



State of Alabama
Department of
Examiners of Public Accounts

Telephone (334) 242-9200
FAX (334) 242-1775

Ronald L. Jones
Chief Examiner

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 302251
Montgomery, AL 36130-2251

February 23, 2015

Location:
Gordon Persons Building
50 North Ripley Street, Room 3201
Montgomery, AL 36104-3833

Alabama Municipalities
County Commissions
City and County Boards of Education
Alabama Community College System
Other Entities subject to the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-16-50

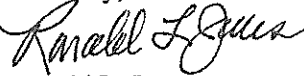
To whom it may concern,

This letter is being issued to clarify previous guidance issued by this Department. It supersedes and replaces letters issued by this Department dated October 18, 2013 for the following national purchasing cooperatives:

- U.S. Communities
- National IPA
- National Joint Powers Alliance (NIPA)
- Public Sourcing Solutions (PSS)
- The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN) and
- Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

We have previously reviewed the competitive bidding process utilized by these national purchasing cooperatives and based on those reviews our approval for the above named entities remains in effect until November 30, 2015 for the purchase of goods. The *Code of Alabama 1975*, Sections 41-16-51 and 16-13B-2, only authorizes purchases of goods utilizing purchasing cooperatives when certain conditions have been met. However, it does not authorize purchases of services. Therefore, you are not authorized to purchase services using any of purchasing cooperatives mentioned above.

Please do not hesitate to call us, should you have any questions regarding the application of this guidance.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Jones
CHIEF EXAMINER

RLJ/jh