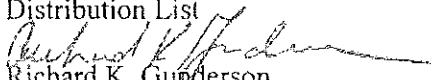


MAY 13 2010



Homeland  
Security

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution List  
FROM:   
Richard K. Gunderson  
Acting Chief Procurement Officer  
SUBJECT: Increasing AbilityOne Program Contracting Opportunities

According to the Year 2000 Census, of the 31 million United States residents between the ages of 21 and 64 who have disabilities, nearly 21 million are unemployed or underemployed. That equates to a 68 percent un-/underemployment rate. Providing employment opportunities for over 40,000 Americans, 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.

On December 11, 2008, President-elect Barack Obama unveiled his plan to ensure that Americans with disabilities have the greatest possible access to the same opportunities as those without disabilities. One of the four parts making up the President's *Plan to Empower People with Disabilities*, is the goal of increasing the employment rate of workers with disabilities. As acquisition professionals we can show our support for the President's Plan by renewing our commitment to the AbilityOne Program, the largest source of employment on Federal contracts, for individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the United States.

Between Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 and Fiscal Year 2009, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) increased its estimated contract value of AbilityOne service contracts by over \$10 million, from \$39 million (405 actions) to \$49.8 million (424 actions). Although it is always good to see its AbilityOne Program contract dollars increasing, with FY 2009 contract obligations of over \$14 billion, DHS can and must do more to increase its contracting opportunities with the AbilityOne Program.

DHS has a growing number of AbilityOne *Champions*, including the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), Glynco, Georgia. FLETC demonstrates its support for the AbilityOne Program through the millions of dollars that it spends annually under its Blanket Purchase Agreements and contracts with AbilityOne-affiliated nonprofit agencies to provide janitorial services, dormitory management services, and to even staff and stock an on-site JWOD/AbilityOne Office Supply Store. Awarded under a Blanket Purchase Agreement in October 2009, the FLETC Office Supply store at Glynco is where all FLETC and Partner Organizations can go to obtain their office supplies and place their AbilityOne purchase card office supply orders. Many of the recurring need items are stocked and the rest are ordered as requested. To date during FY 2010, the store has "rung up" over \$76,000 in sales of AbilityOne office products.