

BACKGROUND PAPER
ON
CREATING A PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

PURPOSE

The Institute for Civic Achievement, Inc. (ICA), requests support in creating a Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) that will provide opportunities for independent businesses to identify, qualify for, and procure government contracts.

BACKGROUND

Presently, Colorado is without a PTAC. However, it has a rare opportunity in 2008 to create one. Institute for Civic Achievement, is working with others to capitalize on the opportunity now before us. Otherwise, we will miss this window of opportunity to create a PTAC for the next three to five years. For information on the mission, goals and qualifications of ICA, please review the information on its web site: <http://icainfo.org>.

RECOMMENDATION

That interested parties schedule a meeting with ICA to explore the necessary next steps to achieve this time-sensitive goal. At this meeting, ICA is prepared to provide more detailed information on the strategic plan for creating a PTAC and the operational components of PTACs.

DISCUSSION¹

The Procurement Technical Assistance Program was authorized by Congress in 1985 to expand business participation in the government marketplace at all levels. State governments administer some PTACs, while others partner with universities, community colleges, local economic development corporations or local institutions. All PTACs are staffed with counselors experienced in government contracting.

A wide range of services is provided by PTACs including classes and seminars, individual counseling and access to information necessary to successfully compete for government contracts. Areas of service include:

- Business client evaluation
- Client preparation
- Contract management
- Government assistance

¹ Source: Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (APTAC)

BENEFITS

Benefits to local businesses include

- Identifying potential government markets
- Pursuing contracting opportunities
- Expanding business opportunities
- Providing opportunities to subcontract with large prime contractors
- Exporting Colorado goods and services to attract external capital

SUMMARY

Creation of a state PTAC has the potential of increasing the economic well-being of rural and urban communities within Colorado by growing their businesses. However, our timeframe is very short and our application must be completed in early 2008. We need the support of the communities that PTAC will serve. Your expression of support and your help in exposing other community leaders to this initiative will go a long way in bringing this service to Colorado.