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Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

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the PTAC - March 2021

by James Gerraughty,
SAP&DC PTAC Program Manager

Happy New Year, albeit a couple months and some change in!

Still at home (for the most part), but the service is still the same! As always, our PTAC is happy to speak with you about your government contracting related questions. With the start of a new program year in January, there's always excitement with new outreach events, meeting new clients, and keeping in touch with the current clients!

Please review our training opportunities that are coming up in March and beyond for our PTAC and PREP Partners. For an up-to-date list at any time, [please visit our event page](#), and you can search by date and location between our 3 centers. We are planning some events involving beta.sam.gov updates, the Federal Highway Administration, Packaging, and the perennial favorite, Cybersecurity updates, as that field changes on an almost daily basis. We hope to see you there!

As stated before, we are here to serve you! If you have any ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about government contracting, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or send us an [Email](#).

Upcoming Training Events with the PTAC and other PA PREP Partners - March 2021

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

Webinar Series: PPP Updates for Your Small Business

The Small Business Administration has some key changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which will be available for a limited amount of time to ensure America's smallest businesses get exclusive access. If you are a small business owner with 20 employees or less, or are self-employed; there is new information for you. Please join us for a series of webinars hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration, Public Private Strategies Institute, & other stakeholders to hear about:

- What steps you can take now to take advantage of this special opportunity, which closes at 5:00 P.M. EST, Tuesday, March 9th, 2021.
- Additional changes and recent policy announcements made by Biden-Harris Administration
- Have your questions answered by SBA Leadership

Schedule

March 5, 1:00 p.m. ET, Black + African-American Small Business Owners, [Click here to register.](#)

March 5, 3:00 p.m. ET, Hispanic Small Business Owners, [Click here to register.](#)

March 6, 2:00 p.m. ET, Veterans, Self-Employed Business Owners, [Click here to register.](#)

March 8, 3:00 p.m. ET, LGTBQ Business Owners, Youth Entrepreneurs, Restaurant Owners, [Click here to register.](#)

Cosponsorship Authorization # 21-0501-14: The SBA's participation in this cosponsored activity is not an endorsement of the views, opinions, products or services of any cosponsor or other person or entity. All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least 24 hours in advance of this event; please contact Judette Crosbie at Judette.Crosbie@sba.gov with subject header ACCOMMODATION REQUEST.

Pennie program in Pennsylvania

Editor's note: While is not a direct government contracting related article, healthcare and insurance is something that impacts workers and companies. The SAP&DC PTAC and its partners are helping spread the word about the new state site for health insurance plans and related financial assistance, if eligible.

The mission of the Pennsylvania Health Insurance Exchange Authority, known as Pennie, is to improve the accessibility and affordability of individual market health coverage for Pennsylvanians.

Thanks to the unanimous, bipartisan effort by the Pennsylvania Legislature, Act 42 of 2019 was signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf on July 2, 2019 in an effort to transition away from the federal exchange, HealthCare.gov, to take local control of operations and customer service at a significantly lower cost and use the savings to launch a reinsurance program to lower premiums for middle income families purchasing health insurance in the individual market

Standing up a state-based health insurance marketplace provides the flexibility to react to changes and serve residents in the way that's best for them; acquire local control of a robust in-person assistance program, education, communications, and customer service; lower health insurance premiums by approximately 5-10%; and work more closely with insurers to foster a competitive marketplace.

To learn more about the program or enrollment, [please visit here](#).

(Accessed 3/04/2021)

Feds Up Share of FEMA Grants That Must Be Spent on Cybersecurity

By Andrea Noble, Route Fifty staff

The Department of Homeland Security will require more federal grant money to go toward cybersecurity projects in an effort to help state and local governments protect critical infrastructure, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced Thursday.

In the past, DHS has required that a minimum of 5% of Federal Emergency Management Agency grants be dedicated to cybersecurity. The department will now up that requirement to 7.5%—a change that will bolster cybersecurity funding for state and local governments by \$25 million, Mayorkas said.

The DHS secretary noted several ransomware attacks that targeted cities in recent years, including Atlanta and Baltimore, as he stressed the need for the federal government to continue strengthening partnerships with local agencies.

“Ransomware, like most cyberattacks, exploits the weakest link,” [said](#) Mayorkas during remarks at a cybersecurity event. “Tackling ransomware and protecting the weakest link will require partnering with state, local, tribal and territorial governments and private

sector entities across the country.”

DHS is also evaluating the possibility of creating new grant programs, administered through [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 3/04/2021)

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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

Phone: (814) 949-6500

Web: PTAC@SAP&DC

SAP&DC | 814-949-6528 | jgerraughty@sapdc.org | <http://www.sapdc.org>

3 Sheraton Drive
Altoona, PA 16601



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