

# Dollar Thresholds in North Carolina Public Contracting Statutes

Dollar limits and statutory authority current as of January 1, 2025



Requirement	Threshold	Statute
<b>Formal bidding</b>	<i>(estimated cost of contract)</i>	
Construction or repair contracts	\$500,000 and above	G.S. 143-129
Purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials, and equipment	\$90,000 and above	G.S. 143-129
<b>Informal bidding</b>	<i>(actual cost of contract)</i>	
Construction or repair contracts	\$30,000 to formal limit	G.S. 143-131
Purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials, and equipment	\$30,000 to formal limit	G.S. 143-131
<b>Construction methods required for building projects</b>	<i>(estimated cost of project)</i>	<b>G.S. 143-128(a1)</b>
Separate-Prime	Over \$300,000	
Single-Prime	Over \$300,000	
Dual Bidding	Over \$300,000	
Construction Management at Risk	Over \$300,000	G.S. 143-128.1
Design-Build	Over \$300,000	G.S. 143-128.1A
Design-Build Bridging	Over \$300,000	G.S. 143-128.1B
Public-Private Partnership (P3)	Over \$300,000	G.S. 143-128.1C
<b>Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) requirements</b>		
Building construction or repair projects		
— Projects with state funding ( <i>verifiable 10% goal required</i> )	\$100,000 or more	G.S. 143-128.2(a)
— Locally funded projects ( <i>formal HUB requirements</i> )	\$300,000 or more	G.S. 143-128.2(j)
— Projects in informal bidding range ( <i>informal HUB requirements</i> )	\$30,000 to \$500,000*	G.S. 143-131(b)
<i>*Note: Formal HUB requirements should be used for informally bid projects costing between \$300,000 and \$500,000</i>		
<b>Limit on use of own forces (force account work)</b>	<i>(not to exceed)</i>	<b>G.S. 143-135</b>
Construction or repair projects	\$500,000 ( <i>total project cost</i> ) or \$200,000 ( <i>labor-only cost</i> )*	
<i>*Note: Thresholds differ for State agencies and the University of North Carolina and its constituent institutions.</i>		
<b>Bid bond or deposit</b>		
Construction or repair contracts ( <i>at least 5% of bid amount</i> )	Formal bids (\$500,000 and above)	G.S. 143-129(b)
Purchase contracts	Not required	
<b>Performance/Payment bonds</b>		
Construction or repair contracts ( <i>100% of contract amount</i> )	Each contract over \$50,000 of project costing over \$300,000	G.S. 143-129(c); G.S. 44A-26
Purchase contracts	Not required	
<b>General contractor's license required</b>	<b>\$40,000 and above</b>	<b>G.S. 87-1</b>
Exemption	Force account work ( <i>see above</i> )	
Owner-builder affidavit required	Force account work ( <i>see above</i> )	G.S. 87-14(a)(1)
<b>Use of licensed architect or engineer required</b>		
Nonstructural work	\$300,000 and above	G.S. 133-1.1(a)
Structural repair, additions, or new construction	\$135,000 and above	
Repair work affecting life safety systems	\$100,000 and above	
<b>Selection of architect, engineer, surveyor, construction manager at risk, or design-build contractor</b>		
"Qualification-Based Selection" procedure (QBS)	All contracts unless exempted	G.S. 143-64.31
Exemption authorized	Only specific projects where estimated fee is <i>less than</i> \$50,000	G.S. 143-64.32

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