



Economic Impact of the AbilityOne Program

SourceAmerica 

Mission Driven



AbilityOne Program Mission

To tap America's underutilized workforce of individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities to deliver high quality, mission-essential products and services to Federal agencies in quality employment opportunities.

SourceAmerica Mission

Increase the employment of people with disabilities by building strong partnerships with the federal government and engaging a national network of nonprofit agencies and experts.

National Industries for the Blind (NIB)

Enhance the opportunities for economic and personal independence of people who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining, and improving employment.



Nearly 63% of working-age people with disabilities in the U.S. do not have jobs. Employment gives adults with disabilities the chance to support their families, build connections with workplace colleagues, and the satisfaction of contributing to their communities. It also generates federal tax revenue and lessens the burden on government assistance programs.

The AbilityOne® Program was created by Congress through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act to ensure individuals with disabilities and people who are blind have access to employment through federal contracting opportunities. An independent federal government agency, the U.S. AbilityOne Commission®, administers the AbilityOne Program through two Central Nonprofit Agencies: SourceAmerica® and the National Industries for the Blind (NIB).

Federal procurement guidelines are complex and stringent. By fulfilling contracts with a workforce of people with disabilities, SourceAmerica and NIB maximize budget dollars and reduce government expenditures.

AbilityOne: A Strong Federal Investment

Findings from a 2023 study demonstrate that the AbilityOne Program is an outstanding investment for the federal government, providing cost savings, an extraordinary return on investment for every dollar spent on Program administration, and increased employment of people with disabilities.

In fact, the average return on investment is **\$2.66** for every **\$1 spent** to administer the Program, and it could be as high as **\$4.40** for every dollar spent!

AbilityOne by the Numbers



Approximately **36,000** people with disabilities make up the AbilityOne workforce.



The average AbilityOne employee wage in the SourceAmerica nonprofit network is **\$16.44 per hour**.



The AbilityOne Program generated nearly **\$4 billion** from the sale of products and services to federal customers in FY22.



The economic impacts include increased tax revenue from people with disabilities employed through the Program, decreased government spending on federal benefits programs, and increased local economic activity. When you do the math – the total economic impact divided by the cost to administer the Program – AbilityOne is an investment in the health of our nation’s economy and a more inclusive workforce. It’s a return that would satisfy any investor!

Analysis: Return on Investment

Estimated direct impact	\$321M
Estimated indirect impact	\$49M
Total estimated impact	\$370M

Cost to administer the Program \$139M
\$370M / \$139M = \$2.66 for every dollar spent on Program administration!*

* **Source:** Socioeconomic Impact Analysis Evaluation Report, Mathematica® Inc., 2023, p. 21, based on data from 2018-2022.



Direct Benefits of the AbilityOne Program to Federal Government

AbilityOne employees who are blind or have significant disabilities generate federal tax revenues and save millions of dollars in benefits.

Federal Tax Revenues paid by people working on AbilityOne contracts July 2021–June 2022

SourceAmerica	\$189M
NIB	\$12M

Savings on Federal Benefit Programs: Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Medicare, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

If the AbilityOne Program did not exist, the federal government would spend millions of dollars more in benefits.

SourceAmerica	SSI	SSDI	Medicare	SNAP
% of AbilityOne Employees Receiving	15.8%	22.5%	17.60%	15.5%
Actual Benefits	\$30M	\$95M	\$110.5M	\$2.2M
Est. Cost if AbilityOne did not exist	\$72.5M	\$181.85M	\$156.05M	\$12.6M
Savings	\$42.5M	\$86.85M	\$45.5M	\$10.4M

NIB	SSI	SSDI	Medicare	SNAP
% Receiving	8.9%	63.1%	41.4%	2.9%
Actual Benefits	\$2.9M	\$48.3M	\$28.5M	\$200,000
Est. Cost if AbilityOne did not exist	\$3.5M	\$52.1M	\$29.85M	\$250,000
Savings	\$600,000	\$3.8M	\$1.35M	\$50,000





SourceAmerica[®]

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About SourceAmerica

SourceAmerica connects government customers and other organizations to a national network of AbilityOne[®] authorized providers that hire a talented segment of the workforce—people with disabilities. Established in 1974, SourceAmerica is committed to increasing economic and social inclusion and advocating for a more accessible future of work for people with disabilities.

SourceAmerica, an AbilityOne[®] authorized enterprise, harnesses the momentum and boosts the capability of its network and customers as a leading job connector for the disability community.