



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## FIRERESCUE GPO



### Q What is FireRescue GPO?

**A** FireRescue GPO is a program of NPPGov, a Cooperative Purchasing Organization that offers cost savings to public entities. FireRescue GPO facilitates the creation of publicly solicited contracts on behalf of its tens of thousands of government members nationwide. These contracts are publicly solicited by a lead public agency in accordance with government purchasing regulations and include “piggybacking” language, which allows government agencies to use these contracts in place of their own RFP process. FireRescue GPO members save time and money by making purchases through these publicly solicited contracts.

### Q How does the program work?

**A** FireRescue GPO uses a “lead public agency” to publicly solicit and award contracts through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Our members are eligible to access these contracts by signing an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the lead public agency, thereby eliminating the need to complete their own RFP process. FireRescue GPO staff and legal counsel facilitate this process and provide necessary documentation and support.

### Q Can my entity purchase through FireRescue GPO?

**A** Your state and local procurement laws and policies dictate the ability to use contracts available through FireRescue GPO. In the vast majority of jurisdictions the answer is “yes”! FireRescue GPO staff are available to answer questions about how our contracts are established to help determine eligibility. Virtually all 50 states have statutes in place that specifically allow the use of publicly solicited contracts even if the contract was created in another state. More information about state statutes can be found on our website (<https://www.nppgov.com/procurement-solutions/state-statutes>). The only other requirement is that you must be a member of NPPGov/FireRescue GPO.

### Q I have to be a member? How does that work?

**A** As a cooperative procurement organization we rely on the strength of our membership to develop competitive contracts. Membership is free and joining is easy.

Eligible organizations include:

- **Government:** States, cities, counties, special districts, turnpikes, K-12 public schools, townships, parks and recreation districts, metro/city transits, public works, higher education facilities, etc.
- **Non-Profit:** All 501(c) 1-28 organizations that do not receive Medicaid funding.
- **FireRescue GPO:** Municipal fire department (city or county), State or federal fire agency, fire districts, volunteer fire agencies/departments, industrial fire departments, volunteer rescue squads, municipal EMS agencies
- **Law Enforcement GPO:** police departments, sheriff departments, correctional facilities, emergency communications, and emergency management.

To become a NPPGov/FireRescue GPO Member:

1. Visit our website: [nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo](http://nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo)
2. Click “Join Now”
3. Select “Department”
4. Complete the registration form and submit.
5. You will receive a welcome call and e-mail confirming your membership within 24-48 hours (usually the same day). The welcome email will include your username and password. Vendor discount information can be accessed using your login credentials to log into [nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo](http://nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo).

### Q What services are offered through the FireRescue GPO program?

**A** A complete list of our vendors and discounts are available on [nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo](http://nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo). After registering and logging into the website, click on “Our Vendors” tab. Our vendor portfolio is extensive and includes many categories such as: fire apparatus, firefighting and rescue equipment, apparel and wildland gear, EMS and medical supplies, exhaust removal systems, maintenance, repairs and operations, station furniture, safety equipment, tires, office supplies, and more. Personal shopping assistance is available through our customer service line and email (877.329.8847 or [customerservice@nppgov.com](mailto:customerservice@nppgov.com)). We are also available to answer your procurement questions and provide guidance on the cooperative procurement process.



**Q What is the difference between NPPGov/  
FireRescue GPO and some other cooperatives?**

**A** We can't speak to how other cooperatives conduct business but we know our members appreciate:

1. Responsive customer service, including communications with our legal counsel.
2. Our use of separate Lead Public Agencies to conduct RFPs on behalf of our members, which keeps the process fair and unbiased.
3. Readily available access to all necessary RFP and contract documentation.
4. Our revenue supports our non-profit hospital owners, funding critical healthcare initiatives such as autoimmune disease research.
5. Fire/Rescue specific revenue supports the fire service through a revenue sharing program with fire chiefs associations nationwide.

**Q Where do I find information on products offered through FireRescue GPO contracts?**

**A** Our website has a full list of all of our vendors/contracts as well as products and pricing. Some information is only available to members who have logged in to the website: [www.nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo](http://www.nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo)

**Q Who provides the quotation for products of interest?**

**A** Although our website lists pricing, the vendor will provide the final quote and purchase order for the items of interest.

**Q What does it cost to join FireRescue GPO?**

**A** There are no costs or user fees, no purchasing obligations, and no minimum purchasing requirements.

**Q How is FireRescue GPO funded?**

**A** We negotiate a small administrative fee with our vendors to cover operating expenses, which allows us to provide our service free of charge to our members.

**Q Where do the funds go?**

**A** Revenue from our program funds critical healthcare initiatives such as autoimmune disease research, as well as supports the fire service through a revenue sharing program with fire chiefs associations nationwide.

**Q Where do I send the payments?**

**A** Invoices and payments go directly through the vendor you are working with for the products of interest. FireRescue GPO does not collect any payments from our members for products or services.

**Q What process validated the product and services offered?**

**A** NPPGov serves as a nationwide channel providing publicly awarded agreements to government entities. Our publicly solicited agreements have been awarded through an RFP issued by a lead public agency. The lead agency is an independent government entity that carries out the advertising and bid procedures required by public contracting law.

NPPGov's contracts are established through the following process:

1. The Lead Public Agency prepares an RFP, incorporating the required cooperative purchasing (piggybacking) language that allows public entities across the nation to utilize the contract.
2. Suppliers respond to the RFP and the Lead Public Agency evaluates and awards the Master Price Agreement(s).
3. Contract documents are posted on our website under the "our vendors" tab. NPPGov members can review all documents online and access contract pricing by signing the Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (IGA).
4. Our public solicitation process is consistent with AFG guidelines. For further information, please contact us at 877.329.8847.

**Q Where can I obtain copies of the legal documentation associated with each publicly solicited contract?**

**A** Contracting documents including the RFP, Master Price Agreement, IGA, and Synopsis are available on our website under the vendor page and may be accessed by logging onto the website, [nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo](http://nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo).

**Q What is the term of the contract?**

**A** Contract length varies by the public entity that conducted the solicitation but usually the initial contract terms are 3 calendar years and may be extended for an additional three 12-month periods.

**Q How do I customize the product offerings to meet our needs?**

**A** Many of our contracts provide for various options and customized products. Review the specific contract you are interested in for further details. Both the vendor and our staff are available for consultation.

**Q How do I learn more about FireRescue GPO?**

**A** For more information about our program please visit our website: [nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo](http://nppgov.com/firerescue-gpo). If you need more information or would rather speak to someone please call or email: [customerservice@nppgov.com](mailto:customerservice@nppgov.com)/877.329.8847