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GSA's Disaster Purchasing Program allows state and local governments to buy supplies and services directly from all GSA Schedules to facilitate recovery from major disaster or facilitate disaster preparation and response.

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Volusia County, FL Government Uses GSA's Disaster Purchasing Program to Acquire MREs for Hurricane Survivors

Challenge: Volusia County, Florida (east-central FL) had an urgent requirement to purchase 3,000 Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) to stock county shelters in preparation for Hurricane Irma, a category 4 storm.

Volusia County was challenged with identifying a vendor who had the MREs in stock and could expedite delivery before the Hurricane made landfall in Florida. The County wanted to conduct the procurement using a General Services Administration (GSA) Multiple Award Schedule vendor to achieve the benefits of time and savings by using a vetted vendor off GSA Schedule 51V Hardware Superstore.

GSA Schedules are fast, easy and effective contracting vehicles for both customers and vendors. GSA establishes long-term governmentwide contracts with commercial companies to provide access to millions of commercial products and services at volume discount pricing. Volusia County was overwhelmed by an influx of urgent procurements and concerned if it could locate the critical supplies needed via a GSA vendor in time.

Action: GSA's Customer Service Directors (CSDs) provide assistance, resolve problems and answer questions from customers and industry partners while

serving as a valuable source of information on all of GSA's programs. The CSD assigned to the respective geographic territory under the GSA Federal Acquisition Services (FAS) Customer and Stakeholder Engagement Team (CASE) was contacted by the County for assistance. The CSD assisted the Volusia County procurement team by providing education on using the State and Local Government Disaster Recovery Program to access eligible GSA sources of supply and diligently contacted vendors from the applicable Schedule on behalf of the County. After contacting multiple vendors, the CSD was able to identify a vendor offering the MREs that could be shipped to the County's Operations Management Center ahead of the storm.

Solution: GSA offers multiple programs and resources to assist State and Local Government with disaster preparedness and recovery needs via the Disaster Purchasing Program. The Program allows state and local governments to buy supplies and services directly from all GSA Schedules to facilitate recovery from major disaster or facilitate disaster preparation and response. Volusia County government used this specialized program to order the MREs in both the quantity and timeframe needed to meet their life saving requirement.

Result: The contract for 3,000 MREs was awarded for \$60,418. Satisfying the high priority requirement by using GSA Schedules instead of competing open market saved the customer a significant amount of time by using pre-vetted sources, which allowed the County to obtain the necessary food supply to care for the citizens filling county shelters in the path of Hurricane Irma. Hurricane Irma was the most intense Atlantic hurricane to strike the United States since Katrina in 2005, and the first major hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Wilma in 2005.

Reference:

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