



Letters Received Regarding the List of Preferred Source Service Definitions

For NYS Procurement Council consideration at the May 25, 2016 meeting:

Organization	Date Received	Reference
Goodwill of New York & New Jersey	May 2, 2016	Pages 2 – 3
Jawonio	May 2, 2016	Pages 4 – 10
Senator Robert G. Ort	May 20, 2016	Pages 11 – 12
Senator Catharine M. Young	May 20, 2016	Pages 13 – 14
Assemblyman Clifford W. Crouch	May 23, 2016	Pages 15 – 16
Senator Patrick M. Gallivan	May 23, 2016	Pages 17 – 18
Assemblywoman Donna A. Lupardo	May 24, 2016	Pages 19 – 22



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BY:

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Astoria, NY 11102
Tel: 718 728-5400

May 2, 2016

Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito
Office of General Services
41st Floor, Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12242

Dear Commissioner Destito,

In response to your proposed changes to the job definitions for the New York State Preferred Source Program administered by New York State Industries for the Disabled (NYSID), we applaud the call for clear updated definitions, however, Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc. objects to the suggested new definitions for the category *Temporary Personnel* because they exclude persons with disabilities for whom we have successfully been finding work. We offer the following Position Statement and alternative definitions for you to take under advisement:

Position Statement:

There are individuals with significant disabilities at all levels, and eliminating those with higher level skills is excluding an important group of people with significant disabilities from attaining work through the New York State Preferred Source program. GoodTemps has successfully leveraged Preferred Source to fill professional and IT positions with qualified individuals who have significant disabilities throughout its 20-year history, who, under the proposed new OGS definition, would be eliminated from participation in the program. This new definition goes beyond establishing clear guidelines. It changes what positions are covered and eliminates opportunities for entire segments of individuals with disabilities currently served by Preferred Source.

Number of people with disabilities placed by Goodwill as Temporary Personnel who would no longer be served:

Individuals with disabilities placed in professional or IT titles in the last 2 years	151
Total Wages earned by above individuals from 4/15/14 through 4/14/16	\$4,528,432.66
Individuals with disabilities placed in professional or IT titles currently	62
Weekly Wages earned by the above individuals (Week ending 4/15/16)	\$41,929.27
Number of professional or IT job titles available to employers	105



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NJ

Alternatively, we respectfully recommend that the following definitions be used:

"TEMPORARY PERSONNEL:

Office - Temporary workers hired for a pre-determined period of time to assist a customer in an office environment. The worker may be asked to complete administrative tasks including, but not limited to, answering and directing calls, opening and distributing mail, operating office equipment, or other similar tasks as assigned. The worker may assist with wide range of clerical and administrative functions. This service includes professional and IT.

Warehouse - Temporary workers hired for a pre-determined period of time to assist a customer in a warehouse environment. The worker may be asked to perform a wide range of warehouse tasks including, but not limited to, order processing, pulling of materials and stock, packing boxes, loading and unloading, shipping, receiving, and other similar tasks as assigned."

In closing, we appreciate the efforts of the Office of General Services to clarify all job definitions, but it is our opinion that all descriptions should be inclusive and reflective of the wide range of skill sets of the population served through the Preferred Source program.

Sincerely,

Katy Gau-Stigge
President and CEO

Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc.





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May 2, 2016

Jill A. Warner, LCSW
Executive Director/CEO
jill.warner@jawonio.org

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RoAnn Destito, OGS Commissioner
RoAnn.Destito@ogs.ny.gov
Karen Tyler, Executive Deputy Commissioner
Karen.Tyler@ogs.ny.gov

Re: Proposed Preferred Sources Definitions: Laundry Service

Dear Ms. Destito and Ms. Tyler,

Jawonio is a not for profit, preferred source provider in a corporate partnership with Unitex, a Health Care Laundry Service. Through this corporate partnership we hold 28 contracts through NYSID and the Preferred Source program. Which provides employment to 20 people with significant disabilities. Unitex has hired these people with disabilities directly into their workforce as part-time workers. They are fully integrated into the Unitex plant in Mt Vernon (with one employee in Newburgh). Jawonio provides one full-time job coach (and relief) at the Unitex plant in Mt. Vernon for which we receive no alternative funding, to support the individuals on two shifts in the completion of their job duties. We are also providing job coaching to the individual at the Newburgh plant.

Jawonio is strongly advocating that the modified definition by NYSID for laundry services be accepted by OGS and adopted by the procurement council. The modified definition by NYSID reflects "form, function and utility" as a 21st century definition of the laundry industry with their state of the art equipment and line processes. Without the production floor attendant positions, which are a regular and integral position for the operation of the plants, the equipment would not function, be a safety/fire hazard, and the laundry processed would be contaminated once it was processed through the folding, and packaging. The plant would not meet its certification for infection control and equipment maintenance. Health care customers prioritize compliance in this area due to patient safety in the areas of cleanliness and infection control.

NYSID has requested that the definition be expanded to include the supporting tasks that allow the physical laundry plant to "function with utility". Supporting tasks may include other functions required to insure the hygienic integrity of the processed textiles, such as minimizing potential environmental contaminations,

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- Jawonio 176 S. Broadway Yonkers, NY 10701 (p) 914.963.8666 (f) 914.963.8797 TTY: 914.968.0246
- Jawonio Health Center 260 N. Little Tor Road New City, NY 10956 (p) 845.708.2000 x1340 (f) 845.639.0375
- Goodwin D. Katzen Early Childhood Education Center 155 Phillips Hill Road New City, NY 10956 (p) 845.708.2010 (f) 845.708.2039

disinfecting of the linen transport carts, and decontamination of any surfaces/equipment that may be contaminated. To do these supporting tasks and maintain the equipment in a safe, fire hazard free state, and to decontaminate throughout the day and each load from the washer requires the production floor attendant positions. These production floor attendants have significantly different job tasks from a "regular cleaner". And, they are an integral component of the contracts which are paid on a per piece basis. Paying on a per piece basis does not allow the cost analyses to show that this position is part of the total operation as it is blended in the hours.

We have enclosed the documentation from the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation council (HLAC) that supports that the "Laundry Services cleaner" position is integral to the operations. We have also enclosed several pictures of the Laundry service cleaner in actual job tasks with the equipment that we feel differentiate this position from a "regular" cleaner (who is usually charged with floor care, trash and bathroom tasks).

If the OGS definition of Laundry Services is not modified 18-20 disabled individuals would lose their positions at Unitex. The union at Unitex made a special accommodation to allow the modified work schedules for only these laundry service cleaner positions. Most of the disabled individuals employed cannot sustain 10 hours work days with high production standards that are required by the union contract. Other NYSI corporate partners in the laundry services are not unionized and do not have these same restrictions.

We hope that based upon the above and attached information you will consider the additional language in the definitions.

Sincerely,



Jill A. Warner, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

cc: Ron Romano, CEO NYSID

<http://www.hlacnet.org/#!at-a-glance/cnrs>

2.2. Physical Plant and Equipment Maintenance 2.2.1. Maintenance of equipment and spaces in a laundry facility processing healthcare textiles shall follow documented provider's policies and procedures. 2.2.2. Cleaning, Decontamination, and Disinfection 2.2.2.1. The physical environment (e.g., floors, walls, ceilings, vents, working surfaces, and installed equipment) must receive scheduled cleaning appropriate for the surface, the frequency dependent upon the level of contamination, and the operation performed in the area according to facility policy. (ANSI/AAMI ST65:2013; Std. 3.3.3; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010 Std. 3.3.6, 3.4; AHE Practice GL 2nd ed. Sec 1.2) 2.2.2.1.1. The cleaning schedule must be maintained on a current basis and available for inspection. 2.2.2.2. Environmental surfaces (e.g., walls, ceilings, vents, and equipment) must be subjected to periodic and as needed blow down processes from ceiling downward to minimize the build-up of dust and lint. - 7 - 2.2.2.2.1. Blow down must be performed when no other processing of textiles is occurring in that area and must not be performed in pack rooms. (ANSI/AAMI ST65:2013; Std. 3.3.3) 2.2.2.3. Clean textile working surfaces (e.g., counters, benches, tables, etc.) must be kept clean of visible soil, dust, and lint. [OSHA: 29.CFR 1910.1030 (d)(4)(ii); CDC HICPAC GL EIC, 2003: II.E.I.E.2; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010 Std. 3.4; CDC HICPAC GL EIC, 2003:II.E.I.A; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010 Std. 6.2] 2.2.2.4. Working surfaces that become contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) must be decontaminated, cleaned, and disinfected with EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectants labeled tuberculocidal or registered disinfectants on the EPA Lists D and/or E (i.e., products with specific label claims for human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] or hepatitis B virus [HBV]) according to label instructions after completion of soiled textile handling activities; immediately or as soon as feasible when surfaces are visibly contaminated; and at the end of the work shift. [OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.1030 (d)(4)(ii, iiA) memorandum 2/2/97; CDC HICPAC GL EIC, 2003: E.I.A, II.A-D; EPA Lists of Registered Pesticides; CDC HICPAC GL EIC, 2003:II.E.I.A; II. E.1.; II.H.; II. A-D; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010 Std. 6.2]

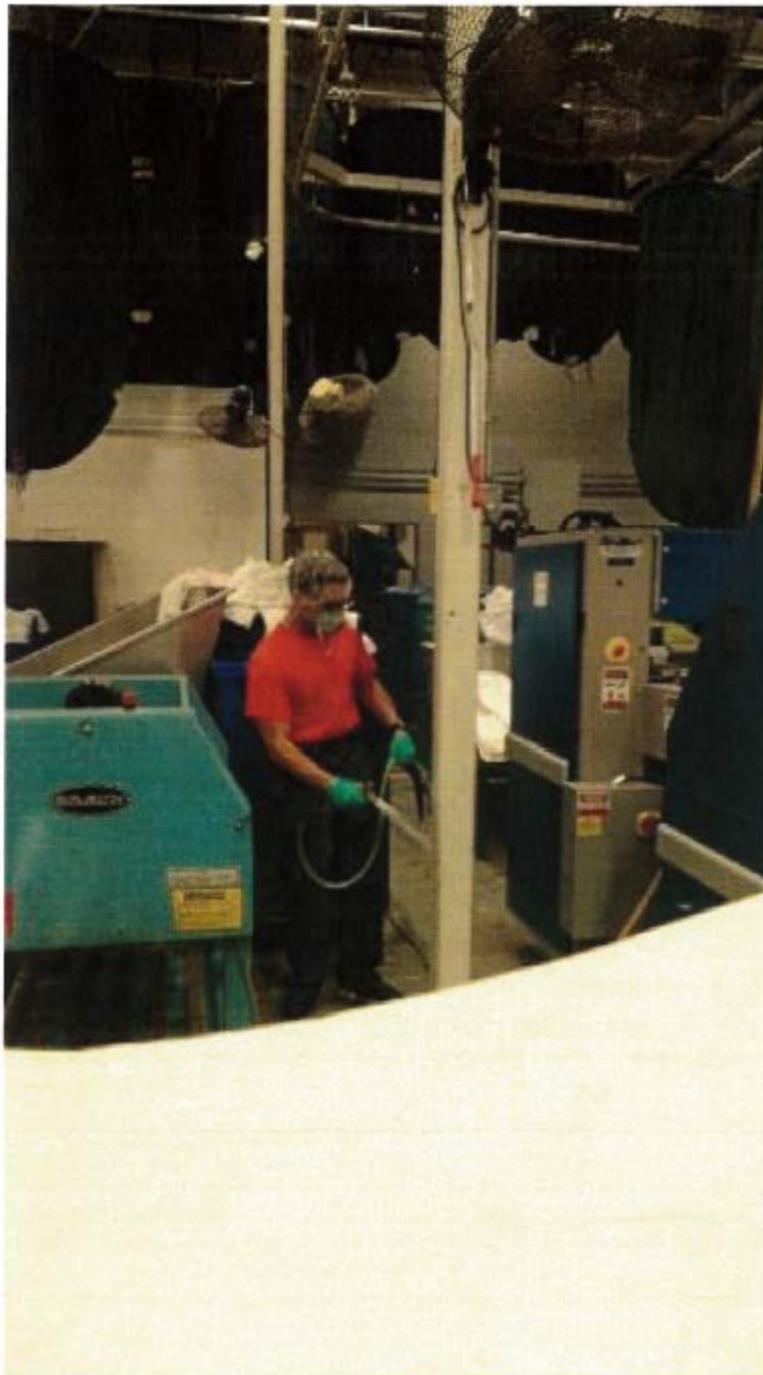
Pictures of actual employees cleaning and sanitizing the equipment as per the HLAC Standards



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Pictures of actual employees cleaning and sanitizing the equipment as per the HLAC Standards

Picture demonstrating the need for the cleaning process as an integral part of the laundry business to clean and disinfect for blood borne pathogens, vermin, etc.



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ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT

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May 20, 2016

RECEIVED
MAY 23 2016

RoAnn Destito
Commissioner of NYS Office of General Services
Corning Tower – 41st Fl
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12242

BY:

Dear Commissioner Destito,

I am reaching out to the Procurement Council to weigh in on the changes to the Preferred Source definitions, sent out for review on April 11th and that are on the Agenda for the Council's May 25th meeting. I understand that the impetus for this review was a request by the Commissioner of OGS at the May 27th, 2015 Procurement Council meeting to bring the Preferred Source List into the 21st century, since the List hadn't been updated since 1996. I applaud the proactive nature of the Council and agree that the List and the definitions need to be ever evolving to keep up with the times.

As the Council knows, the Preferred Source Program is a social program, legislatively enacted to increase opportunities for individuals with disabilities to secure and flourish in service and commodity producing jobs. Naturally those jobs are limited, however, to that which is approved for the Preferred Source List. Recognizing this limitation, OGS has, per its own Guidelines, stated that the List should be interpreted as widely and broadly as possible to maximize opportunities for employment for individuals with disabilities, whose current unemployment rate is over 75%.

Regrettably, the suggested revisions to the definitions, if unchanged from the April 11th distribution, not only fail to meet either of the above stated directives, they will operate to reduce the List of offerings that the disabled can perform because of the narrow scope of the definitions.

I draw your attention to three definitions in particular; Mail Fulfillment Services, Temporary Personnel Services and Laundry Services. With the Mail Fulfillment Services definition instead of updating it to make it more user friendly and keeping up with the current electronic technology in that service sector, the new definition limits the work to "manual processes" or processes done by hand. With this limitation those who perform this service would be unable to be cost competitive and would find themselves obsolete in this market. Instead of securing



more opportunities in an already approved service sector, this definition would create less work and fewer jobs.

As for Temporary Personnel where currently this service listing has been offering all types of opportunities to individuals with disabilities, OGS has specifically revised the definition to include the following: "This service does not include professional, IT, or trade services". This revision would mean that roughly 150 disabled individuals currently working on Preferred Source contracts for Temporary Services couldn't keep their jobs.

Plainly put, with definitions as proposed, it is difficult not to conclude that OGS feels individuals with disabilities either cannot or should not be given the opportunity to be trained on new and advancing technology, or cannot or should not be given the opportunity to expand their capabilities into higher level, higher paying, temporary jobs.

Further, it has always been OGS's position to interpret the offerings as widely as possible to afford as many employment opportunities as possible. A plain reading of the revisions suggests that these new definitions are more limited in scope. Instead of looking at all aspects of these service sectors and what could be viewed as potential areas of employment, OGS has narrowed its view and included only functions viewed as essential. This is no more evident than with Laundry Services. While there are many functions that go into meeting industry standards for laundry services and the supporting tasks to meet those standards, OGS ignores these other tasks and relegates them non-essential by not allowing for these tasks to be included into the definition of Laundry Service (Industrial).

I am greatly concerned with the revisions to the Preferred Source definitions as they have been presented by OGS for a vote before the Procurement Council, and urge the Council to reject any limitation on employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Instead, I encourage a true effort to update the Preferred Source List of offerings with definitions that are understandable and, as importantly, actually useful in today's marketplace. I would also encourage the Council to direct those state agencies and others utilizing the List to continue to interpret the offerings as broadly as possible to ensure, as it has for over 40 years, that the legislative intent of this program, to put people with disabilities to work, is realized.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Ort", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert G. Ort
Senator, 62nd District

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May 20, 2016

Commissioner RoAnn Destito
NYS Office of General Services
Chair, NYS Procurement Council
Corning Tower - 41st Floor
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12242

Dear Commissioner Destito & Members of the NYS Procurement Council:

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With this limitation those who perform this service would be unable to be cost competitive and would find themselves obsolete in this market. Instead of securing more opportunities in an already approved service sector, this definition would create less work and fewer jobs.

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Further, it has always been OGS's position to interpret the offerings as widely as possible to afford as many employment opportunities as possible. A plain reading of the revisions suggests that these new definitions are more limited in scope. Instead of looking at all aspects of these service sectors and what could be viewed as potential areas of employment, OGS has narrowed its view and included only functions viewed as essential.

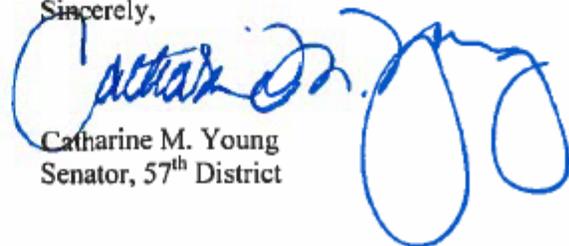
This is no more evident than with Laundry Services. While there are many functions that go into meeting industry standards for laundry services and the supporting tasks to meet those standards, OGS ignores these other tasks and relegates them non-essential by not allowing for these tasks to be included into the definition of Laundry Service (Industrial).

I am greatly concerned with the revisions to the Preferred Source definitions as they have been presented by OGS for a vote before the Procurement Council, and urge the Council to reject any limitation on employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Instead, I encourage a true effort to update the Preferred Source List of offerings with definitions that are understandable and, as importantly, actually useful in today's marketplace. I would also encourage the Council to direct those state agencies and others utilizing the List to continue to interpret the offerings as broadly as possible to ensure, as it has for over 40 years, that the legislative intent of this program, to put people with disabilities to work, is realized.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Catharine M. Young
Senator, 57th District



CLIFFORD W. CROUCH
Assemblyman 122nd District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Labor
Ways and Means
Rules

May 23, 2016

RoAnn Destito, Commissioner
NYS Office of General Services
Corning Tower – 41st Floor
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12242

Dear Commissioner Destito:

As the Chair of the Minority Task Force on Protecting the Rights of the Developmentally Disabled, I am writing to the Procurement Council to address changes to the Preferred Source Definitions List that are on the agenda for Wednesday, May 25, 2016 for the Office of General Services (OGS) Council's meeting.

Per its own Guidelines, OGS stated that the Preferred Source Definitions List should be interpreted as widely and broadly as possible to maximize opportunities for employment for individuals with disabilities, whose current unemployment rate is over 75%. Regrettably, the suggested revisions to the definitions, if unchanged from the April 11th distribution, not only fail to meet either of the above stated directives, they will operate to reduce the Preferred Source Definitions List of offerings that the disabled can perform because of the limited scope of the definitions. I believe that a broader and more expanded definition will allow the disabled individuals to not only learn to multi-task, but also to learn new skills and expand their abilities.

To specifically address the Laundry Services definitions, a local laundry in my District operates under HLAC (Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council Standards) and TRSA (Textile Rental and Services Association) standards that require appropriate handling of soiled and clean linen. All areas must be continually disinfected, cleaned to insure a quality product that meets HLAC and TRSA standards. This means that the same disabled person who may be folding linen may also be moving carts, sorting linen, cleaning and sanitizing their work area as well as any and all other functions listed in the expanded Laundry definition that was submitted.

Individuals with differing disabilities may excel more at one area than another. I am respectfully requesting that you expand and enlarge the definitions to allow disabled individuals to perform this expanded list of task definitions which will allow our disabled individuals to achieve their maximum potential. I believe with the limited definitions we will be limiting them, which is not the intent of OGS or NYS law. Each of our valued citizens must be given the fullest opportunity to work, learn and grow.

Again, I respectfully request and encourage you to expand the definitions to foster an environment that allows us to develop people to their maximum potential. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Clifford W. Crouch
Member of Assembly
122nd District

Current Definition

Laundry Service (Industrial):

Laundry Service (Industrial) is the handling and collection of soiled linen and apparel including, but not limited to, patient or surgical gowns, lab coats, table linens, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, towels, adult bibs, baby shirts, underpads, medical apparel, bedding, washcloths, diapers, patient clothing, and treated mops. This service includes the sorting, washing, extraction, drying, finishing, folding, mending and storage of said products as well as disinfecting of linen transport carts. This service includes the stocking, picking, and wrapping of clean laundry as well as the delivery of hygienically clean, reusable linen and apparel which can be either customer owned or on a rental basis. Industrial laundry service should meet or exceed accreditation standards for processing reusable linen and apparel for use in healthcare facilities as determined by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC).

Proposed Expanded Definition for consideration would insert the clauses is in **red & underlined**:

Laundry Service (Industrial) is the handling and collection of soiled linen and apparel including, but not limited to, patient or surgical gowns, lab coats, table linens, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, towels, adult bibs, baby shirts, underpads, medical apparel, bedding, washcloths, diapers, patient clothing, and treated mops. Supporting tasks may include other functions required to insure the hygienic integrity of the processed textiles, such as minimizing potential environmental contamination; i.e. vermin, lint, moisture, disinfection of linen transport cars, maintaining functional separation of soiled and clean room areas and the decontamination of any surfaces/equipment that may be contaminated with blood or other potential infectious materials and fluids. This service includes the sorting, washing, extraction, drying, finishing, folding, mending and storage of said products as well as disinfecting of linen transport carts. This service includes the stocking, picking, and wrapping of clean laundry as well as the delivery of hygienically clean, reusable linen and apparel which can be either customer owned or on a rental basis. Industrial laundry service should meet or exceed accreditation standards for processing reusable linen and apparel for use in healthcare facilities as determined by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC).



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY 12247

RECEIVED
MAY 31 2016

SENATOR PATRICK M. GALLIVAN
99TH DISTRICT
May 23, 2016

BY:

Commissioner RoAnn Destito
NYS Office of General Services
Corning Tower – 41st Floor
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12242

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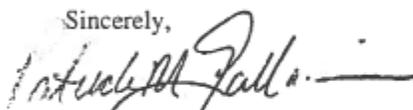
technology, or cannot or should not be given the opportunity to expand their capabilities into higher level, higher paying, temporary jobs.

Further, it has always been OGS's position to interpret the offerings as widely as possible to afford as many employment opportunities as possible. A plain reading of the revisions suggests that these new definitions are more limited in scope. Instead of looking at all aspects of these service sectors and what could be viewed as potential areas of employment, OGS has narrowed its view and included only functions viewed as essential. This is no more evident than with Laundry Services. While there are many functions that go into meeting industry standards for laundry services and the supporting tasks to meet those standards, OGS ignores these other tasks and relegates them non-essential by not allowing for these tasks to be included into the definition of Laundry Service (Industrial).

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. Gallivan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick M. Gallivan
Senator, 59th District



DONNA A. LUPARDO
Member of Assembly
123rd District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on
Children and Families
CHAIR
Legislative Women's Caucus
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Economic Development
Environmental Conservation
Higher Education
Transportation

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MAY 24 2016

May 24, 2016

BY:

Commissioner RoAnn Destito
NYS Office of General Services
Corning Tower – 41st Floor
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12242

RoAnn

Dear Commissioner Destito,

I am writing regarding the Procurement Council's proposed changes to the Preferred Source Definitions List that are on the Agenda for the Council's May 25th meeting .

As you know, OGS has per its own guidelines stated that the Preferred Source Definitions List should be interpreted as widely and broadly as possible to maximize opportunities for employment for individuals with disabilities, whose current unemployment rate is over 75%. I have been advised that the suggested revisions to the definitions, if unchanged from the April 11th distribution, not only fail to meet either of the above stated directives, they will operate to reduce the Preferred Source Definitions List of offerings that the disabled can perform because of the limited scope of the definitions. We know that broader and more expanded definitions allow the disabled individuals to not only learn to multi-task, but also to learn new skills and expand their abilities.

Specifically addressing Laundry Services definitions, a local laundry in my District operates under HLAC (Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council Standards) and TRSA (Textile Rental and Services Association) standards that require appropriate handling of soiled and clean linen. All areas must be continually disinfected, cleaned to insure a quality product that meets HLAC and TRSA standards. This means that the same disabled person who may be folding linen may also be moving carts, sorting linen, cleaning and sanitizing their work area as well as any and all other functions listed in the expanded Laundry definition that was submitted.

Individuals with differing disabilities may excel more at one area than another. We ask you to expand and enlarge the definitions as widely as possible, to allow disabled individuals to perform this expanded list of task definitions, thereby allowing our disabled individuals to achieve their maximum potential.

Page Two
Commissioner RoAnn Destito

With limited definitions we limit them, which surely is not the intent of OGS or NYS law.
Please consider expanding the definitions to foster an environment that allows us to develop people to their maximum potential.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Lupardo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Donna Lupardo
Member of Assembly

DAL:jmm

Page Three

Commissioner RoAnn Destito

Current Definition

Laundry Service (Industrial):

Laundry Service (Industrial) is the handling and collection of soiled linen and apparel including, but not limited to, patient or surgical gowns, lab coats, table linens, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, towels, adult bibs, baby shirts, underpads, medical apparel, bedding, washcloths, diapers, patient clothing, and treated mops. This service includes the sorting, washing, extraction, drying, finishing, folding, mending and storage of said products as well as disinfecting of linen transport carts. This service includes the stocking, picking, and wrapping of clean laundry as well as the delivery of hygienically clean, reusable linen and apparel which can be either customer owned or on a rental basis. Industrial laundry service should meet or exceed accreditation standards for processing reusable linen and apparel for use in healthcare facilities as determined by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC).

Proposed Expanded Definition for consideration would insert the clauses in red:

Laundry Service (Industrial) is the handling and collection of soiled linen and apparel including, but not limited to, patient or surgical gowns, lab coats, table linens, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, towels, adult bibs, baby shirts, underpads, medical apparel, bedding, washcloths, diapers, patient clothing, and treated mops. Supporting tasks may include other functions required to insure the hygienic integrity of the processed textiles, such as minimizing potential environmental contamination; i.e. vermin, lint, moisture, disinfection of linen transport cars, maintaining functional separation of soiled and clean room areas and the decontamination of any surfaces/equipment that may be contaminated with blood or other potential infectious materials and fluids. This service includes the sorting, washing, extraction, drying, finishing, folding, mending and storage of said products as well as disinfecting of linen transport carts. This service includes the stocking, picking, and wrapping of clean laundry as well as the delivery of hygienically clean, reusable linen and apparel which can be either customer owned or on a rental basis. Industrial laundry service should meet or exceed accreditation standards for processing reusable linen and apparel for use in healthcare facilities as determined by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC).

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HEROIN TASK FORCE
RURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR
FREDERICK J. AKSHAR II
52ND SENATE DISTRICT

PLEASE RESPOND TO:
□ ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 805
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
518-455-2677
□ DISTRICT OFFICE:
1607 STATE OFFICE BLDG
44 HAWLEY STREET
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK 13901
607-773-8771

May 24, 2016

RoAnn Destito, Commissioner
NYS Office of General Services
Corning Tower – 41st Floor
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12242

Re: New York State Procurement Council's May 25th Meeting

Dear Commissioner Destito:

I'm very concerned that the Office of General Services is proposing to change the definition of "Laundry" for Preferred Source Contracts.

The amended definition, which is on the Procurement Council's May 25th agenda, is extremely limiting and will have a disastrous effect on all industrial laundries in New York State that believe in and employ a disabled workforce.

OGS has, per its own Guidelines, stated that the Preferred Source Definitions List should be interpreted as widely and broadly as possible to maximize opportunities for employment for individuals with disabilities, whose current unemployment rate is over 75%.

Regrettably, the suggested revisions to the definitions not only fail to meet the above stated directives, they'll reduce the Preferred Source Definitions List of offerings that disabled workers can perform.

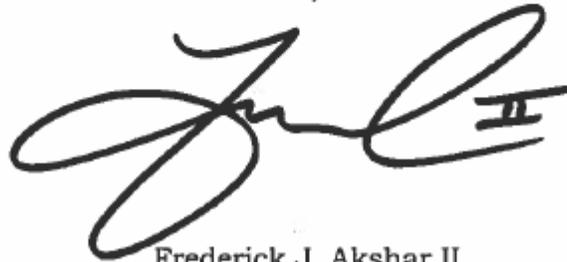
Specifically addressing Laundry Services definitions, a local laundry in my District operates under HLAC (Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council Standards) and TRSA (Textile Rental and Services Association) standards that require appropriate handling of soiled and clean linen. All areas must be continually disinfected and cleaned to insure a quality product that meets HLAC and TRSA standards. This means that the same disabled person who may be folding linen may also be moving carts, sorting linen, cleaning and

sanitizing their work area as well as any and all other functions listed in the enclosed expanded Laundry definition.

I respectfully ask that you expand the definitions as widely as possible to allow our disabled workforce to achieve their maximum potential. Limiting the definition only limits them, which I'm sure isn't the intent of OGS or New York State.

Thanks in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred II", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frederick J. Akshar II
State Senator

FJA/VAD
Enc.

Current Definition

Laundry Service (Industrial):

Laundry Service (Industrial) is the handling and collection of soiled linen and apparel including, but not limited to, patient or surgical gowns, lab coats, table linens, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, towels, adult bibs, baby shirts, underpads, medical apparel, bedding, washcloths, diapers, patient clothing, and treated mops. This service includes the sorting, washing, extraction, drying, finishing, folding, mending and storage of said products as well as disinfecting of linen transport carts. This service includes the stocking, picking, and wrapping of clean laundry as well as the delivery of hygienically clean, reusable linen and apparel which can be either customer owned or on a rental basis. Industrial laundry service should meet or exceed accreditation standards for processing reusable linen and apparel for use in healthcare facilities as determined by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC).

Proposed Expanded Definition (insert the clauses in red):

Laundry Service (Industrial) is the handling and collection of soiled linen and apparel including, but not limited to, patient or surgical gowns, lab coats, table linens, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, towels, adult bibs, baby shirts, underpads, medical apparel, bedding, washcloths, diapers, patient clothing, and treated mops. **Supporting tasks may include other functions required to insure the hygienic integrity of the processed textiles, such as minimizing potential environmental contamination; i.e. vermin, lint, moisture, disinfection of linen transport cars, maintaining functional separation of soiled and clean room areas and the decontamination of any surfaces/equipment that may be contaminated with blood or other potential infectious materials and fluids.** This service includes the sorting, washing, extraction, drying, finishing, folding, mending and storage of said products as well as disinfecting of linen transport carts. This service includes the stocking, picking, and wrapping of clean laundry as well as the delivery of hygienically clean, reusable linen and apparel which can be either customer owned or on a rental basis. Industrial laundry service should meet or exceed accreditation standards for processing reusable linen and apparel for use in healthcare facilities as determined by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC).