

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Glossary of key terms

Term	What it means
8(a) Business Development programs	A nine-year contracting assistance program that offers resources and support for Small Disadvantaged Businesses
Competitive set-aside contracts	Contracts that are open only to businesses participating in a contracting assistance program
Contracting assistance programs	Supplier diversity programs run by the federal government that are designed for businesses owned and operated by historically marginalized groups; includes the Small Disadvantaged Business certification, women-owned small business programs, veteran assistance programs, the 8(a) Business Development program and the HUBZone program
Economically disadvantaged	Socially advantaged individuals whose ability to compete in the free market has been impaired due to fewer capital and credit opportunities, as defined by the Code of Federal Regulations
Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business program	Contracting assistance program that offers set-aside contracts for women-owned businesses that also meet criteria for disadvantage
Federal Procurement Data System	A repository of federal data for contracts over \$25,000
Government contracting	Selling goods and services to the government
HUBZone program	Contracting assistance program for businesses located in historically underutilized urban and rural areas
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business program	Contracting assistance programs that offers set-aside contracts for veterans who were disabled as a direct result of military service
Small business	Defined either by average number of employees in a 12-month period or by average annual receipts over the past three years; exact numbers vary by industry and North American Industry Classification System code
Small Disadvantaged Business certification	Contracting assistance program that helps businesses that meet SBA criteria for size and disadvantage win contracts
Socially disadvantaged	Individuals who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias, as defined by the Code of Federal Regulations
Sole-source set-aside contracts	Contracts that can be issued without a competitive bidding process and fulfilled by a single vendor; typically available only to businesses participating in a contracting assistance program
USA Spending.gov	A website that tracks government spending on contracts
Veteran assistance programs	Additional business assistance programs for individuals who have served in the military
Women-Owned Small Business program	Contracting assistance program that provides contracting opportunities for women-owned businesses in certain male-dominated industries