

# PTAC Link

PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER – CONNECTING BUYERS & SUPPLIERS



Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

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## Training @ a Glance

**Cross Border DOT DBE event**

June 25th, 10AM EDT

[DETAILS](#)

**GSA Virtual Town Halls: Advancing Small**

## State of the PTAC - June 2020

By James Gerraughty,  
PTAC Program Manager



I am still writing this in my basement, not my office, and have been doing teleworking for about 2.5 months now. I have actually gotten accustomed to the video chats, emails, and phone calls, but am looking forward to seeing people again (albeit from a safe distance). As always, please reach out to the North Central, Northern Tier, or Southern Alleghenies PTACs for any government contracting questions that you may have. Bonus: If you video chat with me, you get to see my cool basement.

Please review our training opportunities that are coming up in June and beyond for our PTAC and PREP Partners. We have a rather interesting webinar on NY and PA businesses and government contracting in those states on June 25, 2020. For an up-to-date list at any time, [please visit](#), and you can search by date and location between our 3 centers.

I am sure that you and your company have been inundated

**Businesses During Unprecedented Times**

June 8th 3PM - [DETAILS](#)  
June 10th 3PM- [DETAILS](#)

**The Big Idea Contest 2020**

June 18th, 2PM EDT  
[DETAILS](#)



with surveys, especially about how COVID-19 is affecting your business. We have a special message and request from the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (the PTAC's host agency) on COVID-19 impact on the region.

One final note as we go into June: Your PTAC is open and ready to answer any questions you might have about government contracting. We would love to see you, but will have to use phone calls, emails, and online meeting/webinars to assist you! As the situation changes, we'll be sure to advise clients about methods to reach us

Got ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about government contracting? Please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or [Email](#) us.

**PREP Business Impact Survey Request - June 2020**  
*Courtesy of Debbi Prosser, Business Development Director, SAP&DC*

You should have received an email regarding the COVID-19 Business Impact survey, sent on behalf of Debbi Prosser via ExecutivePulse. We at SAP&DC understand that you have likely been bombarded with surveys from local and national organizations. However, we are respectfully requesting that you fill it out via the link within the survey. This link has personalized information specifically for you, and shouldn't be forwarded to others

The information will be used to focus SAP&DC and its partners' efforts on resuming business activities in the area. It will also be used to inform policymakers of our area's situation and possible remedies. We truly appreciate your working with us on this issue, and look forward to continuing to serve your business.

**Upcoming Training Events**  
**with the PTAC and other PA PREP Partners**

All events are free, unless otherwise noted. Events **do require registration**, so please visit the associated link for more information.

**PTAC:**

**Cross Border DOT DBE event -**

**June 25, 2020, 10AM EDT:** A free webinar to give

interested companies what is necessary for government contracting work in NY and PA. Round table discussion hosted by the MCFL, Cattaraugus County, NW PA, and SAP&DC PTACs.

Registration is required, [click here](#)

**GSA Virtual Town Halls: Advancing Small Businesses During Unprecedented Times - Dates below;** free to register.

Participants will learn about current Federal requirements, how the Federal business landscape has responded to COVID-19, and how small businesses can engage with the Federal Government.

June 8 is focused on ED/WOSB and SD/VOSB firms.

June 10 is for 8(a) and HUBZone firms.

- **June 8, 2020, 3PM EDT - [Register Here](#)**
- **June 10, 2020, 3PM EDT - [Register Here](#)**

**PREP Partners:**

**The Big Idea Contest 2020 -**

**June 18th, 2020, 2PM EDT:** The Big Idea contest hosted by Ben Franklin Technology Partners and Startup Alleghenies is a live, virtual event. Six entrepreneurs will go head to head competing for a prize pool of \$50,000.

Registration can be [found here](#).

**Please note:** Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, webinars on various topics will be coming up with short notice. The PTAC will endeavor to get the information out to clients via email. For an up-to-date listing of PTAC events, [please visit](#) often!

**Bill Would Increase Broadband, Telehealth Capabilities in Rural America**

by Frank Konkell, Executive Editor, Nextgov

A bipartisan Senate bill would inject \$2 billion to the Rural Health Care program in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The RHC-maintained by the Federal Communications Commission-provides funding to eligible health care providers for telecommunications and broadband services related to health care, including telehealth services.

The Health Care Broadband Expansion During COVID-

19 Act, led by Sens. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, and Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, follows Senate pressure in early May to include \$2 billion in the next coronavirus response legislation. Sens. John Boozman, R-Ark., Angus King, I-Maine, Gary Peters, D-Mich., Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., and Ed Markey, D-Mass., are cosponsoring the legislation.

"During this pandemic, telehealth services are helping families receive the critical health care they need," Schatz said in a statement. "Our bill will provide much-needed funding to help hospitals improve their connectivity so they can care for more patients."

[Keep Reading](#)

(Accessed 6-2-2020)

### **WEDnetPA Update**

There have been some significant changes to Pennsylvania's Workforce and Economic Development Network (WEDnet), both from programmatic changes and external issues. These changes include increased company funding limits and greater flexibility in supporting the training needs of our regional companies.

This program brings training funds to qualified companies across the Commonwealth through a network of community colleges, state system universities and other educational institutions. The goal of WEDnetPA is to strengthen the business environment of the Commonwealth by helping companies improve the skills and productivity of Pennsylvania workers. To see more details on the program and apply, please visit the [WEDnet website](#).

### **Updates and Changes to the SBA's Women-Owned Small Business Program**

Provided by the SBA

*PM Note: This may seem like a rehash of the changes to the EDWOSB & WOSB programs in newsletters from earlier this year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some dates have been pushed back to accommodate. Always remember, this certification is free. If you have any questions about this program, please contact your local PTAC!*

The U.S. Small Business Administration today published

Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contracting program regulations that will provide a free, online certification and eligibility application process for women-owned small businesses and economically-disadvantaged women-owned small businesses. The timeline for implementation of changes to SBA's WOSB program has been delayed to accommodate those affected by the current pandemic.

Starting July 15, 2020, SBA will begin to implement changes consistent with the Small Business Act as amended in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. In addition to the certification requirement for firms seeking WOSB and EDWOSB set-aside contracts, the regulations detail certification options for applicants and require authorized third-party certifiers to notify applicants of their fees and the option to use SBA's free online certification process.

Below are some important timelines for firms to keep in mind:

- The current self-certification process will remain available for firms until October 15, 2020, in [certify.sba.gov](https://certify.sba.gov);
- Between now and July 15, 2020, WOSBs must download their documentation, currently housed in the WOSB Program Repository, from [certify.sba.gov](https://certify.sba.gov);
- On July 15, 2020, firms can begin submitting applications for initial processing; and
- On October 15, 2020, SBA will begin issuing decisions on certification. [Keep Reading](#)

(Accessed 06/02/2020)

### **About Us**

The PTAC at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The PTAC stands ready to support businesses in the central PA Alleghenies region in the pursuit to secure contracts with local, state and/or federal government agencies nationwide.

Due to the generous support of our Commonwealth and Federal funding partners, services provided by the PTAC are free of charge.

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the PTAC will provide one-on-one counseling utilizing all of the program resources necessary to increase your share of contract awards.

Contact us today at The PTAC at SAP&DC to get started!  
Email: [ptac@sapdc.org](mailto:ptac@sapdc.org)  
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