

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

Office of Small and Disadvantaged
Business Utilization

Doing Business With VA

This comprehensive reference guide is intended as a resource tool to help small and Veteran business owners navigate the VA contracting and procurement process.

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This reference guide is a product of staff
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INTRODUCTION

Small businesses continue to serve as the engine for U.S. economic growth by providing jobs and innovation—and increasing competition to the federal marketplace. Doing business with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) fuels the engine of small businesses and offers an opportunity for them to provide products and/or services to our nation's Veterans.

No matter how small your business, VA is a potential customer.

Doing Business with VA Reference Guide provides small businesses with options for learning more about contracting opportunities with VA. Through VA OSDBU Cycle of Success business model, small businesses can: determine if they are procurement ready to do business with VA; learn about small business programs and who to contact for assistance; learn about contracting processes and procedures based on federal acquisition rules and regulations; learn about contracting vehicles used to secure a contract award; and learn how to better navigate the VA contracting process.

Through VA's nationwide network of program and contracting offices, billions of dollars in procurement contracts are awarded to small businesses. VA coordinates programs and implements services to help Veteran-owned and other small businesses access procurement opportunities. For more information, visit <http://www.va.gov/osdbu/library/dbwva.asp>.

VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) provides guidance, information, and resources to help small businesses build and grow. The mission of VA OSDBU is to enable Veterans to gain access to economic opportunities by leveraging the federal procurement system and expanding participation of procurement-ready small businesses.

OSDBU initiates programs that focus on bridging the gap between small businesses and contracting opportunities, ultimately helping small and Veteran-owned businesses contribute most effectively to the mission of VA.

VA Small Business Programs

For acquisition purposes, Veteran-owned and other small businesses must be independently owned and operated, not dominant in the field of operation in which they are bidding on government contracts, and otherwise qualify as a small business under the criteria and size standards developed by the Small Business Administration (SBA).

OSDBU's programs ensure that a fair proportion of total purchases, contracts, and subcontracts for property and services for VA are placed with Veteran-owned and other small businesses.

The **VA Veterans First Contracting Program** provides VA the unique authority to award set-aside and sole source contracting opportunities to VA-verified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) and Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) firms. Learn more about Public Law 109-461, the law authorizing the Program, at <http://www.va.gov/ogc/docs/pl109-461.pdf>.

Small business interested in participating in the VA Veterans First Contracting Program must participate in the Veterans First Verification Program (Vets First) to complete the verification process through the **Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE)**. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/osdbu/verification/> or apply at <http://www.VetBiz.gov>.

VA encourages participation in contracting and procurement opportunities by one or a combination of the following small business programs.

- **SDVOSB**
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/programs/sdvosb.asp>.
- **VOSB**
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/programs/vosb.asp>.
- **8(a) Business Development (the 8a Program)**
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/programs/8a.asp>
- **Historically Underutilized Business Zone Small Business (HUBZone)**
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/programs/hubzone.asp>
- **Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB)**
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/programs/sdbp.asp>
- **Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB)**
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/programs/wosb.asp>
- **Economically-Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB)**
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/programs/wosb.asp>

VA Small Business Goals

VA's aggressive small business goals aim at maximizing contract awards. VA small business programs goals and achievements can be found at <http://www.va.gov/osdbu/library/accomplishments.asp>.

Veteran Entrepreneur Portal

To help small businesses start and grow their business, VA OSDBU has launched its Veteran Entrepreneur Portal (VEP) for quick access to resources. In partnership with BusinessUSA, the portal quickly connects Veteran entrepreneurs to relevant best-practices and provides direct access to the resources that guide small businesses through each step of the process. Visit the VEP at <http://www.va.gov/OSDBU/entrepreneur/index.asp>.

DOING BUSINESS WITH VA

VA is one of the largest procurement and supply agencies of the federal government with a long-standing commitment to building relationships between small businesses and procurement decision makers (PDMs) effectively leading to contracting opportunities.

What Does VA Buy

VA acquires a wide range of products and services from local, regional, and national sources. The following list provides a general summary of products and services procured throughout VA.

SUMMARY OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES VA PROCURES

- Pharmaceuticals and medical and surgical supplies
- Equipment, supplies, and materials for facility operation
- Maintenance and repair of medical and scientific equipment
- Building construction, maintenance, and repair
- Prosthetic and orthopedic aids
- Non-IT enterprise-wide solutions
- Enterprise-wide solutions in information and technology
- Architect/Engineer services

VA Small Business Obligations

Dedicated to the success of Veteran-owned and other small businesses, VA OSDBU guides the procurement readiness and Cycle of Success processes to help small businesses better position for opportunities as a prime contractor or subcontractor. VA data retrieved from the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) showcases VA top 10 spend obligations during FY 2014 (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014).

VA Top 10 Industries and Small Business Obligations for FY 2014

VA Top 10 Industries by NAICS Code	VA Total Dollars by Industry	VA Small Business Obligation Dollars	VA Small Business Obligation Percentage
325412-Pharmaceutical Preparation Manufacturing	\$4,381,642,614.45	\$63,987,174.57	1.46%
236220-Commercial And Institutional Building Construction	\$1,378,479,633.78	\$1,123,903,939.37	81.53%
334510-Electromedical/Electrotherapeutic Apparatus Manufacturing	\$654,379,161.99	\$35,139,744.88	5.37%
541519-Other Computer Related Services	\$645,598,026.16	\$582,177,750.30	90.18%
339113-Surgical Appliance And Supplies Manufacturing	\$631,889,088.14	\$254,511,422.76	40.28%
423450-Medical, Dental, and Hospital Equipment and Supplies	\$605,984,053.58	\$215,331,520.78	35.53%
339112-Surgical And Medical Instrument Manufacturing	\$518,784,009.73	\$232,514,907.38	44.82%
334517-Irradiation Apparatus Manufacturing	\$506,546,103.71	\$13,031,199.60	2.57%
541512-Computer Systems Design Services	\$332,932,376.88	\$149,987,876.34	45.05%
621111-Offices Of Physicians (Except Mental Health Specialists)	\$295,551,062.15	\$57,056,803.61	19.31%

Become Familiar with Acquisition Regulations

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) establishes guidelines that help small businesses wanting to do business with federal agencies learn the rules and requirements of contracting. Like FAR, VA has acquisition regulations that comply with FAR—know as **VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR)**. VAAR contributes to FAR and supplements it with VA specific rules. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/oal/library/vaar/>.

The following are some relevant FAR and VAAR sections.

- **FAR Part 13—Simplified Acquisition Procedures** provide a detailed overview of federal contracting procedures.
- **FAR Part 16—Types of Contracts** provides a detailed overview of procurement mechanisms.
- **VAAR Subchapter C—Contracting Methods and Contracting Types** describes VA contracting methods and contract types such as:
 - **VAAR Part 813—Simplified Acquisition Procedures** details procedures, actions at or below the micro-purchase threshold, and simplified acquisition methods.
 - **VAAR Part 814—Sealed Bidding** presents the use of sealed bidding, solicitation of bids, submission of bids, opening of bids and award of contract.
 - **VAAR Part 815—Contracting by Negotiation** describes the source selection, contract pricing, and unsolicited proposals processes.
 - **VAAR Part 816—Types of Contracts** explains the selection of contracts types, indefinite-delivery contracts.

Be Prepared. Be Procurement Ready.

Doing business with VA as a government contractor significantly increases your company's growth in many ways. OSDBU encourages all small businesses to be **procurement ready**—*able to meet the requirements necessary to compete for VA and federal contracting opportunities.*

VA OSDBU CYCLE OF SUCCESS

VA OSDBU Cycle of Success outlines information used to help small businesses, particularly SDVOSBs and VOSBs, efficiently and effectively position themselves to work with VA. It also demonstrates steps that promote small business success in federal government contracting. The five stages of the VA OSDBU Cycle of Success highlight:

- **AWARENESS**
Insight regarding ongoing opportunities and regulatory guidance within VA acquisition and contract procurement processes. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/OSDBU/outreach/dap/index.asp>.
- **RISK MITIGATION**
Solutions to help minimize risks for both small businesses and the federal government. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/OSDBU/outreach/dap/index.asp>.
- **ACCESS**
Programs and resources for small businesses to market services to and engage with PDMs and contracting professionals. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/OSDBU/outreach/dap/index.asp>.
- **PROCUREMENT MECHANISMS**
Details on contracting vehicles and contract types used in federal acquisition of products and services. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/OAL/library/vaar/index.asp>.
- **PERFORMANCE**
Tools and operations used to help small businesses document contract performance. Learn more at <http://www.cpars.gov>.



AWARENESS

- System for Award Management (SAM)
- Web Site
- Requests for Information (RFI)
- Be Present
- Federal Business Opportunities (FBO)
- Forecast of Contracting Opportunities (FCO)
- Trade Publications
- Market Research

RISK MITIGATION

- Past Performance
- Corporate Experience
- Certifications
- Resumes
- Focus on Core Competencies
- Start Small
- Get Verified
- Demonstrate Procurement Readiness
- Know the Rules
- Analytical Research
- Vendor Information Pages (VIP)

ACCESS

- National Veterans Small Business Engagement (NVSBE)
- VA Direct Access Program (DAP)
- Outreach Support
- Industry Days
- Industry Events

PROCUREMENT MECHANISMS

- Federal Supply Schedules (FSS)
- Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA)
- Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IDIQ)
- Sole Source Contracts
- Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT)
- Best Value
- Federal Funding Opportunity (FPO)
- Lowest Price Technically Acceptable (LPTA)

PERFORMANCE

- Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS)
- Success Stories
- References/Testimonials

AWARENESS

Awareness increases opportunities for small businesses to successfully work with VA. It provides insight on ongoing contract opportunities and knowledge of regulatory guidance of VA acquisition and contract procurement processes. Awareness—paired with procurement readiness—includes, but is not limited, to the following:

AWARENESS ACTION ITEMS

- **Register with System for Award Management (SAM)**, the first step for all businesses—large and small—doing business with federal agencies. Learn more at <https://www.sam.gov/>.
- **Build Your Company Web site** to showcase to potential customers and business partners your small business achievements, products, and services. Be sure to provide the most up-to-date information and points of contact.
- **Respond to Requests for Information (RFI)** to federal and commercial customers identifying and demonstrating your small business eligibility for solicited opportunities.
- **Be present, be aware** by attending local, regional, and national networking and contracting events to gather information, share resources, and remain relevant. Also, take part in procurement conferences and training sessions offered by VA, SBA, and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers/PTACs—among agencies.

PROCUREMENT READINESS ACTION ITEMS

- **Register with Dun & Bradstreet** to obtain a D-U-N-S Number, a unique nine-digit number unique to your small business. Learn more at <http://www.dnb.com>.
- **Know your North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes**, the six-digit industry codes that identify and classify your product and services. Learn more at <http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>.
- **Register with Dynamic Small Business Search/DSBS** to self-certify and search for small business opportunities. Learn more at http://dsbs.sba.gov/dsbs/search/dsp_dsbs.cfm.
- **Create a Capabilities Statement** to demonstrate and emphasize your small business ability and performance.
- **Know small business requirements** and better understand the federal marketplace. Search SBA for more information at <https://www.sba.gov>.
- **Learn about FAR** guidelines at <http://www.acquisition.gov> and **learn how VAAR supplements FAR** at <http://www.va.gov/oal/library/vaar/>.
- **Subscribe to trade publications** to stay informed of industry advances and small business trends.
- **Conduct market research** for real-time information on industry and competitive analysis. Know how your market, customers, and competition affect your small business.

Find Federal Contracting Opportunities

- **Federal Business Opportunities/FedBizOpps/FBO** contains federal contracting opportunities over the micro-purchase threshold of \$3,000. Learn more at <http://www.fbo.gov>.
- **VA Forecast of Contracting Opportunities (FCO)** presents best estimates of procurement opportunities expected for forthcoming fiscal years. Each federal agency produces a FCO; all information is published for planning purposes only. Learn more at <https://www.vendorportal.ecms.va.gov/eVP/fco/FCO.aspx>. For help with VA FCO, email VA Acquisition Help Desk at VA.Acquisition.Systems@va.gov.
- **VA Contract Catalog Search Tool (VA CCST)** is updated daily to provide detailed contracting opportunities managed through the VA Federal Supply Schedule (VA FSS) and national standardization contract vehicles. VA CCST contains over 1,700 active contracts and 1 million catalog line items such as Blanket Purchase Agreements/BPAs and Basic Ordering Agreements/BOAs. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/nac/>.

RISK MITIGATION

Mitigating risk protects the interests of both the customer and supplier. VA mitigates risk by selecting eligible small businesses that successfully meet federal requirements to perform as prime contractors or subcontractors. Small businesses new to the federal marketplace should focus on preparing company resumes that showcase corporate experience, core competencies, achievements, and certifications.

Mitigate Risk by Subcontracting

Partner with procurement-ready prime contract holders as a subcontractor.

Subcontracting is a great opportunity for small businesses to reduce potential risks by obtaining significant, practical experience. In fact, most prime contracts awarded to large businesses for \$650,000 or above (\$1.5 million for construction for public facilities) must include a subcontracting plan offering opportunities for small businesses to partner. Learn more about subcontracting opportunities at <http://www.va.gov/osdbu/programs/subcontracting.asp>.

SBA lists government-wide subcontracting opportunities online at <http://www.sba.gov/content/sub-net> and <http://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/contracting/contracting-opportunities/sub-contracting>.

Risk Mitigation Programs and Resources

- **VA Veterans First Contracting Program** provides VA the unique authority, per Public Law (P.L.) 109-461, to contract with SDVOSBs and VOSBs for set-aside and sole source contracts. Upon approval, VA-verified SDVOSBs and VOSBs obtain documented proof of eligibility—providing confidence to VA that set-asides are being awarded to legitimate firms owned and controlled by Veterans. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/osdbu/verification/>.
- **Vendor Information Pages (VIP)** lists VA-verified SDVOSBs and VOSBs. Company profiles are visible and searchable within the database throughout the duration of SDVOSB/VOSB verification. Learn more at <http://www.vip.vetbiz.gov/>.
- **Verification Assistance Program (VAP)** is designed to help Veterans understand the verification process and policy. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/osdbu/verification/assistance/index.asp>.
- **VA-Certified Verification Counselors** are trained by VA to help small businesses understand the verification process. Find a counselor in your state at <http://www.va.gov/osdbu/verification/assistance/counseling.asp>.
- **Past Performance** reports are used during the contract award selection process by VA PDMs and other federal contracting professionals to evaluate contractor eligibility. Performance reports provide contracting officials with a means to minimize risk by helping PDMs determine if a small business can meet contract obligations—as needed by the customer. Learn more about the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS), a performance documentation system, in the Performance section of this guide.
- **Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT)**, as outlined in FAR Part 13, are generally held for small businesses and offer contract opportunities with simplified acquisition procedures at a SAT of no larger than \$150,000. Simplified acquisition opportunities start at \$3,000—the micro-purchase threshold and extend to \$150,000—the federally-set SAT.

ACCESS

VA OSDBU provides small businesses, particularly SDVOSBs/VOSBs, access to opportunities and resources essential to small business success.

VA OSDBU Direct Access Program

VA OSDBU initiated the Direct Access Program (DAP) to ensure that SDVOSBs, VOSBs, and other small businesses have access to contracting opportunities and direct connections to PDMs within the federal and commercial marketplaces. DAP provides small business support on procurement readiness, guidance on VA-verification, and contact to small business liaisons (SBLs), as well as other services.

Uniquely, DAP offers opportunities for small and large businesses to partner, network, and secure connections necessary to do business with VA and other federal agencies. DAP Opportunity Showcases (OSCs) are nationwide events that provide a competitive advantage and unique chances for interaction with potential customers interested in engaging and working with SDVOSBs, VOSBs, and other small businesses. Learn more about DAP at <http://www.va.gov/OSDBU/outreach/dap/index.asp>.

- **OSCs** are structured events with time allocated for small businesses to learn about projected future business requirements from potential customers and engage face-to-face with PDMs to discuss capabilities that meet the needs of VA.
- **National Veterans Small Business Engagement/NVSBE** is the largest procurement venue for the Veteran small business community to engage, network, and connect with federal agencies, commercial corporations, and prime contractors. Learn more at <http://www.nvsbe.com>.
- **Commercial Opportunities** are also available to small businesses to partner and subcontract. VA OSDBU seeks to leverage commercial opportunities for SDVOSBs, VOSBs, and other small businesses.

Access a list of VA small business scheduled events at <http://www.va.gov/osdbu/library/events.asp>.

Small Business Liaisons

VA SBLs offer advice to small businesses on individual procurement opportunities and specialized contract components. SBLs provide information about VA procurement contracting opportunities, small business program goals, verification, and much more.

PROCUREMENT MECHANISMS

Contract Types

FAR Part 16 details various contract types used in federal acquisition of products and services. FAR Part 16 Subparts are highlighted below. Learn more about federal acquisition contracts at <https://www.acquisition.gov/?q=/browse/far/16>.

- **FAR 16.2–Fixed Price Contracts** are awards with a mutually agreed set price.
- **FAR 16.3–Cost Reimbursement Contracts** allow payment to contractors for additional costs incurred as stated in the contract.
- **FAR 16.4–Incentive Contracts** pay a higher degree of profit based on improved delivery specifications.
- **FAR 16.5–Indefinite Delivery Contracts** are used when a contract does not specify an actual quantity for supplies except for the minimum or maximum quantities that will be ordered during the period of the contract. Widely used throughout the federal marketplace are **indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts** specifying unknown quantity of services during a fixed time period.
- **FAR 16.6–Time and Materials, Labor-Hour, and Letter Contracts** specify the amount of time and materials that will be used to complete the end product, hourly-wages to be paid to individuals for work provided, and authorization for immediate work performance—respectively.
- **FAR 16.7–Agreements** define, in writing, the contracting activity term negotiations between the agency and contractor.

VA FSS FUNCTIONS

Authorized by U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), VA manages nine multiple award schedule programs for medical equipment, supply, pharmaceutical, and service schedule programs. VA FSS provides access to in-demand products and services organized into three categories: pharmaceuticals, commodities, and services. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/schedules.asp>.

PROCUREMENT THROUGH VA FSS

In FY 2014, VA obligated contract awards in each of the nine FSS contracting opportunities for medical supply products and services it manages.

VA-Managed FSS Spend Analysis for FY 2014 Medical Supplies

Title	VA-Managed FSS Medical Supplies	VA Total	Other Federal Government Agencies Total	State, City, County, Local Government Total	FY 2014 Total
621 I	Professional Services	\$266,733,421.64	\$152,719,218.18	\$653,099.00	\$420,105,738.82
621 II	Reference Labs	\$92,806,091.00	\$29,745.00	\$0.00	\$92,835,836.00
65 I B	Pharmaceuticals	\$4,710,526,501.88	\$3,549,041,579.20	\$1,133,314.00	\$8,260,701,395.08
65 II A	Medical Equipment & Supplies	\$1,373,614,246.49	\$390,495,598.61	\$4,367,124.00	\$1,768,476,969.10
65 II C	Dental Supplies	\$43,311,406.47	\$52,441,524.96	\$38,475.00	\$95,791,406.43
65 II F	Patient Mobility Devices	\$135,821,182.00	\$148,008.00	\$0.00	\$135,969,190.00
65 VII	Invitro Diag. Reagents	\$109,003,963.36	\$50,172,597.26	\$46.00	\$159,176,606.62
65 V A	X-Ray Equip. & Supplies	\$2,168,163.00	\$1,202,331.00	\$35,211.00	\$3,405,705.00
66 III	Cost Per Test Lab	\$194,575,124.68	\$92,790,170.00	\$0.00	\$287,365,294.68
	Total Per Managed Schedule	\$6,928,560,100.52	\$4,289,040,772.21	\$6,227,269.00	\$11,223,828,141.73

Contracting Procedures

Federal agencies adhere to three types of contracting procedures during the acquisition process. Learn more about federal procedures and contract types at <http://www.acquisition.gov> and <http://www.va.gov/oal/library/vaar/>.

- **FAR Part 13–Simplified Acquisition Procedures** are used for federal soliciting and evaluating of bids at the SAT of up to \$150,000.
 - **Blanket Purchase Agreements/BPAs** are examples of simplified acquisition that offers options to federal agencies and schedule contract holders to provide convenience, efficiency, and cost reductions.
 - **FSS** for schedule contract holder sometimes reference GSA Schedules as contracting requirement. Learn more about GSA Schedules at <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/100615>. *Reminder: In the case of VA FSS, GSA has authorized VA to manage the nine award programs for medical supplies.*
- **FAR Part 14–Sealed Bidding** is based on an invitation for bid.
- **FAR Part 15–Contracting by Negotiations** involves two types of acquisitions: sole source or competitive.
 - **Sole source acquisitions** are used when only one small business provides the necessary services needed; no solicitation is presented for bidding.
 - **Competitive acquisitions** is based on best value of products/services and require that sealed bid packages be submitted by competing companies with details on price and term offers, allowing bid recipients to select a competitive bidder.

PERFORMANCE

Federal regulations require all agencies to document the performance of contractors. This detailed information helps federal buyers determine if a small business is capable of delivering upon and meeting contract requirements prior to an award.

CPARS, a Web-based database used by federal contracting professional to report contractor performance and accomplishments on past contract awards. Past performance is heavily considered during the contract award determination process. Learn more about CPARS at <http://www.cpars.gov>.

FAR PARTS 9 AND 42 GOVERNING CPARS

- **FAR Part 9** identifies requirements for contracting officers to enter Determinations of Non-Responsibility in Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIS).
- **FAR Part 42** identifies requirements for documenting contractor performance assessments and evaluations for systems, non-systems, architect-engineer, and construction acquisitions.

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

VA OSDBU

- VA OSDBU Veteran Entrepreneur Portal/VEP
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/entrepreneur/index.asp>
- VA OSDBU Direct Access Program/DAP
<http://www.va.gov/OSDBU/outreach/dap/index.asp>
- VA OSDBU Scheduled Events
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/library/events.asp>

SDVOSB/VOSB Verification

- VA Center for Verification and Evaluation/CVE
<http://www.VetBiz.gov>
- VA Verification Assistance Program
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/verification/assistance/index.asp>
- CVE Self-Assessment Tool
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/verification/assistance/index.asp#four>
- VA Vendor Information Pages
<http://www.vip.vetbiz.gov>

Small Business Assistance

- Procurement Technical Assistance Center/PTAC
<http://www.aptac-us.org>
- System for Award Management/SAM
<http://www.sam.gov>
- U.S. General Services Administration Advantage
<http://www.gsaadvantage.gov>
- Federal OSDBU Council (OSDBU Directors/offices)
<http://www.osdbu.gov/members.html>
- North American Industry Classification System/NAICS
<http://www.census.gov/naics>

Performance Reporting

- Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System
<http://www.cpars.gov>

Contracting and Procurement

- VA Forecast of Contracting Opportunities/FCO
<http://www.vendorportal.ecms.va.gov/eVP/FCO/fco.aspx>
- VA National Acquisition Center/NAC
<http://www.va.gov/oal/about/nac.asp>
- Federal Business Opportunities/FedBizOpps/FBO
<http://www.fbo.gov>
- SBA Sub-Net Subcontractor Database
<http://web.sba.gov/subnet/search/index.cfm>
- USA Spending
<http://www.usaspending.gov>
- Acquisition Central
<http://www.acquisition.gov>
- VA Federal Supply Schedule Service
<http://www.fss.va.gov>
- Federal Procurement Data System/FPDS
<https://www.fpds.gov>

U.S. Small Business Administration

- U.S. Small Business Administration/SBA
<http://www.sba.gov>
- SBA Small Business Development Centers
<https://www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance/sbdc>
- SBA Certificate of Competency Program
<https://www.sba.gov/content/certificate-competency-program>

**For further assistance, contact VA OSDBU Help Desk
1-866-584-2344 or osdbu@va.gov**

In preparation of the *Doing Business with VA Reference Guide*, VA OSDBU gathered information from Web sites of several federal government agencies including VA, SBA, GSA, and FPDS-Next Generation, among others. Information provided herein adheres to VA guidelines and federal government standards.