



Public Purchasing Exemption

Overview

Established in 1999 through the passage of Ballot Measure 68, Oregon Corrections Enterprises (OCE) is a semi-independent organization, whose administrator reports to the director of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). OCE plays an important role in carrying out Ballot Measure 17, the constitutional mandate to engage male and female adults in custody (AICs) in meaningful work. ***By statute, OCE is funded solely through the sales of its products and services.***

The mission of OCE, in partnership with DOC, is to promote public safety by providing AICs with meaningful work experience in a self-sustaining organization. OCE plays an important role in implementing DOC's Oregon Accountability Model (OAM). The OAM is a cohesive strategy to reduce recidivism and influence AICs to make effective changes, leading to better outcomes. Through the development of positive work ethics and job skills, OCE assists AICs in their transition to realizing their potential as productive citizens, creating positive outcomes, while contributing to society and their families.

Oregon Constitution

The Oregon Constitution (Article 1, Section 41, Paragraph 10 and 11) states, "Prison work products or services shall be available to any public agency and to any private enterprise of any state, any nation or any American Indian or Alaskan Native tribe without restriction imposed by any state or local law, ordinance or regulation as to competition with other public or private sector enterprises....Inmate work shall be used as much as possible to help operate the corrections institutions themselves, to support other government operations and to support community charitable organizations....Every state agency shall cooperate with the corrections director in establishing inmate work programs."

Oregon Administrative Rule Exemption

Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 125-246-0130(5) states, "Agencies otherwise subject to the Code and these Rules may enter into Contracts with correctional industries according to the Oregon Constitution, Article 1, Subsection 11, without being subject to the source selection procedures set forth in either ORS 279A.200 through 279A.225 (Cooperative Purchasing) or 279B.050 through 279B.085 (Sourcing Methods) and their respective rules."

DAS Buy Decision Priority

An agency is allowed to enter into intergovernmental or interagency agreements without competitive bidding when it is with another state agency, public entity (for instance a city, county, community college, etc.), or the federal government. If an agency does not use such an agreement, the agency must purchase goods and services using these sources in this order:

1. State Surplus (reuse current state-owned resources).
2. Oregon Forward (employing individuals with disabilities).
3. Oregon Corrections Enterprises.
4. DAS current contracted price agreements (OregonBuys).

Summary

The director of the Department of Corrections bears ultimate responsibility for OCE and, for practical purposes, is its chief executive officer.

- OCE is able to enter into agreements with public, private, government, nonprofit or for-profit persons or entities to engage AICs in work.
- In the DAS Buy Decision priority list, OCE is listed third of the four vendor types from which government agencies may purchase directly without

going through a costly bid process.

- Oregon Corrections Enterprises is a registered supplier on OregonBuys. Search “Oregon Corrections Enterprises”.
 - Products, images, prices, and descriptions are available for an assortment of products.
 - The OCE Sales team is available for requests for any of our products not currently listed on OregonBuys and for custom product design and manufacturing.
 - Contact us at: ocesales@oce.oregon.gov
- Support of Oregon Corrections Enterprises not only saves public organizations valuable time and funds but also supports the constitutional requirement for adults in custody (AICs) to work, which helps reduce the overall cost of government.



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