

COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

“A Government to Government Procurement Service Available Nationwide”

The H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program has been serving local governments for more than 30 years, beginning in 1973. From coast-to-coast, program participants include local governments, state agencies, and qualifying non-profit corporations that provide one or more governmental functions and services.

The program was established to allow governmental and qualifying non-profit entities to obtain commonly needed services - including purchasing. H-GAC conforms to the requirements of state statutes that are applicable to competitive bids (IFBs) and competitive proposals (RFPs). No product or service is offered by H-GAC that has not been subjected to either a competitive bid or competitive proposal process.

Benefits of the Program include expedited procurement, volume purchasing discounts, on-duty professional staff assistance, research and development of technical specifications, and contract administration.

For additional information visit www.hgacbuy.com or contact H-GAC staff at 800-926-0234.



H-GAC is your government agencies source for discounted prices for:

- **Vehicles**
- **Power Generation Equipment**
- **Fleet Service Equipment**
- **Construction Equipment**
- **Homeland Security**
- **Audio/Video Equipment**
- **Fire/Rescue Equipment**
- **Grounds Equipment**
- **Environmental Consulting**
- **Plus Many More Products & Services**



H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program

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The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is a council of governments, governed by a 35 member board of elected officials. H-GAC has 30+ years of experience in cooperative purchasing, providing competitively bid and awarded contracts to thousands of local governments nationwide. The H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program helps local governments save tax dollars and maximize their purchasing power through volume purchasing, reduced personnel costs, and expedited procurement. Quantity discounts, lower prices, greater variety, and more contracts make H-GAC's Program a significant benefit to all participating government agencies.

How does the H-GAC Program work?

To join H-GAC, your agency executes an "Interlocal Contract." There are no memberships dues, nor does H-GAC membership expire. The document sets out the conditions, requirements, and processes through which your purchase orders are received, confirmed and processed. You send your purchase orders directly to an H-GAC supplier with a duplicate to H-GAC for confirmation. The supplier processes your orders, delivers the products and invoices you for payment.

Is my agency eligible to purchase through the H-GAC Program?

The Interlocal Cooperation Act permits joint participation by local governments, states, state agencies, and non-profit corporations providing one or more government functions and services. Most states have interlocal cooperation authority or other joint power provisions that allow participation in cooperative activities. No membership dues are required to participate in the H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program.

How do I purchase without going through my own bid process?

When you purchase through H-GAC, your "Interlocal Contract" connects you with H-GAC's duties and responsibilities on your behalf. H-GAC (1) conducts research and pre-bid/pre-proposal conferences, (2) prepares specifications, (3) advertises, (4) solicits and evaluates supplier responses, and (5) awards contracts that are listed on the web site: HGACBuy.com.

What defines requirements for "Competitive Bids" and "Competitive Proposals"?

Competitive proposals are limited to procurement of equipment, goods and services that are highly technical in nature (i.e. data processing, telecommunications, electronics, and technical services related to those items), or for professional or consulting services. Competitive bids are prescribed for all other products such as vehicles, heavy equipment, and other products not considered "high tech". Most state laws have Authorizing Statutes to allow agencies within the states to use government-to-government cooperative purchasing. For your state laws, visit www.hgacbuy.com and click the area marked Authorizing Statutes.

What are the benefits of the H-GAC Program?

- Volume Purchasing
- Volume Discounts
- On-duty staff of qualified government purchasing professionals ready to assist you
- Technical specifications that can eliminate the need to hire consultants
- Elimination of advertising, printing, and delivery costs
- Expedited procurement process without lengthy delays

What are some differences between H-GAC's Program and others?

H-GAC has offered Cooperative Purchasing since 1973. The Program specializes in high ticket, capital-intensive products and services that require technical, detailed specifications and extensive professional skills to evaluate bid and proposal responses. H-GAC does not "piggy-back" contracts originating with other agencies.

