



USDA AbilityOne Program Training

For Purchase Cardholders and Approving Officials

Sponsored by the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

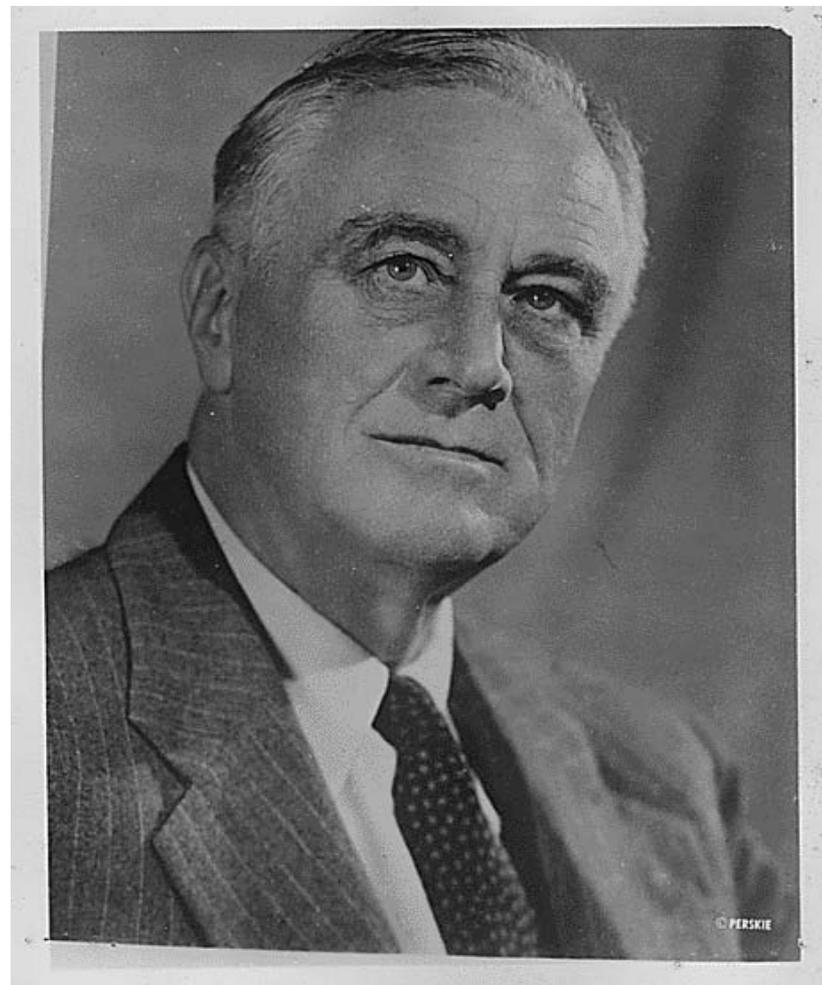


Last Revision:
October 2009

AbilityOne Program History

“Freedom is no half-and-half affair. If [a] citizen is guaranteed equal opportunity in the polling place, he *must* have equal opportunity in the marketplace. We are poor indeed if this nation cannot afford to lift from every recess of American life the dread fear of the unemployed that they are not needed in the world.”

-President Franklin D. Roosevelt
1882-1945



AbilityOne Program History



In 1938 **The Wagner-O'Day Act** was passed by Congress

The Law's sponsors were:
Senator Robert Wagner (NY)
and Representative Caroline Love Goodwin O'Day (NY)



AbilityOne Program History

The **Wagner-O'Day Act** created employment opportunities for people who were blind to manufacture mops and brooms to sell to Federal agencies.



AbilityOne Program History



credit: U.S. Senate Historical Office

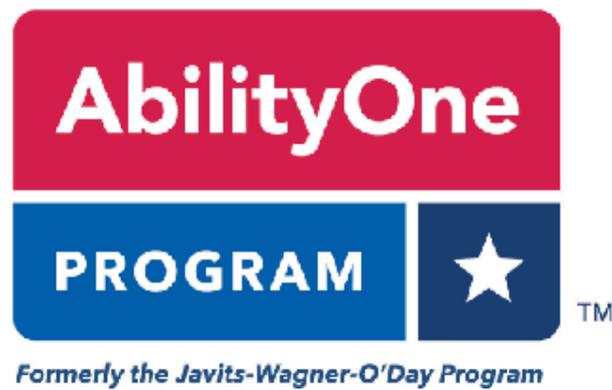
In 1971

Senator Jacob Javits (NY) spearheaded an amendment to include nonprofit agencies that serve individuals with a range of disabilities and to allow for the provision of services to the government.

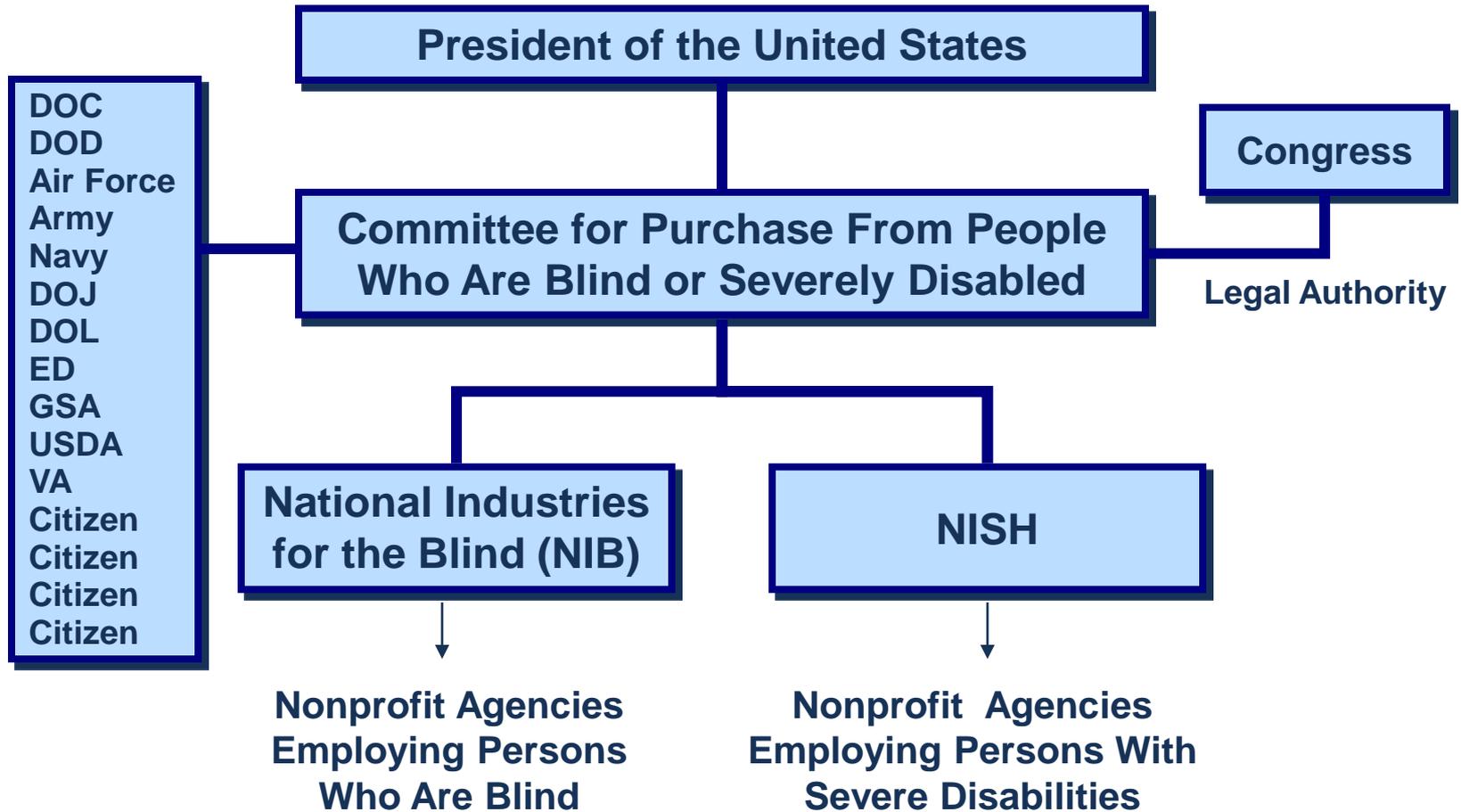
The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act appears in Title 41 of the United States Code, Sections 46 through 48c.

AbilityOne Program History

- The Javits amendment also created the **Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Committee)**, a small Independent Federal Agency to administer the **Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program**.
- In November 2006, the Committee voted to change the Program umbrella name from JWOD to **AbilityOne**.



Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled



JWOD is now AbilityOne

The name change to AbilityOne:



John Kartes, AbilityOne Worker
Warehousing & Distribution

Photo courtesy of NISH

- Gives the Program a stronger, more unified identity
- Connects the Program name with the abilities of individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities
- Continues to promote the SKILCRAFT® brand through National Industries for the Blind
- Does not change the underlying law (JWOD Act)

AbilityOne Program Mission

To provide employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the Federal Government.



United States Flags in production at Goodwill of South Florida
Photo courtesy of NISH

AbilityOne Guarantees Quality

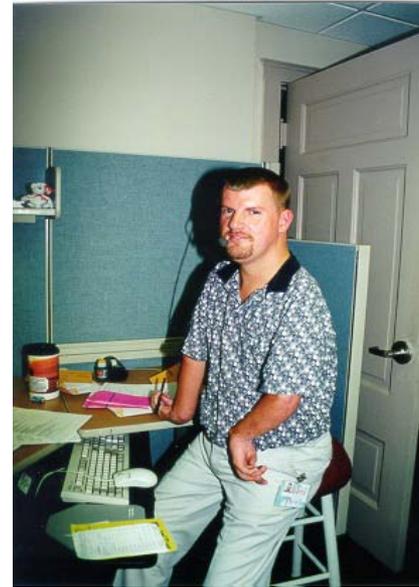
- If a Government specification exists – products provided will comply with specifications.
- If no Government specification exists – products will be of equal or higher quality to the commercial equivalent.
- Although rare, issues with quality satisfaction should immediately be brought to attention of the supplier and the Agency Liaison or Departmental Liaison.



Photo courtesy of NISH

Why is AbilityOne important?

The AbilityOne Program is the single largest employer of people who are blind or have severe disabilities in America, serving a special population of people with the most severe disabilities who otherwise could not work.



AbilityOne Workers
Photos courtesy of NIB and NISH



USDA Policy



Departmental Regulation 5080-001

USDA and the AbilityOne Program: Increasing Achievements and Setting Department Goals

- Establishes support for the AbilityOne Program
- Establishes Department-wide goals for increasing participation in the AbilityOne Program
- Outlines procedures, requirements, and performance measures for meeting USDA goals



USDA Agency Requirements



- Increase AbilityOne Program acquisitions annually by ½ percent of the total AbilityOne procurement dollar amount reported the previous year
- Support USDA's National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrations
- Participate in the annual OSDBU (AbilityOne) sponsored award programs
- Designate an AbilityOne Program Liaison



AbilityOne Procurement List

- The Committee maintains a list of products and services which have been placed in the AbilityOne Program, as referenced in FAR Subparts 8.0 and 8.7.
- Once a product or service is on the Procurement List, the Government must buy it from the organization designated by the Committee.
- The Procurement List can be found at:

www.abilityone.gov/procurement_list/product_list.html



What is the A-List?

- A list of commodity-type products that are commonly used in office and light industrial settings.
- These products must be purchased by federal agencies when they meet specifications and are available within required timeframes and quantities.
- Examples include writing instruments, paper pads, desktop accessories, and general purpose cleaners in retail-sized containers.
- The most recent A-List can be found at:
www.abilityone.gov/distributors/documents/A-List%20January%202012.xls



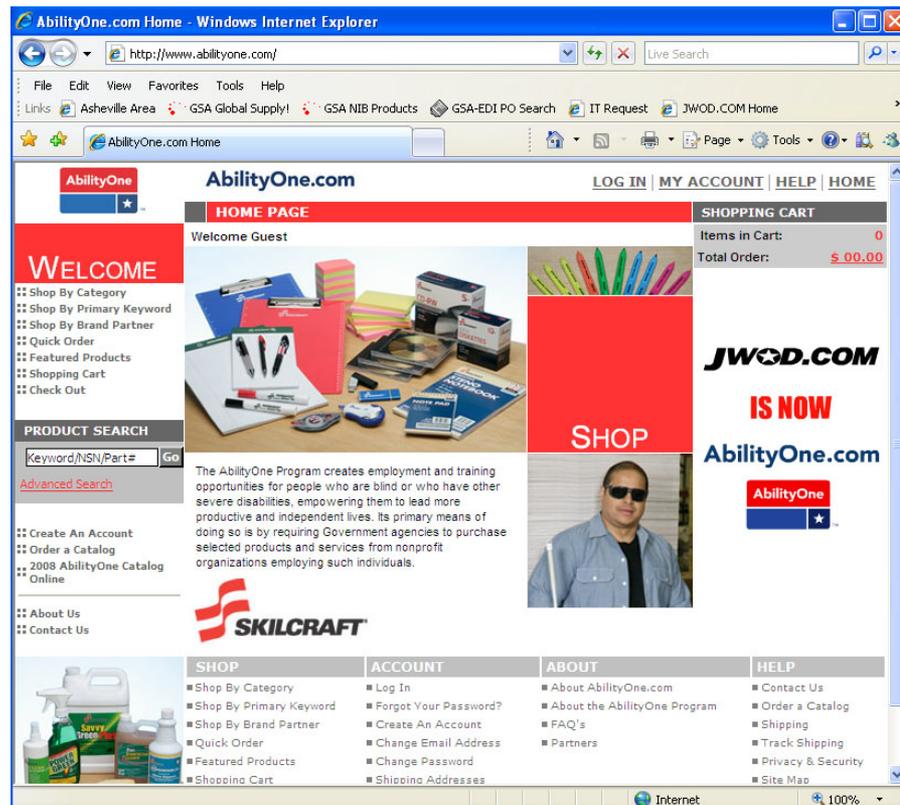
How to Buy AbilityOne Products – Off-the-Shelf Items

- GSA Global Supply
www.gsaglobalsupply.gsa.gov
- *USDA Advantage!*
www.usdaadvantage.gsa.gov
- *GSA Advantage!*®
www.gsaadvantage.gov
- Authorized AbilityOne Distributors
www.abilityone.gov/distributors



National Industries For the Blind SKILCRAFT®

www.nib.org is the AbilityOne Program's one-stop shop for the most complete offering of AbilityOne products as well as selected commercial items.



Micro-Purchase Limits



Is AbilityOne still a required source if I only buy small amounts with my purchase card?

Yes, the AbilityOne Program is applicable at any dollar amount

- No exemptions for micro-purchases
- No purchase exceptions for items on the A-List
- No exemption strictly if it costs more

How can I support the AbilityOne Program?



AbilityOne Worker

Photo courtesy of NISH

- Know the types of products and services on the Procurement List and the A list.
- Purchase products from approved AbilityOne Distributors, most are small businesses.
- Identify suitable products and services for addition to the Procurement List to your Agency or Departmental Liaison (e.g., nonmonetary award items, cleaning supplies, and services including cleaning, laundry, janitorial and maintenance, etc.).

Everyone can make a difference in someone's life by supporting the AbilityOne Program.

Test Your Knowledge

1. What Federal law and regulations govern contracting with the AbilityOne Program? At USDA?
2. Name the independent Federal Agency that is responsible for AbilityOne Program oversight.
3. What is the Procurement List?
4. List 3 ways you can order AbilityOne off-the-shelf items.
5. Name 3 ways you can support the AbilityOne Program.

Turn to pages 21 and 22 for the answers



Answer to Question 1

- The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act appearing in Title 41 of the United States Code, Sections 46 through 48c
- The Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Part 8.07
- Code of Federal Regulations, Subtitle B-Chapter 51 of Title 41- Public Contracts & Property Management
- At USDA it's DR 5080-001, *USDA and the AbilityOne Program: Increasing Achievements and Setting Department Goals*



Answers to Questions 2 - 5

Question 2:

The Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Committee)

Question 3:

A list of products and services maintained by the Committee which have been placed in the AbilityOne Program. Once a product or service is on the Procurement List, the Government must buy it from the organization designated by the Committee.

Question 4:

- Authorized AbilityOne Distributors
- USDA Advantage
- GSA Advantage

Question 5:

- Know the products and services on the Procurement List and the A list
- Purchase products from approved AbilityOne Distributors
- Identify suitable products and services for addition to the Procurement List and share your ideas with your AbilityOne Program Liaison

Need More Information?



**AbilityOne Workers maintain
the Statue of Liberty**

Photo courtesy of NISH

- **Contact your Agency AbilityOne Liaison**
- **Contact the Departmental AbilityOne Liaison**
- **Additional information is available at www.usda.gov/osdbu**



Congratulations!

End of **USDA AbilityOne Program Training**

You will not receive credit for completing this training until you complete the USDA Confirmation Survey.