



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Labor
Ways and Means
Rules

May 23, 2016

RoAnn Destito, Commissioner
NYS Office of General Services
Corning Tower – 41st Floor
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12242

Dear Commissioner Destito:

As the Chair of the Minority Task Force on Protecting the Rights of the Developmentally Disabled, I am writing to the Procurement Council to address changes to the Preferred Source Definitions List that are on the agenda for Wednesday, May 25, 2016 for the Office of General Services (OGS) Council's meeting.

Per its own Guidelines, OGS stated that the Preferred Source Definitions List should be interpreted as widely and broadly as possible to maximize opportunities for employment for individuals with disabilities, whose current unemployment rate is over 75%. Regrettably, the suggested revisions to the definitions, if unchanged from the April 11th distribution, not only fail to meet either of the above stated directives, they will operate to reduce the Preferred Source Definitions List of offerings that the disabled can perform because of the limited scope of the definitions. I believe that a broader and more expanded definition will allow the disabled individuals to not only learn to multi-task, but also to learn new skills and expand their abilities.

To specifically address the Laundry Services definitions, a local laundry in my District operates under HLAC (Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council Standards) and TRSA (Textile Rental and Services Association) standards that require appropriate handling of soiled and clean linen. All areas must be continually disinfected, cleaned to insure a quality product that meets HLAC and TRSA standards. This means that the same disabled person who may be folding linen may also be moving carts, sorting linen, cleaning and sanitizing their work area as well as any and all other functions listed in the expanded Laundry definition that was submitted.

Individuals with differing disabilities may excel more at one area than another. I am respectfully requesting that you expand and enlarge the definitions to allow disabled individuals to perform this expanded list of task definitions which will allow our disabled individuals to achieve their maximum potential. I believe with the limited definitions we will be limiting them, which is not the intent of OGS or NYS law. Each of our valued citizens must be given the fullest opportunity to work, learn and grow.

Again, I respectfully request and encourage you to expand the definitions to foster an environment that allows us to develop people to their maximum potential. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Clifford W. Crouch
Member of Assembly
122nd District

Current Definition

Laundry Service (Industrial):

Laundry Service (Industrial) is the handling and collection of soiled linen and apparel including, but not limited to, patient or surgical gowns, lab coats, table linens, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, towels, adult bibs, baby shirts, underpads, medical apparel, bedding, washcloths, diapers, patient clothing, and treated mops. This service includes the sorting, washing, extraction, drying, finishing, folding, mending and storage of said products as well as disinfecting of linen transport carts. This service includes the stocking, picking, and wrapping of clean laundry as well as the delivery of hygienically clean, reusable linen and apparel which can be either customer owned or on a rental basis. Industrial laundry service should meet or exceed accreditation standards for processing reusable linen and apparel for use in healthcare facilities as determined by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC).

Proposed Expanded Definition for consideration would insert the clauses is in red & underlined:

Laundry Service (Industrial) is the handling and collection of soiled linen and apparel including, but not limited to, patient or surgical gowns, lab coats, table linens, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, towels, adult bibs, baby shirts, underpads, medical apparel, bedding, washcloths, diapers, patient clothing, and treated mops. Supporting tasks may include other functions required to insure the hygienic integrity of the processed textiles, such as minimizing potential environmental contamination; i.e. vermin, lint, moisture, disinfection of linen transport cars, maintaining functional separation of soiled and clean room areas and the decontamination of any surfaces/equipment that may be contaminated with blood or other potential infectious materials and fluids. This service includes the sorting, washing, extraction, drying, finishing, folding, mending and storage of said products as well as disinfecting of linen transport carts. This service includes the stocking, picking, and wrapping of clean laundry as well as the delivery of hygienically clean, reusable linen and apparel which can be either customer owned or on a rental basis. Industrial laundry service should meet or exceed accreditation standards for processing reusable linen and apparel for use in healthcare facilities as determined by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC).