



AbilityOne Program Fact Sheet



AbilityOne Overview

The AbilityOne® Program is among the largest sources 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®. At full complement, the Commission is composed of 15 Presidentially-appointed members: 11 who represent Federal agencies and four who are private citizens knowledgeable about the employment challenges faced by people who are blind or have significant disabilities. The Commission is supported by an Arlington, Virginia-based full-time staff, led by a career Senior Executive Service employee.

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 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 centers
- Federal Government purchased \$3.2 billion of products and services in FY2015
- 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 DoD
- Delivers 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.

“The AbilityOne Program not only provides ‘best-value’ contracting, it also fulfills a socioeconomic mission that is extremely important to me, personally, and to the American public.”

-Shay D. Assad, Director,
Defense Pricing

Key Websites

U.S. AbilityOne Commission
www.abilityone.gov

National Industries for the Blind
www.nib.org

SourceAmerica
www.sourceamerica.org