

State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB)

Office of Governmental Accountability

At a Glance

DAVID L. GUAY, Executive Director

Chief Procurement Officer – Vacancy

Established - 2009

Statutory authority - Conn. Gen. Statutes Sec. 4e-1 to 4e-47

Central office – 5th Floor, 18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106

Number of employees - 1

Recurring operating expenses - \$158,460

Organizational structure – Fourteen member State Contracting Standards Board, Citizen and Vendor Advisory Council, Contracting Standards Advisory Council, Privatization Contract Committee, Contested Solicitations and Awards Sub-committee, Audit Work Group, Data Analysis Work Group, Training and External Communications Work Group, Regulations Work Group.

State Contracting Standards Board Members – Lawrence S. Fox, Chair, Thomas G. Ahneman, Alfred W. Bertoline, Bruce H. Buff, Charles W. Casella, Jr., Albert Ilg, Donna Karnes, Salvatore Luciano, Stuart Mahler, Jean Morningstar, Robert D. Rinker, Brenda Sisco, Two Vacancies.

Mission

Our mission is to require that state contracting and procurement requirements are understood and carried out in a manner that is open, cost effective, efficient and consistent with State and Federal statutes, rules and regulations. (Adopted March 11, 2016)

Statutory Responsibility

- Establishes the Board as the central oversight and policy body for all state procurement.
- Creates the position of Chief Procurement Officer, an experienced procurement professional to assist the Board in implementing its programs, policies and procedures.
- Requires each agency head to appoint a qualified Agency Procurement Officer to oversee all procurement activities of the agency and to serve as the liaison to the Chief Procurement Officer.
- Calls for the development and implementation of a standardized state procurement and project management education and training program, which certifies that agencies and staff are in compliance with the statutes and regulations.
- Sets forth the criteria and enforcement authority of the Board including the ability to restrict or eliminate the procurement authority of any state agency and the disqualification of any contractor, bidder or proposer for up to five years.

- Establishes a structural process that all state agencies shall follow when entering into a privatization agreement, including a cost benefit analysis.
- Creates a Contracting Standards Advisory Council of agency representatives to discuss state procurement issues and recommend improvements to procurement processes.
- Creates a Vendor and Citizen Advisory Panel of 15 citizens and vendor members to make recommendations to the Board regarding best practices in state procurement processes and project management, as well as other issues pertaining to stake holders in the system.
- Requires each of the State's constitutional officers (Secretary of the State, Comptroller, Treasurer and Attorney General) to adopt a code of procurement practices.
- Requires that the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch prepare a uniform procurement code applicable to contracting expenditures including any building, renovation, alteration or repairs.
- Recommends a timeline to redesign and streamline the repetitive, conflicting or obsolete provisions of law, policies and practices in the state procurement process.

Public Service

The chief beneficiaries of the SCSB's work are three-fold: state contracting agencies, state contractors, and state taxpayers. By creating relationships with state contracting agencies, working to develop regulations and facilitating compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, state contracting agencies are better poised to uniformly produce procurements and let contracts, state contractors benefit from a standardized expectation of administration and procedure, and taxpayers benefit from the compliance of the state contracting agencies, which yield cost savings to the state. As the Board continues to develop robust policies and procedures, require reports from the state contracting agencies and host trainings and seminars, the Board should be able to see improvement in the results of the audits it conducts. Additionally, annual reports should show improvement year to year.

Improvements/Achievements for fiscal year 2018-2019

- The Board resolved three contested solicitations and awards.
- The Board concluded a study of Personal Service Agreements for FY 2017. Data indicated that 68% of all open Personal Service Agreements (PSA) were not subject to competitive bidding. A prior report on PSA contracts as of June 30, 2016, indicated that 73% were not competitively bid. This prompted the Board to conduct studies on PSA procurement practices in both 2016 and 2017. In performing our studies, it became clear that the lack of competitive bidding by state agencies was a problem and that through a robust competitive bidding process hundreds of millions of dollars may be saved annually by the State.
- The Board conducted an audit of eleven agencies.
 - Department of Rehabilitation Services - State unit on Aging
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Consumer Protection
 - Office of Early Childhood
 - Elections Enforcement Commission
 - Office of State Ethics
 - Connecticut State Library
 - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Teachers' Retirement Board
- Department of Veteran Affairs