

Purpose

Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions (Hereafter referred to as the “Agency”) is committed to developing an inclusive supply chain that reflects and centres its mission, values, principles and approach to equity and Indigenous Justice. The purpose of this procurement policy is to ensure all publicly funded goods and services are acquired through a process that is open, fair (equitable) and transparent.

As such, the Agency will employ clearly defined methods as per the current policy to ensure diverse suppliers are aware of the opportunities available and are able to participate. The Agency is also committed to ensuring its procurement process and the delivery of goods and services are environmentally safe and community friendly.

The policy is based on the following key principles:

- **Accountability** – The Agency must be accountable for the results of its procurement decisions and the appropriateness of the processes.
- **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion** – The Agency is steadfast in its commitment to develop and manage a supply chain that is equitable (fair) and inclusive towards ensuring equality of access, enhanced innovation, and access to new and historically marginalized suppliers.
- **Process Standardization** – Standardized processes remove inefficiencies and create an equitable and inclusive approach.
- **Quality Service Delivery** – Services provided by the Agency must receive the right product, at the right time, in the right place.
- **Social and Sustainable** – The agency is committed to being socially and economically just in its procurement of goods and services while minimizing damage to the environment.
- **Transparency** – The Agency must be transparent to all stakeholders. Wherever possible, stakeholders must have equal access to information on procurement opportunities, processes and results.
- **Value for Money** – The Agency must maximize the value it receives from the use of public funds. A value-for-money approach aims to deliver goods and services at the optimum total lifecycle cost.

Code of Ethics

The Ontario Broader Public Sector (BPS) Supply Chain Code of Ethics (Refer to Appendix “A”) has been adopted by the Agency. The Agency will ensure that the Code is available and visible to all members of the organization and to suppliers and community partners involved with the Supply Chain process.

Definitions

Refer to Appendix “B” for definitions.

Application of this Policy

This policy applies to Board members, senior executives and employees of the agency.

This policy applies to all goods, construction, and services, including but not limited to Information Technology (IT) and consulting services acquired by the Agency.

Procurement Policy

Exceptions & Exemptions to this Policy

Licensed Professional, Specific Services for Agency Clients and utilities are exempt from this policy (Refer to Appendix “C” for more details).

Where the Agency has relied on an exception or exemption to this policy, the rationale for the exception or exemption must be formally documented.

The Agency must demonstrate:

- The rationale for selection of the particular supplier over available suppliers
- How fees charged are commensurate with services being procured

Exemptions and exceptions relate to the procurement of the goods/or services only. All other requirements of the policy apply, including documentation, contract management, supplier management, etc.

Segregation of Duties

The Agency must segregate at least three of the five functional procurement roles: Budgeting, Commitment, Requisitioning, Receipt, and Payment. The roles must lie with different departments or, at minimum with different individuals.

Approval Authority Schedule (AAS)

Prior to commencement, any procurement must be approved by the appropriate approval authority.

- Manager - Up to \$1000
- Senior Manager – Up to \$5000
- Executive Director or Director of Finance – Over \$5000

The total value of procurement includes cost of freight, installation but not taxes. For multi-year procurements, the total projected value for the entire period of the anticipated agreement including optional renewals must be used; multiple purchases may not be used to circumvent competitive procurements.

Procurement of Goods & Non-Consulting Services

The Agency has established an approval authority schedule (AAS) for procurement of goods and non-consulting services. This schedule reflects the different dollar thresholds and the related procedure and approval authority.

For deviations from the AAS procedures for procurement of goods and non-consulting services, the level of approval authority must shift one level higher than the level as stated in the AAS.

Consulting Services

Procurement of consulting services must be approved by a Director or the Executive Director. Deviations from the AAS for procurement of consulting services must be approved as follows:

- Non-competitive procurement of consulting services up to \$50,000 must be approved by Executive Director.
- Non-competitive procurement of consulting services of \$50,000 or more requires Board of Directors approval.

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Criteria and Process for bids

The Agency will develop and deploy an inclusive and equitable request for proposal and evaluation process for all bids/tenders that reflects the Agency's goals, mission, and values.

The request for proposals and evaluation process shall include:

- The Agency's commitment to equity, diverse and inclusion and its expectation of supplier alignment.
- The Agency's objectives and criteria for selecting a successful vender/bid.
- The Agency's evaluation criteria and notification process
- The Agency's minimum vendor requirements and expectations in terms of certification, capacity, capability, and compliance
- Compliance with BOBI

Solicitation, Selection and Evaluation Tools

It is of utmost importance that the evaluation and selection process is fair, transparent, and consistent.

The identification and selection of vendors that meet the Agency's objectives and criteria can be done through various methods and tools such as a request for proposal (RFP), request for quotation (RFQ), or request for information (RFI) with an embedded scorecard to rank and rate suppliers based on the Agency's predefined criteria and weights.

The Agency may choose to verify a vender's diversity status along with the credentials and capabilities of a vendor (regardless of diversity status) by requesting and reviewing certification documents, references, financial statements, quality certifications, insurance policies and other relevant information.

The Agency may also choose to do site visits, audits, or trials to observe and test the suppliers' facilities, processes, products, or services

Information Gathering

Where results of informal supplier or product research are insufficient, formal processes such as a Request for Information (RFI) or Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) may be used if warranted, taking into consideration the time and effort required to conduct them.

A response to RFI or RFEI must not be used to pre-qualify a potential supplier and must not influence the chances of the participating suppliers from becoming the successful proponent in any subsequent opportunity.

Supplier Pre-qualification

Suppliers may be prequalified to:

- Gather information about supplier capabilities and qualifications for an immediate purchase.
- Gather information about supplier capabilities in advance of expected future competitive procurements.

In development of "Request for Supplier Qualification" the Agency must include language to ensure there is no obligation to purchase goods or services as the result of prequalification.

Competitive Bid

Competitive bid documents must be made available through an electronic tendering system that is readily accessible by all Canadian suppliers, such as MERX or Ontario Public Buyers Association.

Response times for vendors to bid must be a minimum 15 days for procurements valued at \$121,200 or more. For procurements with a higher degree of complexity, risk or value, a minimum response time of 30

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days is required. For procurements valued at \$353,300 or higher, the minimum response time shall comply with the requirements of CETA (Canada European Trade Agreement).

Competitive procurement documents must clearly identify a bid submission date and time which falls on a regular working day (Monday to Friday, excluding holidays). Submissions received after the closing time must be returned unopened.

Competitive procurement documents must include bid dispute resolution procedures to ensure that any bid disputes are handled in fair, ethical, reasonable and timely fashion. The Agency must ensure that such resolution procedures comply with similar procedures set out in the Agreements on Internal Trade.

Evaluation of Bids

Evaluation criteria must be developed, reviewed and approved at the Director level.

Competitive Procurement Documents

Competitive procurement documents must:

- Disclose evaluation criteria:
 - Must be disclosed in the procurement documents.
 - Must include mandatory, rated, and other criteria that will be used in evaluation of submissions, including the weight of each criterion.
 - Maximum justifiable weight must be allocated to the cost/price component of the evaluation.
 - Criteria may not be structured to discriminate or provide preferential treatment to any supplier.
 - Mandatory criteria must be kept to a minimum to ensure that no bid is unnecessarily disqualified.
 - Must ensure compliance with Building Ontario Businesses Initiative
- Clearly state that bids not meeting mandatory requirements will be disqualified.
- Disclose the methodology that will be used to evaluate bids, including the method of resolving a tie score.
- Clearly state that alternative strategies or solutions will not be considered unless specifically requested in the procurement documents.
- Include any options to extend the agreement.

Competitive procurement documents may request suppliers to provide alternative strategies or solutions as part of their submission. If such a request is included, the procurement documents must disclose the criterion that will be used to evaluate alternative strategies and solutions.

Evaluation Process

The Agency shall create evaluation teams for the purpose of evaluating competitive bids.

Evaluation Teams must:

- Be aware of restrictions related to use of confidential and commercially sensitive information collected through the procurement process.
- Refrain from engaging in activities that create or appear to create a conflict of interest.
- Individually sign a conflict-of-interest declaration and non-disclosure agreement
- Individually and independently complete an evaluation matrix to rate each submission.
- Ensure that all commentary or ratings are fair, factual, and defensible.
- Not discriminate or exercise preferential treatment in awarding contracts as the result of the competitive procurement process
- Declare the winning bid according to the supplier that receives the highest evaluation score and meets all the mandatory requirements set out in the procurement documents.

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Establishing & Awarding Contracts

The agreement between the Agency and the successful supplier from the competitive procurement process must be formally defined in a signed written contract before the provision or supplying of goods or services commences. Where the competitive procurement documents included a form of agreement, that form is to be used to finalize the agreement. Where an alternative strategy has been used and there is no form of agreement in the procurement documents, the agreement between the Agency and the vendor must be defined formally in a signed contract, before delivery of the goods or services.

Where an immediate need exists for goods or services, and the Agency and supplier are unable to finalize the contract as described above, an interim purchase order may be used. The justification of such decision must be documented and approved by the appropriate signing authority.

Contracts must:

- Include appropriate cancellation or termination clauses
- For complex procurements including provision of professional services, the Agency should consider inclusion of assessment, cancellation or termination clauses at specific life cycle stages of the procurement
- Include dispute resolution clauses as per procurement documentation

Contracts for Services must include:

- Clear terms of reference including objectives, background, scope, constraints, staff responsibilities, tangible deliverables, timing, progress reporting, approval requirements and knowledge transfer requirements
- Include rules for expense claim and reimbursement rules which are compliant with the Broader Public Sector Expense Directive

Contracts and Agreements

A contract or an agreement will be used to finalize the terms and conditions of working with selected suppliers/vendors.

Acknowledgement & Feedback

Where possible, the Agency will provide feedback and/or recognition to all vendors who participated in the process especially where feedback is solicited or is vital to the bidder's future success.

Working with All Suppliers

The Agency will establish clear roles, responsibilities, and expectations for both parties.

The Agency will monitor and measure the performance and impact of the selected vendor using key performance indicators (KPIs), dashboards, or reports.

Considerations When Working with Diverse Suppliers:

- If and where welcomed, the Agency will provide regular feedback, guidance, and support to diverse suppliers towards their enhancement and growth.
- If and where welcomed, the Agency shall create opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and learning between diverse suppliers and the Agency's internal teams or other suppliers.
- The Agency to work with and develop diverse suppliers to help build long-term relationships that can enhance the Agency's overall efforts, reputation and engagement of staff and community.

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- If and where welcomed, the Agency will celebrate and share the success stories and best practices of diverse suppliers internally and externally.

Modifications to terms of agreements

- May only be made when the terms of agreements and options to extend the agreement have been set out in the original procurement documents.
- Must be approved at the Director level or higher.
- Extensions of agreement beyond those set out in the procurement documents where the extension affects the value and/or stated deliverables of the procurement is a non-competitive procurement and must be approved by the Executive Director.

Contract awards must be publicly posted for procurements valued at \$121,200 or more. In the same manner as the procurement documents. This award notification will:

- Be posted after the agreement for delivery of goods/services has been finalized.
- Include the name of the successful supplier.
- Include the start and end dates of the agreement.
- Include information on extension options.

For procurements valued at \$121,200 or more, the Agency must inform all unsuccessful suppliers concerning their entitlement to a supplier debriefing. The Agency must allow unsuccessful suppliers 60 calendar days following the contract award notification date to request a briefing.

Contract Management

The Agency shall ensure that:

- All procurements and the resulting contracts are managed responsibly and effectively.
- Payments are made in accordance with the terms of the contract; invoices must contain detailed information sufficient to warrant payment; and any overpayments are recovered in a timely manner.
- Supplier performance is managed and documented.
- Contracts for services include terms as outlined in this policy and that expense claims:
 - Are compliant with contract terms and with Broader Public Sector Expenses Directive
 - Are claimed only as explicitly permitted by the contract.
- All competitive procurement documentation and other pertinent information is retained in a recoverable format for seven (7) years including but not limited to:
 - Procurement justification or business case
 - All approvals
 - Evidence of receipt of deliverables
 - Where purchase was via a Vendor of Record, information concerning the process used to select the vendor.
 - Advertisements, RFI, vendor prequalification
 - All responses and submissions
 - Vendor consultations
 - Evaluations
 - Awards
 - Contracts
 - Payments
- The Agency shall handle, store, and maintain Supplier confidential and commercially sensitive information:
 - Staff handling and having access to this information are aware of the Agency's requirement to protect commercially sensitive information.

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Conflict of Interest

The Agency must monitor any conflict of interest that may arise as a result of any employee or other organization member, advisor, supplier or other stakeholder's involvement with supply chain activities. Individuals involved with supply chain activities must declare actual or potential conflicts of interest. Where a conflict arises, it must be evaluated, and appropriate mitigating action taken.

Bid Dispute Resolution Process:

For open competitive procurements over \$121,200, unsuccessful proponents may appeal the decision to the Agency. The Agency shall form a panel to hear the appeal. The composition of the panel shall consist of staff more senior than the most senior person on the evaluation panel. If the competitive process was found to be unfair, the Agency may cancel the competition or compensate the proponent with the cost of preparing for the proposal.

Credit Cards and Purchasing Cards

The use of credit cards or purchasing cards is restricted to certain employees on an as needed basis. Any new application for a credit card or purchasing card for an employee must be authorized by the CEO or CFO.

Use of Vendors of Record (VOR)

For procurements over \$25,000 except for construction related procurements, the Society shall use an existing applicable Vendor of Record (VOR) arrangement if an appropriate VOR is available; and ensure that all new contracts have a term not exceeding two years, including any extensions. Where these measures are not possible and/or appropriate, the Society must submit a Procurement Rationale Report to the ministry at least 45 days before the procurement is released to the vendor community.

Building Ontario Business Initiative (BOBI)

The Building Ontario Business Initiative (BOBI) came into effect on January 1, 2024, for all aspects of the legislation. The objective of BOBI is to leverage Ontario's public sector spending to help Ontario/local businesses.

Procuring Below Thresholds in Domestic Trade Agreements:

Purchases below thresholds in applicable domestic trade agreements, including goods and services below \$133,800, or construction below \$334,400, must procure goods and services from Ontario businesses wherever feasible.

An Ontario Business, for the purposes of the Act, must meet the following requirements:

1. The business is a supplier, manufacturer or distributor of any business structure that conducts its activities on a permanent basis in Ontario.
2. The business either
 - has its headquarters or main office in Ontario OR
 - has at least 250 full-time employees in Ontario at the time of the applicable procurement process.

Preference to Ontario businesses may be conducted in the following ways:

- Invite only Ontario businesses to submit a bid, where feasible OR
- Give Ontario bidders a point advantage. Buyers determine the point advantage to Ontario vendors. For example,
 - 10 points are added to the cumulative score of all Ontario bidders, where non-Ontario bidders are invited to submit a bid. Award the procurement to the bidder with the higher overall cumulative score.

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For purchases exceeding \$3,000, the Society can take the above definitions of an Ontario Business and have the supplier, manufacturer, or distributor attest to meeting the definition of an Ontario Business when procuring goods or services, if applicable. If not, they must clarify whether they are a Canadian business, based on the Canadian business definition or other.

If the supplier does not qualify as an Ontario or Canadian business, the Society shall select an exemption from the 'Allowable Exemptions Below the Domestic Trade Thresholds' checklist.

Procuring Below Thresholds in International Trade Agreements:

Purchases below thresholds in applicable international trade agreements, including goods and services below \$353,300, or construction below \$8,800,000, must give preference to Ontario or Canadian businesses, wherever feasible.

A Canadian Business, must meet the following requirements:

1. The business is a supplier, manufacturer or distributor of any business structure that conducts its activities on a permanent basis in Canada.
2. The business either
 - has its headquarters or main office in any province or territory within Canada, or
 - has at least 250 full-time employees in any one province or territory within Canada at the time of the applicable procurement process.

Procuring Above Thresholds in Trade Agreements, Domestic and International:

Purchases above monetary thresholds in trade agreements, including domestic and international, must use the following strategies, wherever feasible:

- Procure goods and services from Ontario businesses and businesses of Ontario's trading partners,
- Apply weighted domestic criteria in procurement evaluations (e.g. vendors to demonstrate how they meet Ontario's environmental and labour standards), and
- For procurements with an estimated value of \$50 million or more, include an Industrial Regional and Technology Benefit (IRTB) requirement for vendors. The IRTB requires vendors bidding on large procurements to detail how their proposals would provide local economic benefits for the province.

For procurements above monetary thresholds in trade agreements, domestic and international, BOBI related questions must be included in your RFP's and these questions must be weighted from 25% to 40% of the total value of an RFP's scoring.

Allowable Exemptions Below the Domestic Trade Thresholds (i.e. \$133,800 for Goods & Services / \$334,400 for Construction)

The following goods and services are not prescribed for the purposes of the Act:

1. A good or service required for an emergency.
2. A good or service procured pursuant to a standing offer, vendor of record arrangement or a multiuse list.
3. A good or service procured for commercial sale or resale or for use in the production of a good or service intended for commercial sale or resale.
4. The services of a lawyer, paralegal or notary public.
5. The services of an expert witness to be used in a court or legal proceeding.
6. A good or service that is not available from an Ontario business.

Appendix “A”

Ontario Broader Public Sector Supply Chain Code of Ethics

Goal: To ensure an ethical, professional and accountable BPS supply chain.

I. Personal Integrity and Professionalism

Individuals involved with Supply Chain Activities must act, and be seen to act, with integrity and professionalism. Honesty, care and due diligence must be integral to all Supply Chain Activities within and between BPS organizations, suppliers and other stakeholders. Respect must be demonstrated for each other and for the environment. Confidential information must be safeguarded. Participants must not engage in any activity that may create, or appear to create, a conflict of interest, such as accepting gifts or favours, providing preferential treatment, or publicly endorsing suppliers or products.

II. Accountability and Transparency

Supply Chain Activities must be open and accountable. In particular, contracting and purchasing activities must be fair, transparent and conducted with a view to obtaining the best value for public money. All participants must ensure that public sector resources are used in a responsible, efficient and effective manner.

III. Compliance and Continuous Improvement

Individuals involved with purchasing or other Supply Chain Activities must comply with this Code of Ethics and the laws of Canada and Ontario. Individuals should continuously work to improve supply chain policies and procedures, to improve their supply chain knowledge and skill levels, and to share leading practices.

Appendix “B”

Definitions

“Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, AODA” As per Ontario Regulation 191/11 made under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions will incorporate accessibility criteria and features when procuring, goods, services and facilities, except where it is not practical to do so.

“Accountability” means the obligation of an employee, agent or other person to answer for or be accountable for, work, action or failure to act following delegated authority.

“Agreement” means the formal written document that will be entered into at the end of the procurement process.

“Approval Authority” means the authority delegated by the Organization to a person designated to occupy a position to approve on its behalf one or more procurement functions within the plan-to-pay cycle up to specified dollar limits subject to the applicable legislation, regulations and procedures in effect at such time.

“Award” means the notification to a proponent of acceptance of a proposal, quotation or tender that brings a contract into existence.

“Best value” means the optimal balance of performance and cost determined in accordance with a pre-defined evaluation plan; best value may include a time horizon that reflects the overall life cycle of a given asset.

“Blanket purchase contract” means any contract for the purchase of goods and services which will be required frequently or repetitively but where the exact quantity of goods and services required may not be precisely known or the time period during which the goods and services are to be delivered may not be precisely determined.

“Bid” means a proposal, quotation or tender submitted in response to a solicitation from a contracting authority. A bid covers the response to any of the three principal methods of soliciting bids, i.e., Request for Proposal, Request for Tender and Request for Quotation.

“Bid Protest” means a dispute raised against the methods employed or decisions made by a contracting authority in the administration of a proposal, tender, or quotation process.

“Building Ontario Businesses Initiative” Act of the Ontario Legislature that requires the public sector to favour Ontario Businesses in procurement activities.

“Canadian Business” is a commercial enterprise that is Incorporated pursuant to the laws of Canada and has ongoing business activities in Canada.

“Competitive Procurement” means a set of procedures for developing a procurement contract through a bidding or proposal process. The intent is to solicit fair, impartial, competitive bids.

“Conflict of Interest” means a situation in which financial or other personal considerations have the potential to compromise or bias professional judgment and objectivity. An apparent conflict of interest is one in which a reasonable person would think that the professional’s judgment is likely to be compromised.

“Construction” means construction, reconstruction, demolition, repair or renovation of a building, structure or other civil engineering or architectural work and includes site preparation, excavation, drilling, seismic investigation, the supply of products and materials, the supply of equipment and machinery if they are included in and incidental to the construction, and the installation and repair of fixtures of a building, structure or other civil engineering or architectural work, but does not include professional consulting services related to the construction contract unless they are included in the procurement.

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“Consultant” means a person or entity that under an agreement, other than an employment agreement, provides expert or strategic advice and related services for consideration and decision-making. A consultant provides expert or strategic advice related to operational consideration and decision-making and not to clinical or case management decision making. A consultant does not include services associated with implementing projects once a strategic decision has been made by Management.

“Consulting Services” means the provision of expertise or strategic advice that is presented for consideration and decision-making. Consulting Services provide advice for operational consideration and decision making and not in relation to clinical or case management services.

“Contract” means an obligation, such as an accepted offer, between competent parties upon a legal consideration, to do or abstain from doing some act. It is essential to the creation of a contract that the parties intend that their agreement shall have legal consequences and be legally enforceable. The essential elements of a contract are an offer and an acceptance of that offer; the capacity of the parties to contract; consideration to support the contract; a mutual identity of consent or consensus ad idem; legality of purpose; and sufficient certainty of terms.

“Designated broader public sector organization” means an Organization to which section 12 of the *Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010* applies.

“Diverse Suppliers” means a business that is at least 51 percent owned, managed and controlled by members of equity-seeking communities or a social purpose enterprise. Equity seeking communities include, but are not limited to women of diverse gender identities, Indigenous Peoples, racialized persons, persons with disabilities, newcomers and the 2S-LGBTQ+ community.

“Electronic Tendering System” means a computer-based system that provides suppliers with access to information related to open competitive procurements.

“Evaluation Criteria” means a benchmark, standard or yardstick against which accomplishment, conformance, performance and suitability of an individual, alternative, activity, product or plan is measured to select the best supplier through a competitive process. Criteria may be qualitative or quantitative in nature.

“Evaluation Matrix” means a tool allowing the evaluation team to rate supplier proposals based on multiple pre-defined evaluation criteria.

“Evaluation Team” means a group of individuals designated/responsible to make award recommendation. The evaluation team would typically include representatives from the Organization and subject matter expert(s). Each member participates to provide business, legal, technical and financial input.

“Executive Director” means the head of operations at Organizations.

“Goods” means moveable property (including the costs of installing, operating, maintaining or manufacturing such moveable property) including raw materials, products, equipment and other physical objects of every kind and description whether in solid, liquid, gaseous or electronic form, unless they are procured as part of a general construction contract.

“Goods and Services/Goods or Services” means all goods and/or services including construction, consulting services and information technology.

“Information Technology” means the equipment, software, services and processes used to create, store, process, communicate and manage information.

“Invitational Competitive Procurement” means any form of requesting a minimum of three (3) qualified suppliers to submit a written proposal in response to the defined requirements outlined by an individual/organization.

Procurement Policy

“Members of an Organization” means all trustees, members of the board of directors, senior executives, and employees of the Organization, or their equivalent.

“Non-discrimination” means fairness in treating suppliers and awarding contracts without prejudice, discrimination, or preferred treatment.

“Offer” means a promise or a proposal made by one party to another, intending the same to create a legal relationship upon the acceptance of the offer by the other party.

“Ontario Business” means a supplier, manufacturer or distributor of any business structure that conducts its activities on a permanent basis in Ontario. The business either has its headquarters or main office in Ontario or has at least 250 full-time employees in Ontario at the time of the applicable procurement process.

“Other Organizational Member” includes but is not limited to agency executives, Board of Directors and volunteers.

“Procurement” means acquisition by any means, including by purchase, rental, lease or conditional sale, of goods or services.

“Procurement Card (P-Card)” means an organizational credit card program primarily used for low-cost, non-inventory, non-capital items, such as office supplies. The card allows procurement or field employees to obtain goods and services without going through the requisition and authorization procedure. P-cards may be set up to restrict use to specific purchases with pre-defined suppliers or stores and offer central billings.

“Procurement Policies and Procedures (PPP)” means a framework and mandatory requirements to govern how Organizations conduct sourcing, contracting, and purchasing activities, including approval segregation and limits, competitive and non-competitive procurement, conflict of interest and contract awarding.

“Procurement Value” means the estimated total financial commitment resulting from procurement, taking into account optional extensions.

“Professional service supplier” means a supplier of services requiring professional skills for a defined service requirement including: Lawyers, Psychologists, management and financial consultants; and firms or individuals having specialized competence in planning or other disciplines

“Purchase Order (PO)” means a written offer made by a purchaser to a supplier formally stating the terms and conditions of a proposed transaction.

“Purchase requisition” means a written or electronically produced request in an approved format and duly authorized to obtain goods or services.

“Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI)” means a document used to gather information on supplier interest in an opportunity or information on supplier capabilities/qualifications. This mechanism may be used when a BPS organization wishes to gain a better understanding of the capacity of the supplier community to provide the services or solutions needed. A response to a RFEI must not pre-qualify a potential supplier and must not influence their chances of being the successful proponent on any subsequent opportunity.

“Request for Information (RFI)” means a document issued to potential suppliers to gather general supplier, service or product information. It is a procurement procedure whereby suppliers are provided with a general or preliminary description of a problem or need and are requested to provide information or advice about how to better define the problem or need, or alternative solutions. A response to an RFI must not pre-qualify a potential supplier and must not influence their chances of being the successful proponent on any subsequent opportunity.

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“Request for Proposal (RFP)” means a document used to request suppliers to supply solutions for the delivery of complex products or services or to provide alternative options or solutions. It is a process that uses predefined evaluation criteria in which price is not the only factor.

“Request for Supplier Qualifications (RFSQ)” means a document used to gather information on supplier capabilities and qualifications, with the intention of creating a list of pre-qualified suppliers. This mechanism may be used either to identify qualified candidates in advance of expected future competitions or to narrow the field for an immediate need. Organizations must ensure that the terms and conditions built into the RFSQ contain specific language that disclaims any obligation on the part of the Organization to call on any supplier to provide goods or services as a result of the pre-qualification.

“Requisition” means a formal request to obtain goods or services made within an organization, generally from the end-user to the procurement department.

“Sealed bid” means a formal sealed response received as a part of a quotation, tender or proposal.

“Segregation of Duties” means a method of process control to manage conflict of interest, the appearance of conflict of interest, and errors or fraud. It restricts the amount of power held by any one individual. It puts a barrier in place to prevent errors or fraud that may be perpetrated by one individual.

“Services” means intangible products that do not have a physical presence. No transfer of possession or ownership takes place when services are sold, and they (1) cannot be stored or transported, (2) are instantly perishable, and (3) come into existence at the time they are bought and consumed.

“Social procurement” means a process whereby organizations meet their needs for goods or services while achieving value for money and generating benefits to the organization, the society and the economy, while minimizing damage to the environment. It is about capturing those impacts and seeking to make intentional, positive contributions to both the broader economy and the overall vibrancy of the community.

“Supplier/Vendor” means any person or organization that, based on an assessment of that person’s or organization’s financial, technical and commercial capacity, is capable of fulfilling the requirements of procurement.

“Supply Chain Activities” means all activities whether directly or indirectly related to organizational plan, source, procure, move, and pay processes.

“Sustainable Procurement” means an approach that will be used in order to account for any other extrinsic elements and costs that involve environmental, social and economic impacts.

“Trade Agreements” means any applicable trade agreement to which Ontario is a signatory.

“Truth and Reconciliation Commitment” Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions will work to increase its Indigenous supplier base as per the procedure outlined in the current policy.

“Supplier Debriefing” means a practice of informing a supplier why their bid was not selected upon completion of the contract award process.

“Vendor of Record” (VOR) is a procurement arrangement resulting from a fair, open, transparent and competitive process that authorizes one or more qualified vendors to offer specific goods or services for a defined period of time on terms and conditions, including pricing and/or discounting, as set out in a particular VOR agreement

Appendix “C ”

Exemptions and Exceptions to Competitive Procurement Requirements

The agency should employ a competitive procurement process to achieve optimum value for money. It is recognized however that certain circumstances and activities may require the agency to use non-competitive procurement. The circumstances and activities that will be excluded from the competitive procurement requirements of this policy are noted below. These exceptions are generally consistent with the *Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)* or other trade agreements.

The exception is for a non-competitive procurement of the good or service that falls within the categories listed and is not an exemption with respect to the administration, documentation, contract management, or other requirement of the procurement policy.

Licensed Professional and Specific Services for Agency Clients:

The procurement of services from licensed professionals including medical doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, psychologists, lawyers, accountants and architects are exempted from competitive procurement requirements.

When procuring professional services, the agency will:

1. Clearly define the scope of services that are to be provided and monitor to ensure the services are received as defined.
2. That the credentials of the professional are checked, and they are in good standing.
3. That the institute that the professional received their credentials from is accredited.

Boarding rate expenditures including reimbursable expenses paid to Foster Parents and Outside Paid Resources; and support services for the care of children and youth that have been placed by the agency; and services for other individuals and families who are clients of the agency are also exempted from competitive procurement requirements.

Single Source Supply:

Where only one supplier is available to meet the requirements of the agency's procurement including the following circumstances:

- to ensure compatibility with existing products, to recognize exclusive rights, such as exclusive licenses, copyright and patent rights, or to maintain specialized products that must be maintained by the manufacturer or its representative.
- where there is an absence of competition where the goods or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no alternative or substitute exists.
- for work to be performed on behalf of the agency through a building lease agreement where the lessor will invoice costs back to the lessee.
- for work to be performed according to the provisions of a warranty or guarantee held in respect of the original work.

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- for the procurement of a prototype or a first good or service to be developed that may be needed for research purposes, a particular study or other original purposes.
- for the purchase of goods under duress such as bankruptcy or receivership, where the Agency has clearly documented the advantageous value that would be received.
- for the procurement of real property.

Limiting Circumstances:

Limiting circumstances may exist where inherent factors limit the procurement process that can be undertaken. Under limiting circumstances, the Agency can deviate from competitive procurement requirements provided it does not do so for the purpose of avoiding competition between suppliers or in order to discriminate against suppliers. Limiting circumstance may include:

- where goods or consulting services regarding matters of a confidential or privileged nature are to be purchased and the disclosure of those matters through an open tendering process could reasonably be expected to compromise the Agency confidentially, cause economic disruption or otherwise be contrary to the public interest.
- where compliance with open tendering provisions would interfere with the Agency's ability to maintain security or order.
- in the absence of a receipt of any bids in response to a call for tenders made in accordance with the policy.

Emergency Situations:

For the purpose of this procedure, an "Emergency" means a situation where the immediate purchase of goods and services is essential to prevent serious delays in service delivery or to prevent or remedy damage to agency property or to restore an essential service.

An "Emergency" includes an imminent or actual danger to the life, health or safety of an official or an employee while acting on the agency's behalf (e.g. emergency boiler repairs or replacement), an imminent or actual danger of injury to or destruction of real or personal property belonging to the agency. Under emergency circumstances, the Executive Director has the authority to take the necessary steps to address the emergency and will subsequently inform the Board of Directors of the actions taken setting out the details of any purchases made pursuant to this authority and the circumstances justifying the action taken.

Procurement Policy

List of referenced documents

Ref. #	Document Number and Hyperlink	Referenced Document
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Revision/Approval Record

Rev. #	Date of Revision	Summary of revision	Author	Approved by
Rev.00	Apr. 27, 2020	Initial release. Approved for implementation	Gordon Hill (Director of Finance and Property)	Geraldine Doley-Philips (Executive Director)
Rev.01	Nov. 28, 2024	Overall review of policy and format review for ease of reading. Reviewed and revised approval limits.	Gordon Hill (Director of Finance and Property)	Geraldine Doley-Philips (Executive Director)