



## The Interagency Agreement

Federal agencies are faced with a constant challenge to meet their missions expediently, and oftentimes, with limited resources. To meet their missions, agencies may require consultative assistance or other services that are outside their areas of expertise. Frequently these needs are met by contracting with private sector vendors through a complicated, costly and time-consuming contracting process that can detract from efforts to achieve mission objectives.

For federal organizations needing occupational health or safety services, Federal Occupational Health (FOH) can provide these services through an alternate procurement mechanism known as an “Interagency Agreement” or IAG. Quick, simple, flexible and easy to prepare, an IAG is the convenient and easy way for federal organizations to procure services from other federal agencies.

### **FOH: Your Federal Partner**

FOH is a non-appropriated agency that provides occupational health and wellness services exclusively to federal employees. FOH was created by Congress in 1946 by an amendment to the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.), and is a service unit within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Our mission is to improve the health, safety, and productivity of the federal workforce.

Our workforce is composed primarily of commissioned Corps officers of the US Public Health Service (USPHS) and federal employees. In order to accomplish our mission, FOH acquires services through full and open competition and makes these services available to our sister agencies through interagency partnerships. This way, agencies are spared the operating costs of preparing, awarding, and administering multiple individual contracts.

We offer flexibility, convenience, quick-turnaround, and one-stop shopping for a multitude of occupational health needs. There are a variety of compelling reasons to utilize the IAG as a means to procure services. Below are some of the major benefits of the IAG.

### **FOH Congressional Authority**

FOH provides its services through interagency agreements (IAGs) in accordance with the provisions of Federal Acquisition Regulations, 48 CFR, Part 17.5 (FAR), Public Law 79-658 (5 U.S.C. 7901), and the Economy Act of 1932, as amended (31 U.S.C. 1535), which authorizes an agency to place orders for goods and services with another government agency when it is in the best interest of the government.

All FAR requirements are met via full and open competition when FOH contracts are awarded. FOH conducts a rigorous evaluation of all bidders to ensure our customers get the best value provider.

### **Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness**

The time to create and implement an IAG is short compared with the contracting process, which can take up to a year or longer. An IAG can be crafted in a matter of days and service delivery can begin, in many cases, in as little as one to four weeks.

### **Convenience - Adding New Services**

IAGs can be easily modified to change or add other FOH services. Where contract law does not allow private sector contracts to exceed the original statement of work without major contract modifications, FOH's IAGs can be easily changed according to the needs of the agency.

### **Specificity of Services**

The IAG specifies the services that are to be provided, just as a scope of work (SOW) does in a solicitation or contract. FOH's IAG's are "custom-designed" to each agency's unique specifications.

### **Ability to Terminate**

Unlike contracts with most private sector vendors, the IAG can be terminated by an agency with 30-60 days notice. Furthermore termination costs, which are typical with private sector contract terminations, are not incurred under IAGs.

### **Convenient Payment System**

Electronic billing and payment is easy with On-line Payment and Collection (OPAC) or government purchase card.

### **The FOH Advantage**

FOH is uniquely positioned within the federal government to seamlessly coordinate and deliver multifaceted programs to our federal partners. Participating agencies receive best value, high quality occupational health services without expending precious resources to manage the complex acquisition process.

FOH programs and services meet the highest standards through its ongoing quality improvement program that includes frequent and routine quality assurance checks and reviews.

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## **FOH, the Occupational Health Provider of Choice for the Federal Government**

**T**he mission of FOH is to improve the health, safety, and productivity of the federal workforce. Created by Congress in 1946, FOH is a non-appropriated service agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Program Support Center.

Federal agencies throughout the U.S. and overseas can access FOH services. FOH provides worksite health services, Wellness/Fitness, Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), Work/Life, Environmental Health and Safety, Organizational and Professional Development, and Training and Education.

Make Federal Occupational Health your partner in building a healthier, more productive work force. For more information, please visit us at [www.foh.dhhs.gov](http://www.foh.dhhs.gov) or call us today at **1-800-457-9808**.