



Office of Financial Management

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Policy Revision

SECTION 9 PROCUREMENT AND PROCESSING - PURCHASING NUMBER 9.1 Purchasing Policies

It is the policy of the BOCC that all purchases and commitments to purchase from budgeted funds shall be made in compliance with the Local Government Budget Law of Colorado.

As fully stated in Policy 1.6, racial equity is one of the county's strategic priorities and the county has a moral responsibility to interrupt institutional racism that manifests through racist laws, policies, practices and behaviors. Local procurement reform offers a powerful opportunity to spend wisely and deliver the best service possible, spur economic development in underserved communities, and address longstanding systematic inequities that lock minority- and women-owned business enterprises ("MWBEs") out of opportunities. More open, transparent, and outcome-driven procurement processes can help the county leverage its spending power to bolster the economic wellbeing and equity of Boulder County. Accordingly, the county intends to provide the maximum practicable opportunity for increased participation by MWBEs, and to ensure that county contracting and procurement practices do not support discrimination in employment and services when the county procures public works, goods, and services from the private sector.

Purchasing shall exercise its discretion in making purchases where quality as well as price and service is involved. It is not the intent of this policy to cover every possible situation. Questions arising from the use of this manual or in the handling of situations not covered herein should be directed to Purchasing.

Nothing in this policy or the procedure manual is meant to limit the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners in awarding bids or otherwise making purchasing decisions.

G. MWBE Procurement and Contracting

Purchasing, with the support of the BOCC, will make changes in county procurement and contracting requirements to make it easier for MWBE firms to do business with Boulder County. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Increasing outreach to MWBEs by partnering with community-based organizations such as Boulder SBDC, Workforce Boulder County, and OEDIT;
2. Posting bid opportunities on social media, using the Boulder County main social media accounts;
3. Adjusting evaluation criteria in RFPs so that the criteria are not overly restrictive or stringent for MWBE firms when feasible;

4. Review the extent to which solicitation times of some RFPs may create barriers for MWBE participation and, if so, consider extending those solicitations when feasible;

5. In coordination with Risk Management, review insurance requirements for certain bids and contracts to ensure that they do not create barriers for MWBEs in the context of the nature and degree of risk to the county;

6. Maintain one online bidding platform to enhance engagement opportunities and provide a simplified intake process.

Approved by the Board of County Commissioners:

Date: _____

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Initials: _____

Attest: _____

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