



*Formerly the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program*

# ***Central Nonprofit Agencies (CNA)***

Committee for Purchase From  
People Who Are Blind or  
Severely Disabled  
*An Independent Federal Agency*





## Central Nonprofit Agencies

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People Who Are Blind or Severely  
Disabled  
An Independent Federal Agency

41 U.S.C. 46-48C

*The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled is the independent federal agency that administers the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act. Under this public law, employment is created and sustained for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the federal government. This pamphlet is not a substitute for the JWOD Act or the Committee's regulations. It is intended to summarize and plainly state important points related to CNAs. The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act authorizes the Committee to designate "a central nonprofit agency or agencies to facilitate the distribution" of government orders of Procurement List products and services among nonprofit agencies employing people who are blind or have other severe disabilities. The Committee has designated **National Industries for the Blind (NIB)** and **NISH** as the national nonprofit organizations that perform this and other administrative functions as described in its regulation that assist nonprofit agencies in participating in the AbilityOne Program.*

## CNA's Role in AbilityOne Program

The CNAs work closely with contracting activities and nonprofit agencies to match government requirements with nonprofit agency capabilities. One key activity NIB and NISH undertake in fulfilling their responsibilities is to visit government contracting activities to explain the AbilityOne Program and to explore with government personnel products and services which may be suitable for provision by nonprofit agencies.



- [Www.NIB.org](http://Www.NIB.org)
- Business Leaders Program, Business Leaders Program Director, at 703-310-0515 or [kpal@nib.org](mailto:kpal@nib.org)
- Headquarters 703-310-0500
- Technical Center 314-739-8005



- [Www.NISH.org](http://Www.NISH.org)
- NISH Training Department at 571-226-4534 or 571-226-4573
- NISH Academy is listed under training on its home page
- Contact Information [info@nish.org](mailto:info@nish.org)
- National Office 571-226-4660



### Find more AbilityOne information at:

- [Www.AbilityOne.gov](http://Www.AbilityOne.gov)
- Contact information [info@abilityone.gov](mailto:info@abilityone.gov)



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## National Industries for the Blind

**N**IB's mission is to enhance opportunities for economic and personal independence of persons who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining and improving employment. NIB's associated NPAs employ over 4,000 people who are blind per year through the AbilityOne Program. They offer rehabilitative services to more than 130,000 blind persons nationwide and operate 125 government base supply centers, delivering millions of dollars worth of products to federal government agencies yearly. NIB's Business Leaders Program is designed specifically to prepare individuals who are blind for careers in business by providing educational and employment opportunities to transform high-potential employees into capable leaders and successful business people. NIB's headquarters are located in Alexandria, Va.

## NISH

**N**ISH is a national nonprofit agency whose mission is to create employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities by securing federal contracts through the AbilityOne Program for its network of community-based, nonprofit agencies. NISH's organization consists of a National Office located in Vienna, Virginia, and six Regional Offices.

Through the AbilityOne Program, NISH-affiliated agencies operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam and reported a record 43,344 jobs for people with severe disabilities. These jobs are secured through AbilityOne contracts for the federal government.

NISH provides training through the NISH Institute for Leadership, Performance and Development.

**Note:** *CNAs shall determine by mutual agreement the assignment to one of them of a commodity or service for the purpose of evaluating its potential for possible future addition to the Procurement List, except that the Committee shall initially assign a commodity to National Industries for the Blind when NISH has expressed an interest in the commodity and National Industries for the Blind has exercised the blind priority.*



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## **41CFR § 51-3.2 Responsibilities under the AbilityOne Program.**

Each central nonprofit agency shall:

- (a) Represent its participating nonprofit agencies in dealing with the Committee under the JWOD Act.
- (b) Evaluate the qualifications and capabilities of its nonprofit agencies and provide the Committee with pertinent data concerning its nonprofit agencies, their status as qualified nonprofit agencies, their manufacturing or service capabilities, and other information concerning them required by the Committee.
- (c) Obtain from federal contracting activities such procurement information as is required by the Committee to:
  - (1) Determine the suitability of a commodity or service being recommended to the Committee for addition to the Procurement List; or
  - (2) Establish an initial fair market price for a commodity or service or make changes in the fair market price.
- (d) Recommend to the Committee, with the supporting information required by Committee procedures, suitable commodities or services for procurement from its nonprofit agencies.
- (e) Recommend to the Committee, with the supporting information required by Committee procedures, initial fair market prices for commodities or services proposed for addition to the Procurement List.
- (f) Distribute within the policy guidelines of the Committee (by direct allocation, subcontract, or any other means) orders from government activities among its nonprofit agencies.
- (g) Maintain the necessary records and data on its nonprofit agencies to enable it to allocate orders equitably.
- (h) Oversee and assist its nonprofit agencies to insure contract compliance in furnishing a commodity or a service.
- (i) As market conditions change, recommend price changes with appropriate justification for assigned commodities or services on the Procurement List.
- (j) Monitor and inspect the activities of its nonprofit agencies to ensure compliance with the JWOD Act and appropriate regulations.
- (k) When authorized by the Committee, enter into contracts with federal contracting activities for the furnishing of commodities or services provided by its nonprofit agencies.
- (l) At the time designated by the Committee, submit a completed, original copy of the appropriate Initial Certification (Committee Form 401 or 402) for the nonprofit agency concerned. This requirement does not apply to a nonprofit agency that is already authorized to furnish a commodity or service under the JWOD Act.
- (m) Review and forward to the Committee by December 1 of each year a completed, original copy of the appropriate Annual Certification (Committee Form 403 or 404) for each of its participating nonprofit agencies covering the fiscal year ending the preceding September 30.
- (n) Perform other AbilityOne administrative functions, including activities to increase government and public awareness of the JWOD Act subject to the oversight of the Committee.