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## Our Contracting Process



All agreements offered through National IPA have been awarded via a thorough **Request for Proposal (RFP)** competitive solicitation by a public agency (Principal Procurement Agency, PPA). The contracting process is the foundation of National IPA and sets us apart from other cooperatives. In order for even the most restrictive agencies nationwide to realize the best value offered by cooperative procurement, National IPA ensures that industry best practices, processes and procedures are applied.

### The Process

1. The Principal Procurement Agency (PPA) prepares a competitive solicitation, incorporating language to make the agreement accessible nationally to agencies in states that allow intergovernmental (i.e.: "piggyback") contract usage.
2. The PPA issues the solicitation and any required amendments and notifications, and conducts pre-proposal conferences/meetings.
3. Interested suppliers respond to the solicitation.
4. The PPA evaluates the responses, negotiates the final terms and conditions and ultimately awards the master agreement.
5. All documentation is posted on the National IPA website and made available to the public.

National IPA is committed to the integrity of the procurement process. Access to solicitation and award documentation is always available in the Documentation sections of each awarded agreement. No FOIA or special request necessary.

The PPA teams and the National IPA team of certified public procurement officials are available to answer any questions you may have or discuss the process in detail.

### The Principal Procurement Agencies

The Principal Procurement Agencies (PPA) who currently solicit and award cooperative contracts available through National IPA are considered some of the best procurement teams in the nation. National IPA is honored to be partnered with the best-of-the-best when it comes to process, procedures and industry leaders.

For a complete listing of current PPAs, [click here](#).

# **Cooperative Purchasing Statutes**

These applicable sections from individual state statutes authorizing cooperative purchasing are provided for informational purposes only and cannot be considered legal advice. Additional statutes or local ordinances may differ or may have differing cooperative purchasing authorizations, please contact us at [info@nationalipa.org](mailto:info@nationalipa.org) for any questions or additional assistance.

## **Illinois**

5 ILCS 220/3 Intergovernmental cooperation.

Any power or powers, privileges, functions, or authority exercised or which may be exercised by a public agency of this State may be exercised, combined, transferred, and enjoyed jointly with any other public agency of this State and jointly with any public agency of any other state or of the United States to the extent that laws of such other state or of the United States do not prohibit joint exercise or enjoyment and except where specifically and expressly prohibited by law. This includes, but is not limited to, (i) arrangements between the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and agencies in other states which issue professional licenses and (ii) agreements between the Illinois Department of Public Aid and public agencies for the establishment and enforcement of child support orders and for the exchange of information that may be necessary for the enforcement of those child support orders.