

UPCOMING EVENTS



Choice Partners looks forward to having face-to-face time with members attending the annual TASN conference in Grapevine, Texas, at the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center. Register for our surprise give away at booth #1222 on Tuesday, June 25.



SAVE THE DATE, Oct. 2, for the annual Nutrition and Product Expo. This event has grown in size and popularity with young and old alike. Our tropical theme will warm you up with food samples, demonstrations and new photo opportunities.

GET INVOLVED

Let your contact who are quality vendors know about these opportunities. They must register in our E-Bid System to do business with us.

<https://www.choicepartners.org/become-a-vendor>

HOST A TRAINING

We love for our members to host a training. They are a great way to network and gain exposure. Let us know if you would like to host a training.

<https://www.choicepartners.org/contact-us>

SUBMIT A REVIEW

Do you know a vendor who has provided exemplary service? Have a statement to make about Choice Partners service quality? Let us know.

<https://www.choicepartners.org/member-reviews#ss>

June 25

TASN, Grapevine, TX

June 26–28

ISM/RGV, South Padre Island, TX

July 16

Vendor Orientation, Houston, TX

July 24–25

STASMO, South Padre Island, TX

July 31

Vendor Recruitment with ACCD, San Antonio, TX

August 25–26

NIGP National Conference, Austin, TX

September 4–6

TAC Legislative Conference, Austin, TX

September 17

CP Member Workshop at NPO, Houston, TX

September 20–21

TASA/TASB, Dallas, TX

September 30

TOAL, Little Rock, AR

2019



LEADERS

CHOICE

June 2019, Issue 8



DID YOU KNOW?

Choice Partners has become a recent Cooperative Partner Member of the NCPP Association – a preferred organization providing access for expertise and information on all areas related to governmental procurement and purchasing cooperatives. This organization elevates the discussion, advocacy and educational content on cooperative procurement. Partners work collaboratively to bring all pieces of procurement together – cooperatives, strategic suppliers, affiliated organizations and public procurement professionals. Its goal is to produce meaningful educational tools to support public procurement agencies and become the “go to” resource for cooperative procurement.

Choice Partners’ goal as a NCPP partner is to provide its members and vendors with cutting-edge industry standards.



In This Issue

Legal Corner (New Feature)

Hurricane Season—Help In Place

TASN 2019 Annual Conference

2019 Nutrition and Product Expo

Welcome New June Members

May Contracts

Current RFPs

Upcoming Events

LEGAL CORNER

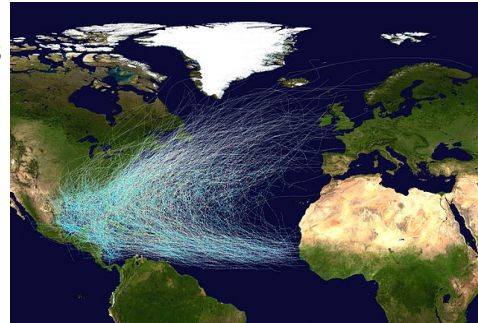


Sarah Langlois,
HCDE Legal Counsel

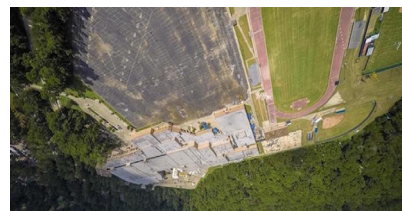
New laws recently passed by the Texas legislature will alter vendors' ability to keep the details of their contracts and proposals to governmental entities out of the public's – and their competitors' – hands. Chief among them, SB 943 makes it clear that certain information in a government contract, including pricing information, is public, unless a vendor can demonstrate, "based on specific factual evidence that disclosure of the information would reveal an individual approach" to work, organizational structure, staffing, internal operations, processes, or pricing information that will be used in future procurement submissions and the information would give an advantage to a competitor. SB 943 was passed in direct response to the 2015 Texas Supreme Court decision Boeing v. Paxton, which gave vendors the ability to keep contract details such as prices from the public, if the vendors argued that disclosure would give their competitors an unfair advantage. SB 943, which goes into effect on January 1, 2020, requires governmental entities to withhold requested information to allow a vendor to assert the new "individual approach" exception to disclosure with the Attorney General's Office.

HURRICANE SEASON HELP

According to weather experts, hurricane season usually starts out slow with storms developing in the Gulf and Caribbean. The weather graphic above indicates the water is warmer than the rest of the Atlantic basin and research states that 80 degrees is needed to get the tropical storm process going.



Moving through the summer months, the waters warm in the Atlantic and the storms develop and reaches a season peak in early September. At this point, storms develop everywhere even off the coast of Africa near the Cape Verde islands. This stage of the Atlantic Basin tropical storm season is called the Cape Verde season. Above 111 mph, the storm is considered a major hurricane. At this level, if the storm moves inland, it is more likely that catastrophic damage will occur over a widespread area.



Kingwood Highschool Before Harvey



Kingwood Highschool After Harvey

During hurricane season, it is important to have an emergency plan in place to handle the after effects of storm damage. In the event of a natural or man-made event, Disaster Mitigation entails plans/strategies utilized to reduce the severity of human and material damage caused by the event. Choice Partners offers contract options designed to aid members several different ways when this occurs.

Disaster Mitigation

Disaster Mitigation covers all aspects of a disaster including a storm, flood, fire or other natural or man-made events. These disasters can happen any time and any place, which make human and financial consequences hard to predict. The goal is to reduce these consequences pre- and post-disaster. By acting now through Disaster Mitigation, we can address these hard choices and invest long-term in the community.

Debris Removal

Debris removal is typically the removal of waste that may contain toxic or hazardous contaminants. After a disaster, contaminants might be found in soil and sediments, vegetation, solid waste, household waste and construction or demolition debris. Use of debris removal is effective to facilitate the transportation and relocation of these hazardous materials. Doing this helps to seek prevention efforts and lessen threats on human health or the environment.

According to Jeff Drury, director of Choice Partners, contracts involving Disaster Mitigation and the associated build back of facilities (JOC) were tremendously helpful to many entities in and around Houston affected by Hurricane Harvey.

"Our members needed to get back up and running as quickly as possible and they turned to us for help," Drury said. "The fact that our contracts are legal and compliant with FEMA requirements proved invaluable to our members."



Jeff Drury, Director, Choice Partners

Choice Partners also has new contracts either out for solicitation or newly awarded for Disaster Mitigation with a JOC Component, Disaster Recovery Consultants and Debris Removal that complete the CP suite of contracts to be used by members in the case of an emergency or natural disaster.

Contact the following Choice Partners contract managers for assistance with:

Disaster Mitigation, Disaster Mitigation with JOC* and Disaster Recovery Consultants, contact Monique Joseph at 713-316-4529 or via email at monique@choicepartners.org.

For Debris Removal, contact Michael Robles at 713-316-4254 or via email at michael@choicepartners.org.

WELCOME NEW MAY MEMBERS

HCDE Interlocal Agreements with new members: Community ISD, Nevada, Texas; Crandall ISD, Crandall, Texas; Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Conn.; Midway ISD, Waco, Texas; Palacios ISD, Palacios, Texas; St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, Port Arthur, Texas, and Sunnyvale ISD, Sunnyvale, Texas.

HCDE Out-of-State new members: Danville ISD, Danville, Ky.; Deming Public Schools, Deming, N.M.; Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines, Iowa; Douglas County School District #4-Roseburg Public Schools, Roseburg, Ore.; Greenville Central School District, Greenville, N.Y.; Los Angeles Unified School District, Philadelphia Housing Authority, Philadelphia, Pa; Pico Rivera, Calif.; Niskayuna Central School District, Niskayuna, N.Y.; Northwest Housing Alternatives, Milwaukie, Ore.; Racine Unified School District, Racine, Wis.; Roswell ISD, Roswell, N.M.; San Luis Obispo County, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; University of Central Florida, Orlando, Fla., and Woodcliff Lake School District, Woodcliff Lake, N.J.

MAY CONTRACTS

Awarded Contracts for JProduce and Other Specialty Products, and Musical Instruments & Related Items.

Renewed Contracts for Ice Cream Products; Chemical Products and Services; Direct Delivery of Snacks and Beverages, and Restaurant Branded Food Delivery.Providers.County, Saint Paul, Minn.

CURRENT RFPS

Pest/Lawn/Pool Chemical Supplies and Services..... **Due Date:** July 2, 2019

(1) Disaster Mitigation Commodities/Services **Due Date:** June 8, 2019
with (2) Disaster Recovery Job Order Contract Services Component



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Contract Compliance Specialist

Cora Day
Contract Coordinator

Jan Arnold
Client Services Manager

Arlita Kyles
Contract Specialist

Joanna Redden
Contract Clerk

Kay Sandra Vorish
Contract Clerk

Yvonne "Faye" Johnson
General Office Clerk

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Field Representative

Don Elder Jr.
Field Representative

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