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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Public Procurement, Cooperative Contracts, and the  
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

The National Association of State Procurement Officials (“NASPO”) has issued a resolution touting state central procurement offices as integral partners in developing strategies and guidelines for the responsible and transparent spending of funds released by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA”).

State chief procurement officials (“CPOs”) have full and practical knowledge of current applicable state procurement legislation, best practices, strategies, and processes within the confines of their own state procurement regulations. This makes them an invaluable resource to state agencies and localities struggling to efficiently spend stimulus dollars within the confines of the ARRA provisions and any applicable state procurement laws or regulations.

In addition, NASPO is promoting the availability of existing state cooperative contracts to agencies and local governments as not only representing ready-to-use “best value” procurements, but also offering the added advantage of reducing administrative costs for already overburdened government purchasing staffs. NASPO and WSCA cooperative contracts are competitively bid and available to most state and local agencies to use in their quick—and more importantly, transparent and ethical—spending of ARRA funds. Thirty-two (32) cooperative contracts are currently in place for a wide variety of goods and services. A sample of those contracts includes:

- Computers
- Wireless Communication & Equipment
- Public Safety Radios & Satellite Phones
- Data Communications & Electronic Monitoring Equipment
- Hazardous Incident Response Equipment
- Laboratory Supplies & Equipment
- Industrial & Janitorial Supplies
- WIC Infant Formula

Please visit the NASPO website for more information on the resolution and on NASPO and WSCA Cooperative contracts and how to purchase from them. Questions can be directed to NASPO staff at (859) 514-9159 or by emailing [naspo@amrms.com](mailto:naspo@amrms.com).



**Resolution encouraging state Governors and the U.S. Office of Management & Budget to include state Chief Procurement Officers (CPOs) in the development and implementation of strategies and guidelines for spending stimulus money provided to the states as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.**

WHEREAS, the 111<sup>th</sup> United States Congress has passed the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*; and

WHEREAS, the state Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) has full and practical knowledge of current applicable state procurement legislation, best practices, strategies, and processes within the confines of their own state procurement regulations; and

WHEREAS, state CPOs are uniquely positioned to assist in the development of guidelines regarding use, timelines, and transparency of efforts and purchases compelled by the ARRA; and

WHEREAS, state CPOs will be primarily responsible for developing the contracts states and localities will use in conjunction with spending the money released to the states by the ARRA; and

WHEREAS, the ARRA calls for specific levels of transparency of state spending of the stimulus dollars; and

WHEREAS, states have a variety of reporting and transparency guidelines designed to ensure equity and fairness in awarding contracts which will need to be standardized as a result of the reporting and transparency provisions in the ARRA; and

WHEREAS, state procurement protects public funds from conflicts of interest, anti-trust violations, fraud and abuse; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of state CPOs will facilitate and set precedent for greater cooperation between state agencies and state procurement offices, creating an environment of collaboration that will continue to serve the states and their taxpayers in the future; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of State Procurement Officials recognizes and asserts that the effectiveness of a state CPO is clearly linked to its location in the government structure, and that placing the office at a high level is critical to ensuring effective direction, coordination, and control over a government's procurement spend; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of State Procurement Officials is uniquely positioned to disseminate information to state CPOs and their staffs, and to gather responses related to legislation and procedures affecting state procurement;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the National Association of State Procurement Officials advocates the inclusion of state Chief Procurement Officers in the development of guidelines for contracting procedures related to the spend of state finances authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT state Chief Procurement Officers should also be present in discussions with Governors' offices and state agency leaders in developing projects and strategies for spending state money authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the National Association of State Procurement Officials should be recognized as the chief point of contact to assist in distribution of information to state CPOs and as a collective resource for the development of guidelines related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as they relate to state procurement.

Adopted by  
National Association of State Procurement Officials  
March 6, 2009