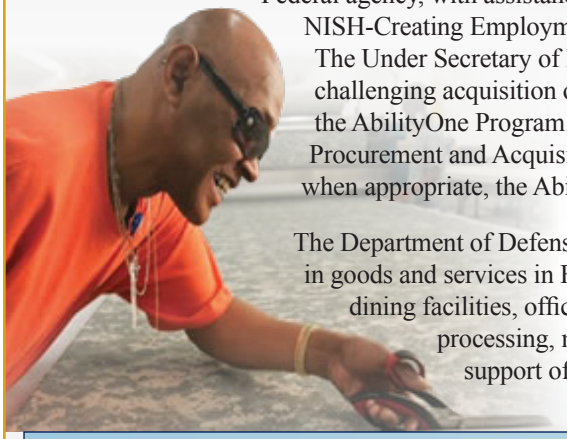
THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

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 other severe disabilities in the United States. Established in 1938, the program is administered by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, an independent Federal agency, with assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH-Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities.



The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics issued a memorandum in 2008 challenging acquisition officials to further increase support by procuring more goods and services provided by the AbilityOne Program. This was followed by a subsequent memorandum issued by the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy urging contracting officials to make a personal commitment to consider, when appropriate, the AbilityOne Program in fulfilling procurement needs.

The Department of Defense is the largest customer of the AbilityOne Program and procured more than $1.5 billion in goods and services in FY2008. These procurements include award-winning food services at base installation dining facilities, office supplies, grounds maintenance, laundry services, uniforms, digital imaging, IT data processing, mailroom services, and first aid kits that are issued to the Armed Forces deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Facts and Figures

- Employs over 40,000 people who are blind or have other severe disabilities; an estimated 31,000 of these employees work on DoD contracts to include service-disabled veterans who have transitioned to the AbilityOne Program
- Coordinates participation from more than 600 nonprofit agencies throughout the United States, and operates at nearly 1,000 locations representing 40 government agencies nationally; including operation of 126 base supply stores
- Represents $2.3 billion of products and services purchased by the Federal Government in Fiscal Year 2008
- Provides a majority of the Military Chemical Protective Coats and Trousers, known as the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST) 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 Department of Defense
- Produces the SKILCRAFT line of products
- Provides services such as Fleet Management Services, Secure Document Destruction, and Contact Center Services
- AbilityOne Program meets industry standards such as ISO 9000, JACHO, and ASHES
- 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)

> **"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 Procurement and Acquisition Policy*

Key Web Sites

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

Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled:
http://www.abilityone.gov

AbilityOne Program:
http://www.abilityonedod.org