



The AbilityOne Program

Expanding Opportunities



Starts With a Personal Commitment

The AbilityOne® Program is the largest source of employment, on Federal contracts, for individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities in the United States. Established in 1938, the program is administered by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission®, an independent Federal agency, with assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and SourceAmerica®. In 2012, the Director, Defense Pricing, and the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, signed a memorandum urging procurement officials to make a personal commitment to increase prime contract opportunities and to open new markets with the AbilityOne Program. Subsequently, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics issued a memorandum in 2013 challenging acquisition officials to further increase support by procuring more goods and services provided by the AbilityOne Program. The Under Secretary noted that Department's support has a direct and positive result of creating job opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

AbilityOne Facts and Figures

- Employs more than 45,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities; an estimated 30,000 of these employees work on Department of Defense (DoD) contracts to include service-disabled veterans who have transitioned to the AbilityOne Program
- Coordinates participation from more than 550 nonprofit agencies throughout the United States, and operates at 1,000 locations representing 40 government agencies nationally, including operation of more than 150 base supply stores
- Represents \$2.8 billion of products and services purchased by the Federal Government annually
- As the largest customer of the AbilityOne Program, DoD procures more than \$1.7 billion of products and services annually
- Provides a majority of the Military Chemical Protective Coats and Trousers, known as the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology overgarment
- Is the largest provider of custodial services and commissary shelf-stocking to the Federal Government
- Is one of the major providers of military dining services to the DoD
- Produces SKILCRAFT® and other AbilityOne products
- Provides services such as Contract Management Services (CMS), Fleet Management Services, Secure Document Destruction and Contact Center Services
- Meets industry standards such as ISO 9000, JACHO and ASHES

Working with AbilityOne

- Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 8.7 prescribes policies and procedures with respect to the Government purchase of supplies or services on the Procurement List.
- DoD prime contractors that have a negotiated small business subcontracting plan receive credit toward their small business subcontracting goals if they subcontract with qualified nonprofit agencies participating in the AbilityOne Program (10 U.S.C. 2410d).



Destynie Samate,
Laundry Services
employee at Goodwill
Industrial Services Corp.

“Together with the AbilityOne Program, we support employment opportunities on defense contracts for individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities, thereby giving them the means to lead independent lives.”

-Richard Ginman, Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense

Key Websites

DPAP AbilityOne Program Section:
http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/cpic/cp/abilityone_program.html

U.S. AbilityOne Commission:
<http://www.abilityone.gov>

National Industries for the Blind: www.nib.org

SourceAmerica:
www.sourceamerica.org