



POLICY FLASH 2010-40

DATE: March 31, 2010

TO: Procurement Directors

FROM: Office of Procurement and Assistance Policy, MA-61
Office of Procurement and Assistance Management

SUBJECT: AbilityOne Program

SUMMARY: The purpose of this flash is to strongly encourage DOE procurement offices to increase purchasing supplies and services from AbilityOne Program participants (where available) to the maximum extent possible and in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation, Subpart 8.7-Acquisition From Nonprofit Agencies Employing People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

As a reminder, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Wagner-O'Day Act into law in 1938 to provide employment opportunities for people who are blind by allowing them to manufacture mops and brooms and other commodities to sell to the Federal Government. The Javits Amendments of 1971 created the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. § 46-48c) which amended the act to include providing employment opportunities for people with other severe disabilities and allow the program to also provide services to the Federal government.

In addition, the amendment established the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Committee) as an independent Federal agency with a professional civilian staff to administer the JWOD Program. In 2006, the Committee voted to change the program name from JWOD to AbilityOne in order to give the program a stronger and more unified identity as well as to show a connection between the program name and the abilities of those who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

The AbilityOne Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies nationwide dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities.

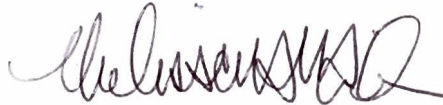
The Committee places product and service requirements on the AbilityOne Procurement List to be furnished by state and private nonprofits agencies (NPAs) employing people who are blind or

have other severe disabilities. The AbilityOne Program WORKS for America! Please visit the following AbilityOne website to learn more about the Program and view current Procurement List: <http://www.abilityone.gov/index.html>

The list includes all of the supplies and services required to be purchased from AbilityOne participating NPAs. Questions concerning whether a supply item or service is on the Procurement List may be submitted to: info@abilityone.gov or referred to the Committee offices at: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10-800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202-3259, or (703) 603-7740.

This Flash will be available online at the following website:
http://management.energy.gov/policy_guidance/policy_flashes.htm.

Questions concerning this policy flash should be directed to Rose Johnson at 202-287-1552 or rosemary.johnson@hq.doe.gov.



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