



POST-HURRICANE IAN RECOVERY LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

PROPOSAL

The District is making great strides with Hurricane Ian recovery efforts. The Legislature's action last year to increase the continuing contracts threshold has reduced the length of the procurement lifecycle for roofing projects. Due to the magnitude of damaged roofs, the District requests a one year extension to the previously approved Legislative action found in Florida Statute 287.055(2)(g), so that roofing projects can proceed using prepositioned continuing contracts for remaining recovery efforts.

Present Situation and Rationale

- Hurricane Ian made landfall in Lee County, Florida on September 28, 2022 as a Category 4 hurricane, causing significant devastation. Prior to the storm, the District had awarded Continuing Contracts to contractors across seven professional service areas, in compliance with Chapter 287.055, F.S. The awarded contractors demonstrated their professional qualifications in areas of need for the District; complied with District purchasing requirements; completed specific background screening requirements for contractors who are on campus when students are present; obtained insurance and are eligible for bonding at required amounts; and are familiar with District campuses and professional service needs.
- The ability to continue to engage currently awarded contractors, in lieu of developing, issuing, processing, negotiating and awarding new solicitations, will continue to enable the District to immediately engage competitively awarded contractors to support recovery operations and prevent cost increases that are likely to occur as the demand for supplies and labor continues to rise over time.

Impact of Proposed Change

- Staff continue to manage an increased workload to recover from the disaster event. Qualified and competent contractors continue to be on standby ready to assist with recovery operations. Projects such as roof replacements range in price from \$6,000,000 to \$12,000,000, and traditionally require new competitive solicitations. Since last year's Legislative action found in Florida Statute 287.055(2)(g), the total project cost threshold was raised to \$15,000,000, allowing for existing contracts and contractors leverage to complete the required work without delay, aiding the students and community in recovery efforts.

Historical Perspective

- Historically, the District has competitively solicited and awarded Continuing Contracts and maintained facilities through the use of awarded contractors. The total project cost for the contracts was under \$4,000,000. The District desires to continue use of the awarded professionals to perform the same and similar scope of work, where project values are under \$15,000,000, instead of the lower amount of \$4,000,000.

Fiscal Impact

- The supply chain for construction-related materials has been further stressed since Hurricane Ian, and the demand for construction materials and contractors has increased due to the expansive storm and other storms since then. Delays in recovery operations have occurred due to delayed access to materials, resulting in price increases.
- Avoiding District staff having to spend time preparing, evaluating, negotiating, and awarding contracts for identical services that have already completed the competitive solicitation process, although with a lower cost threshold, have resulted in an additional cost savings to the District.

Statute Impacted

- F.S. 287.055

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Samuel Fisher, Board Chair,
District 1**
School Board Legislative Liaison
District Cell: 239.405.9504
Office: 239.337.8303
SamuelJF@leeschools.net

Angel M. Gomez
Chief Communications and Government
Relations Officer
District Cell: 239-412-3965
Angelm@leeschools.net

Dr. Kim McDougal, Lobbyist
Gray Robinson, P.A.
Office: 850-566-8114
Kim.McDougal@gray-robinson.com