



DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT  
**SERVICES**

**"We serve those who  
serve Florida"**

**JEB BUSH**  
Governor

**Tom Lewis, Jr.**  
Secretary



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**PUBLIC PURCHASING PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE CERTIFICATION  
UNDER STATE TRAINING PROGRAM**

*~ In First Year, Total Certifications Statewide Reach 200 ~*

TALLAHASSEE – In its first year, the Florida Department of Management Services' training and certification program for Florida public purchasing professionals has provided training in various seminars to more than 250 participants from all levels of government. The latest round of certifications, awarded earlier this month, brings the total number of state and local purchasing professionals receiving certification to 200.

The goal of this program is to develop and certify purchasing professionals who adhere to an unwavering code of ethical behavior, and who possess the knowledge, skills and ability to effectively design, solicit, negotiate, award and manage government contracts in Florida, in a manner worthy of the public's trust.

"Demand for the training and certification class has been extraordinary," said Department of Management Services Secretary Tom Lewis, Jr. "With 154 of the state's purchasing professionals receiving certification, the State of Florida is better prepared at the negotiating table to garner the best deal for our taxpayers."

Currently, 67 percent of state agencies and 15 percent of counties have at least one Florida Certified Buyer/Director, and 66 percent of state agencies have at least one National Certified Buyer/Director.

"Over the next 12 months, our objective is to keep meeting the Tallahassee demand while expanding the program to new locations throughout Florida," said Russ Rothman, Chief Purchasing Operations Officer. "By taking this training beyond Tallahassee, more state and local government procurement employees, and ultimately Florida's citizens, will benefit from better negotiated contracts for needed goods and services."

Expansion to new locations will be facilitated through a recent agreement between the Department of Management Services and the Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers (FAPPO), a professional association. Information on the Association is available on their website at [www.FAPPO.org](http://www.FAPPO.org).

The program was developed with the assistance of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) to assist those who expend public funds for public purposes to effectively meet the needs of their customers - the governmental agencies and the citizens they serve - and to meet those needs efficiently, using as little time and as few resources as possible in the process; meeting those needs economically and achieving the best value for the public funds expended.

For more information on this program, please log on to the Department of Management Services website at [www.MyFlorida.com](http://www.MyFlorida.com) ([http://dms.myflorida.com/dms/purchasing/florida\\_s\\_public\\_purchasing\\_training\\_and\\_certification](http://dms.myflorida.com/dms/purchasing/florida_s_public_purchasing_training_and_certification))

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