



U.S. AbilityOne Commission Issues Report to the President, March 2021

ARLINGTON, Va., March 26, 2021 – The U.S. AbilityOne Commission today released a report to the President about the value and impact of the Commission and the AbilityOne Program it oversees for the period of Oct. 1, 2019, through March 15, 2021.

“I am proud to share this report with the President, AbilityOne stakeholders and the public,” said Commission Chairperson Jeffrey A. Koses. “AbilityOne is providing tremendous value to the American taxpayer by providing employment opportunities for more than 42,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities. This report includes updates on important initiatives that are increasing oversight, accountability and transparency throughout the Program.”

The report covers four major areas:

- COVID-19 Response: The AbilityOne Essential Workforce
- Effective Stewardship
- Prioritizing Initiatives to Grow the Program
- Office of the Inspector General

Key points include:

- AbilityOne’s value to America is at a historic high with the Program’s extraordinary performance in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. AbilityOne employees are playing a crucial role in maintaining the operations of the Federal Government, as well as the readiness of the U.S. military.
- AbilityOne employees work at nearly 500 nonprofit agencies across the country, 95% of which have remained open during the pandemic.
- On AbilityOne contracts, the Commission is accelerating elimination of subminimum wages paid under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Fewer than 2% of AbilityOne employees (674 out of 42,200) were paid below Federal minimum wage in Q1 FY 2021.
- The Commission’s Spring 2021 Regulatory Agenda proposes that the Commission no longer approve AbilityOne contracts in which 14(c) wages will be paid.



- Employees with disabilities now earn an average wage of \$15.64 per hour on AbilityOne contracts at SourceAmerica nonprofit agencies as of Q2 FY 2021.
- AbilityOne average hourly wages rose by more than 33% from FY 2010 to FY 2020 – from \$11.00 in FY 2010 to \$14.70 in FY 2020.
- The Commission is fully supporting the Office of Federal Procurement Policy [memorandum](#) on “Increasing the Participation of Americans with Disabilities in Federal Contracting,” which could create tens of thousands of jobs for years to come for the underserved population of people who are blind or have significant disabilities.
- The Program is adding next generation knowledge-based jobs in IT and related areas.
- The Office of Inspector General continues to provide reports, recommendations and oversight for the Commission and AbilityOne Program.

Increases in transparency continue across Commission activities. For example, the Commission’s regular quarterly public meeting on April 8, 2021, will include a 90-minute listening session, at which the public is [invited](#) to provide comments and statements.

Key AbilityOne Metrics – FY 2020	
AbilityOne employees who are blind or have significant disabilities	42,200
AbilityOne wages paid	\$675,852,534
Estimated Health and Welfare Fringe Benefits (in addition to wages)	\$150,000,000
Average hourly wage	\$14.70
Change in average hourly wage, FY 2010 - FY 2020	Up 33%
Sales of products and services to Federal customers (approximate)	\$3.9 billion
Wounded, ill or injured veterans working in AbilityOne direct labor jobs	3,200
AbilityOne nonprofit agencies remaining open during pandemic	95%

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. More than 42,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities, including approximately 3,200 veterans, are employed at approximately 500 nonprofit agencies nationwide, across 15 time zones, from Maine to Guam. AbilityOne provided nearly \$4 billion in products and services to the Federal Government in FY 2020. 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 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. 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. Commission oversight of the AbilityOne Program includes cooperative agreements with two CNAs: National Industries for the Blind and SourceAmerica. Commission-designated CNAs are private entities.



COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED
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