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Sourcewell

Gary Link
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December 7, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: **Extend “Piggyback Contract” Provisions in 2021-22 Executive Budget**

Governor Cuomo;

The National Cooperative Procurement Partners respectfully requests that within the 2021-22 Executive budget proposal, that General Municipal Law § 103 (16) **be extended**. This common-sense contracting mechanism permits shared purchasing among New York State political subdivisions for greater contract flexibility and savings in both time and money. In early 2020, the State Senate and the Assembly introduced legislation (S.7933/A.10139) to extend the law. We understand this legislation will be reintroduced in the upcoming session as a show of support to continue this cost-saving initiative.

The National Cooperative Procurement Partners (NCPPE) is North America’s premier association for cooperative procurement. Comprised of purchasing cooperatives, suppliers, affiliated organizations, and public procurement professionals, its mission is to serve as a resource, educational voice, and advocate for cooperative procurement. Savings through the use of piggybacking has become even more critical as entities grapple with unprecedented budget challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, with no additional costs to the State or its localities for using these contracts.

Currently, General Municipal Law § 103 (16) allows New York State municipalities and school districts to purchase from other governments’ contracts for goods or services that were already competitively bid. Use of these contracts, referred to as piggyback contracts or cooperative purchasing, provides access to a critical cost savings tool for New York’s local governments and school districts. Unless the law is extended, it will sunset on July 31, 2021, and New York’s localities will lose this cost-saving authority.

The value of piggyback contracting has long been recognized in New York State. Since this provision was extended almost two years ago, tens of thousands New York State governments - cities, counties, schools - have been able to leverage the efficiencies and savings this type of contracting offers.

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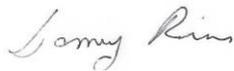
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Together, these units of government have utilized piggybacking or cooperative contracts, ranging from PPE and safety equipment, technology and software, facilities management solutions, flooring, furniture, fleet vehicles and automotive supplies, among many goods and services. According to NCPPE's cooperative members, procurement teams throughout New York have spent over a billion dollars through piggyback contracts, with resulting savings in time and money. This is true testament to the great level of adoption by local government entities of this contracting tool.

Unless action is taken to extend General Municipal Law § 103(16), the authority to piggyback contract will expire on July 31, 2021. Extending the law will enable local governments to appropriately plan and account for these cost savings as they prepare their 2021 budgets, while providing some certainty amid the ongoing pandemic challenges. Offering confidence to those government procurement teams on the continuing availability of this important tool will allow them to continue being strategic in their procurements and efficient stewards of taxpayer dollars.

On behalf of the NCPPE, and those users of cooperative purchasing contracts throughout New York State, we urge you to include an extender for General Municipal Law § 103 (16) in your 2021-22 Executive budget proposal. Thank you for ensuring savings and efficiencies are available to New York State's local governments and municipalities into the future.

Sincerely,



Tammy Rimes, MPA
Executive Director
National Cooperative Procurement Partners

cc : Robert F. Mujica Jr. Director, New York State Division of the Budget
Elizabeth Garvey, Special Counsel and Senior Advisor to the Governor