



USDA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

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Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Program

President Bush signed Executive Order 13360 on October 21, 2004, to demonstrate the Nation's appreciation for the services rendered by Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) owners, whose disabilities were incurred while serving in the Armed Forces. To help their businesses grow and prosper the President is increasing opportunities for them to participate successfully in Federal contracting opportunities. Federal agencies have been directed to more effectively implement section 15(g) of the Small Business Act, which provides that the President must establish a goal of not less than 3 percent for participation by service disabled veteran – owned small businesses in Federal contracting, and section 36 of that Act, which gives agency contracting officers the authority to reserve certain procurements for service disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

USDA and the Assistant Secretary for Administration are honored to assist the Administration in fulfilling the intent of this Order. As requested, USDA has developed a "Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Strategy" to provide the formal direction and aggressive activities essential for attaining or exceeding the mandated 3 percent goal. The Assistant Secretary has designated the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to serve as the lead for coordinating and implementing this USDA-wide effort.

OSDBU is aggressively conducting outreach activities to help SDVOSB owners participate in USDA contracting opportunities. The Office is developing marketing materials tailored for SDVOSBs and have included a special section pertaining to SDVOSBs on the OSDBU webpage. In addition, OSDBU staff is conducting training sessions for contracting personnel to inform them about the requirements of the Order and solicit their cooperation in locating contract opportunities for SDVOSBs.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. What are the basic requirements for businesses to participate in the SDVOSB Procurement Program?** The SDVOSB must be a small business; 51 percent of the SDVOSB must be unconditionally and directly owned by one or more service-disabled veterans. The management and daily business operations of the SDVOSB must be controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans (or in the case of a veteran with permanent and severe disability, the spouse or a permanent caregiver of such veteran).

2. Is there a Federal procurement program for Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB's)? The Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-183) was enacted amending the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) to establish a procurement program for Small Business Concerns (SDVOSBC) owned and controlled by service disabled veterans. Section 308 of that law provides that contracting officers may award a sole source or set-aside contract to SDVOSBCs, if certain conditions are met. Specifically, a contracting officer may award a sole source contract to any small business concern owned and controlled by service disabled veterans if –

- such concern is determined to be a responsible contractor with respect to performance of such contract opportunity and the contracting officer does not have a reasonable expectation that 2 or more small business concerns owned and controlled by service disabled veterans will submit offers for the contracting opportunity;
- the anticipated award price of the contract (including options) will not exceed – \$5.0M in the case of a contract opportunity assigned a North American Industry Classification System code for manufacturing; or \$3.0M in the case of any other contract opportunity;
- in the estimation of the contracting officer, the contract award can be made at a fair and reasonable price.

Additionally, a contracting officer may award contracts on the basis of competition restricted to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans if the contracting officer has a reasonable expectation that not less than 2 small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans will submit offers and that the award can be made at a fair market price.

3. How can USDA procurement staff and prime contractors locate service disabled veteran -owned small businesses? USDA contracting staff may search: The Small Business Administration's Central Contractor Registration database at <http://www.ccr.gov> and The Department of Veteran's Affairs "VetBiz" Vendor Information Pages (VIP) database at <http://vip.vetbiz.gov/default.asp>. Reminder to SDVOSBs: Please make sure your firm is registered on the above free databases and that you have DUNS and NAICS numbers available when registering.



Please take a look at our Annual Procurement Forecast, Subcontracting Opportunities Directory and Doing Business with USDA <http://www.usda/osdbu> to learn more about USDA contracting opportunities.

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