



November 24, 2024

---

# Public Contracts for Social Services

---

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website ([ctas.tennessee.edu](http://ctas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee  
County Technical Assistance Service  
226 Anne Dallas Dudley Boulevard, Suite 400  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
615.532.3555 phone  
615.532.3699 fax  
[www.ctas.tennessee.edu](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu)

Table of Contents

<b>Public Contracts for Social Services .....</b>	<b>3</b>
---	----------

# Public Contracts for Social Services

Reference Number: CTAS-956

TCA § 12-3-308 (formerly § 12-4-122) provides that state and local governments shall contract for goods and services provided through the state departments of Human Services, Children's Services, and Health without discrimination against religious organizations and shall contract with religious organizations on the same basis as any other non-governmental providers without impairing the religious character of the organizations. All programs must be implemented consistent with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Any religious organization that contracts with the state or local government shall retain its independence from the government and that the government cannot require the organization to alter its form of governance or remove religious art, icons, scripture or other symbols. See *Op. Tenn. Att'y Gen.* 04-067 (April 20, 2004).

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/public-contracts-social-services>