



U.S. AbilityOne Commission Signs Second-Generation Cooperative Agreements with National Industries for the Blind and SourceAmerica

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 20, 2024 – The U.S. AbilityOne Commission today signed second-generation Cooperative Agreements with National Industries for the Blind and SourceAmerica, the central nonprofit agencies (CNAs) designated and overseen by the Commission as part of the AbilityOne Program.

The [agreements](#) advance the Commission’s [FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) and reflect the governing relationship, roles and responsibilities, key expectations and guidance for the Commission and CNAs in implementing and managing the AbilityOne Program, which the Commission oversees. The agreements are effective immediately, and for the next three years.

“These second-generation Cooperative Agreements maintain the Commission’s focus on effective stewardship and modernizing the AbilityOne Program,” said Commission Chairperson Jeffrey A. Koses. “We look forward to continuing to work with the CNAs and AbilityOne nonprofit agencies nationwide on creating quality employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities.”

The first Cooperative Agreements with the CNAs were signed in June 2016 to meet the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, requirements that written agreements be established between the Commission and the CNAs for the CNAs to continue to receive Program Fee, a percentage of sales revenue collected from each contract on the AbilityOne Procurement List.

The new agreements strengthen governance by incorporating lessons learned and best practices. Supported by Commission policies, they are structured to include functions, tasks, performance measures, and evaluation criteria. A key policy currently under development will support references in the agreements to the Program Fee, which will be adjusted based on how much revenue each CNA requires to support the functions and tasks.

In addition, the new agreements are anchored in the uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements found at 2 CFR Part 200. Reliance on this regulatory framework increases alignment of the Commission’s oversight role and the CNAs’ responsibilities with the rights and obligations commonly found in Cooperative Agreements across the Federal government.



About the U.S. AbilityOne Commission

The AbilityOne Program is administered by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, the operating name of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. The Commission is an independent Federal agency composed of 15 Presidential appointees: 11 represent Federal agencies, and four serve as private citizens who are knowledgeable about employment barriers facing people who are blind or have significant disabilities.

About the AbilityOne Program

The AbilityOne Program facilitates the use of government procurement to provide employment in the United States for people who are blind or have significant disabilities. More than 39,000 individuals, including more than 2,500 veterans, are employed nationwide at 405 nonprofit agencies from Maine to Guam. AbilityOne provided more than \$4.4 billion in products and services to approximately 40 Federal government agencies in FY 2024.

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