



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management
Washington, DC 20420

IL 90-96-2
May 13, 1996

OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND MATERIEL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION LETTER

TO: Veterans Integrated Service Network Directors; Directors, VA Medical Center Activities, Domiciliary, Outpatient Clinics, Medical and Regional Office Centers, and Regional Offices; Directors, Denver Acquisition and Logistics Center, Austin Automation Center, Records Management Center, VBA Benefits Delivery Centers, and CHAMPVA Center; and, the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for the National Acquisition Center

ATTN: Head of the Contracting Activity

SUBJ: Contracting Under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program

1. Congratulations to all of you for your efforts to increase the number of VA contracts with the non-profit agencies employing and training people with severe disabilities. One of the national organization representing those agencies, NISH, recognized your efforts and expressed its appreciation by naming VA the NISH Government Agency of the Year. This award reflects the great increase in contracting opportunities that you have made available to NISH as well as your on-going efforts to award VA contracts to its non-profit agencies.

2. I know that VA program officials and contracting personnel select projects for the JWOD program, because JWOD contractors do quality work at reasonable prices. I know, too, that there are many other contractors that you can do business with and other strategies to get the job done. The fact that program officials and contracting personnel work together and with NISH and the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) to make these opportunities available to severely disabled and blind workers demonstrates your commitment to these programs and the people they serve.

3. Contracting with nonprofit agencies under the JWOD Act is different from contracting with commercial sources in some respects. A supply item or service must be on the Procurement List before the authority of the JWOD Act may be used. By working with NIB and NISH officials, you can assist them place items on the Procurement List.

4. JWOD contracts have some advantages over commercial contracts - for example, no solicitation process is required. However, they also have different procedures in areas such as dispute resolution and contract termination which limit contracting

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officers' freedom of action. To avoid potential misunderstandings, please familiarize yourself with the JWOD regulations before taking actions under JWOD contracts.

5. If you need assistance please contact the same technical and legal advisors you rely on for other contracts. For JWOD specific issues and concerns, you may contact Barbara Danzig, Chief, Acquisition Policy Division (95A), at (202) 273-8818 for assistance.

/s/Gary J. Krump