United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

SEP 29 2003

MEMORANDUM

To: Acquisition Managers' Partnership

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

Subject: Support of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and the perfect time to celebrate the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. Created in 1938, this unique federal procurement program currently employs nearly 40,000 Americans who are blind or have other 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 JWOD 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 JWOD Program.

We should all commit ourselves to greater use of the JWOD Program, to create new positions for employees with severe disabilities. I encourage all Interior personnel to support the JWOD Program whenever possible. In particular, Interior purchase card users must buy items furnished by the JWOD Program before considering other commercial sources.

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. These items are distributed through www.jwod.com; the GSA Advantage! and GSA Global Supply online shopping services (www.gsaadvantage.gov, www.gsaglobalsupply.gov); Office Eagle Supply Store in the basement of the Main Interior Building or at www.SuperOfficeEagle.com; and authorized commercial distributors. For more information about JWOD supplies or distributors, visit the Program's Web site, www.jwod.gov.

The JWOD Program also performs a wide range of services. Currently, the Department has contracted to JWOD-participating agencies for administrative services, janitorial, landscaping, document imaging and management, mail services, and moving/loading dock services. The JWOD Program also has the capability to provide a variety of other services, such as food service, switchboard operation and warehousing/distribution.

Please contact the Department's JWOD Program Manager, Cindy Maltby, on 202-208-5562 or via email at cynthia_maltby@ios.doi.gov 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