



# What is COSTARS?

COSTARS is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's multiple-award Cooperative Purchasing Program, a service provided by the Department of General Services for Local Public Procurement Units within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as established by Section 1902 of Act 57 on May 15, 1998, as amended by Act 142 of Dec. 3, 2002, 62 Pa. C.S. Section 1902, and Act 77 of July 15, 2004, 62 Pa. C.C. Sections 1902 and 2107. These acts authorize Local Public Procurement Units to participate in those contracts for supplies and services made available by the Department of General Services. This approach leverages the purchasing power of more than 9,000 local entities combined with state agencies to obtain more competitive pricing and choice than individual purchasers might be able to acquire on their own, while also providing taxpayer savings.

## Eligible Local Public Procurement Units\* are defined as:

- Any political subdivision.
- Any public authority.
- Any educational or public health tax-exempt, non-profit organization.
- Any non-profit fire, rescue, or ambulance company.
- And to the extent provided by the law, any other entity that expends public funds for the procurement of supplies and services.

\* The Department of General Services reserves the right to review and determine eligible applicants as Local Public Procurement Units on a case-by-case basis.

## What are the benefits of becoming a COSTARS member?

### SAVING MONEY

Suppliers provide discounted pricing and are receptive to additional negotiation. Using established contracts that have been previously bid by the commonwealth's Bureau of Procurement, COSTARS members save the cost and time associated with the formal bidding process, including detailed specification development, advertising, printing, mailing, and legal and clerical expense. Members save time and money, and membership is free!

### CONVENIENCE

Using state contracts facilitates the purchase of goods and services by simply issuing a purchase order to the state contract supplier of record.

### FLEXIBILITY AND VARIETY

A broad selection of commodities and suppliers is offered to our more than 9,000 members. Over 100 contracts, with a pool of approximately 2,000 suppliers, are available for member use, making formal bidding a rare occurrence. This variety often gives local public entities the option of keeping their procurement dollars in their local economy, thereby, helping to maintain and generate jobs, and advance local economic development.

### EDUCATION

Free training, workshops and a quarterly newsletter are provided by the COSTARS staff to assist members on how to use state contracts, how to purchase from specific contracts of interest, as well as other topics of interest and trends in government purchasing.

## Examples of contracts available through the COSTARS Program

### Statewide Contracts

- Aggregates (stone)
- Backhoes & Loaders
- Carpet
- Electricity
- Gasoline & Fuel Oil
- IT Services
- Power Equipment
- Small Package Delivery
- Sodium Chloride (Road Salt)
- Tires
- Vehicles
- Wireless Communications Services

### COSTARS-exclusive Contracts

- Appliances, Cafeteria Supplies & Equipment
- Copiers
- Energy Conservation Supplies
- Energy Consulting Services
- Fire/EMS Vehicles & Supplies
- Food
- Furniture
- Grounds Keeping Supplies & Services
- IT Hardware & Software
- Janitorial Supplies
- LED Traffic Signals
- Medical and Laboratory Supplies
- MRO Equipment & Supplies
- Municipal and Passenger Vehicles
- Office Supplies
- Printing & Graphic Equipment, Services & Supplies
- Recreation & Fitness Equipment
- Security & Fire Alarm Systems Products & Services
- Signage
- Street Lighting & Parking Meters
- Uniforms & Related Services
- Waste, Recycling Containers
- Water & Waste-water Supplies & Equipment
- Stormwater Management Supplies & Services
- Electronic Monitoring

## Becoming a COSTARS member is Easy and Free!

To learn more, connect with us at:

Department of General Services  
Bureau of Procurement, COSTARS Program  
555 Walnut Street, 6th Floor Forum Place Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
Toll Free Phone: 1-866-768-7827 Fax: 1-717-783-6241

Email: [GS-PAcostars@pa.gov](mailto:GS-PAcostars@pa.gov) Website: [www.dgs.pa.gov/COSTARS](http://www.dgs.pa.gov/COSTARS)

 <https://www.facebook.com/PAGenServices/>

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**COSTARS** - Passport to Business Opportunity and Procurement Savings