

Bid Thresholds for Public Works Projects

The lower threshold is the amount below which the local government may use any internally acceptable method of awarding small public works contracts. For contracts between the lower threshold and the uppermost threshold (generally \$350,000, but \$300,00 for some agencies), most statutes allow the local government to use a small works roster. For amounts above an agency's small works threshold, the local government must use the formal competitive bidding process. If the local government is not using the small work roster process, it must use the formal competitive bidding process for any project over the lowest bid threshold.

Government Type	Bid Threshold	Small Works Roster Threshold	Applicable RCW	Limits for Work by Agency Employees
Area Agency on Aging	Most restrictive of establishing jurisdictions		74.38.050	Most restrictive of establishing jurisdictions
City, first class	\$75,500 (1 craft) \$150,000 (>1 craft)	\$350,000	35.22.620	Per project: \$75,500 (1 trade), \$150,000 (>1 trade). NTE 10% of public works budget.
City, code, second class and towns	\$75,500 (1 craft) \$116,155 (>1 craft)	\$350,000	35.23.352 35A.40.210	Per project: \$75,500 (1 trade), \$116,155 (>1 trade).
Conservation district	None; established by policy		89.08	No statutory limits - set by policy
County, population >400k with purchasing department	\$0	\$350,000	36.32.235	Per project: \$45,000 or \$125k for Riverine or stormwater project (1 trade), \$90,000 or \$250k for Riverine or stormwater project (>1 trade). NTE 10% of public works budget.
County, population <400,000 with purchasing department	\$0	\$350,000	36.32.240 36.32.235	Per project: \$45,000 or \$125k for Riverine or stormwater project (1 trade), \$90,000 or \$250k for Riverine or stormwater project (>1 trade). NTE 10% of public works budget.
County without purchasing department	\$40,000	\$350,000	36.32.250	Allowed for non-road projects; road project limits set according to population and motor vehicle fuel tax factor
Educational service district (ESD)	None; established by policy (unless contracting on behalf of a school district, in which case school district bid laws apply)		28A.310	Most restrictive of establishing jurisdictions; if NA then by policy
Fire district	\$30,000	\$350,000	52.14.110	Not authorized
Flood/diking/drainage districts (formed under RCW 85.38)	\$5,000	\$350,000	85.38.190	\$5,000
Flood/diking drainage districts (formed under RCW 85.05, 85.06, 85.08, 85.15)	No statutory requirement for competitive bidding.			
Health district	None; established by policy		70.46	No statutory limits - set by policy
Hospital district	\$75,000	\$350,000	70.44.140	\$75,000

Government Type	Bid Threshold	Small Works Roster Threshold	Applicable RCW	Limits for Work by Agency Employees
Housing authority	None; established by policy		35.82; AGO 2009 No. 2	No statutory limits - set by policy
Interlocal agreement agency	Most restrictive of establishing jurisdictions		39.34	Most restrictive of establishing jurisdictions
Irrigation district	\$0	\$300,000	87.03.435-436	No limit; must bid materials used by employees; must follow public works bid process when materials are provided by contractor
Library district	None; established by policy		27.12	Most restrictive of establishing jurisdictions; if NA then by policy
Mosquito control district	None; established by policy		17.28	No statutory limits - set by policy
Park and recreation district	None; established by policy		36.69	Most restrictive of establishing jurisdictions; if NA then by policy
Metropolitan parks district	\$20,000	\$350,000	35.61.135	\$20,000
Port district	\$40,000	\$300,000	53.08.120	Allowed for all projects, except when over \$40k, must make a determination whether cost is lower performed by contract
Public development authority (PDA)	Statutes of creating city or county		35.21.730 35.21.745	Statutes of creating city or county
Public facilities district (PFD)	None; established by policy		36.100.030 35.57.020	No statutory limits - set by policy
Public utility district (PUD)	\$50,000	\$350,000	54.04.070	Max \$300,000 of material
Reclamation district (over 1 million acres)	All public works must be formally bid		89.30.154	Not authorized
Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) [formerly Regional Support Network (RSN)]	Statutes of creating county		71.24.300 71.05.025	Statutes of creating county
School district	\$100,000	\$350,000	28A.335.190	\$75,000
Self-insurance risk pool	Most restrictive of establishing jurisdictions		48.62	Most restrictive of establishing jurisdictions
State college or university	\$45,000 (1 craft) \$90,000 (>1 craft)	\$350,000	28B.10.350 28B.50.330	\$45,000 (1 craft) \$90,000 (>1 craft)
Transportation authority (under RCW 36.57 or 36.57A)	None; established by policy		36.57A	No statutory limits - set by policy
Transportation authority (under RCW 35.21.225 or 36.73)	Statutes of creating city or county		35.21.225 36.73	Most restrictive of establishing jurisdictions
Water-sewer district	\$50,000	\$350,000	57.08.050	\$50,000

Note: "Craft" refers to professional trades. The bid threshold is thus based on the number of professional trades required to complete a project. Agencies should consult legal counsel when assessing applicable laws.