

**James F. Gerraughty**

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**From:** SAP&DC <jgerraughty+sapdc.org@ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:03 AM  
**To:** James F. Gerraughty  
**Subject:** APEX Accelerator Newsletter September 2023



**Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies**

**State of the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator - September 2023**  
*by James Gerraughty,  
APEX Accelerator (formerly PTAC) Program Manager*



Labor Day is in the rearview mirror, and we're into "all things pumpkin" season. While not the biggest fan of the pumpkin spice flavor palate, I have been updating designs for my pumpkin carving this year. Nothing like planning ahead.

Planning ahead is also a constant theme in government contracting. Whether your company is doing high-level IT work at an Air Force base or performing sidewalk repair for your local hometown, you need to be thinking about "after the contract." This can be the next contract, ways to improve your processes for an option year, or plans to expand staffing or equipment.

In the next few weeks, we're going to have various training courses, some online, some face-to-face, on various topics related to government contracting. We have our annual virtual Tri State Mega Matchmaker on December 5-6, 2023, and it's shaping up to be an interesting one. All of these events are free to attend, but you must register. You can review and register for upcoming events on our [eCenter page](#).

If you have ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about something, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or by [email](#).

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### **One of SBA's Signature Contracting Programs is on Hiatus**

By Eric White, Federal News Network

(While a short article, I added this, because of implications to federal Women-Owned and Veteran-Owned certifications. As appeals and other court decisions come down, we will get this out to clients and answer any questions we can.)

The Small Business Administration is putting a temporary pause on adding new applicants to its disadvantaged business program. A U.S. district court in Tennessee in July ruled the agency can't automatically assume a small business owner is socially and economically disadvantaged based on their race when applying for the agency's 8(a) business development program. Members of the 8(a) program are eligible for set-aside federal contracts. SBA said it will put a hold on new 8(a) members until it revises its application to comply with the court's decision. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 9/08/2023)

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### **Senate-Passed 2024 NDAA set to Raise DoD Set-Aside Sole-Source Contract Threshold Limits**

By Governor of PA Office (Contact: [ra-gvgovpress@pa.gov](mailto:ra-gvgovpress@pa.gov) or 717.783.1116)

September 5, 2023

*The Executive Order increases opportunities for small and small diverse businesses to secure prime contracts, raises the revenue limit so more small businesses can qualify, instructs Commonwealth agencies to provide key technical and capital access support to small and small diverse businesses, and creates a new advisory council.*

*Governor Shapiro and Lieutenant Governor Davis promised to reform procurement practices on the campaign trail and now their Administration is taking concrete steps to fulfill that promise and grow the Commonwealth's economy.*

Philadelphia, PA – Today, Governor Josh Shapiro signed [Executive Order 2023-18](#) to increase opportunities for small and small diverse businesses to compete for state contracts, make the Commonwealth procurement process more accessible, and take

actionable steps to help small businesses and small diverse businesses grow, succeed, and create good-paying jobs.

During their campaign, Governor Shapiro and Lieutenant Governor Davis spoke often about empowering small businesses and small diverse businesses to expand economic opportunity and help build generational wealth, and the Executive Order signed by the Governor today is the latest step to make good on that promise. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 9/08/2023)

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### **Senate-Passed 2024 NDAA set to Raise DoD Set-Aside Sole-Source Contract Threshold Limits**

By Gregory Weber, Senior Associate Attorney, Koprince, McCall, Potroff LLC

Through an amendment to the Senate-Passed 2024 NDAA, the Department of Defense (“DoD”) sole source threshold for many socioeconomic set-aside programs would be increased significantly under the Senate-passed version of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. Also a method to adjust DoD sole-source thresholds for inflation would be created.

The Senate version of the 2024 NDAA includes an [amendment](#) that would raise the sole-source caps for Department of Defense (“DoD”) manufacturing and non-manufacturing contracts awarded to 8(a) Program participants, Woman-Owned Small Businesses (“WOSB”), Economically Disadvantaged WOSB (“EDWOSB”), HUBZone Program participants, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (“SDVOSB”).

Senator [Ben Cardin](#) of Maryland, proposed an amendment to the 2024 NDAA , that if the Senate-Passed NDAA is eventually ratified into law, would make the following changes to the sole-source thresholds for manufacturing contracts: [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 9-08-2023)

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### **About US**

The PTAC/APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The PTAC/APEX Accelerator 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/APEX Accelerator are free of charge.



Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the PTAC/APEX Accelerator 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/APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC to get started!

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