



About U.S. Communities

U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (“U.S. Communities”) is a nonprofit government purchasing cooperative that offers competitively solicited contracts by lead public agencies to public agencies across the country.

- U.S. Communities reduces the cost of purchased goods and services for public agencies by offering access to competitively solicited contracts between suppliers and lead public agencies.
- Over 36,000 agencies (“Participating Public Agencies”) are registered for the program.
- U.S. Communities offers 18 contracts with 24 suppliers of a variety of products and services.
- Total aggregated purchases in 2008 exceeded \$1.3 billion, with \$200 million in estimated savings to public agencies that year alone.

Participating Public Agencies

Cities, counties, school districts, colleges and universities, and state and nonprofit agencies are eligible to participate in the U.S. Communities program. For a list of participating agencies, [click here](#).

Products and Services

U.S. Communities offers a variety of products and services to Participating Public Agencies, including office and school supplies, office and education furniture, office machines and printers, technology products and solutions, telecommunications supplies and electrical products. For a complete list of offerings, [click here](#).

How U.S. Communities Works

U.S. Communities aggregates the purchasing power of more than 87,000 public agencies nationwide by offering Participating Public Agencies the ability to make purchases through existing, competitively solicited contracts between a supplier and a lead public agency.

- Each lead public agency awards its contract to a supplier after a competitive solicitation process designed to ensure that Participating Public Agencies receive the highest quality products and services at the lowest possible prices.
- Once the lead public agency has awarded a contract with the supplier, the lead public agency through U.S. Communities allows other Participating Public Agencies in need of similar products and services to make purchases through the existing contract, ensuring that all Participating Public Agencies have access to the same terms and conditions of the existing competitively solicited contract.
- The supplier pays a minimum one percent administrative fee to the U.S. Communities program, and this pays for operating expenses and offsets costs incurred by national and state sponsors.

Although U.S. Communities does not issue the solicitation for the contracts or participate in the bid selection process with suppliers, it works with both the lead public agency and the supplier after a contract is in place to ensure that the contract is administered properly through routine audits as well as additional oversight measures to ensure Participating Public Agencies are receiving the quality products and services of the highest quality and at the lowest prices.

Background

U.S. Communities was founded in 1996 as a partnership between the Association of School Business Officials, the National Association of Counties, the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors.