

(II) THIS NOTICE SHALL BE REASONABLE IN TERMS OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCUREMENT BUT SHALL BE GIVEN AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE DUE.

(III) THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER SHALL REQUIRE THAT GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST BE IN WRITING.

(2) ~~(1)~~ IF THE PROCUREMENT AGENCY EXPECTS TO AWARD 1 OR MORE SERVICE CONTRACTS, EACH INVOLVING PAYMENT BY THE STATE TO THE SERVICE PROVIDER OF MORE THAN \$25,000, OR A LOWER THRESHOLD AMOUNT AS SET BY THE BOARD BY REGULATION, THE REQUEST FOR GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SHALL INDICATE THIS FACT --

~~(1)~~--THE-REQUEST AND SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MARYLAND REGISTER.

(3) IN ADDITION TO ANY NOTICE REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, PUBLIC NOTICE OF A REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST MAY BE GIVEN BY POSTING ON A BID BOARD, BY DIRECT SOLICITATION OF POTENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS, BY PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND TRADE JOURNALS, AND BY ANY OTHER MEANS CALCULATED TO REACH POTENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.

~~(c)~~ ~~(b)~~ (C) (1) TO SATISFY ALL OR PART OF THE STATE'S REQUIREMENTS, AS THEY OCCUR AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL ADVERTISING, THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER MAY CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS WITH ANY RESPONSIBLE SERVICE PROVIDER THAT SUBMITS---ACCEPTABLE---OR POTENTIALLY---ACCEPTABLE-EXPRESSIONS-OF-INTEREST,--AS-DETERMINED-BY THE-PROCUREMENT-OFFICER.--ELIGIBLE--SERVICE--PROVIDERS--SHALL--BE ACCORDED HAS SUBMITTED AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST. AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE IN THE COURSE OF ADMINISTERING A PROGRAM, THE PROCUREMENT AGENCY SHALL ACCORD ALL RESPONSIBLE SERVICE PROVIDERS THAT HAVE SUBMITTED EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT WITH RESPECT TO DISCUSSIONS.

(2) THE PROCUREMENT AGENCY MAY MAKE AN AWARD IF THE PROCUREMENT AGENCY HEAD, ON THE BASIS OF PENDING DISCUSSIONS OR PAST PROGRAM EXPERIENCE, DETERMINES THAT AN AWARD WILL SERVE THE STATE'S BEST INTEREST. IF--SERVICES--UNDER--THE--CONTRACT--TO--BE AWARDED--ARE--FUNDED--IN--PART,--BY--LEGISLATIVE--MANDATE--OR--PRIOR AGREEMENT,--BY--A--COUNTY--OR--BALTIMORE--CITY,--THE--PROCUREMENT--AGENCY SHALL--ESTABLISH--PROCEDURES--TO--SOLICIT--AND--CONSIDER--THE--WRITTEN COMMENTS--OF--THE--CHIEF--ELECTED--OFFICIAL--OR--HIS--DESIGNEE--OF--THE COUNTY--OR--BALTIMORE--CITY--IN--DETERMINING--THE--STATE'S--BEST INTEREST.--COMMENTS--SHALL--BE--DUE--WITHIN--30--DAYS--FROM--THE--DATE--OF THE--SOLICITATION. AWARD OF A CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO ALL APPROVALS REQUIRED BY LAW OR REGULATION.

~~(b)~~--THE--DEPARTMENT--OF--BUDGET--AND--FISCAL--PLANNING,--IN CONSULTATION--WITH--THE--APPROPRIATE--PROCUREMENT--AGENCIES--THAT PROCURE HUMAN,--EDUCATIONAL--OR--SOCIAL--SERVICES--TO--THE--PERSONS DESCRIBED--IN--SUBSECTION--(A)--BY--THE--SOURCE--SELECTION--METHOD--SET FORTH--IN--THIS--SECTION--OR--BY--ANOTHER--COMPETITIVE--METHOD--AUTHORIZED UNDER--THIS--TITLE--SHALL--ADOPT--REGULATIONS--RELATING--TO--THE--RENEWAL