

Dollar Thresholds in North Carolina Public Contracting Statutes



Dollar limits and statutory authority current as of November 1, 2015

Requirement	Threshold	Statute
Formal bidding		
	<i>(estimated cost of contract)</i>	
Construction or repair contracts	\$500,000 and above	G.S. 143-129
Purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials, and equipment	\$90,000 and above	G.S. 143-129
Informal bidding		
	<i>(actual cost of contract)</i>	
Construction or repair contracts	\$30,000 to formal limit	G.S. 143-131
Purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials, and equipment	\$30,000 to formal limit	G.S. 143-131
Construction methods authorized for building projects		
	Over \$300,000	G.S. 143-128(a1)
Separate Prime	<i>(estimated cost of project)</i>	
Single Prime		
Dual Bidding		
Construction Management at Risk (G.S. 143-128.1)		
Design-Build and Design-Build Bridging (G.S. 143-128.1A; G.S. 143-128.1B)		
Public Private Partnership (P3) (G.S. 143-128.1C)		
Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) requirements		
Building construction or repair projects		
– Projects with state funding (<i>verifiable 10% goal required</i>)	\$100,000 or more	G.S. 143-128.2(a)
– Locally funded projects (<i>formal HUB requirements</i>)	\$300,000 or more	G.S. 143-128.2(j)
– Projects in informal bidding range (<i>informal HUB requirements</i>)	\$30,000 to \$500,000*	G.S. 143-131(b)
<i>*Note: Formal HUB requirements should be used for informally bid projects costing between \$300,000 and \$500,000</i>		
Limit on use of own forces (force account work)		
Construction or repair projects	<i>(not to exceed)</i> \$500,000 (<i>total project cost</i>) or \$200,000 (<i>labor only cost</i>)	G.S. 143-135
Bid bond or deposit		
Construction or repair contracts (<i>at least 5% of bid amount</i>)	Formal bids (<i>\$500,000 and above</i>)	G.S.143-129(b)
Purchase contracts	Not required	
Performance/Payment bonds		
Construction or repair contracts (<i>100% of contract amount</i>)	Each contract over \$50,000 of project costing over \$300,000	G.S. 143-129(c); G.S. 44A-26
Purchase contracts	Not required	
General contractor's license required		
Exemption	\$30,000 and above	G.S. 87-1
Owner-builder affidavit required	Force account work (<i>see above</i>)	
	Force account work (<i>see above</i>)	G.S. 87-14(a)(1)
Use of licensed architect or engineer required		
Nonstructural work	\$300,000 and above	G.S. 133-1.1(a)
Structural repair, additions, or new construction	\$135,000 and above	
Repair work affecting life safety systems	\$100,000 and above	
Selection of architect, engineer, surveyor, construction manager at risk, or design-build contractor		
"Qualification-Based Selection" procedure (QBS)	All contracts unless exempted	G.S. 143-64.31
Exemption authorized	Only projects where estimated fee is less than \$50,000	G.S. 143-64.32