Good Faith Efforts Guideline

The following list includes good faith efforts that vendors may make in obtaining LEDE participation. It is not intended to be mandatory, exclusive, or exhaustive. Other factors or types of efforts may be relevant.

In determining whether a vendor has made a good faith effort, Columbus City Schools will examine not only the various kinds of efforts but also the quantity and intensity of those efforts. The Columbus City Schools may require vendors to provide supporting documentation as to their good faith efforts.

In order to award a contract to a vendor that has failed to meet LEDE participation goals, Columbus City Schools must be convinced that the vendor's efforts were those that, given all relevant circumstances, a vendor aggressively seeking to meet the goals would have made.

Attempts that are merely pro forma are not considered good faith efforts. Efforts to obtain LEDE participation are considered inadequate, even if they are sincerely motivated, if given all relevant circumstances, they could not reasonably be expected to produce a level of LEDE participation sufficient to meet the goals.

A vendor that fails to meet these requirements will be considered non-responsive. In evaluating a vendor's good faith efforts, Columbus City Schools may consider whether the vendor:

1. Attended any pre-bid meetings that were scheduled by Columbus City Schools;
2. Advertised in general circulation, trade association, and minority-focused media concerning subcontracting opportunities;
3. Provided written notice to a reasonable number of specific LEDEs that their interest in the contract is being solicited, in sufficient time to allow the LEDEs to participate effectively;
4. Followed initial solicitations of interest by contacting LEDEs to determine with certainty whether the LEDEs were interested;
5. Partitioned the work to increase the likelihood of meeting the LEDE goals, including, where appropriate, breaking the contracts into economically feasible units to facilitate LEDE participation;
6. Provided interested LEDEs with adequate information about the plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract;
7. Negotiated in good faith with interested LEDEs based on a thorough investigation of their capabilities, not rejecting LEDEs as unqualified without sound reasons;
8. Made efforts to assist interested LEDEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, or insurance as required by Columbus City Schools;
9. Effectively used the services of available minority community organizations; minority vendors groups; local, state and federal minority business assistance offices; and other organizations that help in the recruitment and placement of LEDEs.