

“COSTARS Connections” Conference: MAY 23, 2019, Clarion, PA

What is “COSTARS Connections”?

“COSTARS Connections” is a COSTARS* contracting conference held in Clarion, Pennsylvania. The event is presented by the Northwest Commission Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), our neighboring PTACs in Central & Western PA, and the Clarion University Small Business Development Center (SBDC) with the support of the PA Department of General Services Bureau of Procurement COSTARS program.



The COSTARS Connections Conference is FREE to attend. Registration required (see next page for registration link).

The conference features training workshops for existing COSTARS Members (buyers) and Suppliers (sellers) as well as those organizations & businesses who are interested in learning more & potentially becoming COSTARS Members or Suppliers.

In addition to the workshops, the conference offers an opportunity for buyers & sellers to meet in person during a networking session and panel discussion.

*** What is COSTARS?**

COSTARS is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's cooperative purchasing program and serves as a conduit through which registered and eligible local public procurement units (LPPUs) and state-affiliated entities (together known as "COSTARS Members") are able to leverage contracts established by DGS to cost effectively and efficiently identify suppliers ("COSTARS Suppliers") with whom to do business. Buying organizations must register to become COSTARS Members. Businesses selling under COSTARS must successfully submit a bid package to become an approved COSTARS Supplier.

To learn more about the COSTARS program, be sure to contact your local PTAC Counselor and visit the COSTARS website at www.costars.state.pa.us.

Who should attend?

Local Public Procurement Units (LPPUs) and State-funded organizations interested in:

- receiving training from PA Dept. of General Services COSTARS Marketing Manager
- meeting COSTARS Suppliers & other small business vendors
- network with other LPPUs and State-funded organizations from in & around the region

Businesses that are existing COSTARS Suppliers, and businesses interested in becoming COSTARS Suppliers, who want to:

- receive training on the COSTARS program for suppliers
- speak with COSTARS buyers
- network with other businesses from in & around the region
- talk with local business resources representatives such as PTAC and SBDC

When/Where?

Date: **May 23, 2019**
Time: 9:00a to 12:30p
Location: Gemmell Complex, 2nd floor
Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Payne Street
Clarion, PA 16214
[Click HERE for driving directions](#)

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“COSTARS Connections” Conference – MAY 23, 2019 (continued)

How does the conference work?

The first 1-2 hours of the event will be for training. There will be one workshop for COSTARS Members (the buyers under the program) and sessions for COSTARS Suppliers & those businesses interested in becoming sellers under the program. *These sessions are open to existing COSTARS Members & Suppliers as well as to those organizations & businesses interested in learning more about becoming COSTARS Members or Suppliers.*

Following the training period will be a networking session & panel discussion. The networking area will be set up in tradeshow style – COSTARS Suppliers will have tables that COSTARS Members (buyers) & other organizations can visit to speak directly with supplier representatives.

Suppliers should come prepared to speak about their company's capabilities/products/services with COSTARS Members. *(And don't forget about networking with the other small business attendees, as this may lead to business opportunities as well!)*

COSTARS Members and attending local public procurement units & state-affiliated organizations can expect to meet COSTARS Suppliers & other small businesses from in and around the western & central PA region.

Pre-registration is required. (See below for registration link). Registrants will receive a parking permit in order to utilize the Clarion University lots the day of the event. (Metered street parking is also available near the venue).

Tentative Conference Agenda – May 23, 2019:

- 8:30a-9a: Sign-In & Networking
- 9a-9:15a: Welcome
- 9:15a-10:30a: Training workshops for COSTARS Members (buyers) & Suppliers
- 10:30a-11:45a: Networking
- 11:45a-12:30p: Panel Discussion and open Q&A

Light refreshments will be provided.

Sign Up

No fee to attend. Register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CostarsConnect2019>

*****Watch for updates at our [event website](#).*

Contact

Questions? Contact Melissa Becker, Northwest Commission PTAC Counselor, at melissab@northwestpa.org, 814-677-4800 ext 124.

Co-sponsors:

- Clarion University of PA Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- PA Department of General Services, Bureau of Procurement, COSTARS Program
- North Central PA Commission PTAC
- Government Contracting Assistance Center (GCAC) at Slippery Rock University of PA
- California University of PA's Government Agency Coordination Office (GACO)
- Indiana University of PA (IUP) PTAC
- Southwestern PA Commission PTAC