



VA Issues Guidance on Implementing H.R. 4920

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs issued a policy memorandum (class deviation) on August 14, 2020, one week after the President signed into law H.R. 4920, the Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act of 2020. The Act became Public Law 116-155.

The new memorandum provides guidance for VA contracting officers on how to implement H.R. 4920.

The policy memorandum assists in clarifying that any AbilityOne project work for the VA that was added to the AbilityOne Procurement List on or before December 22, 2006, is protected, including any subsequent product replacements and line extensions that are part of such contracts.

[Click here to read the policy memorandum.](#)

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 nearly \$4 billion in products and services to the Federal government in fiscal year 2019. 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. (American Foundation for the Blind is currently in a research phase and is not collecting a Program Fee.)



COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED
An Independent Federal Agency

