

## **Ability Indiana Opportunities for Employing Hoosiers with Disabilities**

### **Background on the Ability Indiana Program**

The Ability Indiana Program was established in 1976 as a means to provide sustainable, fulfilling employment to individuals with disabilities. By partnering with Certified Ability Indiana Organizations around the state, the program provides quality goods and services to state and local governments at reasonable prices. Every purchase provides the opportunity of employment for individuals with disabilities.

Indiana Code (IC 5-22-13) requires State Agencies to purchase supplies and services from a qualified Ability Indiana Program Vendor without advertising or solicitation. If an Ability Indiana Program organization cannot meet the specifications or provide the supply or service at a price within 10% of fair market price, the state agency may then put the solicitation out for bid.

If the State Agency issues a solicitation for a consolidated purchase containing items that are produced by a qualified Ability Indiana Program organization, the Agency must either require the vendor to purchase these items through the Ability Indiana Program or establish scoring standards that gives the Ability Indiana Program organization an opportunity to compete for the business.

Under the Ability Indiana Program Law, local government entities may bypass regular procurement practices and purchase through the Ability Indiana Program without bidding.

### **Recap of 2020-2021 Year**

- 186 Individuals employed per month on Ability Indiana Contracts
- Average Overall Wage: \$10.95
  - Average Wage for products: \$10.95
  - Average Wage for Services: \$10.95
- Total Wages Earned by People with Disabilities: \$1,863,071
- Total Hours Worked by Employees with Disabilities: 170,133
- Total Sales through the Ability Indiana Program: \$12,295,507
  - Total Service Sales: \$10,659,246
  - Total Product Sales: \$1,636,261

### **Top Products and Services**

- Janitorial Services
- Mailing/Printing Services
- Corrugated Boxes