

Tri-State Bid Signal

Pilot 001 - Construction & Facilities Edition

A decision-ready brief for small vendors pursuing public work in Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and adjacent Kentucky markets.

THE SHORTLIST

Four live signals worth a closer look

4

CURATED SIGNALS

2

TRI-STATE PROJECTS

0DEADLINE CHANGES
FOUND**\$0**

READER PORTAL COST

This week's call

Best immediate fit: Controls and electrical contractors should qualify the Campbell Controls Upgrades project first. Boone County's I-71 loadometer-station renovation is the second local signal, but its shorter runway makes document access and partner availability the first checks.

How to read this pilot

PURSUE	Strong local fit and enough apparent runway to justify opening the official solicitation now.
REVIEW	Potential fit, but geography, lead time, or scope uncertainty lowers priority.
SIGNAL SCORE	Editorial triage from 0-100 using location, runway, apparent trade fit, and source confidence. It is not a bid/no-bid determination.

Status checked 22 September 2026 against the public State of Kentucky planroom listing. Always open the official solicitation and all addenda before acting.

Local first: Cincinnati + Northern Kentucky

#1

PURSUE

86

SIGNAL SCORE

RFB-83-27 - Campbell Controls Upgrades

Newport, Kentucky | Due 13 Oct 2026, 1:30 PM ET | State of Kentucky Planroom

Why it made the cut: Local location, a clear controls-oriented title, and roughly three weeks of visible runway make this the strongest first-pass fit for building-controls, electrical, and mechanical teams.

Next move: Open the official project record; confirm scope, licensing, bonding, pre-bid requirements, and whether controls-brand certification or subcontracting is required.

Verify: Full documents require planroom access. The title alone does not establish eligibility or contract value.

#2

PURSUE

72

SIGNAL SCORE

RFB-77-27 - KYTC Boone County I-71 Loadometer Station Renovation

Walton, Kentucky | Due 30 Sep 2026, 1:30 PM ET | State of Kentucky Planroom

Why it made the cut: Tri-state location and an apparent renovation scope could fit general contractors and facility-trade partners. The project is geographically attractive even though the bid window is tight.

Next move: Check the documents immediately, identify any mandatory site visit, and decide within one business day whether the remaining runway is sufficient.

Verify: Only the public listing was reviewed; trade packages, estimate, and qualification requirements remain unverified.

Editorial note

Cincinnati procurement itself is split across Vendor Self Service, a Business Opportunities portal, and Bonfire. Hamilton County has also moved to a separate OpenGov portal. That fragmentation is why this brief emphasizes a single ranked view rather than another unfiltered alert feed.

Regional reach: Kentucky pipeline

#3

REVIEW

65

SIGNAL SCORE

FWAE-001-27 - Civil Engineering Services for FILO

Various Kentucky locations | Due 20 Oct 2026, 12:00 PM ET | Kentucky Fish & Wildlife

Why it made the cut: A professional-services opportunity with longer runway. It may suit civil firms that can serve multiple Kentucky locations or partner with local specialists.

Next move: Review the RFP for disciplines, geographic coverage, evaluation criteria, insurance, and prior-experience thresholds.

Verify: The listing indicates multiple locations; travel burden and precise deliverables are unknown until the RFP is opened.

#4

REVIEW

54

SIGNAL SCORE

FW-002-27 - FILO Red Oak Phase II

Kentucky | Due 29 Oct 2026, 12:00 PM ET | Kentucky Fish & Wildlife

Why it made the cut: The longest visible runway in this issue creates time to understand the phase-two scope and assemble a team. It is included as a pipeline signal, not a confirmed trade match.

Next move: Open the plan set, identify county and project type, then screen for distance, bonding, and subcontractor needs before spending estimating time.

Verify: The public project title is not descriptive enough to infer the construction package safely.

Source map

Source	What it covers	Access note
Cincinnati VSS	Published solicitations; ITB responses	Free vendor registration
Cincinnati Bonfire	RFP, RFQ, and RFI opportunities	Separate free portal
Hamilton County OpenGov	County solicitations and vendor notices	New portal launched in 2026
Kentucky VSS	State solicitations and supplier notifications	Registration enables notices
KY Planroom	Public works plan listings	Project documents may require sign-in
Covington / Kenton County	Local city and county bid postings	Separate local pages

The transaction test

\$19

FOUR-WEEK FOUNDING PILOT

One ranked brief each week

Cincinnati + Northern Kentucky first, with adjacent Kentucky opportunities when the fit is compelling. Each issue includes source links, deadlines, a pursue/review signal, the next verification step, and a change watch.

What this pilot is testing

Buyer	Small contractors and facility-service vendors who want public work but will not monitor six separate portals.
Promise	Save portal-checking time and surface the few opportunities worth opening first.
Success gate	Three paid founding pilots, or one buyer who prepays for a longer term, before any automation spend.
Stop rule	Stop after 100 qualified visits or 20 direct, permission-based conversations with zero paid buyers.
Capital rule	Manual production only; spend remains \$0 until a buyer validates the signal.

Method and limitations

This pilot consolidates public listings and adds editorial triage. Signal scores are judgment calls based on visible metadata; they are not legal, procurement, estimating, or bid advice. Opportunity status, requirements, addenda, and deadlines can change without notice. The issuing agency's official solicitation controls in every case.

Primary public sources

State of Kentucky Planroom - https://www.stateofkyplanroom.com/view/ViewJobList.aspx?group_id=public_all

City of Cincinnati Office of Procurement - <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/procurement/>

Hamilton County vendor portal - <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/hamilton-co>

Kentucky Vendor Self Service - <https://vss.ky.gov/>

Prepared 22 September 2026. Pilot issue; not for redistribution as an official agency notice.