**Section 732.855 Bidding**

As an alternative to the maximum payment amounts set forth in this Subpart H, one or more maximum payment amounts may be determined via bidding in accordance with this Section. Each bid must cover all costs included in the maximum payment amount that the bid is replacing.

a) A minimum of three written bids must be obtained. The bids must be based upon the same scope of work and must remain valid for a period of time that will allow the owner or operator to accept them upon the Agency's approval of the associated budget. Bids must be obtained only from persons qualified and able to perform the work being bid. Bids must not be obtained from persons in which the owner or operator, or the owner's or operator's primary contractor, has a financial interest.

b) The bids must be summarized on forms prescribed and provided by the Agency. The bid summary form, along with copies of the bid requests and the bids obtained, must be submitted to the Agency in the associated budget. If more than the minimum three bids are obtained, summaries and copies of all bids must be submitted to the Agency.

c) The maximum payment amount for the work bid must be the amount of the lowest bid, unless the lowest bid is less than the maximum payment amount set forth in this Subpart H in which case the maximum payment amount set forth in this Subpart H must be allowed. The owner or operator is not required to use the lowest bidder to perform the work, but instead may use another person qualified and able to perform the work, including, but not limited to, a person in which the owner or operator, or the owner's or operator's primary consultant, has a direct or indirect financial interest. However, regardless of who performs the work, the maximum payment amount will remain the amount of the lowest bid.

(Source: Added at 30 Ill. Reg. 4928, effective March 1, 2006)