



November 23, 2011

The City of Victoria Purchasing Department, under the supervision of the Finance Department, is responsible for organizing and administering the procurement of supplies, equipment, and services for the City in a manner that will result in the best value. The Purchasing Department assists each department and their staff in procuring quality goods and services at the best possible price that is necessary to provide the citizens with the services they expect, while still adhering to all Federal, State and local purchasing laws, as well as internal City policies.

The City of Victoria Purchasing Department serves as an internal service department and resource for all departments to access and utilize. As with any business, the City is continually improving the internal processes and setting certain goals for each department. One long-term goal for the Purchasing department was the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) award. This program, established by NPI in 1995, was developed to recognize organizational excellence in public procurement. This prestigious award is earned by those organizations that demonstrate excellence by obtaining a high score based on standardized criteria. The criteria are designed to measure innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement, and leadership attributes of the procurement organization.

In order to receive the AEP award, an entity must meet at least 100 points of the 200 available points. Since the award is open to all governmental entities, some criteria are not applicable to certain entities; therefore, limiting the total available points to a particular entity. The award program provides a checklist of criteria where the entity can grade themselves against the submittal requirements. Once enough points are accumulated, the entity can submit for the award. Since the application will be reviewed by the AEP award committee, it was important to submit an application with greater than 100 points in case the committee felt that certain checklist items weren't met. The City of Victoria applied for the 2011 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement award in May 2011 and was notified in June 2011 that the application was accepted.

The City of Victoria is 1 of only 35 government agencies in Texas and 1 of only 57 cities in the United States to receive the award in 2011. Since the inception of the AEP award in 1995, only 351 governmental entities have earned this prestigious award. The AEP distinction represents a milestone for the procurement process and the City of Victoria.

For additional information on this award program, please click on [Achievement of Excellence in Procurement \(AEP\)](#).