

Dated: September 9, 1996.
 Wally Beyer,
 Administrator.
 [FR Doc. 96-23511 Filed 9-12-96; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 19, 1996, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (61 F.R. 37719) of proposed additions to the Procurement List. After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the services to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the services to the Government.

2. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-

O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the services proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following services are hereby added to the Procurement List:

Food Service Attendant, Beale Air Force Base, California
 Grounds Maintenance, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Salisbury, North Carolina
 Janitorial/Custodial, Brought Fitness Center, Building 320, Fort Sam Houston, Texas
 Painting Service, Travis Air Force Base, California

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

Beverly L. Milkman,
 Executive Director.
 [FR Doc. 96-23522 Filed 9-12-96; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 6353-01-M

Procurement List Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List a commodity and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: October 15, 1996.

ADDRESS: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the commodity and services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodity and services to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodity and services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodity and services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodity and services proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following commodity and services have been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Commodity

Folder, IRS Tax Form, Document No. 6982
 NPA: The Clovernook Center, Opportunities for the Blind, Cincinnati, Ohio

Services

Administrative Services, General Services Administration, PBS, Laguna Niguel Field Offices, Laguna Niguel, California
 NPA: Goodwill Industries of Orange County, Santa Ana, California
 Disposal Support Services, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi
 NPA: Alabama Goodwill Industries, Inc., Birmingham, Alabama
 Janitorial/Custodial, Child Care Center Buildings, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona
 NPA: The Centers for Habilitation/TCH, Tempe, Arizona
 Janitorial/Custodial, U.S. Customs House, New Bedford, Massachusetts
 NPA: The Opportunity Center of Greater New Bedford, Inc., New Bedford, Massachusetts

Beverly L. Milkman,
 Executive Director.
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Additions to the Procurement List; Correction

In the document appearing on page 45934, FR Doc. 96-22258, in the issue of August 30, 1996, in the third column, the item listed as Administrative/General Support Services, (GSA/FSS Region 7), General Products Commodity

Center, Fort Worth, Texas (Up to 50% of the Government's requirement) should read Temporary Administrative/General Support Services for Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico (Up to 50% of the Government's requirement).

Beverly L. Milkman,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 96-23524 Filed 9-12-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[Docket No. 960828234-6234-01]

RIN 0690-AA25

Guidelines for Empowerment Contracting

AGENCY: Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed guidelines; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is issuing these proposed guidelines requesting public comment on policies and procedures intended to promote economy and efficiency in Federal procurement by granting qualified large businesses and qualified small businesses appropriate incentives to encourage business activity in areas of general economic distress. This action is taken in accordance with the President's Executive Order entitled, "Empowerment Contracting." The standards set forth in these proposed guidelines will serve as the basis for a proposed revision to the Federal Acquisition Regulation ("FAR"). Information obtained from public comment on these guidelines will be used to help draft the proposed FAR revision.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Department of Commerce, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Finance and Litigation, Room 5896, 14th and Constitution Street, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Levine, 202-482-1071.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 21, 1996, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13005, "Empowerment Contracting" (the "Order"). The purpose of the Order is to strengthen the economy and secure broad-based competition for Federal contracts by fostering growth of Federal contractors in economically distressed communities. In the Order, the President charged the Secretary of Commerce (the "Secretary"), in

consultation with the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Labor and Defense; and the Administrators of the General Services Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Small Business Administration, and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, to develop policies and procedures to ensure that Federal agencies, when awarding contracts in unrestricted competitions, grant qualified large and small businesses appropriate price or evaluation incentives to encourage business activity in areas of general economic distress.

Specifically, the Order requires the Secretary to "develop policies and procedures to ensure that agencies, to the extent permitted by law, grant qualified large businesses and qualified small businesses appropriate incentives to encourage business activity in areas of general economic distress, including a price or a non-price evaluation credit, when assessing offers for government contracts in unrestricted competitions, where the incentives would promote the policy set forth in this Order." The Order also calls upon the Secretary to (1) monitor the implementation and operation of the procedures developed; (2) ensure proper administration of the program and reduce the potential for fraud by intended beneficiaries; (3) develop a process to evaluate the effectiveness of the procedures developed; and (4) issue an annual report to the President on the status and effectiveness of the program. In addition, the Secretary must ensure that all policies, procedures and regulations developed pursuant to the Order minimize the administrative burden on affected agencies and the procurement process.

These proposed guidelines, which are being published for 30 days' public comment, respond to the requirement in section 4(b) of the Order that the Secretary of Commerce draft rules, regulations, and guidelines necessary to implement the Order within 90 days of the date of the Order. The standards set forth in these proposed guidelines will not, in and of themselves, have force and effect in Federal procurements. Rather, they will serve as the basis for a proposed revision to the Federal Acquisition Regulation ("FAR") pursuant to the policies and procedures set forth in FAR Subpart 1.5., 48 CFR Subpart 1.5. That proposed revision will be published for public comment, pursuant to 48 CFR 1.501-2.

It has been determined that these proposed guidelines are significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866. Because these proposed guidelines

relate to a matter of public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts, they are exempted from all the procedural requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553). Because notice and comment are not required by 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required and was not done for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The guidelines do not contain information collection requirements for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Guidelines for Empowerment Contracting

I. Definitions

"Agency" means any authority of the United States that is an "agency" under 44 U.S.C. 3502(1), other than those considered to be independent regulatory agencies, as defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(10).

"Area of general economic distress" means, for all urban and rural communities, any census tract that has a poverty rate of at least 20 percent or any designated Federal Empowerment Zone, Supplemental Empowerment Zone, Enhanced Enterprise Community, or Enterprise Community. "Area of general distress" also means any rural or Indian reservation area that currently meets the criteria for designation as a redevelopment area under § 401(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)), as set forth at 15 CFR 301.2 (loss of population); 15 CFR 301.4 (Indian Lands) and 15 CFR 301.7 (special impact areas).

The Department of Commerce shall develop and maintain the official listing of eligible areas, based on the 1990 decennial Census of Population data. The listing shall contain the Census tract and block numbering for all eligible areas.

"Qualified large business" means a large for-profit or not-for-profit trade or business that (1) employs a significant number of residents from the area of general economic distress; and (2) either has a significant physical presence in the area of general economic distress or has a direct impact on generating significant economic activity in the area of general economic distress.

"Qualified small business" means a small for-profit or not-for-profit trade or business that (1) employs a significant number of residents from the area of general economic distress; (2) has a significant physical presence in the area of general economic distress; or (3) has a direct impact on generating significant economic activity in the area of general economic distress.