



## Statement

### **New 2019-2020 AbilityOne Program Fee Ceilings for National Industries for the Blind and SourceAmerica**

The U.S. AbilityOne Commission is adjusting the AbilityOne Program Fee Ceilings, effective April 15, 2019, to March 31, 2020.

The new Program Fee Ceilings are 3.73% for National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and 3.75% for SourceAmerica. The new Program Fee Ceilings will apply between April 15, 2019, and March 31, 2020, to Procurement List additions, annual price changes for products, base year renewals for services, and bilateral contract modifications that result in a price change submission to the Commission.

Since all AbilityOne contracts are performed today at fair market prices approved by the Commission, there will be no price increases or discounts to Federal customers on existing contracts as a result of these changes in the Program Fee Ceilings.

The Program Fee Ceiling is a specified percentage that the Program Fee may not exceed. Formerly known as the “CNA Fee,” the Program Fee is a percentage of the sales revenue of each contract on the AbilityOne Program Procurement List. The Program Fee is paid by AbilityOne-participating Nonprofit Agencies to their Central Nonprofit Agency (CNA), either NIB or SourceAmerica, to fund CNA activities that facilitate the operations of the AbilityOne Program.

The Commission is the independent Federal agency that administers the AbilityOne Program and establishes the Program Fee Ceiling annually for NIB and SourceAmerica. The Program’s third CNA, the American Foundation for the Blind, is currently in a research phase and is not collecting a Program Fee.

Commission authority to set Program Fee Ceilings is specified in Federal regulations (see 41 C.F.R. § 51-2.2(f); 41 C.F.R. § 51-3.5; and 41 C.F.R. § 51-4.3(b)). The Commission determined the 2019–2020 Program Fee Ceilings based on factors that included an assessment of the CNAs’ funding requirements.

The Commission has sent a [memorandum with this information to Chief Acquisition Officers and Senior Procurement Executives](#).

Federal customers with questions about the new Program Fee Ceilings may contact the Commission staff at [info@abilityone.gov](mailto:info@abilityone.gov), or call Amy Jensen, Director of Business Operations, at (703) 603-2132, for more information. NPAs with questions may contact their CNAs.

### **About the AbilityOne Program**

The AbilityOne Program is one of the largest sources of employment in the United States for people who are blind or have significant disabilities. Approximately 45,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities, including approximately 3,000 veterans, are employed at approximately 500 nonprofit agencies nationwide, across 15 time zones, from Maine to Guam. AbilityOne provided more than \$3.3 billion in products and services to the Federal government in fiscal year 2018. The Program operates at more than 1,000 locations, representing 40 government agencies, including more than 150 Base Supply Centers at military and government installations.

### **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 comprised 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. The Commission designates Central Nonprofit Agencies (CNAs) to facilitate the employment of people who are blind or have significant disabilities. CNA Cooperative Agreements with the Commission include performance work statements, quality assurance surveillance plan deliverables, and agreement clauses. The Commission currently executes the AbilityOne Program based on Cooperative Agreements with three CNAs: National Industries for the Blind, SourceAmerica and the American Foundation for the Blind. Commission-designated CNAs are private entities. (The American Foundation for the Blind is currently in a research phase and is not collecting a Program Fee.)