

NEPA PURCHASING ALLIANCE

The Northeastern Pennsylvanian Alliance (NEPA) will be presenting information about a Cooperative Purchasing Alliance that will be proposed as the first collaborative joint service for use by the participants of the Lackawanna County Commissioners' Inter-Governmental Cooperation Forum.

This Cooperative Purchasing initiative entails a web-based platform to collect, record and tabulate commodity and purchasing data from municipalities, school districts, forum members and entities who wish to participate in the program. The internet based platform provides a medium to collect and tabulate information on goods, services and other products that are purchased by public sector entities which then surmount to large quantity purchases to gain volume discounts. This initiative will also offer an opportunity for local vendors to participate in local government and public sector contracting through a more simplified process.

NEPA's Purchasing Alliance Website is modeled after an internet based cooperative purchasing service created by HEG Solutions for the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG) operating in Allegheny and Butler Counties (Pittsburgh area) in southwestern PA. The SHACOG Purchasing Alliance has been operating successfully for several years, securing not only significant price savings in various commodities, but also cost reductions through streamlining administrative procurement procedures for municipalities and public entities. The SHACOG Purchasing Alliance has proven to exceed services and savings beyond COSTARS offerings in both purchase price and commodity mix.

Costs associated with this service are covered through the Northeastern Pennsylvanian Alliance's program funding.

Alan Baranski and Kurt Bauman of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance and Ty Ely of HEG Solutions will be presenting an internet demonstration of the cooperative purchasing system and will discuss further details of the initial actions to be taken to launch this service in Lackawanna County.