



The U.S. Small Business Administration

Federal Contracting Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses



The U.S. Small Business Administration has programs and services to help American veterans making the transition from service member to small business owner. Increasing federal contracting and subcontracting opportunities for service-disabled veterans is central to that effort. Executive Order 13360 requires federal agencies to develop a strategy to increase contracting and subcontracting opportunities; designate a senior-level official to be responsible for developing and implementing that agency's strategy; and report its programs annually to SBA.

SBA programs and services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do you know if you are a service-disabled veteran?**
 - (a) You have a DD form 214 which states you were medically discharged;
 - (b) You have a letter of adjudication from the Veterans Administration, see http://www.vba.va.gov/benefit_facts/index.htm.
- **What are service-disabled, veteran-owned small business contracts?**

These contracts are awarded through a sole-source award or set-aside based on competition restricted to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. See Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 19.1405 and 19.1406.

 - (a) SDVO SBC Set-Aside Contract - The contracting officer may set-aside Acquisitions if:
 - (1) The requirement is determined to be excluded from fulfillment through award To Federal Prison Industries, Javits Wagner-O'Day, Orders under Indefinite Delivery Contract, Orders against Federal Supply Schedules, Requirements Currently being performed by 8(a) participants, and Requirements for Commissary or exchanges resale items.
 - (2) the requirement is not currently being performed by an 8(a) participant.
- **Does a service-disabled veteran-owned small business have to be formally certified to obtain federal contracts?**

There is no formal certification process (see 13CFR 125.15). There is no minimum disability rating requirement. A service-disabled veteran-owned small business is defined as a business that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more eligible veterans or, in the case of publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more veterans. These veterans must also control the firm's management and daily business operations.
- **What are the contracting goals for service-disabled veterans?**

The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 set an annual governmentwide goal of 3 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for each fiscal year for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, (see <http://www.bsbac.org/VA.htm>).

In addition, Executive Order 13360 requires that federal procurement officials and prime contractors provide small businesses owned and controlled by veterans or service-disabled veterans with the

maximum practicable opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts let by any federal agency, including subcontracts.

- **What information is available on goal achievements for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses?**

SBA is required to track and annually publish the percentage of federal procurement awards to veteran and service-disabled veteran businesses. This helps focus procurement activities on veterans and service-disabled veterans as a special group. For information, visit the Center for Veterans Enterprise at www.vetbiz.gov, the SBA at www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/ovbd/index.html or the Veterans Corporation at www.veteranscorp.org.

- **How can service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses get financing for contracts awarded by the government?**

Patriot Express - Your Key to Business Success. SBA's Patriot Express initiative has new and enhanced programs and services for veterans and members of the military community wanting to establish or expand small businesses.

Eligible military community members include:

- Veterans
- Service-disabled veterans
- Active-duty service members eligible for the military's Transition Assistance Program
- Reservist and National Guard members
- Current spouses of any of the above
- The widowed spouse of a service member or veteran who died during service or of a service-connected disability
- For information, go to www.sba.gov/patriotexpress/index.html.

- **How do I pursue contract opportunities with the federal government?**

Government contracts are awarded to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses through a sole-source award or a set-aside award based on competition restricted to these firms. Find the competitive procurement announcements at www.fbo.gov. Before award of a contract your company must be registered in the *Central Contractor Registration* system at www.ccr.gov.

- **How do I do business with the Veteran's Administration?**

All veteran and service-disabled businesses must register in www.vetbiz.gov. For information go to www.sba.gov.

Want to Know More About Government Contracting?

Opening Doors to Federal Government Contracting—Small Business Opportunities

This publication guides you step-by-step through the procurement process including information on registering your business on the *CCR* system; SBA's counseling services; how to identify contracting opportunities; and how to market your business. View and download this publication at www.sba.gov/openingdoors.

Free, Online Federal Contracting Course

SBA's Small Business Training Network is a virtual campus complete with courses and programs to help the small business owner. Entrepreneurs interested in government contracting should take the free course, *Business Opportunities: a Guide to Winning Federal Contracts*, providing in-depth information on how to participate in federal contracting programs. View this and other small business courses at www.sba.gov/training.