

# V.A.L.U.E. IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. *Who is V.A.L.U.E.?*

A. They are us. V.A.L.U.E. is an organization made up of counties, school districts, cities, villages and special districts in the southeastern Wisconsin market area. Active membership includes:

### Counties

Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha

### Cities

Brookfield, Cedarburg, Cudahy, Delafield, Franklin, Glendale, Greenfield, Hartford, Milwaukee, Muskego, New Berlin, Oak Creek, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee, Port Washington, Racine, St. Francis, South Milwaukee, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, West Allis and West Bend

### Towns

Delafield, Iron River, Lisbon, Mukwonago, Summit, and Vernon

### Villages

Bayside, Brown Deer, Butler, Eagle, Elm Grove, Fox Point, Germantown, Grafton, Greendale, Hales Corners, Hartland, Jackson, Kewaskum, Lannon, Menomonee Falls, Merton, Pewaukee, River Hills, Saukville, Shorewood, Thiensville, West Milwaukee and Whitefish Bay

### School Districts

Brown Deer, Cedarburg, CESA #1, Cudahy, Elmbrook, Hartford, Kettle Moraine, Kewaskum, Mequon-Thiensville, Milwaukee, New Berlin Public Schools, Oconomowoc Area, Port Washington-Saukville, Racine, Sheboygan, South Milwaukee, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, West Allis-West Milwaukee, West Bend and Whitefish Bay

### Other Agencies

Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC), Milwaukee County Transit System, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), North Shore Fire Dept., Racine Water & Wastewater Utilities, and Social Development Commission (SDC)

Q. *What is the cost of participation?*

A. The out of pocket cost is \$25.00 per year. In addition, each member contributes staff expertise and time as they are able. It is the philosophy of V.A.L.U.E. that this participation is not in addition to our regular duties - cost reduction through cooperative purchasing is a part of our jobs.

- Q. *How large is the staff of V.A.L.U.E.?*
- A. There is no paid staff. Administration is by a Manager, Coordinating Manager and Treasurer elected from among a seven member Board of Directors. The Directors are chosen by the general membership.
- Q. *Who mails and receives the bids?*
- A. Each bid is coordinated by a lead agency. This agency is responsible for reproducing, mailing, opening and tabulating the bid. Award is determined by the responsible commodity workgroup.
- Q. *How are out-of-state suppliers considered?*
- A. No differently than present. They will receive an award if they are low bid and can provide services as specified.
- Q. *Will my current suppliers be given a chance to bid?*
- A. Yes - just furnish the name and address to the workgroup developing the specification.
- Q. *What if my governing body will not authorize an award to the bidder selected by V.A.L.U.E.?*
- A. If the award is not authorized due to a lack of available funds, the specification provides for not entering into a contract with no penalty or obligation. However, your contract with V.A.L.U.E. and the specifications both obligate your jurisdiction to follow through with agreed commitments, i.e. the only acceptable reason for withdrawing is a lack of funds.
- Q. *How do I join?*
- A. By completing the Membership Application and signing the Letter of Understanding.
- Q. *How do I get more information?*
- A. Contact Jean Kienzle, Elmbrook Schools, at 781-3030 x 141.
- Q. *What can I do to assist?*
- A. Participate. Your special needs and special expertise need to be represented for all of our benefit. We also need your volume - quantity is the basis of our success. And finally, spread the word among your colleagues with other agencies - word of mouth is always the best reference.
- Q. *How am I informed about upcoming bids?*
- A. Through the quarterly newsletter and by direct mailing for certain bids.