

March 4, 2019

An Open Message to the Acquisition Workforce

From: Lesley A. Field, Deputy Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy



Subject: Project InReach

Now that the lapse in appropriation is over, I'd like to acknowledge the critically important work that acquisition professionals do every day to support the American people. From conducting agile and responsive acquisitions, to helping contractors large and small navigate the dynamic – and often complex – federal marketplace, your work is vital to delivering essential goods and services. Your dedication to the mission of government is very much appreciated.

The activities over the past several weeks has reinforced that communication is paramount to smooth and successful operations. With this guiding principle in mind, my colleagues and I want to let you know about a new Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) initiative to improve internal communication with you, the members of the acquisition workforce, and especially our frontline professionals. We are using this open message to launch the Project InReach campaign and invite you to become more engaged in our activities.

Project InReach is built around a simple premise that good communication is critical to a high performing workforce. Our goal is to improve the flow of information about our work -- both to and from OFPP -- as you carry out your daily activities. We want to be sure you know where to find the policies, guidance, tools, and training you need to succeed in your job. And we want to hear from you about what is working, what needs improvement, and how we can help you in your important work.

We hope greater awareness about key initiatives, coupled with additional opportunities to provide informal input on our work, will result in a stronger acquisition system.

The Acquisition Compass

Last summer, OFPP convened a focus group and conducted informal outreach to identify opportunities to improve workforce communications with OFPP. Based on initial input, we have created “the [Acquisition Compass](#)¹,” (the “AC”) a Federal-only OFPP hub on the Acquisition Gateway tailored to the needs of the acquisition workforce on priority initiatives.

Visit the [AC](#) to find a [list of touchpoint events, tools, and resources](#)² that OFPP plans to highlight as part of its inreach effort to open up its processes to allow for broader workforce engagement.

¹ Access to the Acquisition Compass (AC) requires an Acquisition Gateway account. Existing account holders must login to the Acquisition Gateway to access the AC. New users may self-register for an account [here](#).

² Please login into the Acquisition Gateway to view this document. New Acquisition Gateway users may self-register for an account [here](#).

The beta version of the [AC](#) features:

- ***Inside OFPP*** – a section for exciting news inside OFPP, e.g., introduction of new staff members, descriptions of new initiatives, and other news.
- ***OFPP Policy Finder*** – an online tool that centralizes OFPP policy documents and crosswalks key policies with associated tools, training, and user stories
- ***OFPP Guide to Continuous Learning Point (CLP) Training***– list of popular continuous learning topics and courses that support OFPP priorities and initiatives
- ***Open Opportunities Finder*** – a resource that highlights “micro-learning” and other opportunities to get involved informally in OFPP initiatives, from *virtual listening tours* to *brainstorming* new policy ideas with us to *open houses* that let you comment on draft documents; this finder runs on the “[Open Acquisition Opportunities](#)” platform where agency users can either offer or gain expertise to build their skills and collaborate across the Federal Government
- ***(coming soon) You Matter*** -- a section that showcases successes and career advice from fellow members and key officials of the workforce across the country and links to development opportunities.

Quick Survey

Before we move beyond “beta” testing the [AC](#), we need your feedback. We have developed a very short 10-minute [survey](#) to help us gauge what you already know about OFPP, what you would like to know, and what methods of interaction and information-sharing are most beneficial. If you would like to provide us your feedback, you may take the survey, which is available on the on the AC and [here](#) until April 5, 2019.

Your success is our top priority. By making our resources more visible and interactive, we hope they will be of greater value. We look forward to hearing from you!