



U.S. AbilityOne Commission Issues Compliance Policy 51.406

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 9, 2024 – The U.S. AbilityOne Commission today issued [Compliance Policy 51.406](#), “Rights of Participating Employees,” which continues the Commission’s modernization of AbilityOne Program compliance in accordance with the agency’s [strategic plan](#).

Effective Jan. 1, 2025, the policy affirms that participating employees are entitled to the same legal protections as other employees performing the same or similar work, are subject to the same legal standards, and shall enjoy equal access to employment benefits.

The policy also sets forth a mechanism for responding to and monitoring complaints that might be conveyed directly to the Commission or one of its designated Central Nonprofit Agencies.

The policy finalizes a draft version of Policy 51.406 that the Commission [issued](#) for public feedback on June 7, 2024. Issuing such drafts is part of the wide-ranging stakeholder engagement the Commission has conducted, both within and beyond the AbilityOne Program, while modernizing the Program.

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. Approximately 37,000 individuals, including more than 2,500 veterans, are employed nationwide at more than 420 nonprofit agencies from Maine to Guam. AbilityOne provided more than \$4 billion in products and services to approximately 40 Federal government agencies in FY 2023.

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