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This letter has been updated. See the individual cooperative letters dated 10/19/2015.

February 23, 2015

Alabama Municipalities
County Commissions
City and County Boards of Education
Alabama Community College System
Other Entities subject to the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 41-16-50

To whom it may concern,

This letter is being issued to clarify previous guidance issued by this Department. It supersedes and replaces letters issued by this Department dated October 18, 2013 for the following national purchasing cooperatives:

- U.S. Communities
- National IPA
- National Joint Powers Alliance (NIPA)
- Public Sourcing Solutions (PSS)
- The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN) and
- Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

We have previously reviewed the competitive bidding process utilized by these national purchasing cooperatives and based on those reviews our approval for the above named entities remains in effect until November 30, 2015 for the **purchase of goods.** The ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Sections 41-16-51 and 16-13B-2, only authorizes purchases of goods utilizing purchasing cooperatives when certain conditions have been met. However, it **does not** authorize purchases of services. Therefore, you are not authorized to purchase services using any of purchasing cooperatives mentioned above.

Please do not hesitate to call us, should you have any questions regarding the application of this guidance.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Jones
CHIEF EXAMINER

RLJ/jh