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Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the PTAC - December 2021

by James Gerraughty,
SAP&DC PTAC Program Manager



Last year, faithful readers of this newsletter will remember my remark about "silver linings." Silver linings are the little things that, while not fixing an otherwise bad situation, can make it a bit more bearable. The past year had some ups and downs, but there were many silver linings to be found.

As in last year, I work with some great, dedicated people here at SAP&DC, and the Southern Alleghenies, North Central, and Northern Tier PTACs! I appreciate their flexibility in coping with internal and external changes that were encountered. We also have some great clients that continue to challenge our knowledge of federal, state, and local government contracting, and have been great sources of feedback on how we can do better. Finally, we expanded our use

of technology for not only work-from-home for our counselors, but for outreach and educational events. What are your silver linings through all this?

Our program year is coming to a close, but we are planning for next year. Please review our training opportunities that are coming up in December (and beyond for our PTAC and PREP Partners, once our funding is confirmed). A big one is our Tri State PTAC Mega Match Maker on December 7 & 8, 2021. It will be a virtual event, same as last year, with opportunities to meet with buying agencies. It's free to attend, but you must [register here](#).

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 the Federal Highway Administration, Packaging, and the perennial favorite, Cybersecurity updates (as that field changes on an almost daily basis). There might even be some in-person trainings!

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

Labor Dept Issues Final Rule Requiring Federal Contractors to Pay \$15 Minimum Wage

By Courtney Bubl , Government Executive

The ruling is expected to impact 327,300 workers.

On Monday, the Biden administration announced its final rule directing federal contractors to pay their workers a \$15 minimum wage starting next year.

The rule, promulgated by the Labor Department, follows a directive from President Biden issued shortly after Inauguration Day and builds on a prior Obama-era regulation. After issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking in July, the department received about 245 comments from the public. No significant changes were made in the final rule from what was proposed, said Jessica Looman, acting administrator of the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division, on a briefing call with reporters on Monday.

"Federal contract workers are essential workers and are critical to the federal government," said Labor Secretary Marty Walsh on the call. Some of the things they do are: "clean and maintain federal buildings, they provide health care for veterans and childcare for kids, they provide food services for the military, they build and repair roads and bridges all across this country." This initiative "makes progress towards reversing decades of income inequity" and "ensures the federal government leads by example."

[Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 11/29/2021)

NIST Asks for Input on Emerging Tech Trends and Risks for Congressional Study

By Brandi Vincent, Defense Technology Correspondent, NextGov

Topics of interest include artificial intelligence, blockchain, quantum computing, autonomous delivery technologies—and more.

Looking to push the development of future-facing technologies and fulfill a congressional mandate, the National Institute of Standards and Technology asked interested individuals to weigh in on current trends and impending demands associated with eight of the buzziest emerging technology areas.

Those areas, listed in a new request for information, include: artificial intelligence, internet of things in manufacturing, quantum computing, blockchain technology, new and advanced materials, unmanned delivery services, internet of things and 3-D printing.

NIST specifically intends to [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 11/29/2021)

Tis the Season...

We here at the Southern Alleghenies, North Central, and Northern Tier PTACs wish all of our clients and stakeholders a warm and happy holiday season! We also look forward to serving you in 2022!



Happy Holidays!

Gloria, Renee, Barb, Ethan, and James

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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