

CHESLA

CONNECTICUT HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN AUTHORITY

**Request for Proposal For
BOND COUNSEL SERVICES**

DATE: January 16, 2014

State of Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority

DEADLINE: No Later than Friday, February 7, 2014

CHESLA

www.chesla.org

Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority
10 Columbus Boulevard, 7th Floor, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 520-4001 Outside CT • (800) 252-3357 in CT • FAX (860) 520-4004

January 16, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with the requirements in Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 187, Section 10a-179(h)(4), the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (the "Authority") is requesting proposals from qualified firms wishing to provide Bond Counsel services to the Authority for a period not to exceed three (3) years.

The Authority seeks proposals from firms with established expertise in the area of public (tax-exempt) finance generally and supplemental student loan financing specifically. Firms are expected to have substantial and demonstrable expertise in tax law, trusts, secured transactions, Connecticut state law, securities law, consumer and higher education lending law and other areas of legal services pertinent to the Authority.

Your sole or joint proposal should highlight the recent experience of your firm(s) in transactions involving the issuance of tax-exempt bonds by public agencies, with emphasis on revenue bond financing and thorough understanding of tax laws specific to private/supplemental student loans.

Responses to the RFP

Your firm's submission relating to this RFP should include a response to the questions and requests for information included in the attached **Exhibit A**, as well as the materials required by *Exhibits B-1, B-2, D, E and F*. Please be sure to include the required undertakings set out on Exhibit A in your response.

You may visit <http://www.munios.com/id.aspx?i=622BHBn22kLC> to view a copy of CHESLA's "Official Statement" from its recent 2013 Series A bond issuance. This "Statement" provides background information on the Authority, its bond issues, loan program, and is provided solely for the convenience of prospective bidders.

Proposal Schedule

- RFP Issued on *January 16, 2014*
- Proposals are due by no later than *February 7, 2014*
- Notification of Interviews by no later than *February 28, 2014*
- Interviews to be conducted on *March 25, 2014*
- Authority Board Action on Selection of Bond Counsel on *March 25, 2014*

Selection Process

The Consultant & Vendor Committee will conduct the selection of the Bond Counsel, with a recommendation for approval to the Board of Directors of the Authority. Evaluation of firms will include, but will not be limited to, the reputation and prior performance of the firm, the scope of services to be provided, cost of services, the reputation and experience of attorneys to be assigned to the Authority, Connecticut presence and other value-added services that may be provided.

State of Connecticut Public Acts Governing Contractual Relationships with Quasi-State Agencies

1. Public Act No. 01-184

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR FALSE STATEMENTS ON APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM QUASI-PUBLIC AGENCIES.

Any quasi-public agency, as defined in Section 1-120 of the General Statutes, shall require any application, agreement, financial statement, certificate or other writing submitted to such quasi-public agency with respect to any loan, mortgage, guarantee, investment, grant, lease, tax relief, bond financing or other extension of credit or financial assistance made or provided by such quasi-public agency and that provides information on which the decision of such quasi-public agency was based, to be signed under penalty of false statement as provided in Section 53a-157b of the General Statutes. The Authority requires that proposals in response hereto be provided on the same basis.

2. CHESLA Gift Ban Policy; C.G.S. §§4-250 to 4-252

The Authority has adopted a gift ban policy which, with very limited exceptions, prohibits the acceptance by Authority employees of anything of value, from parties doing business or seeking to do business with the Authority. In addition, pursuant to the State Code of Ethics, Members of the Board of Directors, as well as employees of the Authority, are subject to strict restrictions on the acceptance of gifts from parties doing business, or seeking to do business, with the Authority. **Please complete and sign the Gift and Campaign Certification attached as Exhibit B-1.**

3. Consulting Agreement Affidavit; C.G.S. §4a-81

Please complete and sign the Consulting Agreement Affidavit attached as Exhibit B-2. Please note that the affidavit must be updated under certain circumstances.

4. State of Connecticut Office of State Ethics (“OSE”) Requirements

Attached is the OSE “Guide to the Code of Ethics for Current or Potential State Contractors” (**Exhibit C**). This document and the revised statutes effective January 1, 2013 (available on the OSE website) provide your company with a guide to your financial relationship and statutory requirements for conducting business with a quasi-state agency. **By submitting a response to this request for proposal, your firm acknowledges receipt of this information and acceptance of the provisions applicable to organizations doing business with the Authority.**

5. Third Party Fee Disclosure

Public Act 00-43 “An Act Concerning Powers and Duties of the Treasurer and the Investment Advisory Council” requires any person or entity entering into a contract for investment services, including investment legal services, with a quasi-public agency to disclose in a sworn affidavit any third party fees (or that there were no third party fees) attributable to such contract. ***Please complete and sign Exhibit D.***

6. State Election Enforcement Commission Campaign Contribution and Solicitation Ban

Section 9-612(g)(1) of the Connecticut General Statutes prohibits “principals” (AND CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBERS) of State contractors and prospective State contractors from donating and soliciting certain campaign contributions. ***The Authority is required to provide all prospective State contractors with a copy of the Notice to Executive Branch State Contractors and Prospective State Contractors of Campaign Contribution and Solicitation Limitations which has been included as Exhibit E.***

7. C.G.S. Sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN STATE CONTRACTING NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Connecticut General Statutes Sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a, as amended, require an entity or individual entering into a contract with the State or certain of its political subdivisions, including quasi-public agencies, to provide the contracting agency with a written affidavit, representation or other acceptable documentation that certifies the contractor’s compliance with the State’s nondiscrimination agreements and warranties and to periodically update such documentation. ***(Please refer to the form of the required certification attached as Exhibit F.)***

RFP Format and Submission Requirements

1. The total length of the response is limited to 15 pages.
2. Please submit a copy of your firm’s response to this RFP via email by no later than **February 7, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.** in PDF format to Samuel Rush, Deputy Director at srush@chesla.org

The Authority reserves the following rights (without limitation or waiver):

1. To reject any or all proposals.
2. To conduct investigations or request further information relating to the qualifications of any or all respondents.
3. To supplement, modify or cancel this request for proposals without notice or substitution of another such request.
4. To reevaluate a proposal or selection if there are any changes in the substance of the proposal.
5. Waive or modify any irregularities in proposals received.
6. Accept a proposal based on considerations other than cost.
7. Negotiate separately with any person whatsoever in any manner deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority.

A final decision will be made at the March 25, 2014 Board of Directors' Meeting. The Authority shall not be liable for any cost incurred in connection with responding to this proposal. Please direct any questions to Samuel Rush via email at srush@chesla.org or call 860-761-8481.

Sincerely,



Jeanette Weldon
Executive Director

Exhibits Attached

Please respond to the following questions in the order in which they are presented:

1. For which governmental entities in Connecticut have you served as bond counsel, general or special counsel, or counsel to underwriters dealing with such entities? Please describe your experience and state the time frame of your experience.
2. Describe in detail a representative student loan financing for which your firm served as bond counsel, how you added value to the transaction, the fees which your firm charged and the nature of such fees.
3. Summarize the firm's experience with student loan financing. Please summarize in table form all tax-exempt student loan transactions for which you served as bond counsel in the past 5 years. Please include issuer name, transaction size, issuance date, nature of relationship with issuer (e.g. contract term) and any other pertinent facts.
4. Provide the address of each of your firm's offices in Connecticut and the number of attorneys resident on a full-time basis in each office.
5. Describe in detail the firm's expertise in tax law as it relates to the Authority with specific reference to student loan finance tax matters.
6. Describe the firm's expertise in securities and creditor's rights law.
7. Briefly describe the firm's experience in representing issuers in general and student loan authorities in particular before federal agencies (e.g. IRS, Treasury).
8. Please name the attorneys in your firm who would work on CHESLA bond transactions and identify the jurisdictions in which each person is admitted to practice. Give a brief description of each person's experience in the tax-exempt revenue bond area, with particular emphasis on higher education financings.
9. How would you propose to charge the Authority for your services? Would your firm commit to a fixed fee arrangement? If so, please provide a proposed fee schedule. Would your fees be affected by the volume of work performed? The Authority reserves the right to negotiate a uniform fixed fee arrangement with the firm(s) selected.
10. Besides acting as bond counsel on CHESLA transactions, what additional functions do you think you should and could perform? Would you expect a fee separate from that related to transactional services?
11. Please list two significant legal issues in public finance (with particular emphasis, if possible, on student loan finance) which will impact the Authority during the next three years? How would your firm aid the Authority in addressing each?
12. Do you foresee any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest arising from continued representation of the current clients of your firm and any engagement by CHESLA? How would you propose to address these issues? For what colleges or higher education lending entities do you act as general counsel, or for whom do you serve as special counsel?

13. Indicate in tabular form (a) as of the current time and (b) as of five years ago, the percentage of your firm's equity partners and the percentage of your firm's other attorneys, respectively, that are minorities.

Indicate in tabular form (a) as of the current time and (b) as of five years ago, the percentage of your firm's equity partners and the percentage of your firm's other attorneys, respectively, that are women. Briefly describe your firm's affirmative action plan.

14. Please describe in as much detail as necessary, any pending or threatened litigation, claim or investigation against your firm or any employees of your firm (particularly those which you propose to assign to CHESLA transactions) in connection with any transaction over the past five (5) years.
15. Please identify the firm's professional liability insurance provider and indicate the extent of coverage, including the amount of any deductible or coinsurance amount.
16. Please submit the names, addresses and positions of two (2) references from within the public finance community.
17. Briefly, what other facts about your firm should we know in order to help determine whether you could provide counsel to the Authority?

Please remember to include the following required undertakings in your response:

- (a) The information provided herein is submitted by the undersigned firm under penalty of false statement as provided in the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 53a-157b.**
- (b) With regard to a State contract as defined in P.A. 07-1 having a value in a calendar year of \$50,000 or more or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts having a value of \$100,000 or more, the authorized signature to this submission in response to the Authority's solicitation expressly acknowledges receipt of the State Elections Enforcement Commission's notice, Exhibit E, advising prospective State contractors of State campaign contribution and solicitation prohibitions, and will inform its principals of the contents of the notice.**



STATE OF CONNECTICUT GIFT AND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION CERTIFICATION

Written or electronic certification to accompany a State contract with a value of \$50,000 or more in a calendar or fiscal year, pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 4-250 and 4-252(c); Governor M. Jodi Rell's Executive Orders No. 1, Para. 8, and No. 7C, Para. 10; and C.G.S. §9-612(g)(2)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete all sections of the form. Attach additional pages, if necessary, to provide full disclosure about any lawful campaign contributions made to campaigns of candidates for statewide public office or the General Assembly, as described herein. Sign and date the form, under oath, in the presence of a Commissioner of the Superior Court or Notary Public. Submit the completed form to the awarding State agency at the time of initial contract execution and if there is a change in the information contained in the most recently filed certification, such person shall submit an updated certification either (i) not later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of such change or (ii) upon the submittal of any new bid or proposal for a contract, whichever is earlier. Such person shall also submit an accurate, updated certification not later than fourteen days after the twelve-month anniversary of the most recently filed certification or updated certification.

CHECK ONE: Initial Certification 12 Month Anniversary Update (Multi-year contracts only.)
 Updated Certification because of change of information contained in the most recently filed certification or twelve-month anniversary update.

GIFT CERTIFICATION:

As used in this certification, the following terms have the meaning set forth below:

- 1) "Contract" means that contract between the State of Connecticut (and/or one or more of its agencies or instrumentalities) and the Contractor, attached hereto, or as otherwise described by the awarding State agency below;
- 2) If this is an Initial Certification, "Execution Date" means the date the Contract is fully executed by, and becomes effective between, the parties; if this is a twelve-month anniversary update, "Execution Date" means the date this certification is signed by the Contractor;
- 3) "Contractor" means the person, firm or corporation named as the contractor below;
- 4) "Applicable Public Official or State Employee" means any public official or state employee described in C.G.S. §4-252(c)(1)(i) or (ii);
- 5) "**Gift**" has the same meaning given that term in C.G.S. § 4-250(1);
- 6) "Principals or Key Personnel" means and refers to those principals and key personnel of the Contractor, and its or their agents, as described in C.G.S. §§ 4-250(5) and 4-252(c)(1)(B) and (C).

I, the undersigned, am a Principal or Key Personnel of the person, firm or corporation authorized to execute this certification on behalf of the Contractor. I hereby certify that, no gifts were made by (A) such person, firm, corporation, (B) any principals and key personnel of the person firm or corporation who participate substantially in preparing bids, proposals or negotiating state contracts or (C) any agent of such, firm, corporation, or principals or key personnel who participates substantially in preparing bids, proposals or negotiating state contracts, to (i) any public official or state employee of the state agency or quasi-public agency soliciting bids or proposals for state contracts who participates substantially in the preparation of bid solicitations or request for proposals for state contracts or the negotiation or award of state contracts or (ii) any public official or state employee of any other state agency, who has supervisory or appointing authority over such state agency or quasi-public agency.

I further certify that no Principals or Key Personnel know of any action by the Contractor to circumvent (or which would result in the circumvention of) the above certification regarding **Gifts** by providing for any other Principals, Key Personnel, officials, or employees of the Contractor, or its or their agents, to make a **Gift** to any Applicable Public Official or State Employee. I further certify that the Contractor made the bid or proposal for the Contract without fraud or collusion with any person.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION CERTIFICATION:

I further certify that, on or after December 31, 2006, neither the Contractor nor any of its principals, as defined in C.G.S. § 9-612(g)(1), has made any **campaign contributions** to, or solicited any contributions on behalf of, any exploratory committee, candidate committee, political committee, or party committee established by, or supporting or authorized to support, any candidate for statewide public office, in violation of C.G.S. § 9-612(g)(2)(A). I further certify that **all lawful campaign contributions** that have been made on or after December 31, 2006 by the Contractor or any of its principals, as defined in C.G.S. § 9-612(g)(1), to, or solicited on behalf of, any exploratory committee, candidate committee, political committee, or party committee established by, or supporting or authorized to support any candidates for statewide public office or the General Assembly, are listed below:

Lawful Campaign Contributions to Candidates for Statewide Public Office:

<u>Contribution Date</u>	<u>Name of Contributor</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Description</u>

Lawful Campaign Contributions to Candidates for the General Assembly:

<u>Contribution Date</u>	<u>Name of Contributor</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Description</u>

Sworn as true to the best of my knowledge and belief, subject to the penalties of false statement.

Printed Contractor Name

Printed Name of Authorized Official

Signature of Authorized Official

Subscribed and acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Commissioner of the Superior Court (or Notary Public)





**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONSULTING AGREEMENT AFFIDAVIT**

Affidavit to accompany a bid or proposal for the purchase of goods and services with a value of \$50,000 or more in a calendar or fiscal year, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 4a-81(a) and 4a-81(b). For sole source or no bid contracts the form is submitted at time of contract execution.

INSTRUCTIONS:

If the bidder or vendor has entered into a consulting agreement, as defined by Connecticut General Statutes § 4a-81(b)(1): Complete all sections of the form. If the bidder or contractor has entered into more than one such consulting agreement, use a separate form for each agreement. Sign and date the form in the presence of a Commissioner of the Superior Court or Notary Public. **If the bidder or contractor has not entered into a consulting agreement, as defined by Connecticut General Statutes § 4a-81(b)(1):** Complete only the shaded section of the form. Sign and date the form in the presence of a Commissioner of the Superior Court or Notary Public.

Submit completed form to the awarding State agency with bid or proposal. For a sole source award, submit completed form to the awarding State agency at the time of contract execution.

This affidavit must be amended if there is any change in the information contained in the most recently filed affidavit not later than (i) thirty days after the effective date of any such change or (ii) upon the submittal of any new bid or proposal, whichever is earlier.

AFFIDAVIT: [Number of Affidavits Sworn and Subscribed On This Day: _____]

I, the undersigned, hereby swear that I am a principal or key personnel of the bidder or contractor awarded a contract, as described in Connecticut General Statutes § 4a-81(b), or that I am the individual awarded such a contract who is authorized to execute such contract. I further swear that I have not entered into any consulting agreement in connection with such contract, **except for the agreement listed below:**

_____		_____
Consultant's Name and Title		Name of Firm (if applicable)
_____	_____	_____
Start Date	End Date	Cost
Description of Services Provided: _____		

Is the consultant a former State employee or former public official? YES NO

If YES: _____
 Name of Former State Agency Termination Date of Employment

Sworn as true to the best of my knowledge and belief, subject to the penalties of false statement.

_____	_____	_____
Printed Name of Bidder or Contractor	Signature of Principal or Key Personnel	Date
_____	_____	_____
Printed Name (of above)	Awarding State Agency	

Sworn and subscribed before me on this _____ day of _____, 20__.

**Commissioner of the Superior Court
 or Notary Public**

**Guide to the Code of Ethics
For Current or Potential
State Contractors**



2010

Guide for Current or Potential State Contractors

INTRODUCTION

The Connecticut Office of State Ethics (OSE) is an independent regulatory agency for the state of Connecticut, charged with administering and enforcing the Connecticut Codes of Ethics, located in the Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 10.

The Ethics Codes under the OSE's jurisdiction are comprised of:

- The Code of Ethics for Public Officials (Part I);
- The Code of Ethics for Lobbyists (Part II); and
- Limited jurisdiction over Ethical Considerations Concerning Bidding and State Contracts (Part IV).

This guide provides general information only. The descriptions of the law and the OSE in this guide are not intended to be exhaustive. Please review the Advisory Opinions and Declaratory Rulings on our website or contact the Legal Division of the OSE with any questions regarding interpretation of the law.

For more information on the subjects discussed in this guide, call, write or visit:

Connecticut Office of State Ethics
 18-20 Trinity Street
 Suite 205
 Hartford, CT 06106

 860/263-2400
www.ct.gov/ethics



Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board:

G. Kenneth Bernhard, Chairperson (through September 2011)
Thomas H. Dooley, Vice Chairperson (through September 2012)
Ernest Abate (through September 2011)
Kathleen F. Bornhorst (through September 2012)
Rebecca M. Doty (through September 2011)
General David Gay, (ret.) (through September 2013)
Dennis Riley (through September 2013)
Winthrop Smith, Jr. (through September 2013)
Shawn T. Wooden (through September 2013)

Guide for Current or Potential State Contractors

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Guide for Current or Potential State Contractors

THE OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS (OSE)

The Connecticut Office of State Ethics (OSE) was officially created on July 1, 2005, by Public Act 05-183. The governing body of the OSE is the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (CEAB), nine members appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership. The CEAB holds monthly meetings that are open to the public and that are often covered by CT-N. A schedule of CEAB meeting dates, times and locations is available on the OSE's Web site, www.ct.gov/ethics.

The OSE is an independent watchdog agency for the state of Connecticut that administers Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 10, Parts I and II, with limited jurisdiction over Part IV.

Simply put, the OSE educates all those covered by the law (the "regulated community"); provides information to the public; interprets and applies the codes of ethics; and investigates potential violations, and otherwise enforces the codes.

The OSE is made up of the following components:

- Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board
- Executive Director
- Legal Division
- Enforcement Division

THE BIG PICTURE

All state officials and employees (except judges) are covered by Part I of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials (henceforth, Part I, or the Code). It is important to remember that certain provisions of the Code also apply to public officials and state employees after they leave state service.

As you read through this guide, be aware that these laws were enacted to prevent individuals from using their public position or authority for personal, financial benefit.

Each state agency also has its own ethics policy, which in many cases may be more restrictive than what follows. Be sure to obtain a copy of the agency's policy before you attempt to provide any benefit to an agency official or employee.

Guide for Current or Potential State Contractors

GIVING BENEFITS TO STATE PERSONNEL



Gifts

As a current or potential state contractor, you are presumably doing business with or seeking to do business with a state agency, and are therefore considered to be a **restricted donor**. In general, public officials, state employees and candidates for public office may not accept gifts from restricted donors.

Restricted Donors

Restricted donors include:

- Registered lobbyists (a list is available on the OSE's Web site) or a lobbyist's representative;
- Individuals or groups doing business with a state department or agency;
- Individuals or groups seeking to do business with a state department or agency;
- Individuals or groups engaged in activities regulated by a state department or agency; or
- Contractors pre-qualified by the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4a-100).

A **gift** is defined as anything of value that is directly and personally received by a public official or state employee (or sometimes family members of those two categories) *unless* consideration of equal or greater value is provided. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-79 (e).

Gift Exceptions

There are, however, certain exceptions to this definition of gift. Not all exceptions are covered below; see Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-79 (e) (1) – (17) for the complete list.

- *Token Items* – Restricted donors such as current or potential state contractors may provide any item of value that is not more than \$10 (such as a pen, mug, or inexpensive baseball cap) to a public official or state employee, provided that the annual aggregate of such items from a single source is \$50 or less. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-79 (e) (16).
- *Food and Beverage* – Restricted donors may also provide less than \$50 worth of food and beverage in a calendar year to a public official or state employee, provided that the restricted donor or his/her representative is in attendance when the food and/or beverage is being consumed. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-79 (e) (9).
- *Training* – Vendors may provide public officials and state employees with training for a product purchased by a state or quasi-public agency provided such training is offered to all customers of that vendor. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-79 (e) (17).

Guide for Current or Potential State Contractors

- *Gifts to the State* – Restricted donors may provide what are typically referred to as “gifts to the state.” These gifts are goods and services provided to a state agency or quasi-public agency for use on state or quasi-public agency property or that support an event, and which facilitate state or quasi-public action or functions. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-79 (e) (5).
- *Other Exceptions* – There are a total of 17 separate gift exceptions in the Code. Also exempt from the definition of gift are items such as informational materials germane to state action, ceremonial plaques or awards costing less than \$100, or promotional items, rebates or discounts also available to the general public. See Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-79 (e) (1) – (17).

Note: The popularly-cited exception for major life events does not apply to those who are regulated by, doing business with or seeking to do business with a state agency. The only restricted donor that can make use of this very narrow exception is a registered lobbyist.

Gift Provisions

Example: You are in the process of submitting a contracting bid to a state agency. You provide the agency head with a gift certificate for \$45 to a popular West Hartford eatery for her to use on her own. You have not previously given anything of value to this individual.

Even though you are under the permissible \$49.99 food and beverage limit, this gift is not allowed because you or your representative will not be in attendance while the food and beverage is being consumed.

Reporting Requirements

Should you or your representative give something of \$10 or more in value to a public official or state employee, you must, within **10 days**, give the gift recipient and the head of that individual’s department or agency a written report stating:

- Name of the donor;
- Description of item(s) given;
- Value of such item(s); and
- Total cumulative value of all items to date given to that recipient during the calendar year.



This helps both you and the state employee keep track of the gift exceptions noted above, so that permissible limits are not exceeded. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84 (o). A courtesy form is available for this notification on the OSE’s Web site, in the “Forms” section.

Guide for Current or Potential State Contractors

Necessary Expenses

You may provide necessary expenses to a public official or state employee *only* if the official or employee, in his/her official capacity, is actively participating in an event by giving a speech or presentation, running a workshop, or having some other active involvement.

Necessary expenses are limited to:

- Travel (coach or economy class);
- Lodging (standard cost of room for the nights before, of, and immediately following the event);
- Meals; and
- Related conference expenses.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-79 (9).

Entertainment costs (tickets to sporting events, golf outings, night clubs, etc.) are *not* necessary expenses. Necessary expense payments also *do not* include payment of expenses for family members or other guests.



Fees/Honorariums

Public officials and state employees may *not* accept fees or honorariums for an article, appearance, speech or participation at an event in their official capacity.

Fees or honorariums for such activities, if offered based solely on expertise and without any regard to official capacity, may be acceptable. Contact the OSE before offering such payment to an official or employee. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84 (k).



Necessary Expenses, Fees and Honorariums

Example: You invite a state employee to travel to New York City to give a speech to your managers on issues surrounding contracting with a state agency. You provide Amtrak fare for the employee as well as his spouse, who will spend the day in the city. The evening of the speech, you will treat the employee and his spouse with complimentary tickets to a Broadway show in lieu of a speaking fee.

You may provide coach class travel expenses only to the state employee who is actively participating in an event. In this case, you may only provide Amtrak fare for the employee giving the speech, not his spouse. Entertainment costs, such as tickets to a show, are not considered necessary expenses and may not be provided. Additionally, state employees may not accept fees or honorariums for a speech given in their official capacity.

Guide for Current or Potential State Contractors

HIRING STATE PERSONNEL

Post-state Employment (Revolving Door)

If you are considering hiring a *former* state employee, you should be aware of the Code's post-state employment, or revolving door, provisions.

Lifetime Bans

- Former state employees may **never** disclose any confidential information they learned during the course of their state service for anyone's financial gain. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84a.
- A former state official or employee may **never** represent anyone other than the state regarding a particular matter in which he or she was personally or substantially involved while in state service and in which the state has a substantial interest. This prevents side-switching. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84b (a).

One-year Bans

- If you hire or otherwise engage the services of a former state official or employee, he or she may not represent you before his or her former agency for a period of **one year** after leaving state service. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84b (b). (See Advisory Opinion 2003-3, which provides a limited exception to this provision if the employee is providing purely technical expertise to help implement a previously-awarded contract. This exception applies to extremely limited circumstances; contact the OSE for guidance.)
- You are prohibited from hiring a former state official or employee for a period of **one year** after he or she leaves state service if that individual was substantially involved in, or supervised, the negotiation or award of a contract (that you or your business was a party to) valued at \$50,000 or more, and the contract was signed within his or her last year of state service. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84b (f).
- Employees who held certain specifically-designated positions (with significant decision-making or supervisory responsibility) at certain state regulatory agencies are prohibited from seeking or accepting employment with any business subject to regulation by the individual's agency within **one year** of leaving the agency. Likewise, such businesses may not hire those employees. Note that there is an exception for *ex-officio* board or commission members. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84b (c).

Post-state Employment

Example: You run a hospital regulated by the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA). You would like to offer a job to the former Commissioner of OHCA, who has been out of state service for 5 months.

Because the hospital is regulated by a state agency whose Commissioner is specifically designated in 1-84b (c), the former head of such agency would not be permitted to accept employment with you for one full year after leaving state service. See Advisory Opinion 2003-19.

Guide for Current or Potential State Contractors

Outside Employment for Current Public Officials and State Employees

If you are considering hiring a *current* state employee, especially from a state agency with which you do business or by which you are regulated, you should be aware of the following rules regarding the employment of current state employees.

- A current state employee may not accept outside employment that impairs his or her independence of judgment regarding his or her state duties, or that encourages him or her to disclose confidential information learned in his or her state job. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84 (b).
- A current state employee may not use his or her state position for his or her own financial gain or the gain of his or her family (spouse, child, child's spouse, parent, brother or sister) or an associated business, however inadvertent that use may be. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84 (c).

Other Considerations

Business entities engaged in Indian gaming activities in the state should be aware of specific provisions that apply to present or former Gaming Policy Board or Division of Special Revenue public officials or employees. See Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 1-84b (d) and (e).



Outside Employment

Example: Your small business occasionally receives grants or contracts from Agency X. You know that a particular contract manager with Agency X has the skills you need to help you grow your business. This employee has expressed interest in earning a little extra money for himself, while helping you with your business in the evenings and on weekends.

It would constitute an impermissible impairment of judgment for the employee of Agency X, who has contract management responsibilities, to accept outside employment with your business – a business that receives grants or contracts from Agency X.

Guide for Current or Potential State Contractors

OTHER PROVISIONS

Prohibited Activities for Consultants or Independent Contractors

If you are hired by the state as a consultant or independent contractor, you are prohibited from the following:

- Using your authority under the contract or any confidential information acquired during the course of the contract for your financial gain or the financial gain of your immediate family;
- Accepting another state contract that would impair your independence of judgment or your performance in your existing state contract; and
- Accepting anything of value based on the understanding that your actions on behalf of the state would be influenced.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-86e (1)– (3); see also Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-101nn.

Gift and/or Campaign Contribution Certifications

Contractors seeking large state contracts must provide certifications regarding gifts and/or campaign contributions made to certain state employees or public officials in the two-year period prior to the submission of a bid or proposal. Copies of these certifications and other updated information regarding state contractors can be found on the Web sites of the Department of Administrative Services (www.das.state.ct.us) and the Office of Policy and Management (www.opm.state.ct.us).



Investment Services and the Office of the Treasurer

If you or your business provides investment services, as defined in the Code, and you make a political contribution to the State Treasurer's campaign, you may be prohibited from contracting with the Office of the Treasurer. See Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84 (n).

Registering as a Lobbyist

If you or your business spends or receives over \$2,000 in a calendar year for activities that constitute lobbying under Part II of the Code of Ethics (whether to affect legislation or the actions of an administrative state agency), you/your business may have to register as a lobbyist with the Office of State Ethics. Lobbyist registration information is available at www.ct.gov/ethics.



Contribution Ban for Communicator Lobbyists (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-610 (g) and (h).)

Registered communicator lobbyists, their affiliated political action committees (PACs), as well as members of their immediate families are banned from soliciting or donating political campaign contributions. Please contact the State Elections Enforcement Commission at 860-256-2940 for more information.

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Sessional Contribution Ban for Client Lobbyists (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-610 (e).)

Registered lobbyists and their affiliated political action committees (PACs) are banned from soliciting or donating political campaign contributions. Specifically, there is a temporary ban while the General Assembly is in session that applies to all registered client lobbyists and their affiliated PACs. Please contact the State Elections Enforcement Commission at 860-256-2940 for more information.

Public Act 05-287

Public Act 05-287 prohibits anyone who is a party (or seeking to become a party) to a large state construction, procurement, or consultant services contract over \$500,000 from:

- Soliciting information from a public official or state employee that is not available to other bidders for that contract, with the intent to obtain a competitive advantage;
- Intentionally or recklessly charging a state agency for work not performed or goods or services not provided;
- Falsifying invoices or bills; or
- Intentionally violating or circumventing state competitive bidding and ethics laws.

This Act also requires any prospective state contractor to affirm in writing that he or she has received a summary of the state's ethics laws and that his or her key employees have read and understood the summary and agree to comply with the applicable provisions. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-101qq.

An affirmation form is available through the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

Executive Orders

Executive Order 3

Under this Order, the Department of Administrative Services established and maintains on its Web site the State Contracting Portal for purposes of posting all contracting opportunities with state agencies and providing information on contracting processes and procedures.

Executive Order 7C

This Order covers the State Contracting Standards Board, established to conduct a comprehensive review of existing procurement and contracting laws and prepare a uniform code to govern all aspects of procurement and contracting.

The full text of these Executive Orders can be found on the Governor's Web site, www.ct.gov/governorrell/site/default.asp.

Guide for Current or Potential State Contractors

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This guide provides general information only. The descriptions of the law and the OSE in this guide are not intended to be exhaustive. For more information regarding the Code of Ethics as it pertains to current or potential state contractors, please contact the Legal Division of the Office of State Ethics, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Office of State Ethics
18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106-1660



T: 860/263-2400
F: 860/263-2402
www.ct.gov/ethics



Specific Contacts:

Questions or advice regarding the Ethics Codes: Ethics.Code@ct.gov
Lobbyist filing/reporting questions: lobbyist.OSE@ct.gov
Public official filing/reporting questions: SELOSE@ct.gov
Enforcement questions: Ethics.Enforcement@ct.gov
All other inquiries: ose@ct.gov



**AFFIDAVIT OF DISCLOSURE
REGARDING THIRD PARTY FEES**

STATE OF _____)
 COUNTY OF _____) SS: _____

Pursuant to [Section 3-13j](#) of the Connecticut [General Statutes](#) I, _____
 [a duly authorized officer of _____], a person or entity entering
 into a contract for investment services with the CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATION
 FACILITIES AUTHORITY,

being duly sworn, hereby depose and say:

that all third party fees¹ attributable to such contract are as follows:

NAME OF PAYEE	DOLLAR AMOUNT PAID OR VALUE OF NON-CASH COMPENSATION AND DATE	FEE ARRANGEMENT	SPECIFIC SERVICES PERFORMED BY PAYEE

[if none, state none]

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

Witness:

_____ Name: _____
 _____ Title: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____

 Notary Public
 My commission expires: _____

¹ [“Third party fees” include, but are not limited to, management fees, placement agent fees, solicitation fees, referral fees, promotion fees, introduction or matchmaker fees, and due diligence fees.](#)



Notice to Executive Branch State Contractors and Prospective State Contractors of Campaign Contribution and Solicitation Limitations

This notice is provided under the authority of Connecticut General Statutes §9-612(g)(2), as amended by P.A. 10-1, and is for the purpose of informing state contractors and prospective state contractors of the following law (*italicized words are defined on the reverse side of this page*).

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION AND SOLICITATION LIMITATIONS

No *state contractor, prospective state contractor, principal of a state contractor or principal of a prospective state contractor*, with regard to a *state contract or state contract solicitation* with or from a state agency in the executive branch or a quasi-public agency or a holder, or principal of a holder of a valid prequalification certificate, shall make a contribution to (i) an exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer, (ii) a political committee authorized to make contributions or expenditures to or for the benefit of such candidates, or (iii) a party committee (which includes town committees).

In addition, no holder or principal of a holder of a valid prequalification certificate, shall make a contribution to (i) an exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to the office of State senator or State representative, (ii) a political committee authorized to make contributions or expenditures to or for the benefit of such candidates, or (iii) a party committee.

On and after January 1, 2011, no state contractor, prospective state contractor, principal of a state contractor or principal of a prospective state contractor, with regard to a state contract or state contract solicitation with or from a state agency in the executive branch or a quasi-public agency or a holder, or principal of a holder of a valid prequalification certificate, shall **knowingly solicit** contributions from the state contractor's or prospective state contractor's employees or from a *subcontractor or principals of the subcontractor* on behalf of (i) an exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer, (ii) a political committee authorized to make contributions or expenditures to or for the benefit of such candidates, or (iii) a party committee.

DUTY TO INFORM

State contractors and prospective state contractors are required to inform their principals of the above prohibitions, as applicable, and the possible penalties and other consequences of any violation thereof.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

Contributions or solicitations of contributions made in violation of the above prohibitions may result in the following civil and criminal penalties:

Civil penalties—Up to \$2,000 or twice the amount of the prohibited contribution, whichever is greater, against a principal or a contractor. Any state contractor or prospective state contractor which fails to make reasonable efforts to comply with the provisions requiring notice to its principals of these prohibitions and the possible consequences of their violations may also be subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,000 or twice the amount of the prohibited contributions made by their principals.

Criminal penalties—Any knowing and willful violation of the prohibition is a Class D felony, which may subject the violator to imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or not more than \$5,000 in fines, or both.

CONTRACT CONSEQUENCES

In the case of a state contractor, contributions made or solicited in violation of the above prohibitions may result in the contract being voided.

In the case of a prospective state contractor, contributions made or solicited in violation of the above prohibitions shall result in the contract described in the state contract solicitation not being awarded to the prospective state contractor, unless the State Elections Enforcement Commission determines that mitigating circumstances exist concerning such violation.

The State shall not award any other state contract to anyone found in violation of the above prohibitions for a period of one year after the election for which such contribution is made or solicited, unless the State Elections Enforcement Commission determines that mitigating circumstances exist concerning such violation.

Additional information may be found on the website of the State Elections Enforcement Commission, www.ct.gov/seec. Click on the link to "Lobbyist/Contractor Limitations."



DEFINITIONS

“State contractor” means a person, business entity or nonprofit organization that enters into a state contract. Such person, business entity or nonprofit organization shall be deemed to be a state contractor until December thirty-first of the year in which such contract terminates. “State contractor” does not include a municipality or any other political subdivision of the state, including any entities or associations duly created by the municipality or political subdivision exclusively amongst themselves to further any purpose authorized by statute or charter, or an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or quasi-public agency employee.

“Prospective state contractor” means a person, business entity or nonprofit organization that (i) submits a response to a state contract solicitation by the state, a state agency or a quasi-public agency, or a proposal in response to a request for proposals by the state, a state agency or a quasi-public agency, until the contract has been entered into, or (ii) holds a valid prequalification certificate issued by the Commissioner of Administrative Services under section 4a-100. “Prospective state contractor” does not include a municipality or any other political subdivision of the state, including any entities or associations duly created by the municipality or political subdivision exclusively amongst themselves to further any purpose authorized by statute or charter, or an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or quasi-public agency employee.

“Principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor” means (i) any individual who is a member of the board of directors of, or has an ownership interest of five per cent or more in, a state contractor or prospective state contractor, which is a business entity, except for an individual who is a member of the board of directors of a nonprofit organization, (ii) an individual who is employed by a state contractor or prospective state contractor, which is a business entity, as president, treasurer or executive vice president, (iii) an individual who is the chief executive officer of a state contractor or prospective state contractor, which is not a business entity, or if a state contractor or prospective state contractor has no such officer, then the officer who duly possesses comparable powers and duties, (iv) an officer or an employee of any state contractor or prospective state contractor who has *managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a state contract*, (v) the spouse or a *dependent child* who is eighteen years of age or older of an individual described in this subparagraph, or (vi) a political committee established or controlled by an individual described in this subparagraph or the business entity or nonprofit organization that is the state contractor or prospective state contractor.

“State contract” means an agreement or contract with the state or any state agency or any quasi-public agency, let through a procurement process or otherwise, having a value of fifty thousand dollars or more, or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts having a value of one hundred thousand dollars or more in a calendar year, for (i) the rendition of services, (ii) the furnishing of any goods, material, supplies, equipment or any items of any kind, (iii) the construction, alteration or repair of any public building or public work, (iv) the acquisition, sale or lease of any land or building, (v) a licensing arrangement, or (vi) a grant, loan or loan guarantee. “State contract” does not include any agreement or contract with the state, any state agency or any quasi-public agency that is exclusively federally funded, an education loan, a loan to an individual for other than commercial purposes or any agreement or contract between the state or any state agency and the United States Department of the Navy or the United States Department of Defense.

“State contract solicitation” means a request by a state agency or quasi-public agency, in whatever form issued, including, but not limited to, an invitation to bid, request for proposals, request for information or request for quotes, inviting bids, quotes or other types of submittals, through a competitive procurement process or another process authorized by law waiving competitive procurement.

“Managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a state contract” means having direct, extensive and substantive responsibilities with respect to the negotiation of the state contract and not peripheral, clerical or ministerial responsibilities.

“Dependent child” means a child residing in an individual's household who may legally be claimed as a dependent on the federal income tax of such individual.

“Solicit” means (A) requesting that a contribution be made, (B) participating in any fund-raising activities for a candidate committee, exploratory committee, political committee or party committee, including, but not limited to, forwarding tickets to potential contributors, receiving contributions for transmission to any such committee or bundling contributions, (C) serving as chairperson, treasurer or deputy treasurer of any such committee, or (D) establishing a political committee for the sole purpose of soliciting or receiving contributions for any committee. Solicit does not include: (i) making a contribution that is otherwise permitted by Chapter 155 of the Connecticut General Statutes; (ii) informing any person of a position taken by a candidate for public office or a public official, (iii) notifying the person of any activities of, or contact information for, any candidate for public office; or (iv) serving as a member in any party committee or as an officer of such committee that is not otherwise prohibited in this section.

“Subcontractor” means any person, business entity or nonprofit organization that contracts to perform part or all of the obligations of a state contractor's state contract. Such person, business entity or nonprofit organization shall be deemed to be a subcontractor until December thirty first of the year in which the subcontract terminates. “Subcontractor” does not include (i) a municipality or any other political subdivision of the state, including any entities or associations duly created by the municipality or political subdivision exclusively amongst themselves to further any purpose authorized by statute or charter, or (ii) an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or quasi-public agency employee.

“Principal of a subcontractor” means (i) any individual who is a member of the board of directors of, or has an ownership interest of five per cent or more in, a subcontractor, which is a business entity, except for an individual who is a member of the board of directors of a nonprofit organization, (ii) an individual who is employed by a subcontractor, which is a business entity, as president, treasurer or executive vice president, (iii) an individual who is the chief executive officer of a subcontractor, which is not a business entity, or if a subcontractor has no such officer, then the officer who duly possesses comparable powers and duties, (iv) an officer or an employee of any subcontractor who has managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a subcontract with a state contractor, (v) the spouse or a dependent child who is eighteen years of age or older of an individual described in this subparagraph, or (vi) a political committee established or controlled by an individual described in this subparagraph or the business entity or nonprofit organization that is the subcontractor.

