Central Indiana Purchasing Alliance Discusses Opportunities to Save

Representatives from the State of Indiana, the cities of Indianapolis, Beech Grove, Carmel, Lawrence and Westfield and the Educational Service Centers gathered yesterday as part of a continued effort to improve purchasing outcomes in the region. The group, entitled the Central Indiana Purchasing Alliance (CIPA), was conceived during the road salt shortage that made headlines earlier this year.

As a result of this meeting, participants will cooperate in the near term on the procurement of a few simple goods including asphalt, salt and water-treatment chemicals.

“Simple savings isn’t the only answer we’re looking for,” said John Rogers, director of Enterprise Development for the City of Westfield, “There are plenty of private-sector purchasing practices, like using p-cards, which seem to be off-limits to government—let’s use this as a forum for change.”

The next formal CIPA meeting will be in mid-January to discuss public safety purchasing.

“Everyone (local governments and State government) buys ammunition, guns, uniforms, and so forth—we really think that this is an opportunity to help communities across the State and are excited that CIPA is working with us to help this happen,” said State of Indiana Director of Strategic Sourcing, Jessica Robertson.

CIPA would like central Indiana governments not in attendance to know the requirements for membership are simple—pick a category and run the procurement process. The anticipated result is lower unit prices and reduced administrative expenses for everyone—a timely objective given the recent changes in local government funding models.

Central Indiana governments and vendors are encouraged to express their interest in participating with the alliance by emailing purchasingalliance@indygov.org.