If your agency would like to purchase uniform apparel that does not use sweatshop labor, the City of Madison’s “sweatfree” cooperative contract will assist you with meeting that goal.

The City of Madison’s Uniform Management Contract became available for piggyback on the one-year anniversary of the Rana Plaza building collapse in Bangladesh, which killed over 1,100 garment workers. The contract raises the bar for human rights due diligence in government contracting. This multi-government initiative, led by the City of Madison, is part of a larger effort to eliminate unsafe and illegal working conditions in apparel factories worldwide.

The contract requires:

• **Transparency:** The contractor discloses names and addresses of factories, violations of labor rights and safety standards, and presents a time-bound corrective action plan for major suppliers.

• **Compliance plan to mitigate and prevent risk:** The contractor works with the City of Madison and the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium to develop and implement a compliance plan that requires attention to worker education, a grievance process, responsible purchasing practices, and prevention measures to address health and safety conditions in high-risk areas.

• **Independent oversight:** Contractor rebates help to fund independent monitoring of suppliers and factories where there is a high risk of violations.

• **Rigorous compliance review and evaluation:** An independent review panel, coordinated by the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium, assists the City of Madison and other user agencies in evaluating contractor compliance at the proposal, award, and contract performance stages of the process. The review panel includes experts in international labor rights and representatives of public agencies that use the contract.

Your organization can piggyback off the City of Madison contract to help meet sweatshop-free goals. The contract includes items such as:

• Public safety, general trade, supervisory and dress apparel, t-shirts and cotton wear used by Fire, Police, Metro Transit and other municipal operations agencies

• Additional apparel items may be available upon request

Contract details can be found at http://buysweatfree.org/uniform_management_program. For more information about the contract, contact Brian Pittelli, Finance Department, City of Madison, Wisconsin, (608) 266-4026, BPittelli@cityofmadison.com.