

Private Vehicle Modifications

Definition: This service offers modifications to a privately owned vehicle used to transport the waiver participant, and for any equipment needed which makes the vehicle accessible to the participant. Modification of any government-subsidized vehicle is not permitted. Private Vehicle Modifications may include consultation and assessment to determine the specific modifications/equipment needed, follow-up inspection after modifications are completed, training in the use of the equipment, repairs not covered by warranty, and replacement of parts or equipment.

Private Vehicle Modifications may not be used for general repair of the vehicle, regularly scheduled upkeep, or maintenance of the vehicle except for maintenance of the modifications and does not cover factory-installed modifications prior to purchase. This service may not be used to purchase or lease a vehicle. Payment may not be made to adapt vehicles that are owned or leased by paid providers of waiver services.

The approval process for Private Vehicle Modifications is initially determined by the Waiver Case Manager based on the participant's needs, as identified, and documented in the Support Plan, the consultation/assessment results (if applicable) and the availability of a privately owned vehicle that would be used for transportation on a routine basis. The criterion used in assessing a participant's need for this service is: 1) The parent or family member cannot transport the participant because the participant cannot get in or out of the vehicle; or 2) the participant can drive but cannot get in or out of the vehicle, and a modification to the vehicle would remove this barrier. According to State procurement policy, bids for the vehicle modification are obtained and submitted, along with the documentation of the need, to SCDDSN. The consultation/assessment does not require submission of bids.

For details on consultations, please see the Private Vehicle Assessment/Consultation section of this chapter.

Providers: Private Vehicle Modifications must be provided by DDSN approved and contracted providers who are enrolled with SCDHHS. It is the responsibility of the WCM to ensure providers are on the approved provider list.

To enroll as a provider for Private Vehicle Modifications, please see waiver service provider qualification requirements in business tools – case management tools.

Conflict-Free Case Management

To honor choice and prevent conflicts of interest, providers of Waiver Case Management services must not provide any other waiver service to the same person. When there is a conflict, the WCM will help the participant understand why a conflict exists and offer a choice of either another WCM provider or another waiver service provider. The Case Manager must then transition the participant to the chosen provider within 60 days.

Arranging for the Service: Before proceeding with bid requests, the **Private Vehicle Modifications Fact Sheet (Community Supports Info Sheet-3)** must be given to the participant and/or legal guardian. The information included in this fact sheet should be fully explained.

Once the participant's specific need has been identified and documented in the Plan and it is determined that Private Vehicle Modifications is the appropriate service to meet the need, the scope of the work/specifications must be determined. This should be done in consultation with the participant and/or family and should define the expected modifications as clearly as possible.

There are two options for Private Vehicle Modifications from which the participant/legal guardian may choose:

1. The Waiver Case Manager can define the expected modifications by meeting with the participant/family, examining the vehicle, reviewing the modifications that are needed, and developing some parameters in writing to provide to the contractors submitting bids. This is a crucial step to ensure that all requested provider bids are based on similar expectations.

OR

2. The expected modifications can be defined by obtaining a Private Vehicle Modification Consultation. For more details on this option see the Private Vehicle Consultation section of the manual.

The written specifications that are developed, either by the WCM or by an independent consultant, must be provided to the contractors when requesting bids and each provider's bid must be based on the specifications. Furthermore, the participant will have to be present when the provider examines the vehicle.

Once the scope of the modification has been determined and put in writing by the Waiver Case Manager or by the independent consultant, the participant/family should be offered a choice of provider. This offering of choice must be documented in the participant's file.

Procurement Requirements:

In accordance with the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code, SCDDSN directive 250-08-DD, *Procurement Requirements for Local DSN Boards*, applies to all procurement activities supported in whole or in part by SCDDSN funding, including Private Vehicle Modifications funded by the waiver. Providers contracted with SCDDSN must establish and follow procurement policies and procedures with requirements at least as restrictive as those contained in this directive. **Participants must be made aware of this requirement. Waiver Case Managers, not families, are responsible for soliciting bids for private vehicle modifications.** Directive 250-08-DD can be accessed on the SCDDSN website: www.ddsn.sc.gov.

Below are the solicitation limits as defined by the Consolidated Procurement Code:

A. \$10,000 or less NO COMPETITION:

Small purchases not exceeding \$10,000 may be accomplished without securing competitive quotations if the prices are considered reasonable. The purchasing office must annotate the purchase requisition "Price is fair and reasonable" and sign. The purchases must be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers. When practical, a quotation must be solicited from someone other than the previous supplier before placing a repeat order. The administrative cost of verifying the reasonableness of the price of purchase "not in excess of" may more than offset potential savings in detecting instances of overpricing. Action to verify the reasonableness of the price needs be taken only when the procurement officer of the governmental body suspects that the price may not be reasonable, comparison to previous price paid, or personal knowledge of the item involved.

B. \$10,001 to \$25,000 THREE WRITTEN QUOTES:

Written request for written quotes from a minimum of three (3) qualified sources of supply may be made and, unless adequate public notice is provided in the South Carolina Business Opportunities, documentation of at least three (3) bona fide, responsive, and responsible quotes must be attached to the purchase requisition for a small purchase not more than \$25,000. The award must be made to the lowest responsive and responsible sources. The request for quotes must include a purchase description. Requests must be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers unless advertised as provided above.

C. \$25,000.01-\$100,000 ADVERTISED SMALL PURCHASE:

Written solicitation of written quotes, bids, or proposals may be made for a small purchase not more than \$100,000. The procurement 250-08-DD, February 20, 2020, Page 4, must be advertised at least once in the South Carolina Business Opportunities publication. A copy of the written solicitation and written quotes must be attached to the purchase requisition. The award must be made to the lowest responsive and responsible source or, when a request for proposal process is used, to the highest-ranking offeror.

The Waiver Case Manager should submit a plan change request to the Waiver Administration Division for approval before any work can be authorized.

When a bid is received, the **Acknowledgement of Bid Submission for Private Vehicle Modifications** must be completed and forwarded to the provider/contractor that submitted the bid. This must be done for each bid received. This communication notifies the providers/contractors that their bids were received and that they cannot provide services without written authorization from the Waiver Case Manager.

Note: If any change/editing must be made to the specifications of the proposed modifications during or after the solicitation of written bids, the solicitation process must be stopped. A written amendment of the specifications must be completed and sent to all potential bidders who received the original specifications, so that each has the opportunity to respond to the amended solicitation. All bidders must submit a written bid in response to the amended specifications so that bidding on identical project requirements is assured. A copy of the written amendment to the specifications and the subsequent bids must be submitted to Central Office for internal review.

At the time the written bid/s are submitted to SCDDSN, the modification must be requested to the SCDDSN Waiver Administration Division. In all cases, the lowest bid must be indicated, as the award will be made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. If a bid is submitted from a vendor that has been debarred by the State of South Carolina Materials Management Office, then the bid will be dismissed and a new bid will be obtained.

If the participant/legal guardian has communicated concerns about using the lowest bidder, citing, for example, bad references, proof of faulty work, complaints from the Better Business Bureau, etc., then the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist must submit these concerns, in writing, to SCDDSN. SCDDSN Central Office staff will review this information, and, if legitimate, documented, and substantiated concerns are noted, this information will be reported to the State of South Carolina Materials Management Office (SCMMO). The SCMMO will review this information, and, if they concur, the vendor will be debarred. If DDSN receives word from SCMMO that a vendor has been disbarred or has otherwise lost its business license due to substantiated complaints, the participant/family will be allowed to use the next lowest bidder for the modification.

Note: Due to fluctuations in the costs of materials, some contractors limit the amount of time that they will honor a written quote. The SCDDSN Waiver Administration Division must assure that all bids submitted to SCDDSN Central Office for review are current and valid. This may require contacting bidders for confirmation. Once the request for the modification has been approved, the participant/legal guardian must be presented with the **Private Vehicle Modifications Project Agreement** agree to its terms and sign it before services can be authorized.

Authorizing the Service: To initiate the service following approval by the Waiver Administration Division, an electronic authorization must be completed and submitted to the chosen provider. A description of the private vehicle modification must be included in the comments section of the authorization with the total cost.

The authorized provider must be enrolled with SCDHHS.

Monitoring the Services: The Waiver Case Manager must monitor the completed modifications on-site within two (2) weeks of completion to verify that the work is complete (i.e., all components of the project, as described in the written specifications/scope, have been fulfilled), adequate, and satisfactory to the family.

Some questions to consider during monitoring include:

- Was the modification completed as originally prescribed?
- Is the modification functional?
- Is the participant satisfied with the result of the modification?
- How has it made his/her vehicle more accessible and safer?
- Was he/she satisfied with the provider of the modifications?
- Are there additional needs that were included in the bid and the authorized modification that were not met by the provider?

Reduction, Suspension, or Termination of Services: If services need to be reduced, suspended, or terminated, a written notice must be forwarded to the participant or his/her legal guardian. Include the details regarding the change(s) in service and the Reconsideration Information. The WCM must wait ten (10) calendar days before proceeding with the reduction, suspension, or termination of the service. See **Chapter 8** for specific details and procedures regarding written notification and the Reconsideration process.