

bid surety bond liability will be returned within 90 days of the public announcement of contract suppliers for the CBA. CMS will notify the bidding entity that it did not meet the specified forfeiture requirements and the bid surety bond will not be collected by CMS.

(4) *Penalties.* (i) A bidding entity that has been determined to have falsified its bid surety bond may be prohibited from participation in the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program for the current round of the Competitive Bidding Program in which it submitted a bid and also from participating in the next round of the Competitive Bidding Program. Offending suppliers will also be referred to the Office of Inspector General and Department of Justice for further investigation.

(ii) A bidding entity, whose composite bid is at or below the median composite bid rate, that—

(A) Accepts a contract award; and

(B) Is found to be in breach of contract for nonperformance of the contract to avoid forfeiture of the bid surety bond will have its contract terminated and will be precluded from participation in the in the next round of the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program.

[72 FR 18085, Apr. 10, 2007, as amended at 79 FR 66264, Nov. 6, 2014; 81 FR 77966, Nov. 4, 2016; 83 FR 21925, May 11, 2018; 83 FR 57072, Nov. 14, 2018]

#### §414.414 Conditions for awarding contracts.

(a) *General rule.* The rules set forth in this section govern the evaluation and selection of suppliers for contract award purposes under a competitive bidding program.

(b) *Basic supplier eligibility.* (1) Each supplier must meet the enrollment standards specified in §424.57(c) of this chapter.

(2) Each supplier must disclose information about any prior or current legal actions, sanctions, revocations from the Medicare program, program-related convictions as defined in section 1128(a)(1) through (a)(4) of the Act, exclusions or debarments imposed against it, or against any members of the board of directors, chief corporate officers, high-level employees, affili-

ated companies, or subcontractors, by any Federal, State, or local agency. The supplier must certify in its bid that this information is completed and accurate.

(3) Each supplier must have all State and local licenses required to perform the services identified in the request for bids. CMS may not award a contract to any entity in a CBA unless the entity meets applicable State licensure requirements.

(4) Each supplier must submit a bona fide bid that complies with all the terms and conditions contained in the request for bids.

(5) Each network must meet the requirements specified in §414.418.

(c) *Quality standards and accreditation.* Each supplier furnishing items and services directly or as a subcontractor must meet applicable quality standards developed by CMS in accordance with section 1834(a)(20) of the Act and be accredited by a CMS-approved organization that meets the requirements of §424.58 of this subchapter, unless a grace period is specified by CMS.

(d) *Financial standards—(1) General rule.* Each supplier must submit along with its bid the applicable covered documents (as defined in §414.402) specified in the request for bids.

(2) *Process for reviewing covered documents—(i) Submission of covered documents for CMS review.* To receive notification of whether there are missing covered documents, the supplier must submit its applicable covered documents by the later of the following covered document review dates:

(A) The date that is 30 days before the final date for the closing of the bid window; or

(B) The date that is 30 days after the opening of the bid window.

(ii) *CMS feedback to a supplier with missing covered documents.* (A) *For Round 1 bids.* CMS has up to 45 days after the covered document review date to review the covered documents and to notify suppliers of any missing documents.

(B) *For subsequent Round bids.* CMS has 90 days after the covered document review date to notify suppliers of any missing covered documents.

(iii) *Submission of missing covered documents.* Suppliers notified by CMS of

missing covered documents have 10 business days after the date of such notice to submit the missing documents. CMS does not reject the supplier's bid on the basis that the covered documents are late or missing if all the applicable missing covered documents identified in the notice are submitted to CMS not later than 10 business days after the date of such notice.

(e) *Evaluation of bids.* CMS evaluates composite bids submitted for a lead item within a product category by—

(1) Calculating the expected beneficiary demand in the CBA for the lead item in the product category;

(2) Calculating the total supplier capacity that would be sufficient to meet the expected beneficiary demand in the CBA for the lead item in the product category;

(3) Arraying the composite bids from the lowest composite bid price to the highest composite bid price;

(4) Calculating the pivotal bid for the product category; and

(5) Selecting all suppliers and networks whose composite bids are less than or equal to the pivotal bid for that product category, and that meet the requirements in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section.

(f) *Expected savings.* A contract is not awarded under this subpart unless CMS determines that the amounts to be paid to contract suppliers for an item under a competitive bidding program are expected to be less than the amounts that would otherwise be paid for the same item under subpart C or subpart D.

(g) *Special rules for small suppliers—(1) Target for small supplier participation.* CMS ensures that small suppliers have the opportunity to participate in a competitive bidding program by taking the following steps:

(i) Setting a target number for small supplier participation by multiplying 30 percent by the number of suppliers that meet the requirements in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section and whose composite bids are equal to or lower than the pivotal bid calculated for the product category;

(ii) Identifying the number of qualified small suppliers whose composite bids are at or below the pivotal bid for the product category;

(iii) Selecting additional small suppliers whose composite bids are above the pivotal bid for the product category in ascending order based on the proximity of each small supplier's composite bid to the pivotal bid, until the number calculated in paragraph (g)(1)(i) of this section is reached or there are no more composite bids submitted by small suppliers for the product category.

(2) The bids by small suppliers that are selected under paragraph (g)(1)(iii) of this section are not used to calculate the single payment amounts for any items under § 414.416 of this subpart.

(h) *Sufficient number of suppliers.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (h)(3) of this section, CMS will award at least five contracts, if there are five suppliers satisfying the requirements in paragraphs (b) through (f) of this section; or

(2) CMS will award at least two contracts, if there are less than five suppliers meeting these requirements and the suppliers satisfying these requirements have sufficient capacity to satisfy beneficiary demand for the product category calculated under paragraph (e)(1) of this section.

(3) The provisions of paragraph (h)(1) of this section do not apply to regional or nationwide mail order CBAs under § 414.410(d)(2) of this subpart.

(i) *Selection of new suppliers after bidding.* (1) Subsequent to the awarding of contracts under this subpart, CMS may award additional contracts if it determines that additional contract suppliers are needed to meet beneficiary demand for items under a competitive bidding program. CMS selects additional contract suppliers by—

(i) Referring to the arrayed list of suppliers that submitted bids for the product category included in the competitive bidding program for which beneficiary demand is not being met; and

(ii) Beginning with the supplier whose composite bid is the first composite bid above the pivotal bid for that product category, determining if that supplier is willing to become a contract supplier under the same terms and conditions that apply to other contract suppliers in the CBA.

(2) Before CMS awards additional contracts under paragraph (i)(1) of this section, a supplier must submit updated information demonstrating that the supplier meets the requirements under paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section.

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**§ 414.416 Determination of competitive bidding payment amounts.**

(a) *General rule.* CMS establishes a single payment amount for each item furnished under a competitive bidding program.

(b) *Methodology for setting payment amount.* (1) The single payment amount for a lead item furnished under a competitive bidding program is equal to the maximum bid submitted for that item by suppliers whose composite bids for the product category that includes the item are equal to or below the pivotal bid for that product category.

(2) The single payment amount for a lead item must be less than or equal to the amount that would otherwise be paid for the same item under subpart C or subpart D of this part.

(3) The single payment amount for an item in a product category furnished under a competitive bidding program that is not a lead item for that product category is equal to the single payment amount for the lead item in the same product category multiplied by the ratio of the average of the 2015 fee schedule amounts for all areas (that is, all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands), for the item to the average of the 2015 fee schedule amounts for all areas for the lead item.

[72 FR 18085, Apr. 10, 2007, as amended at 81 FR 77967, Nov. 4, 2016; 83 FR 57072, Nov. 14, 2018]

**§ 414.418 Opportunity for networks.**

(a) A network may be comprised of at least 2 but not more than 20 small suppliers.

(b) The following rules apply to networks that seek contracts under this subpart:

(1) Each network must form a single legal entity that acts as the bidder and submits the bid. Any agreement entered into for purposes of forming a network must be submitted to CMS. The network must identify itself as a network and identify all of its members.

(2) Each member of the network must satisfy the requirements in § 414.414(b) through (d).

(3) A small supplier may join one or more networks but cannot submit an individual bid to furnish the same product category in the same CBA as any network in which it is a member. A small supplier may not be a member of more than one network if those networks submit bids to furnish the same product category in the same CBA.

(4) The network cannot be anti-competitive, and this section does not supersede any Federal law or regulation that regulates anticompetitive behavior.

(5) A bid submitted by a network must include a statement from each network member certifying that the network member joined the network because it is unable independently to furnish all of the items in the product category for which the network is submitting a bid to beneficiaries throughout the entire geographic area of the CBA.

(6) At the time that a network submits a bid, the network's total market share for each product category that is the subject of the network's bid cannot exceed 20 percent of the Medicare demand for that product category in the CBA.

(c) If the network is awarded a contract, each supplier must submit its own claims and will receive payment directly from Medicare for the items that it furnishes under the competitive bidding program.

[72 FR 18085, Apr. 10, 2007]

**§ 414.420 Physician or treating practitioner authorization and consideration of clinical efficiency and value of items.**

(a) *Prescription for a particular brand item or mode of delivery.* (1) A physician or treating practitioner may prescribe, in writing, a particular brand of an item for which payment is made under