

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WSCA and STMA announces WSCA Lodging
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The Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) and State Travel Managers Alliance (STMA) joined forces in a recent solicitation and announces implementation of a nationwide lodging program called WSCA Lodging. This is the first multi-state nationwide lodging program ever created.

WSCA Lodging was created to achieve two missions. First, to ensure State and political subdivision employees are able to find lodging facilities that will honor GSA per-diem rates for their stay. Second, for the States to gather travel spend. WSCA Lodging contains a searchable database that will provide travelers a list of properties for their travel and will also gather all of the search information. WSCA intends to keep track of the search results in hopes of leveraging spend to achieve further savings.

The WSCA Lodging searchable database contains almost 4000 qualified lodging facilities that will honor GSA Per-Diem Rates for State and Political Subdivision employees traveling on official business. The Database was created to have the same look and feel of a typical hotel search engine. From the database, travelers can click a link that takes you directly to the hotel website to reserve and book a room. It is a cost effective solution to provide the information to the travelers without the expense of an actual search engine. WSCA Lodging is available at www.wscalodging.org

The qualified list of lodging facilities was created from a Request for Qualification led by Tim Hay from the State of Oregon. Other members of the sourcing team were Tami Nelson from Utah, Lenora Kingston from Colorado, Jason Soza from Alaska, Lyn Callison from Nevada and Melissa Hernandez from Texas. WSCA Lodging is also available to cities, counties, universities and other political subdivisions that participate under their respective states co-operative purchasing programs.

The lodging companies participating in the program are: Accor Hotels, Best Western International, Carlson Hotels, Choice Hotels International, Extended Stay Hotel Group, Intercontinental Hotels Group, Phoenix Inns, Red Lion Hotels, and Red Roof Inns.

WSCA is a subset of National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO), The Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) was formed in October 1993 by the state purchasing directors from fifteen NASPO western states. The primary purpose of creating WSCA was to establish the means by which participating states may join together in cooperative multi-State contracting. This approach helps states to achieve cost-effective and efficient acquisition of quality products and services. Cooperative purchases are developed by multi-state sourcing teams comprised of procurement and subject matter professionals. All governmental entities within WSCA states as well as authorized governmental entities in all other states are welcome to use the approved agreements. Cooperative purchasing benefits states as well as cities, counties, public schools, institutions of higher education and other local governmental entities.

The State Travel Managers Alliance (STMA) was born at the 2004 Society of Government Travel Professionals (SGTP) conference, when a group of state travel managers decided that forces needed to be united. This group has been meeting bi-monthly via teleconferences and annually each September in Washington DC at the SGTP Annual conference. This alliance consists of State government travel managers from the United States. STMA is dedicated being a united voice in finding solutions facing the state government travel industry; provide resources to other states in establishing a travel program and joining forces in solicitations to achieve the best value for each state. Its mission: "To provide leadership, education, tools and resources to assist States with creating and maintaining a travel management program that benefits their respective States' citizens & employees with responsible business travel"

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