United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

SEP 25 2002

MEMORANDUM

To: Acquisition Managers' Partnership

From: Debra E. Sonderman, Director
Office of Acquisition and Property Management

Subject: The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program and National JWOD Week

As part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program is celebrating National JWOD Week from October 12 to 20, 2002. Since its inception in 1938, this unique federal procurement program has provided employment for thousands of individuals with severe disabilities, enabling them to lead more productive and independent lives. While providing work for people with severe disabilities, federal contracts placed under the JWOD Program provide government personnel with quality products and services at reasonable prices.

The Program is administered by an independent federal agency, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, in partnership with two national nonprofit organizations, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH - Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities. NIB and NISH assist over 600 community-based agencies across the nation in their efforts to employ people with severe disabilities on federal contracts under the Program.

I am committed to assisting the JWOD Program in its efforts to increase federal sales, thereby creating new positions for workers with severe disabilities. I encourage all Interior personnel to support the JWOD Program when ever possible. **In particular, Interior charge card users should always buy items furnished by the JWOD Program before considering other commercial supplies.**

Products available under the JWOD Program are mandatory source items, and include a wide range of office supplies, cleaning products, hardware items, medical/surgical products and textiles. The number of environmentally preferable items available under JWOD is constantly increasing. I encourage you and your acquisition staff to review and utilize the on-line ordering of these products at www.jwod.com. For more information about JWOD supplies, distributors, and current Procurement List items visit the program's web site: www.JWOD.gov.

The JWOD Program also performs a wide range of services. Currently Interior has contracted to JWOD-participating agencies for janitorial, grounds maintenance, administrative support services, moving services, and mailroom operation. The JWOD Program also has the capability to provide a variety of other services, such as food service, switchboard or call center operation and warehousing/distribution. The Program can be an effective source for many of your needs.

Please contact the Department's JWOD Program Manager, Cindy Maltby on 202-208-5562 or Eric Beale of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled at (703) 603-7743 if you would like additional information, including catalogs and videos. You may also call to arrange for a JWOD briefing or to suggest new products or services you may wish to procure through JWOD.

cc: Lee Wilson, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.
Bob Chamberlain, NISH
Jim Gibbons, National Industries for the Blind
DOI Charge Card Team
Interior NIB/NISH Coordinators