



For Immediate Release
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U.S. AbilityOne Commission Signs Cooperative Agreement with National Industries for the Blind

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. AbilityOne Commission signed a Cooperative Agreement with National Industries for the Blind (NIB) today, fulfilling the requirement of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, to establish a written agreement between the Commission and NIB, an AbilityOne central nonprofit agency.

“This Cooperative Agreement is a major step forward in driving accountability and increasing transparency in the AbilityOne Program,” said Commission Chairperson James M. Kesteloot, Presidential Appointee. “It marks the beginning of a new era of incentivizing central nonprofit agency performance to increase employment and training opportunities for people who are blind.”

The Agreement establishes the governing relationship, roles and responsibilities, key expectations and guidance for the Commission and NIB in relation to the implementation and management of the AbilityOne Program.

The Agreement also includes:

- Performance requirements, goals and targets
- Key Performance Indicators
 - Employment Growth
 - Program Administration, Oversight and Integrity
 - Nonprofit Agency Support, Assistance and Development
 - Training and Strategic Communications
- Consequences for not meeting expectations
- Evaluations and audits
- Reviews and updates on pricing information
- Reporting mechanisms
 - Expenditure of funds
 - Access to data and records
- Provisions for updating the agreement

Agreement details will be posted soon on the Commission website at www.abilityone.gov.

For more information contact Stephanie Lesko at slesko@abilityone.gov or 703.603.2146.

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The AbilityOne Program is among the largest sources of employment for people who are blind or have significant disabilities in the United States, providing more than 45,000 job opportunities at nearly 550 nonprofit agencies nationwide in FY2015. The AbilityOne Program is administered by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, an independent Federal agency which operates as the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, with assistance from two central nonprofit agencies, National Industries for the Blind and SourceAmerica. The Commission is comprised of 15 Presidential appointees, with 11 representing Federal agencies, and four serving as private citizens who are knowledgeable about the obstacles to employment of people who are blind or have significant disabilities. More information can be found at www.abilityone.gov or by contacting media@abilityone.gov.

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