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To: James F. Gerraughty
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SAP&DC



Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the PTAC - October 2021

by James Gerraughty,
SAP&DC PTAC Program Manager



Happy (Federal) New Year! We have our application in for 2022, and have a new manager at the Northern Tier PTAC, so change is definitely in the air. While we're sad to see Laurie Lentz move on to a well-deserved retirement, rest assured that businesses in the Northern Tier service area are in good hands with Ethan Sexton.

Training is a constant at the PTAC! Please review our training opportunities that are coming up later in October and beyond for our PTAC on [our events page](#). You can search by date and location between our 3 centers. We are planning some events involving a Defense buying panel, Cybersecurity/CMMC updates and news, Understanding the VOSB & SDVOSB certification for government contracting,

and the 2nd iteration of our virtual matchmaker on December 7 & 8, 2021. Most of the events will be virtual, and we hope to see you there!

As stated before, we are here to serve you! If you have any questions about government contracting topics, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or by [Email](#).

HUBZone FAQ Update: Maps and Other Changes

By Christopher Coleman, Attorney, Koprince McCall Pottroff LLC

The SBA's HUBZone program can be a confusing program to understand and comply with. Keeping on top of the regulations requires keeping up on legislative and program changes on a revolving basis. The SBA has recently frozen the HUBZone maps and changed principal office rules. In a corresponding move, the SBA has updated the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section for the HUBZone program to clarify some details on HUBZone Program rules.

Here are some key points you should know about this latest FAQ update.

Previously, we blogged about SBA freezing the HUBZone maps through 2022, and into 2023. We also discussed the SBA shedding light on the principal office long-term investment rule. Now, the SBA has updated its FAQ's in line with the recent changes. These latest updates.

1. When will HUBZone maps be frozen until?

The SBA realized that the 2020 census data would not be available in time to update the HUBZone maps as originally planned on January 1, 2022. After making this realization, the SBA sought to freeze the current maps to allow time for the new maps to be generated. The new HUBZone map update will be realized on June 30, 2023. The SBA may grandfather in firms that demonstrate they made investments in Qualified Disaster Areas between December 26, 2019 and June 30, 2021 in reliance on prior guidance from SBA. SBA will review requests for grandfathering on a case-by-case basis. This only applies to entities residing in a both a qualifying and non-qualifying area at the time of the certification's anniversary date. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 9/28/2021)

Gov. Wolf, Legislators Laud Proposed Legislation to Provide Consistent Support for Small, Diverse, Veteran Businesses

By PA Governor's Office

Governor Tom Wolf today applauded proposed legislation that will statutorily establish policies and programs to ensure that small, diverse and veteran-owned businesses continue to receive the support and opportunities they deserve in state contracting.

SB900 was announced at a press conference in the Capitol Media Center where PA Department of General Services Secretary Curt Topper and Deputy Secretary for Diversity Inclusion & Small Business Opportunities Kerry Kirkland were joined by Senate Democratic Appropriations Chairman Vincent Hughes and Senator Camera Bartolotta, the prime sponsors of the bill. Pennsylvania State Representatives Jake Wheatley, and Donna Bullock, Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, also showed their support for the legislation.

The catalyst for the proposed legislation evolved from the Governor's 2015 Executive Order on Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities in Commonwealth Procurement and in Pennsylvania's Economy. The order created [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 10/05/2021)

Reissued Draft of GSA's Small Business IT Contract Adds New Pool

By Aaron Boyd, Senior Editor, NextGov

The new draft request for proposals also makes significant changes to past performance requirements.

The General Services Administration reissued sections of the draft request for proposals for its new small business IT services contract—Polaris—with a new pool for veteran-owned businesses and relaxed past performance requirements.

Polaris was created to replace the \$15 billion Alliant 2 Small Business contract, which was canceled abruptly in July 2020 after multiple protests. GSA released the first draft of Polaris on New Year's Eve 2020 with the goal of establishing a new small business-focused IT services contract.

The new governmentwide acquisition contract, or GWAC, will focus on IT services, along with emerging technologies. The document cites advanced and quantum computing, artificial intelligence, automation technologies, distributed ledger technologies, edge computing and immersive technologies like virtual and augmented reality.

GSA received a wealth of feedback since the initial release and reissued two sections of the draft RFP, adding a pool set aside for service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses and broadening the relevant past experience that can be cited by lowering the minimum dollar amount for those contracts to qualify.

The new draft also [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 10/05/2021)

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!

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