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## Interpersonal Connections at iPASS

### CP participates in HCDE's third annual iPASS conference

Choice Partners (CP) recently exhibited at HCDE's third annual *iPASS* event on Sept. 13, at the HCDE Conference Center.

Business partners of HCDE, small business owners and new entrepreneurs came together to showcase their products and services.

Among those present were

several CP awarded vendors, showcasing many products and services available to CP members.



**Competitive Choice, a CP awarded vendor, shows products to a potential customer (contract #24/023TC-06).**



**CPower, an awarded vendor for demand response services, hosts a booth at iPASS (contract #23/045MF-01).**



**Monique Francis, CP contract manager, speaks with an attendee about the co-op.**

The event brought area vendors together with school district procurement leaders and experts for networking, professional development and fellowship opportunities.

CP also exhibited to share information on the legal, competitively bid government procurement process and information on CP awarded contracts. These contracts are available to all CP members. The co-op sponsored the lunch for the event.

For more information about Choice Partners, visit [www.choicepartners.org/about-us](http://www.choicepartners.org/about-us) or call our toll-free number at 877-696-2122.

## Legal Corner

### Revisions to federal *Uniform Guidance* prompt contract amendment and revised procurement documents

- Revised versions of the “Procurement of Recovered Materials,” “Certification of Compliance with Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Equipment or Services,” “Record Retention Requirements for Contracts Paid for with Federal Funds,” and “Certification of Access to Records”



*Sarah Langlois  
HCDE Partner*

Choice Partners recently updated its procurement documents, including its vendor packet, to address the revisions to 2 CFR Part 200, the federal Uniform Guidance made by the federal United States Office of Management and Budget, that are effective for federal awards issued on or after Oct. 1, 2024. Although Choice Partners is not required to re-procure any of its contracts with vendors, to ensure federal funds may lawfully be spent on CP contracts procured prior to Oct. 1, 2024, an amendment to the Vendor Packet and/or Vendor's completed bid attributes that incorporates the revised and new certifications mandated by the revised Uniform Guidance is necessary, and CP has notified vendors of the required amendment. The specific revisions include the following:

- The "Termination for cause and for convenience" certification is amended to add that written notice of termination will be provided to the vendor if HCDE or a CP member terminates the contract for any reason.

certifications are reflected in the amendment based on changes to these provisions in the updated Uniform Guidance.

- Revised 2 CFR § 200.321 replaces the Uniform Guidance's previous "Six Affirmative Steps" with required consideration for small businesses, minority businesses, women's business enterprises, veteran-owned businesses, and labor surplus area firms.
- Two brand new certifications are added based on the revised Uniform Guidance: "Certification of Compliance with Whistleblower Protections" and "Certification of Compliance as a Responsible Contractor."
- Finally, 2 CFR § 200.322(c) requires federal agencies providing Federal financial assistance for infrastructure projects to implement the Buy America preferences set forth in 2 CFR Part 184, which is the Build America, Buy America Act ("BABA"); therefore, the "Certification of Domestic Preferences for Procurements and Compliance with Buy America Provisions" has been revised to reflect BABA requirements.

Choice Partners routinely updates its procurement documents to ensure maximum compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including the newly revised federal Uniform Guidance. CP members may access the amendment and procurement documents under the "due diligence" tab for each contract/vendor on the CP website.

**Events with CP**



CP recently exhibited at TXEdCon (TASA-TASB),. Kennifer Taylor, probation supervisor with Brazos County, won the giveaway prize.




CP at TASA-TAB with Superintendent Colbert and HCDE Legal Counsel, Sarah Langlois.



CP at 2024 Amazon Business Reshape in Dallas, TX, as an Amazon Partner.

## Choice Extras



**Choice Partners YouTube**

Check out our Nutrition and Product Expo that happened last October!

[Subscribe to CP Channel](#)

**New Episode!**



**Choice Chat Podcast**

Listen to part 2 of the latest episode of *Choice Chat* to learn all about JOC contracts with Jeff Drury, senior director, and Stephen Kendrick, facilities and construction.

[Listen Today](#)

## New Members

**HCDE Interlocal Agreements with new members:** **Alfred University**, Alfred, N.Y.; **Bangs ISD**; Bangs, Texas; **Brownwood**, Texas; **Calhoun County**; Port Lavaca; Texas; **Kentucky State University**, Frankfort, Kent; **Palmview**, Texas; **Pattison**, Texas; **Texas Division of Emergency Management**, Austin, Texas; **Universal**, Texas; **Victoria County**, Victoria, Texas; and **Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement**, Mercedes, Texas.

**HCDE out-of-state new members:** **Bolivar-Richburg Central School District**, Bolivar, N.Y.; **De Smet School District 38-2**, De Smet, S.D.; **Hayward Unified School District**; Hayward, Calif.; **Joint School District #171**, Orofino, Ind.; **Montgomery College**, Rockville, Md.; **Pelham Union Free School District**, Pelham, N.Y.; and **Village of Elk Grove Village**, Elk Grove Village, Ill.

## Contracts

**Recently Awarded Contracts:** Digital/Internet Instructional Applications, Platforms, Content and Related Items; College Readiness Test Software & Materials; Maintenance and Job Order Contract (JOC-IDIQ); Playground Equipment Systems, Furnishings, & Surfaces, Maintenance with JOC.

## Careers with Choice Partners



Want to work at Choice? We're dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment where passionate individuals can thrive and contribute to our mission.

Apply today at [www.choicepartners.org/careers](http://www.choicepartners.org/careers).

## Upcoming Events



### **NPI Annual Conference**

Oct 13-16,  
Denver, Colo.

### **CJCAT**

Oct. 21-23  
San Marcos, Texas

### **TPCSA**

Oct. 21-23  
San Antonio, Texas



### **North Texas Facilities Expo**

Oct. 29-30  
Irving, Texas

## Current CSP's & RFP's

No RFPS at this time.

[View Current CSP's and RFP's](#)

## Get Involved

Do you know a vendor who has provided exemplary service? Have a statement to make about Choice Partners service quality? Want to share with others about a Choice contract that meets your needs? Submit your review using the link below.

[Submit a Review](#)

We would love for our members to host a training. Trainings are a great way to network and gain exposure. If you would like to host a training, submit your information to the link below:

[Host a Training](#)

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

[Register to Become a Vendor](#)



Choice Partners | A Division of Harris County Department of Education  
6005 Westview, Houston, TX 77055



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