

Here is a sample of what some COSTARS members are saying:

Authority—We used to issue sealed bids for our swimming pool chemicals. After attending a COSTARS webinar, we discovered the Water Chemicals contract. Our savings over our 2012 bid price will be about \$2,000 in 2013—using the exact same supplier. COSTARS is definitely a worthwhile program. **Ronald J. Woodhead, CPRP, CPSI, Director, Centre Region Parks & Recreation.**

County—Allegheny County has used state contracts for many years. We have found the contracts to be effective vehicles from which to purchase a broad array of goods and services. The ability to use Commonwealth contracts is one of many tools that public purchasing professionals should keep in their “toolbox.” **Thomas E. Youngs, Jr., Chief Purchasing Officer, Allegheny County**

Township—The Township of Lower Merion is a fan of COSTARS because the advertising, bidding, and awarding is already done for us, there is a wide variety of vendors from which to choose, and there is the opportunity to negotiate. The cost of advertising bids alone is a savings to the township and the competitive pricing from the COSTARS vendors versus outside is advantageous. All the COSTARS vendors that we have dealt with have followed through with orders, deliveries, and issues, if any. We purchased a lot of heavy equipment, vehicles, computers, and TV equipment. **Cyndee Baffa, Lower Merion Township**

Borough—Irwin Borough has been using state contracts for many years with great success. We have purchased a number of vehicles including police cars, dump trucks, tractor/mowers and a hylift. The Borough has also contracted to purchase our winter supply of salt through the State. **Mary Benko, Borough Manager, Irwin Borough**

Educational—Pennsylvania state contracts are useful when purchases need to be made quickly. They save us time and manpower ordinarily needed for advertising, writing specs, and analyzing bids since DGS has done all of that work for us. **Elizabeth M. Hampton, Director of Purchasing, Chester County IU**

Health—Since joining the program, Geisinger Health System has been able to save over \$80,000 on the goods and services it has purchased through COSTARS. **Deborah Petretich Templeton, Associate Vice President, Geisinger**

EMS Service—On major purchases like rescue vehicles and ambulances, we want to deal with quality vendors with solid reputations, who will deliver on the specs that we require. The whole purchasing process is so much easier and quicker with COSTARS. **Robert Farrow, Pittsburgh EMS Division Chief**

For more information regarding the COSTARS Program contact:

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Member Brochure

What is COSTARS?

COSTARS is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Cooperative Purchasing Program, a service provided by the Department of General Services for Local Public Procurement Units within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as established by Section 1902 of Act 57 on May 15, 1998, as amended by Act 142 of December 3, 2002, 62 Pa. C.S. Section 1902, and Act 77 of July 15, 2004, 62 Pa. C.S. Sections 1902 and 2107. These acts authorize Local Public Procurement Units to participate in those contracts for supplies and services made available by the Department of General Services. Eligible Local Public Procurement Units are defined as:

- ★ Any political subdivision;
- ★ Any public authority;
- ★ Any tax-exempt, nonprofit educational or public health institution or organization;
- ★ Any nonprofit fire, rescue, or ambulance company;
- ★ And to the extent provided by law, any other entity, including a council of government or an area government that expends public funds for the procurement of supplies and services.

The Department of General Services reserves the right to review and determine eligible applicants as Local Public Procurement Units on a case-by-case basis.

Becoming a member is easy!

To become a COSTARS member, your organization can register online at <http://www.costars.state.pa.us>. If your organization does not have access to the Internet, please contact the COSTARS office via the toll-free number at 1-866-768-STAR (7827).

What are the benefits of being a COSTARS member?

DOLLAR SAVINGS—Volume purchasing results in lower prices; using established state contracts eliminates the need for specification development; advertising, printing, mailing, and bid evaluation.

CONVENIENCE—Using state contracts facilitates the purchase of goods and services by simply issuing a purchase order to the state contract supplier of record.

FLEXIBILITY AND VARIETY—A broad selection of commodities and suppliers is offered to our more than 7,700 program members. More than 200 state contracts, with a pool of more than 2,000 suppliers, are currently available for use by participants. This variety often gives local public agencies the option of keeping their procurement dollars in their local economy, thereby helping to maintain and generate jobs and advancing local economic development.

EDUCATION—Free training, workshops, and a quarterly newsletter are provided by the COSTARS staff to assist members on how to use state contracts, how to purchase from specific contracts of interest, as well as other topics of interest and trends in government purchasing.

Examples of contracts available through the COSTARS program!

★ **Statewide Contracts**

Vehicles
Sodium chloride (road salt)
Power equipment
Recycling containers
Backhoes and loaders
Wireless communications services
Gasoline and fuel oil
Aggregates (stone)
Carpet
Tires

★ **COSTARS Exclusive Contracts**

Furniture
Food
IT hardware
Copiers
Janitorial supplies
Software
Voting systems
Fire/EMS vehicles and supplies
Office supplies
Printing and graphic services
Maintenance, repair equipment
Toiletries
Recreation and fitness equipment
Water and waste-water treatment
Waste, recycling containers
LED signals
Medical supplies
Laboratory supplies
Vehicles
Insurance
Energy Conservation Supplies
Energy Consulting Services
Groundskeeping (Grounds/Turf)
Maintenance
Uniforms
Appliances, Cafeteria Supplies and Equipment

For a complete listing of all contracts available to Local Public Procurement Units, please go to our Web site at www.costars.state.pa.us.