Have You Met the Authorities?

A Municipal Authority is defined as a special-purpose governmental unit in Pennsylvania. It is an alternate vehicle for accomplishing public purposes without the direct action of counties, municipalities and school districts. These purposes commonly include the acquisition, financing, construction and operation of projects such as water supply and sewer systems, airports, transit systems, parking garages, flood control systems, parks, and similar entities. A board appointed by the establishing government or governments oversees each authority.

There are a number of Authorities in Pennsylvania and they purchase a variety of products and services. This newsletter will introduce you to a few in Allegheny County and provide information on doing business with them. To view an extensive list of Authorities within Pennsylvania access http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:MunicipalAuthorities_in_Pennsylvania.

Port Authority of Allegheny County

The Port Authority of Allegheny County provides public transportation services throughout Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. It is responsible for operating, maintaining and supporting bus, light rail, incline and paratransit services. The Port Authority spends millions of dollars to purchase materials, goods, supplies and services necessary to provide transportation services - everything from rock salt to constructing transportation projects. The Port Authority advertises its procurements in local newspapers and also maintains a bidder’s list. If you are on the bidder’s list you will receive the bid documents for their publicly advertised solicitations. The Port Authority also purchases small parts and services needed to maintain their facilities. If you are interested in finding out about these purchases you should contact the purchasing department directly. To find out more about doing business with the Port Authority access their procurement web page at http://www.portauthority.org/paac/CompanyInfoProjects/DoingBusiness/Procurement.aspx.

Pittsburgh Parking Authority

The Pittsburgh Parking Authority provides and maintains spaces for vehicle parking throughout the City of Pittsburgh. Their purchases range from architect/engineering and construction services to office equipment & supplies and janitorial services. Depending on the particular item or service, the Parking Authority may purchase on a spot-buy, semi-annually or annually. Letter bids or Inquiry bids under $10,000 are mailed or phone calls are made to three potential bidders. These bids are not advertised. The Parking Authority maintains a bidder’s mailing list that you can download from their website. Commodity and service contracts over $10,000 are advertised in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette and Pittsburgh Courier. They are sealed competitive bids awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. To find out more about doing business with the Pittsburgh Parking Authority access http://www.pittsburghparking.com/doing-business-with-ppa.
Allegheny County Housing Authority

The mission of the Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) is to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing for eligible low-income families and senior citizens in Allegheny County. To do so, ACHA purchases a wide range of products and services such as construction and maintenance, building materials, office equipment and supplies, painting supplies, appliances, printing services and more. Small purchase procedures for construction (not exceeding $18,500) and professional services (not exceeding $40,000) may be quoted orally (in person or by phone), by fax or email, in writing or through e-procurement depending on the dollar value of the procurement. Sealed bids and competitive proposals must be solicited publicly by one or more of the following; advertising in newspapers or other print mediums of local or general interest, advertising in trade journals or publications (for construction), through e-procurement or on the ACHA website. Vendors interested in doing business with ACHA can complete and submit a Vendor Information Sheet and those companies interested in construction and maintenance projects can complete the Contractor Outline. To find out more about doing business with ACHA, access their website at http://www.achsng.com

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh

Like ACHA, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) provides safe, decent and affordable housing to senior citizens and low-income families in the city. They also purchase a variety of products and services to include architect/engineering, construction, building materials, vehicle repair, document storage and management, temporary staffing, printing, graphic design services and much more. A list of items and services procured by HACP can be found under their procurement search page. Companies can create a vendor profile on the HACP website. This will allow you to download procurements and subscribe to email notifications. To learn more about doing business with HACP access their webpage at http://www.hacp.org

Allegheny County Sanitary Authority

The Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) provides wastewater treatment services to 83 communities including the City of Pittsburgh. Its 59-acre treatment plant is one of the largest wastewater treatment facilities in the Ohio River Valley, processing up to 250 million gallons of wastewater daily. ALCOSAN purchases a wide variety of products and services to support its operations. Other than the necessary wastewater treatment supplies, services, and construction projects needed, ALCOSAN also purchases safety supplies, general hardware items, rodent control services, uniform supply services, lab products, and much more. ALCOSAN contracts valued at $18,000 and up are advertised in the legal ads. The Board of Directors awards contracts to the lowest responsible bidder who meets the contract specifications. Companies interested in being placed on a bid list for construction contracts can send a written request to the attention of the Engineering & Construction Department at ALCOSAN. To find out more about doing business with ALCOSAN access their webpage at http://www.alcosan.org.

Upcoming GACO Sponsored Events

04/18/13 – An Introduction to Complying with Labor Laws in Federal Government Contracts, NETL, Pittsburgh, PA
05/09/13 – FAR Seminar Series Parts 3&4 – Negotiated Procurement & Negotiation, RLA, Cranberry Township, PA
10/23/13 – 26th Annual Procurement Opportunities Fair, Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North, Mars, PA