

Values and Guiding Principles of Public Procurement

ACCOUNTABILITY: Taking ownership and being responsible to stakeholders for our actions... essential to preserve the public trust and protect the public interest.

Principles:

- Apply sound business judgment.
- Be knowledgeable of and abide by all applicable laws and regulations.
- Be responsible stewards of public funds.
- Maximize competition to the greatest extent practicable.
- Practice due diligence.
- Promote effective, economic, and efficient acquisition.
- Support economic, social, and sustainable communities.
- Use procurement strategies to optimize value to stakeholders.

ETHICS: Acting in a manner true to these values...essential to preserve the public's trust.

Principles:

- Act and conduct business with honesty and integrity, avoiding even the appearance of impropriety.
- Maintain consistency in all processes and actions.
- Meet the ethical standards of the profession.

IMPARTIALITY: Unbiased decision-making and action...essential to ensure fairness for the public good.

Principles:

- Be open, fair, impartial, and non-discriminatory in all processes.
- Treat suppliers equitably, without discrimination, and without imposing unnecessary constraints on the competitive market.
- Use sound professional judgment within established legal frameworks to balance competing interests among stakeholders.

Professionalism: Upholding high standards of job performance and ethical behavior... essential to balance diverse public interests.

Principles:

- Be led by those with education, experience, and professional certification in public procurement.
- Continually contribute value to the organization.
- Continually develop as a profession through education, mentorship, innovation, and partnerships.
- Develop, support, and promote the highest professional standards in order to serve the public good.
- Seek continuous improvement through on-going training, education, and skill enhancement.

SERVICE: Obligation to assist stakeholders...essential to support the public good.

Principles:

- Be a crucial resource and strategic partner within the organization and community.
- Develop and maintain relationships with stakeholders.
- Develop collaborative partnerships to meet public needs.
- Maintain a customer-service focus while meeting the needs, and protecting the interests, of the organization and the public.

Transparency: Easily accessible and understandable policies and processes... essential to demonstrate responsible use of public funds.

Principles:

- Exercise discretion in the release of confidential information.
- Maintain current and complete policies, procedures, and records.
- Provide open access to competitive opportunities.
- Provide timely access to procurement policies, procedures, and records.