



**U.S. AbilityOne Commission Requests Public Feedback by March 14, 2024,
on Draft Compliance Policies 51.401, 51.402, and 51.404**

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 12, 2024 – As part of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission’s continuing modernization of compliance policies for the AbilityOne Program, the Commission today issued draft policies 51.401, 51.402, and 51.404 for public feedback.

The Commission requests feedback be sent to policy@abilityone.gov no later than March 14, 2024. The agency looks forward to engaging with stakeholders on the draft policies.

Compared to existing compliance policies, certain draft compliance policies include changes in title and/or numbering to reflect changes in policy purpose and sequence.

The table below includes differences between the existing and draft policies.

Draft Policies	Existing Policies	Updates in Draft Policies
51.401 - AbilityOne Program Nonprofit Agency Entry Qualifications	51.402 - Initial Qualification of Nonprofit Agencies (March 22, 2013)	Draft policy changes the numbering from 51.402 to 51.401 and adds the qualification requirement that the nonprofit agency (NPA) will not pay subminimum wages on AbilityOne contracts (a requirement now in Commission regulations, CFR 51-4).
51.402 - AbilityOne Program Qualification Requirements for Nonprofit Agencies and Associated Responsibilities of the Central Nonprofit Agencies	51.409 - Maintaining Qualification of Nonprofit Agencies (August 15, 2020)	Draft policy changes policy name as well as numbering (from 51.409 to 51.402). Draft policy explains the central nonprofit agencies’ enhanced role in conducting compliance reviews of NPAs. Draft policy remains similar to the existing policy on maintaining qualification of NPAs (a topic also covered in the Commission’s regulations, CFR 51-4).
51.404 - Direct Labor Hour Ratio Requirements	51.401 – Direct Labor Hour Ratio Requirements (August 15, 2020)	Draft policy changes the policy numbering from 51.401 to 51.404, is more streamlined, and provides less procedural detail than the existing policy.



The drafts are part of the Commission’s continuing focus on aligning with the agency’s [strategic plan](#).

About the U.S. AbilityOne Commission

The AbilityOne Program is administered by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, the operating name of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. The Commission is an independent Federal agency composed of 15 Presidential appointees: 11 represent Federal agencies, and four serve as private citizens who are knowledgeable about employment barriers facing people who are blind or have significant disabilities.

About the AbilityOne Program

The AbilityOne Program facilitates the use of government procurement to provide employment in the United States for people who are blind or have significant disabilities. Approximately 37,000 individuals, including approximately 2,500 veterans, are employed nationwide at more than 420 nonprofit agencies from Maine to Guam. AbilityOne provided more than \$4 billion in products and services to approximately 40 Federal government agencies in FY 2024.

Contact media2@abilityone.gov.

