an appeal hearing to be appropriate, the parties will be given at least ten (10) days' notice of the time and place of any appeal hearing. Appeals may be heard earlier upon the consent of all parties. Hearings will be held at a site selected by CBH.

### Hearing Procedures

If CBH determines an appeal hearing to be appropriate, any such hearings will be in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

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### Appeal Decision

The individual or panel hearing the appeal will issue a written decision within seven (7) days of the hearing date except when it is necessary to await a transcript of the hearing, in which case a written decision will be issued within seven days of receiving the transcript. This decision will include a brief statement of the relevant facts on which the decision was made. This will be called the "Findings of Fact". The individual or panel hearing the appeal will then state its decision, providing such detail as considered necessary. The decision will be signed by that individual or, if a panel, by the chairperson of the panel.

Copies of the decision will be mailed to all parties and will be available to other interested persons upon request.

### Judicial Review

Any party to an appeal hearing will be entitled to institute judicial review if such action is brought within thirty (30) days after receipt of the written appeal decision or within thirty days of attempted postal delivery of the written appeal decision to the last mailing address provided by the party to the individual or panel hearing the appeal. The findings of fact by the individual or person hearing the appeal will be final and conclusive and will not be set aside by a Court unless fraudulent, arbitrary, or capricious, or so grossly erroneous as to imply bad faith. No determination on an issue of law will be final if appropriate legal action is instituted in a timely manner (Section 2.2-4365 of the Code of Virginia).

### Disposal of Surplus Property

#### Policy

Property no longer needed by Colonial Behavioral Health will be reported to the General Services Office as surplus property. Surplus property is generally defined as that which has been designated as excess, obsolete or used beyond economic repair. It will be disposed of in accordance with one of the disposal methods noted under "Disposal Methods."

#### Disposal Methods

The methods authorized for disposal of surplus property include:

- Donations - CBH may donate property to a not-for-profit organization. Also, property that is deemed to have rare or historical value may be donated to an appropriate organization.



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- Destruction of Abandonment - Property, which is unusable, beyond economic repair and determined to have no commercial value, or the cost of sale would exceed the expected returns, may be destroyed or abandoned.
- Negotiated Sale - If competitive methods (public auctions or sealed bid) have been attempted with no success and no other public agency desires the property, it may be sold at a negotiated price.
- On-Line Auctions - CBH surplus property may be sold through internet on-line auctions. Items will be sold to the highest bidder(s) on an "as is, where is" basis with no warranties given. Payment will be Wire Transfer, PayPal, or credit cards only. The General Services Officer will oversee the on-line auction process which involves identifying auction items; photographing items; posting; monitoring auction; payment; and pick up.
- Public Auction - Surplus property may be sold to the general public at public auction on an "as is, where is" basis to the highest bidder(s). Auction notices may be placed in area newspapers and/or posted on CBH website.
- Sale to Another Public Agency - Surplus property may be sold to another public agency (CBH, county, etc.) at a fair market value.
- Sealed Bid - Surplus property may be listed in an Invitation for Bids. This procedure is handled similar to the purchase of goods except the items are sold to the highest bidder(s) on an "as is, where is" basis.
- Set Price - If other methods are not practicable, surplus property may be priced at a fair market value and offered for sale to the public on a first come, first served basis. Notice of these sales may be placed in area newspapers and/or on CBH website.
- Trade-in - Surplus property may be traded in on the purchase of other similar type of equipment, i.e., surplus office equipment traded in for new office equipment or a van traded in on a new vehicle. The items to be traded in will be fully described in an Invitation for Bids for new equipment and the low bidder will be determined by subtracting the price offered on the trade in from the price quoted on the new item.