



U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Jasmine Crockett
House of Representatives

The Marcus Molinaro
House of Representatives

The Honorable Dina Titus
House of Representatives

The Honorable Robert Wittman
House of Representatives

I am writing in response to your letter dated December 11, 2023. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has a longstanding commitment to enhancing accessibility and continually seeks to comply with relevant procurement statutes and incorporate applicable leading practices in all aspects of our operations to include our procurement practices.

Enclosed please find responses to your questions and request for information. If you or your team have any additional questions, I can be reached at clowersa@gao.gov or 202.512.4010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Clowers", with a stylized flourish at the end.

A Nicole Clowers
Managing Director
Office of Congressional Relations

Enclosure

Will your office commit to working with incoming Member offices to ensure they are aware of the AbilityOne program? Additionally, will your offices commit to exploring how to leverage the power of defaults to increase purchases of AbilityOne products and services.

As an independent agency charged with supporting Congress in carrying out its oversight responsibilities, it is not our role to advise Member offices on services that they should use for their offices and operations. However, if asked, we will certainly provide Member offices available research on this program.

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?

GAO's Financial Management and Business Operations Office maintains information on procurement awards. Data on larger awards over the micro-purchase threshold (\$10,000 for purchases, except \$2,500 for services subject to the Service Contract Labor Standards, or \$2,000 for construction subject to the wage requirements in 40 U.S.C. Chapter 31) is publicly available in USA Spending because GAO reports the data in the Federal Procurement Data System and follows the DATA Act transparency requirements. Below are examples of publicly reported awards provided to an AbilityOne vendor Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley for custodial services.

Award # Momentum	Contract Period FY	Total Obligation Amount
GAO13CO0003	2013-2018	\$111,534.71
05GA0A18P0009	2018-2023	\$149,620.90
05GA0A23P0005	2023-2028	\$40,588.80 – only base year is obligated; total contract value is \$207,147.72 including base + 4 opt. years.

Additionally, GAO makes micro-purchases from AbilityOne vendors for supplies such as Skillcraft pens, highlighters, and writing pads.

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?

GAO does not work with the AbilityOne Commission during the procurement process. When procuring supplies and services on the Procurement List maintained by the AbilityOne Commission, GAO complies with its statutory obligations by requiring contracting officers and purchase card holders to consider this mandatory source.

In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 8.002(c) and 8.005, GAO also ensures that its contractors use this mandatory source when the contractor is providing, for government

use, supplies or services that are on the Procurement List. GAO considers and incorporates FAR 52.208-9 in all solicitations and contracts that require contractors to provide, for government use, supplies or services that are on the Procurement List.

Our procurement customer support branch is open and committed to enhancing our procurement transparency related to this subject matter.

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".

Accessibility is a GAO priority, and the agency currently has an Accessibility Specialist and Accessibility Working Group that coordinates with the procurement customer support group on issues relating to inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of the agency's operations to include procurement. GAO can work within this collaborative framework to designate an ABOR to align with the principles in the subject policy memorandum.