

Cooperative Contracts ^[1]

March 17, 2025 by [Staff](#) ^[2]

Is there an easy way to purchase goods and services from suppliers if they don't have a punch out catalog or any other CU awarded contract? Yes, you can use a cooperative agreement!

What is a Cooperative Agreement?

One of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to procure goods and services outside of an existing contract is by using a cooperative. Cooperative purchasing is a procurement tool that allows organizations to purchase goods and services using existing contracts already solicited and awarded by other public agencies or a group purchasing organization. One of the most compelling advantages of cooperative contracts is cost savings. By aggregating demand, these agreements secure bulk pricing and favorable terms. The second advantage is time savings. Since these contracts have already gone through the competitive process, we eliminate the need for a DQ, Bid, or RFP process.

Where can I find contracts and/or suppliers?

The PSC is a member of multiple Group Purchasing Organizations (GPO) that offer access to their competitively solicited agreements. End users are encouraged to review the following organizations and see if there are any contracts/suppliers that can be utilized:

1. [State of Colorado](#) ^[3]
2. [NASPO](#) ^[4]
3. [Omnia Partners](#) ^[5]
4. [Sourcewell](#) ^[6]
5. [Vizient](#) ^[7]
6. [E&I](#) ^[8]
7. [GSA](#) ^[9]
8. [TIPS](#) ^[10]

Another tool we have access to is called [pavilion](#) ^[11]. You can search by product, service, brand or supplier and search results will show you if there are any cooperative contracts available.

I found a contract I want to use, now what?

If you find a supplier or contract that meets your needs, reach out to the supplier for a quote; the quote must refer to the cooperative agreement to ensure compliance. Once the quote is received, enter a requisition in Marketplace. If the purchase is **over \$50,000.00**, in the source selection and price reasonableness section of the requisition form, you would select

cooperative contract and enter the agency name and contract number (see screenshot below).

Instructions
This form must be completed by the requesting department for purchases between or equal to \$50,000 and \$150,000 for all purchases subject to CU's Procurement Rules, unless the purchase is listed as an Exception to the Process. The purpose of this form is to document the appropriateness of source selection and price reasonableness.

Exceptions
Exception to this Process: This form is not required if the purchase is for one of the following: *

- The purchase is the result of a CU awarded bid within the active term.
- The purchase is made using a cooperative contract.
- The purchase is for a Sole Source Purchase.
- The purchase is for a University Standard Sole Source.
- The purchase is for an Emergency Procurement.
- This purchase is exempt from CU's Procurement Rules.
- The purchase is a Sponsored Project Subrecipient Subaward/Subcontract.
- Construction related purchases between \$50,000 and \$150,000.
- No Exceptions Apply

Cooperative Agency *

Contract Number

How does CU benefit?

Overall, cooperative purchasing provides CU with a streamlined, efficient, and cost-effective way to procure goods and services ensuring we meet our operational needs, while adhering to procurement rules, and achieving cost savings.

For additional information or questions on how to use cooperatives, please contact the Purchasing Agent associated with the [commodity](#) [12] or review the following [webpage](#) [13].

Send email when Published:

No

Source URL: <https://www.cu.edu/blog/psc-communicator/cooperative-contracts>

Links

[1] <https://www.cu.edu/blog/psc-communicator/cooperative-contracts> [2] <https://www.cu.edu/blog/psc-communicator/author/69272>

[3] <https://www.bidscolorado.com/co/portal.nsf/xpPriceAgreementsByCategory.xsp>

[4] <https://www.naspovaluepoint.org/portfolios/> [5] <https://www.omniapartners.com/solutions/contract-offerings> [6] <https://www.sourcwell-mn.gov/contract-search> [7] <https://www.vizientinc.com/what-we-do/supply-chain/catalog> [8] <https://www.eandi.org/contract-navigator>

[9] <https://www.gsa.library.gsa.gov/ElibMain/home.do> [10] <https://tips-usa.com/vlist.cfm>

[11] <https://www.withpavilion.com/> [12] <https://www.cu.edu/psc/procurement/sourcing/commodity-listing>

[13] <https://www.cu.edu/psc/procurement/sourcing/existing-cu-price-agreements>