

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 commodities to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 3, 1997, August 28, 1998 and January 29, 1999, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (62 FR 51827, 63 FR 45996 and 64 FR 4638) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

The following comments pertain to Bag, Contamination.

Comments were received from the two current contractors for these contamination bags and from the mayor of the contractor's city and three Members of Congress. Two Members and the mayor expressed concern that a number of one contractor's employees would be displaced by the Committee's action. That contractor expressed the same concern, but also objected to the loss of opportunity to bid on contracts for the bags, which it claimed represent a sizable portion of its sales, and questioned whether the nonprofit agencies designated by the Committee have the ability to make the bags to the Government's specifications. The mayor questioned whether this Procurement List addition is at odds with Clinton Administration initiatives on welfare-to-work and increasing Federal contracting with distressed urban areas. The other contractor, supported by a third Member of Congress, claimed that it would lose a portion of its sales and its investment in new machinery if the bags were added to the Procurement List.

Prior to 1993, all five of the contamination bags were purchased locally by individual Navy shipyards. In 1990 and 1991, the Committee added to its Procurement List the requirements of three specific Naval shipyards for all

five bags. The same nonprofit agency has successfully supplied the bags since their addition. When the Naval Inventory Control Point (NAVICP) began buying these bags, it was unaware that part of the requirement was already on the Procurement List. As a result, the current contractors have gained sales they should not have received.

In addition, the Navy ordering staff has advised the Committee that it has purchased far more of these containment bags than were needed and, with the exception of one bag, does not expect to purchase additional bags for several years. Equally important, based on recent demand data, the Navy estimates that the number of bags purchased annually in the future will be far less than has been the case in the past.

Most significant, data provided by the contractors reveal that percentage of each firm's sales represented by the four bags affected by this action is extremely small. In one case, the contractor has had no sales for more than a year. In the other case, there have been no buys for several months. Sales of the fifth bag initially proposed for addition represented a more significant percentage of one of the current contractor's business, and that bag is not being added to the Procurement List at this time.

As a consequence of these factors, the Committee has concluded that the current contractors will not experience severe adverse impacts as a result of adding four of the five proposed bags to the Procurement List at this time. The firms, their investment in machinery, their employees and the areas in which they are located have already been impacted by the downturn in containment bag business. Moreover, they will continue to be impacted in the coming months whether or not the items are added to the Procurement List because of the overstocking and reduced demand. Similarly, as there will be no Government buys for some time for three of the four bags and only a small buy for the fourth, losing the opportunity to compete for Government business is something that will happen regardless of the Committee's action.

The following material pertains to Pen, Rollerball, Free Ink and Bag, Contamination.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodities and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodities 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 commodities to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodities.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities 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 commodities proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

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

Pen, Rollerball, Free Ink

7520-01-461-2660

7520-01-461-2663

7520-01-461-2664

7520-01-461-2665

Bag, Contamination

8105-01-352-1390

8105-01-352-1391

8105-01-352-1392

8105-01-352-1394

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.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

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 services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

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 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 services to the Government.

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

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

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

Base Supply Center, Pennsylvania Air National Guard Base, Pittsburgh International Airport, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania

NPA: Westmoreland County Association for the Blind, Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Duplicating Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland

NPA: North Central Sight Services, Inc., Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Operation of Individual Equipment Element Store, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas

NPA: San Antonio Lighthouse, San Antonio, Texas

Beverly L. Milkman,
Executive Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Current Population Survey—Basic Demographic Items

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 11, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Gregory Weyland, Census Bureau, FOB 3, Room 3340, Washington, DC 20233-8400, (301) 457-3806.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau plans to request clearance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the collection of basic demographic information on the Current Population Survey (CPS) beginning in October 1999. The current clearance expires September 30, 1999.

The CPS has been the source of official government statistics on employment and unemployment for over 50 years. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Census Bureau jointly sponsor the basic monthly survey. The Census Bureau also prepares and conducts all the field work. At the OMB's request, the Census Bureau and the BLS divide the clearance request in order to reflect the joint sponsorship and funding of the

CPS program. The justification that follows is in support of the demographic data.

The demographic information collected in the CPS provides a unique set of data on selected characteristics for the civilian noninstitutional population. Some of the demographic information we collect are age, marital status, gender, Armed Forces status, education, race, origin, and family income. We use these data in conjunction with other data, particularly the monthly labor force data, as well as periodic supplement data. We use these data also independently for internal analytic research and for evaluation of other surveys. In addition, we use these data as a control to produce accurate estimates of other personal characteristics.

II. Method of Collection

The CPS basic demographic information is collected from individual households by both personal visit and telephone interviews each month. All interviews are conducted using computer-assisted interviewing.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0049.

Form Number: There are no forms.

We conduct all interviewing on computers.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 48,000 per month.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1.58 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 15,168.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: There is no cost to respondents other than their time.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Section 182; and Title 29, United States Code, Sections 1-9.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.