



The Goodwill Specialty Services, Inc., AbilityOne Program

Reducing Unemployment Among Individuals With Disabilities

Since 1989, Goodwill Omaha has provided part-time job opportunities for individuals with disabilities in supportive, integrated work environments at several federal properties within our territory. Individualized accommodations and the assistance of Goodwill Omaha's program staff help make AbilityOne employment settings positive, engaging, and successful.

AbilityOne program participants work both independently and in team settings to provide valuable services to Goodwill Omaha's government contract partners. Per AbilityOne regulations, 75% of the hours worked on federal contracts must be worked by people with disabilities. Goodwill offers long-term AbilityOne custodial and postal services employment opportunities at Offutt Air Force Base, U.S. Strategic Command, the Zorinsky Federal Building in Omaha, and the Denney Federal Building in Lincoln.

AbilityOne is one of the largest U.S. sources of employment for people who are blind or have significant disabilities. Approximately 500 nonprofit organizations employ these individuals and provide quality products and services to the federal government at a fair market price.

The program is administered by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, an independent federal agency, with assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB), SourceAmerica®, and the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB).



In 2020, Goodwill Omaha employed 113 people in the AbilityOne program, and 93 identified as having a disability. The average hourly wage for AbilityOne employees was \$12.78



AbilityOne Program Eligibility

- Must have a documented disability and the desire to work
- Must arrange transportation to Goodwill Omaha's pickup site on each scheduled workday (if using the Goodwill shuttle)
- Able to lift 50 to 75 lbs., depending on the position
- May need a driver's license and good driving record (certain positions)
- May need to read and write moderately well (certain positions)

1) Getting Started

Community-based organizations or agencies can refer potential participants to AbilityOne, or interested prospects can contact Goodwill Omaha's AbilityOne program coordinator to determine eligibility.

2) Intake

The AbilityOne program coordinator schedules and completes a one-on-one intake process and assesses placement opportunities.

3) Interview

AbilityOne program coordinators schedule interviews, and the project manager completes an interview with prospective participants.

4) Job Placement

Once a job offer has been made, the AbilityOne program coordinator uses referrals, disability documentation, and the applicant's initial intake information to determine barriers and work-site accommodations.

5) Retention

Initial 30-day and annual assessments are completed to address ongoing barriers limiting success, as well as accommodations within the position and at the work site.



Contact

If you have questions or would like more information, or if you're ready to get started with AbilityOne, contact us at 402-573-4709.

Transportation

Transportation to Offutt Air Force Base from the Metropolitan Community College South Campus and select Goodwill Omaha locations is provided at no cost to participants.

Benefits

- Life insurance
- Retirement plan
- Paid vacation
- Paid holidays
- Health & welfare benefit paid for each hour worked

