
Review of Cooperative Procurement Procedures for Solicitations

Final Report

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E&I Cooperative Services' member-driven competitive solicitation process has been validated by the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) as being in compliance with generally accepted public procurement standards.

Final Report Excerpts

- ✔ "E&I solicitations are managed in accordance with generally accepted public procurement standards used by most public agencies across the United States. Additionally, RFPs typically contain special requirements applicable to members on the RFP team, and solicitations consider diversity and environmental concerns."
 - ✔ "E&I's procurement operation compares well to both the American Bar Association's (ABA) Model Procurement Code and NIGP's Practices Statements on "Cooperatives." Both of these are important for different but complementary reasons. The Model Procurement Code provides the elements for a well thought out legal and procedural framework for procurement in a governmental entity. NIGP's Practices Statements on "Cooperatives" provide a framework for cooperative purchasing guidance and practices."
 - ✔ "The E&I staff is highly dedicated, energetic and committed to helping their clients. E&I has a highly experienced and professional staff dedicated to creating contracts through competitive solicitations. The staff has implemented many of the previously recommended changes to the program that were necessary to bring the solicitations into compliance with generally accepted governmental purchasing procedures."
 - ✔ "E&I contracting staff use highly developed techniques to assess proposals and to ensure that offerings are of high value to its membership. Of particular note is E&I's "Contracts Analytics Program" which is used to assess the value of vendor offerings. The Contract Analytics program is one of the most advanced and effective tools available in the public procurement community to gather data to create high quality contracts in a logical and systematic manner. It is truly impressive."
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- ✔ “E&I staff do a spectacular job of researching the market and determining how well each proposal serves the needs of their members. Their Contracts Analytical Program tool is very thorough and effective.”
- ✔ “E&I is dedicated to helping members meet their sustainability goals. E&I supports sustainability commitment by having an extensive portfolio of suppliers dedicated to providing high-quality environmentally preferable products and services. E&I contracts have sustainable terms and conditions.”
- ✔ “E&I strives to be inclusive of diverse business partners and has an effective Diversity Business Partner program to ensure that businesses of diverse backgrounds and ownership have opportunity to become valued suppliers. In order to qualify as a Business Partner Diversity Program, potential business partners must meet generally accepted definitions of minority-owned, women-owned, disadvantaged, and local business enterprises. E&I tracks typical minority statuses.”
- ✔ “Concerning the RFP evaluation techniques, the Review Team commends E&I for its advanced and thorough methodology. Few governmental entities have the resources to conduct the detailed analyses that E&I conducts. This results in high quality awards.”
- ✔ “The NIGP Consultant’s conclusion is that E&I operates at the high performing public procurement level. This includes its communication tools, openness to vendors, transparency with members, technology usage and solicitation evaluation techniques.”

- ✔ “The NIGP Consultant conducted a thorough analysis of E&I’s procurement function including a review of policies, processes and documentation. E&I complies with generally accepted public procurement standards across the nation. In the opinion of the NIGP Consultant, the competitive RFP process of E&I is in substantial compliance with the ABA’s 2000 Model Procurement Code and NIGP’s Practices and Principles Statements on ‘Cooperatives.’”

To learn more about the Cooperative, please visit www.eandi.org.



E&I Cooperative Services (E&I) is the member-owned, not-for-profit sourcing cooperative delivering expertise, solutions and services to education and related institutions. E&I provides members with access to a diverse portfolio of competitively awarded contracts, electronic procurement platforms and consulting services to help them source effectively. By leveraging the knowledge and expertise of more than 4,000 member institutions, E&I helps members reduce costs and optimize supply chain efficiencies.