



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OFFICE OF FEDERAL  
PROCUREMENT POLICY

February 16, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR AGENCY SENIOR PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVES  
AND THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
(ACQUISITION REFORM)

FROM:

Deidre A. Lee  
Administrator

SUBJECT:

Applicability of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program for Micropurchases

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the applicability of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act to micropurchases (purchases under \$2,500). The JWOD Program, also known as "NIB/NISH," generates jobs and training for Americans who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. It does so through Federal agencies' purchases of supplies and services furnished by nonprofit agencies that employ such individuals.

Under FAR Part 8.7, the JWOD Program is a mandatory source of supply for all entities of the Federal Government, with any payment method (including purchase cards) and at any dollar value. Unlike the "Buy American" Act and other rules that have been waived by recent procurement reform measures, the JWOD Program's mandatory status remains in effect for all purchases--including those under the micropurchase threshold. In fact, most JWOD Program supplies are small value items such as office supplies, cleaning products or medical/surgical supplies that nearly always fall into the micropurchase category.

This Administration is committed to increasing employment of adults with disabilities, among whom the unemployment rate is nearly 75 percent. Purchasing JWOD products and services is one way of addressing that goal. I urge you to take steps to educate buyers in your agency about the continuing mandatory status and valuable benefits of this unique Federal procurement endeavor. Please distribute the attached information sheet to appropriate offices in your department or agency and ensure your credit card training program addresses JWOD purchasing.

Attachment

**ENCLOSURE(1)**

**JWOD PROGRAM PRIMER:  
HOW TO IDENTIFY AND ORDER JWOD PROGRAM SUPPLIES**

The JWOD Program is administered by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, an independent agency of the Federal Government. Two nonprofit organizations, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH (serving people with a wide range of disabilities), have been designated by the Committee to assist State and private nonprofit agencies nationwide as they participate in the JWOD Program.

A list of JWOD Program supplies, many carrying the "SKILCRAFT" brand name, can be found on the JWOD web site at [www.jwod.gov](http://www.jwod.gov). Print catalogs are also available by calling (800) 433-2304, faxing requests to (703) 603-0655 or emailing requests to [info@jwod.gov](mailto:info@jwod.gov). Both the web site and the JWOD catalog also provide information on the many services available under the JWOD Program.

JWOD supplies are generally purchased through distributors, including Government agencies such as the General Services Administration or the Defense Logistics Agency.

On-line browsing and shopping is possible through GSA Advantage! at [www.fss.gsa.gov](http://www.fss.gsa.gov). The Department of Defense (DOD) Electronic Mall ([www.emall.dla.mil](http://www.emall.dla.mil)) includes military-unique JWOD items.

JWOD supplies are also available at military base supply centers, and through authorized commercial distributors providing next-day delivery.

More information on these distribution sources is provided on the JWOD web site at [www.jwod.gov](http://www.jwod.gov). The JWOD Program is good business for the Government. Quality supplies and services, when you need them and at reasonable prices. At the same time, the JWOD Program creates stable employment for persons with severe disabilities, a population whose unemployment rate exceeds 70 percent. The JWOD Program is a cost-effective way for the Government to assist persons with disabilities--enabling many individuals to reduce dependence on Government transfer payments and to join the ranks of taxpayers.

Training materials, including slide presentations and videos, are also available on the JWOD web site at [www.jwod.gov](http://www.jwod.gov). For more information, please contact Eric Beale, Procurement Analyst, at (703) 603-7743 or [ebeale@jwod.gov](mailto:ebeale@jwod.gov).