

As Contract Administrator with the Parks and Recreation Department for the City of Miami Beach, the first change I suggested be made with our Bid Specifications was to allow FCLC's to submit bids in addition to the previous requirement that contractors had a four year degreed horticulturist on staff supervising maintenance operations for our City.

Having been through the certification process myself I know industry certification is a true indicator of a company's qualifications and professionalism! Being new to the Miami-Dade County area I have had limited opportunity to work with the numerous landscape contractors in the area and therefore will need to use other means to judge a company's ability to manage the large areas we contract out.

Our bid qualifications now read:

3.2.1 Company Qualification

3.2.1.1 Company shall have been in continuous service and incorporated in the State of Florida for a minimum of four (4) years.

3.2.1.2 Company must be fully licensed with all required State and/or Local government licenses, and permits (irrigation, pest control, horticultural services, etc.).

3.2.1.3 Company must have a person with an advanced degree in horticulture, agronomy, or a related field on staff **or be recognized as a Florida Certified Landscape Contractor through the Florida Nurseryman and Growers Association.**

3.2.1.4 Company must have an I. S. A. Certified Arborist on staff, or under contract as a consultant.

3.2.1.5 Company must have a State Certified Pest Control Operator on staff, or under contract as a consultant.

I am confident that the list of FCLC's you provided represent the best of our industry in S. Florida and the City of Miami Beach will benefit greatly by soliciting bids from this group of professionals. I too, would appreciate FNGLA's consideration in posting bid announcements on their internet site and believe it would be a "win win" for our City and your membership.

I look forward to continuing my professional relationship with the FNGLA and as always, it is a pleasure working with you!

Millie McFadden, FCLC #C66 0238
City of Miami Beach Greenspace Mgmt.