



Architect of the Capitol
U.S. Capitol, Room SB-16
Washington, DC 20515
202.228.1793
www.aoc.gov

January 15, 2024

The Honorable Jasmine Crockett
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcus J. Molinaro
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dina Titus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members:

Thank you for your request for information regarding the Architect of the Capitol's (AOC) part in enhancing legislative branch participation in the AbilityOne program. We understand the importance and impact of the AbilityOne program for government agencies and local economies across the country and are committed to ensuring the program's continued success. The responses to your inquiry about the agency's participation in the AbilityOne program are as follows:

- 1. We ask whether you will commit to working with incoming Member offices to ensure they are aware of the AbilityOne program?**

The agency is committed to working with all Member offices to ensure they are aware of the AbilityOne program and the benefits they can receive when procuring products and services from individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities. The AbilityOne program has provided outstanding products and services to the agency over the years, and we look forward to continuing this partnership. We will also coordinate with other agencies to ensure incoming Member offices are informed about the AbilityOne program.

2. Will your offices commit to exploring how to leverage the power of defaults to increase purchases of AbilityOne products and services?

Pursuant to the agency's Contracting Manual (CM), contracting officers prioritize the use of the AbilityOne program for new procurements.

The AOC continues to look for ways to leverage announcements, sources-sought notifications, and requests for information to increase the purchasing power of AbilityOne products and services. The AOC engages its AbilityOne points of contact at the start of new procurements to identify vendors of products and services that are on the AbilityOne Procurement List. This engagement assists the agency in meeting its requirements and AbilityOne with meeting its goals.

3. We ask that you provide information as to whether each of your respective offices collect internal data on procurement from AbilityOne, and whether you are committed to publishing that data so that Congress is able to monitor compliance with the statute.

The AOC collects AbilityOne program data via an internal vendor dashboard using data from the Financial Management System. The agency is committed to procuring goods and services through the AbilityOne program to the maximum extent practicable. For Fiscal Year 2023, approximately 4.6 percent of the agency's total authority of nonpayroll dollars were placed through the AbilityOne program to include government purchase card transactions.

Some of the larger AOC AbilityOne program contracts include:

- Senate Office Building Day Custodial Services (\$4.6 million annually) performed by Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries
- Ford House Office Building Custodial Services (\$2.5 million annually) performed by Fedcap Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
- General and Technical Administrative Support Services for the Chief Administrative Officer (\$1.2 million annually) performed by ServiceSource, Inc.
- Senate Employee Childcare Center Custodial Services (\$920 thousand annually) performed by Melwood Horticultural Training Center, Inc.
- Cleaning Services for the Capitol Power Plant (\$417 thousand annually) performed by Anchor Mental Health Association Inc.
- Contract Closeout Support Services (\$81 thousand annually) performed by ServiceSource, Inc.

4. When your office begins the process of procuring a product or service, do your offices work with the AbilityOne Commission to ensure they are aware of what your needs are so as to allow their vendors and distributors to reach out if they already have the product or service, or explore getting into that space to fill that need? If not, are you committed to enhancing your procurement transparency?

The agency has had a long association with the AbilityOne program and their vendors and continues to have a close relationship with the AbilityOne points of contact within the commission. As AOC contracting officers begin each procurement, they perform an assessment

to determine whether the supplies or services can be procured through the AbilityOne program. Most often, the procurements continue with the program so there is frequent communication between the agency and the vendors.

5. Will your office commit to designating an AbilityOne Representative (ABOR) within your office, charged with advocating for your office's increased use of the program, serving as a liaison with the Commission, and generally fulfilling the role as nearly as is applicable described by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Memorandum, "Increasing the Participation of Americans with Disabilities in Federal Contracting"?

The AOC is committed to designating Lawson Brannan as the agency's AbilityOne representative. He can be reached at lawson.brannan@aoc.gov or 202.765.5269.

Additionally, all agency contracting officers are responsible for following the priority of sources for procurement and work closely with the AbilityOne points of contact to ensure all qualified requirements are awarded in accordance with our CM to the maximum extent practicable. The acquisition workforce (including the Chief of the Supplies, Services, and Material Management; Branch Chiefs; and the Small Business Coordinator) is also designated to advocate federal buying in accordance with mandatory source contracting procedures, engage with the workforce to build the AbilityOne program, and offer feedback to improve the value of the program.

Any AbilityOne representative or vendor who wishes to meet with an agency representative can send their information to the agency email at aocprocurement@aoc.gov. Hard copy material may also be provided to the agency through the U.S. Postal Service. Once received, the material is reviewed and forwarded to the appropriate jurisdiction and program offices.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Chere Rexroat, RA
Acting Architect of the Capitol

Doc. No. 231221-02-02