

**Gaston County
2020
Procurement and Disbursement Policy
URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM**

PROCUREMENT POLICY

1. To the maximum extent practical, Gaston County (the County) promotes a fair, open and competitive procurement process as required under the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency's Urgent Repair Program (URP). Bids are invited from Contractors who are part of the County's approved contractor registry. (To be on the registry, a contractor must complete an application, have their recent work reviewed and approved by the Program Manager and submit proof of insurance.) Any contractor listed with and approved by the County and in good standing (i.e., no unresolved, past-performance issues) receives automatic approval status on the contractor registry.
2. At least three eligible contractors on the County's approved contractor registry will be invited to bid on each job and the lowest responsive and responsible bidder will be selected for the contract. "Responsive and responsible" means (a) the contractor is deemed able to complete the work in a timely fashion, (b) the bid is within 15% below or 20% above the County's cost estimate, and (c) there is no conflict of interest (real or apparent).
3. Although bid packages may be bundled for multiple job sites, the bids for multiple job sites will be considered separate and apart when awarded and will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder(s) for each job site.
4. Bid packages will consist of an invitation to bid, work write up(s) and bid sheet(s) for each job.
5. Bids must include a cost-per-item breakdown with line item totals equaling the submitted bid price. Discrepancies must be reconciled prior to a contract being awarded.
6. Any change to the original scope of work must be reduced to writing in the form of a change order to be agreed upon and signed by all parties to the original contract and two representatives of the County. The change order must also detail any changes to the original contract price.
7. No work may begin prior to the following documents being awarded and fully executed: a loan between the County and the homeowner and a contract between the vendor and the County; additionally, a written order to proceed will be provided by the County to the contractor, with a copy to the homeowner, clearly stating the times available for construction activities. In addition, a pre-construction conference and "walk thru" shall be held at the work site prior to commencement of repair work.
8. The County reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time during the procurement process.

9. In the event of a true emergency situation, the County reserves the right to waive normal procurement procedures in favor of more expedient methods, which may include seeking telephone quotes, emails, faxed bids and the like. Should such methods ever become necessary the transaction will be fully documented. In the event phone bids are used, the County will call the first three responsive contractors on the approved contractor list who have indicated a desire to be on the telephone call list. The County will track who has been called and is responsive and will rotate through the list before starting through the rotation again.
10. All sealed bids will be opened publicly at a time and place to be announced in the bid invitation. All bidders are welcome to attend.
11. Gaston County is an equal opportunity employer, implements nondiscriminatory practices in its procurement/disbursement and will make special outreach efforts to include M/WBE (Minority/Women Business Enterprise) businesses within its contractor and subcontractor pool.

DISBURSEMENT POLICY

1. All repair work must be inspected by (a) the County's Program Manager and/or the Housing Rehab Specialist, and (b) the homeowner prior to any payments to contractors. Also, Code Enforcement Officers will inspect new work for compliance with the State Building Code as required by the guidelines of URP20. If all work is deemed satisfactory and all other factors and written agreements are in order, payment will be issued upon presentation of an original invoice from the contractor. Contractor should allow 21 business days for processing of the invoice for payment.
2. If any of the work is deemed unsatisfactory, it must be corrected prior to authorization of payment. If the contractor fails to correct the work to the satisfaction of the County's Program Manager, payment may be withheld until such time the work is satisfactory. (Contractors may follow the County's Urgent Repair Program Assistance Policy if a dispute occurs; however, contractors will abide by the final decision as stated in the policy).
3. The County assures, through this policy, that adequate funds will be available to pay the contractor for satisfactory work.
4. All contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers must sign a lien waiver prior to disbursement of funds.
5. At project closeout a certificate of final inspection will be done by the Program Manager indicating that work has been satisfactorily completed in accordance with the contract.

The Procurement and Disbursement Policies are adopted this the 23rd day of
June 2020.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Commissioners

Notary Public

CONTRACTORS STATEMENT:

I have read and understand the attached Procurement and Disbursement Policy.

BY:

COMPANY NAME:

WITNESS:
