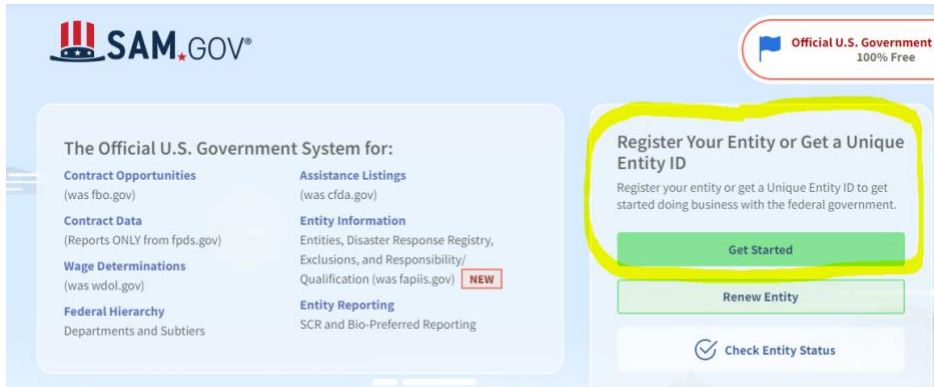




You must register your business with the System for Award Management database at SAM.gov in order to be awarded a government contract. Go to [Sam.gov](https://sam.gov) to begin the process.

<https://sam.gov/content/home>



## Getting started with Entity Registration:

Here is a list of FAQs and Quick Start Guides that will help you through the process of registering a new entity:

- [Unable to find a matching entity when asked to enter or validate my entity information](#)
- [Definition of an entity](#)
- [Quick Start Guide for Grant Registrations](#)
- [Quick Start Guide for Contract Registrations](#)
- [Quick Start Guide for International Registrants](#)
  
- [Entity Registration Checklist](#)
- [What to prepare before you begin the registration process](#)
- [Definition of representations and certifications](#)
- [Notarized letter process](#)
- [How long it takes for a submitted registration to become active](#)
- [How to check registration status](#)
- [The entity administrator role](#)

To register at SAM.gov, you will need to know your North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code(s). This code (or codes) describes the products, services, or industries that you furnish. You may also want to list your Standard Industrial Classification or SIC code on your registration.

Including these codes helps agencies find your business when they are looking for the products or services you supply. Go to <https://www.census.gov/naics/> to find your codes.

### Where to find government construction projects:

Federal contract opportunities are listed on the [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) site under Contract Opportunities. You can search by NAICS code or by location for projects that fit your profile.



### Getting started searching contract opportunities:

- [Use the search feature on SAM.gov](#)
- [Follow contract opportunities](#)
- [Save my searches](#)
- [Use the interested vendors list](#)

NOTE: Anyone may search contract opportunities without an account. However, a user account lets you *save searches, follow changes to opportunities, and join interested vendor lists.*

[What's the difference between signing up and registering?](#)

**\*\*\*\* [Click here for a list of helpful videos.](#) \*\*\*\***

## Additional Small Business Resources Through the [Small Business Administration](#)

### [8\(a\) Business Development Program](#)

Sections 7(j)(10) and 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 636(j)(10) and 637(a)) authorizes the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to establish a business development program, which is known as the 8(a) Business Development program. The 8(a) program is a robust nine-year program created to help firms owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

NOTE: There is a [National 8\(a\) Association](#) that is a non-profit who's mission is to provide education and guidance for all aspiring, current and graduate 8(a) businesses. There are two membership levels: A General One which is Free, and a Membership Plus which is \$350/year. Click for more information: <https://n8aa.wildapricot.org/join-now>

### [Small Disadvantaged Business](#)

Each year, the Federal Government awards about 10% of all federal contract dollars, or roughly \$50 billion in contracts, to Small Disadvantaged Businesses. SBA's Office of Government Contracting and Business Development monitors the progress of 24 Executive Branch agencies in contracting with Small Disadvantaged Businesses.

### [SBA Mentor-Protégé program](#)

As of November 16, 2020, the 8(a) Mentor-Protégé program and the All Small Mentor-Protégé program have merged into one SBA Mentor-Protégé program (MPP). The implementing regulations can be found in the Federal Register.

Both former programs helped eligible small businesses (protégés) gain capacity and win government contracts through partnerships with more experienced companies (mentors).

### [Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract program](#)

To help provide a level playing field for women business owners, the government limits competition for certain contracts to businesses that participate in the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Federal Contract program.

### [Veteran contracting assistance programs](#)

Certification with SBA allows service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) to compete for federal sole-source and set-aside contracts across the federal government. Certified veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) have additional opportunities to pursue sole-source and set-aside contracts at the Veterans Administration (VA) under the VA's Vets First program.

### [HUBZone program](#)

The government limits competition for certain contracts to businesses in historically underutilized business zones. It also gives preferential consideration to those businesses in full and open competition.

Joining the HUBZone program makes your business eligible to compete for the program's set-aside contracts. HUBZone-certified businesses also get a 10% price evaluation preference in full and open contract competitions.

### [Joint ventures](#)

Joint venture benefits to participants include:

- Collective representation of past performance
- Shared costs and resources
- Leveraging the other partner's experience and market share

A mentor and its protégé can joint venture as a small business for any small business contract, provided the protégé individually qualifies as small. The joint venture may also pursue any type of [set-aside contract](#) for which the protégé qualifies, including contracts set aside for [8\(a\)](#), [service-disabled veteran-owned](#), [woman-owned](#), and [HUBZone](#) businesses.

### [7\(j\) Management and Technical Assistance program](#)

Authorized by the Small Business Act, SBA's 7(j) Management and Technical Assistance program, or the 7(j) program, provides high-quality assistance to SBA-approved small businesses to help them successfully compete for federal, state, and local contracting opportunities as a prime or subcontractor. In 2019, the federal government exceeded their small business contracting goal (5%) for the seventh consecutive year, awarding a record breaking \$132.9 billion in prime contracts to small businesses.

Businesses in the program receive training, executive education, and one-on-one consulting in a wide range of activities, and the opportunity to participate in courses.

### [Natural Resource Sales Assistance program](#)

SBA uses small business set-asides to help them get a fair share of government property sales and leases.

Set-asides limit bidding on the products exclusively to small businesses first. That way, small businesses get a chance to bid with limited competition before the products are offered to other businesses in the open market.