

## **Contractor Responsibility Ordinance**

Bidders/Proposers are advised that any contract awarded pursuant to this procurement process shall be subject to the provisions of Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.40 et seq., Contractor Responsibility Ordinance (CRO). Bidders/Proposers shall refer to Appendix/Attachment \_\_\_\_, "Contractor Responsibility Ordinance," for further information regarding the requirements of the Ordinance.

All Bidders/Proposers shall complete and return, with their proposal, the Responsibility Questionnaire included in the Appendix/Attachment. Failure to return the completed Questionnaire may result in a Bidder/Proposer being deemed non-responsive.

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY ORDINANCE**  
**(Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.40 et seq.)**

**1. What is the Contractor Responsibility Ordinance?**

The Contractor Responsibility Ordinance (CRO) requires that each department make a determination as to whether prospective contractors are responsible and capable of fully performing the work before being awarding a City contract. The Ordinance also requires prospective contractors to complete a Responsibility Questionnaire that will be posted on the internet for 14 calendar days for public review.

**2. When was the Ordinance adopted?**

The City Council adopted the CRO on November 21, 2000. Regulations implementing the Ordinance were adopted on June 19, 2001.

**3. Who is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Ordinance?**

Three departments were named as administrative agencies responsible for the administration of the CRO. Each Designated Administrative Agency (DAA) administers the Ordinance for a specific type of agreement. The three DAA's, the type of agreement each DAA is responsible for, and contact information for each DAA is provided in the table below.

Administrative Agency	Agreement Type	Contact Information
Public Works, BCA	Service	Russ Strazella (213) 580-5012
Public Works, BCA	Construction	Russ Struzella (213) 580-5012
General Services	Procurement	Raymond Richards (213) 485-4591

**4. Are all service, procurement, and construction agreements subject to the CRO?**

Generally, an agreement, including one processed as an Authorization for Expenditure (AFE) with a Letter of Agreement, is covered by the CRO if it meets one of the definitions below.

Service agreements: Agreements covered under the general category of a "service agreement" include:

- An agreement for \$25,000.00 or more and for at least three months in which a contractor will provide services to or for the City.
- An agreement for a lease or license of City property if the service to be performed on the property is something that City employees could perform.
- An agreement for the lease or license of City property that is in a location where a substantial number of the general public might visit.
- An agreement for the grant of City financial assistance for \$100,000 or more if the agreement is for the purpose of economic development or job growth. City financial

assistance may also include loans if certain conditions are met. (Refer to Sec. 10.40.0(b) of the CRO.)

Purchase agreements: Purchase agreements are covered if they are for \$100,000 or more. Agreements to purchase garments are covered if they are for \$25,000 or more.

Construction agreements: All construction agreements are covered, regardless of amount or term.

## **5. When did the Ordinance become applicable?**

The Ordinance is being applied to Invitations for Bids (IFB) (including Requests for Proposals, Requests for Qualifications, "sole-sourced" contracts, and any other procurement process) released to the public **on or after September 4, 2001**. An agreement entered into as a result of an IFB released prior to that date is not subject to the CRO unless it is amended after September 4, 2001, and the amended agreement meets the definitions stated in the answer to Question #4 above.

## **6. If an IFB is subject to the CRO, what must a department do?**

The department must inform prospective bidders/proposers that the CRO is applicable to the IFB. The department must also include the appropriate Responsibility Questionnaire for bidders/proposers to fill out. Depending on the type of contract to be awarded, one of three Questionnaires may be included in the IFB: Service; Procurement; and Construction.

## **7. What is a Responsibility Questionnaire?**

The Responsibility Questionnaire asks for information about the bidder/proposer: business organization or structure; financial resources and responsibility; performance history; prior disputes; and history in complying with laws. Before a department awards a contract, the department will consider information contained in the Questionnaire as part of the review of a bidder/proposer's responsibility, as well as any information contained in the Office of Contract Compliance's Contractor Evaluation database [<http://caodocs.ci.la.ca.us/ContEval/>] regarding the proposer's prior performance on City contracts.

## **8. What must a bidder/proposer do when responding to an IFB?**

If the IFB is subject to the CRO, the bidder/proposer must complete the Responsibility Questionnaire and return it to the City department with the bid/proposal. If a bidder/proposer does not submit a completed Questionnaire with the bid/proposal, the City department may consider the bidder/proposer to be non-responsive to the IFB and may disqualify the bidder/proposer from the rest of the IFB process.

## **9. Is a separate Questionnaire required for each IFB?**

Unless the IFB is exempt, a separate Questionnaire must be submitted for each IFB to which a bidder/proposer responds.

## **10. What will the City do with the Questionnaire?**

The department responsible for awarding the agreement will review the information contained in the submitted questionnaires, and if necessary, follow up with the bidder/proposer to clarify any information contained in the Questionnaire. The awarding authority will send the completed Questionnaires to the appropriate DAA. The DAA will post the Questionnaires on the City's Bidder/Contractor Responsibility website: [www.lacity.org/bidresp](http://www.lacity.org/bidresp). This posting also applies to "sole-sourced" contracts, so the completed Questionnaire from a proposed "sole-sourced" contractor must be forwarded to the appropriate DAA for posting.

## **11. How long will the Questionnaires be posted?**

The Questionnaires will be posted on the internet for 14 calendar days. Unless an exemption applies, a department cannot award an agreement until the posting requirement has been met.

## **12. What happens during the 14 calendar-day posting period?**

The general public will be able to review the Questionnaires posted. If, during the 14 calendar-day posting period, the DAA receives information that calls into question a bidder/proposer's responsibility, the DAA will investigate the matter. In that case, no agreement may be awarded until the DAA finishes its investigation. Information obtained during the investigation will be provided to the department to consider in its determination of a bidder/proposer's responsibility.

## **13. How does a department know that the posting requirement has been met?**

The awarding department should complete the top portion of the Posting Verification Form and forward it to the DAA along with the Questionnaires. The DAA will complete the bottom portion of the Posting Verification Form and return it to the department when the posting requirement has been met.

## **14. Are contract amendments subject to the CRO?**

If an agreement is amended after September 4, 2001, and the amended agreement meets the definitions stated in the answer to Question #4 above, it is subject to the CRO. Contractors do not have to submit a Questionnaire; however, the CRO Contract Language must be incorporated into the amended agreement.

## **15. After the agreement is awarded, or the agreement is amended, what does the CRO require the contractor to do?**

The CRO requires a contractor to:

- Comply with all federal, state, and local laws in the performance of the contract, including but not limited to laws regarding health and safety, labor and employment, wage and hours, and licensing laws, which affect employees.

- Notify the awarding authority within 30 calendar days after receiving notice that any governmental agency has started an investigation into violations of, or has found that the contractor has violated, any federal, state, or local law in the performance of the contract..
- When applicable, provide the awarding authority, within 30 calendar days, updated responses to the Questionnaire if a change occurs that would affect the contractor's responsibility and ability to continue the agreement.
- Ensure that subcontractors working on the City agreement comply with all federal, state, and local laws in the performance of the agreement.
- Ensure that subcontractors working on the City agreement submit a Pledge of Compliance to comply with the CRO.

#### **16. What happens if a contractor is found to be in violation of the Ordinance?**

The DAA will notify the contractor that a violation has been found and give the contractor 10 calendar days to correct the violation. If the contractor fails to do so, the City may terminate the agreement and pursue all available contractual remedies. The City may also hold a non-responsibility hearing and debar the contractor from doing business with the City for five (5) years.

#### **17. What about subcontractors?**

Subcontractors are subject to the CRO, and the contractor must ensure that each of its subcontractors complies with the CRO. Subcontractors do not need to complete a Questionnaire, but they must submit to the awarding department a Pledge of Compliance with the Ordinance before they can start work on a City agreement.

#### **18. What if a subcontractor is found to be in violation of the Ordinance?**

Because the prime contractor is responsible for ensuring that all its subcontractors comply with the CRO, the sanctions listed in the answer to Question #16 may be applied to the prime contractor if the subcontractor does not correct the violation(s).

#### **19. Are there any exemptions under the Ordinance?**

Generally, two categories of exemptions exist under the CRO:

(1) Agreements exempt from all the CRO requirements:

- Contracts with a governmental entity such as the United States of America, the State of California, a county, city or public agency of such entities, or a public or quasi-public corporation located therein and declared by law to have such status.
- Contracts for the investment of trust moneys or agreements relating to the management of trust assets.
- Banking contracts entered into by the Treasurer pursuant to California Government Code Section 53630 et seq.

(2) Agreements that are only exempt from the requirement that a bidder/proposer submit a Questionnaire. The contractor must still comply with all other CRO provisions.

- Agreements awarded on the basis of emergency circumstances when the awarding authority finds that the City would suffer a financial loss or that City operations would be adversely impacted. This exemption is subject to approval by the DAA.
- Agreements for goods or services that are proprietary or available from only one source. This exemption is subject to approval by the DAA.
- Agreements awarded under the authority of Charter Sections 371(e)(5), (6), (7) or (8). The awarding authority must certify in writing that the contract is entered into in compliance with the requirements of those Charter sections.

**20. Where can I obtain a copy of the Contractor Responsibility Ordinance and the Rules and Regulations?**

All CRO-related information and documents can be found on the CRO website:  
<http://www.lacity.org/bidresp>.