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In the News: GSA eBuy is "Set-Aside" Ready!

In a recent [blog post](#), GSA Interact announced that ordering activities may utilize GSA [eBuy](#), GSA's online request for quote system, when posting requirements for small business set-aside orders; such requirements will only be viewable by eligible Schedule contract holders. For example, if a requirement is set-aside for service-disabled veteran-owned and veteran-owned small business concerns, then only FSS contractors that are classified as veteran-owned small businesses will be able to view the RFQ. Any quotes from Schedule contractors who are not eligible for the set-aside will not be considered for award.

Visit [GSA Interact](#) for additional instructions on using GSA eBuy for set-aside requirements.

For more information on FAR 8.405 ordering procedures visit the [FSS Government Customers](#) page!

Pursuant to the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, Contracting Officers may, *at their discretion*, set-aside orders ([FAR 52.219-13](#)) for the following categories ([FAR 19.000\(a\)\(3\)](#)):

- Small Businesses
- Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Businesses
- 8(a) Business Development Participants
- Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses
- Women-Owned Small Businesses eligible under the Women-Owned Small Business Program
- HUBZone Small Business Concerns

When setting-aside a requirement for one of the small business categories, Contracting Officers must abide by the same competition rules set forth in [FAR 8.405](#), including market research, to determine whether there are a sufficient number of small businesses capable of providing the product or performing the desired work. The below table summarizes competition strategies for set-aside orders under this authority.

Order Value	Strategy
At or Below the Micro-Purchase Threshold (\$3,000)	Distribute orders among contractors that meet the agency's needs
Over the Micro-Purchase Threshold but not exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (\$150,000)	The agency posts a Request for Quote (RFQ) on eBuy or considers reasonably available information about products and services by surveying at least 3 small businesses
Exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (\$150,000)	The agency posts an RFQ to eBuy or sends quote out to multiple small businesses to receive quotes from at least 3 small businesses

Training Center: Contract Extension vs. New Proposal

One of the questions we most often receive from our contractors is, "I am near the end of my contract term, how do I know if I need to submit a contract extension package or a new proposal?" There are several considerations that must be taken into account when answering this question. This month's training topic highlights the occasions when a VA contract specialist may consider a contract extension and when a new proposal package is required.

Extending an FSS Contract...An FSS contract may be eligible for extension if there are option years remaining, past performance is satisfactory, all annual registrations are up-to-date, all contract requirements have been fulfilled, and it is determined that the contract continues to be in the best interest of the Government. With the exception of contracts awarded under Schedule 65IB, the option clause may be exercised more than once to add 1 or more option year periods, but the total extension of performance shall not exceed 5 years. Additionally, the *total period* of performance cannot exceed 10 years.

New Solicitation Proposals...Contracts at the end of their performance period (5 years for 65IB contracts and 10 years for all other Schedule contracts) are not eligible for extension; therefore, submission of a new solicitation proposal is required. If a company is unsure if it is eligible for a contract extension or if it must submit a new solicitation proposal, they should contact the assigned Contract Specialist for assistance.

Please visit our [Contract Extension](#) webpage for further information on the extension proposal review process and the elements of a successful contract extension. Links to the solicitations and further information on submitting new proposals can be found on our [VA Schedule Programs](#) and [Getting on Schedule](#) pages.

Contract Extension Notification...The individual listed as the Contract Administrator on the current FSS contract will receive notification of the Government's intent to consider extending the contract 18 months prior to the expiration of the contract. Additional reminders will be sent 12 and 6 months prior to expiration.

Short-Term Contract Extensions...During the government's evaluation of a proposal, short-term extensions may be granted to allow continuity of the contract; however, these extensions cannot extend the life of the contract beyond 10 years.

Proposal Timeframes...To avoid a lapse in performance it is recommended that you submit your proposal in accordance with the following timeframes:

1. *Extension proposals requiring OIG review...*15 months prior to expiration
2. *All other extension proposals...*6 months prior to expiration
3. *New proposals requiring OIG review...*15 months prior to expiration
4. *All other new proposals...*12 months prior to expiration

FSS FAQ: What is e-Verify and am I required to enroll?



E-Verify is an Internet-based system that compares information from an employee's Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, to data from U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration records to confirm employment eligibility.

For VA FSS contractors, clause [52.222-54](#), as prescribed by [22.1803](#), does not apply to commercially available off-the-shelf items (COTS) or commercial services that are 1) part of the purchase of a COTS item (or an item that would be a COTS item, but for minor modifications); 2) performed by the COTS provider; and 3) are normally provided for that COTS item.

FSS contractors under Schedules [621I, Professional & Allied Healthcare Staffing Services](#), [621II Medical Laboratory Testing & Analysis Services](#) and contractors offering line items under [SIN A-200](#) (65IIA Medical Equipment & Supplies) or [SIN C-100](#) (65IIC Dental Equipment & Supplies) are required to enroll in e-Verify.

Web Corner

Want to stay connected? Add [this link](#) to any RSS reader to display feeds for VAFSS news and updates. RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a family of web feed formats used to publish frequently updated web pages in a standardized format. RSS feeds are an easy way for you to keep up with news and information that is important to you, while avoiding the conventional methods of browsing or searching for information on individual websites. Some browsers, such as the current versions of Firefox and Safari have built in RSS readers. If you're using a browser that doesn't currently support RSS, there are a [variety of RSS readers available](#) on the web; some are free to download and others are available for purchase.



VA FSS Working for You

For those who may not have already heard the news, former FSS Service Director, Carole O'Brien, has accepted a new position with another federal agency during April 2012. The presiding four FSS Chiefs are serving as Acting Director on a monthly rotational basis until the position is back-filled.

Recent updates are being provided to a couple of "hot" topics discussed in a previous eNewsletter edition. The first is FedBid. On March 3, 2012, the Office of Acquisition and Logistics imposed a moratorium on the use of reverse auctions within VA. During this period, VA reviewed and revised its [policy](#) on reverse auctions. As a result, the policy has been amended to ensure that VA conducts reverse auctions in compliance with Federal and VA Acquisition Regulations. Reverse auctions may be used to compete among mandatory or priority sources such as FSS contracts (provided responses are limited only to FSS contractors). Warranted contracting officials are responsible for ensuring that a review of FSS contract prices is conducted prior to awarding a reverse auction among FSS vendors and shall not pay more than the FSS contract price for the items. Should you have questions or concerns related to the updated policy and procedures for using reverse auctions, please contact Ms. Cheryl Duckett-Moody at cheryl.duckett-moody@va.gov.

Lastly, we wanted to give an update on the status of the NAC's Industry Conference. Unfortunately, we still do not have firm dates. VA NAC has singly resumed the handling of this action and is giving careful thought to putting together a well-coordinated event on behalf of its industry partners. Once the dates have been established, we will update our webpage and provide all current vendors with a "save the date" notice.

As always, if you are experiencing any issues, please do not hesitate to contact any of the FSS Chiefs or Craig Robinson, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary (ADAS) for National Healthcare Acquisitions, (p) (708) 786-5157 or (e) Craig.Robinson@va.gov. Thank you for your continued support.

"Our success has really been based on partnerships from the very beginning." -Bill Gates-



2nd quarter FY2012 sales reports and IFF payments are due by **May 31, 2012!** All VA FSS contractors are required to submit a report, even if no sales occurred under the contract. Sales figures should be reported before submitting an IFF payment to our office (via Pay.gov, ACH, or check).

For more information and to access the VA Sales Portal, visit the [Sales Reports & IFF](#) page online!

Have you worked with our exceptional staff recently? Whether you are a government customer, an FSS contract holder, or are simply looking to establish a contract with us, we want to hear from you! Complete the [VA FSS Customer Survey](#) and tell us what you think of our service and how we can improve. Survey responses are anonymous and will be used to better our processes and procedures.



As we begin our search for a new FSS Service Director we ask that you continue to submit your questions and concerns to the FSS Help Desk:

(e) helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov
(p) (708) 786-7737

The FSS Service Chiefs are also available to assist you:

Contract Division

James Booth
(e) james.booth@va.gov
(p) (708) 786-5223

Bob Satterfield
(e) bob.satterfield@va.gov
(p) (708) 786-4955

Cheryl Ward-Roberts
(e) cheryl.ward-roberts@va.gov
(p) (708) 786-5259

Program Management & Resource Support Division

Paul Skalman
(e) paul.skalman@va.gov
(p) (708) 786-5247

On April 1, 2012 the VA National Acquisition Center awarded an indefinite delivery, requirements contract to McKesson Corporation for management of the [VA Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor \(PPV\)](#) program.

- *Period of Performance:* 8/10/2012 – 8/9/2014
- *Option Periods:* 3 option periods of 2 years
- *Estimated Value:* \$31,623,538,274

Servicing over 750 customers across the United States and its territories and utilizing just-in-time deliveries of Government-contracted pharmaceutical products, *the PPV is mandatory use by all VA ordering activities.* Pricing for the majority of the pharmaceutical products distributed through the PPV are established by the [VA Federal Supply Schedule program.](#)



Around
the NAC

Disaster Recovery: Recent Emergency & Disaster Declarations

Under the Disaster Recovery Purchasing Program, state and local government entities may purchase a variety of products and services from contracts awarded under [VA Federal Supply Schedules](#) to facilitate recovery from a major disaster, terrorism, or nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack.

Major Disaster Declarations			
Number	Date	State	Disaster Type
4062	4/18	HI	Severe Storms, Flooding, & Landslides

This Disaster Recovery Purchasing authority is limited to VA & GSA Schedule contracts and does not include any other GSA programs. [GSA eLibrary](#) contains a list of all GSA Schedules subject to Disaster Recovery Purchasing. VA Schedule contractors are reminded that they must elect to participate in the Disaster Recovery program before they can sell under this authority.

Around the VA: National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

On Saturday March 30 – April 6, 2012, over 350 Veterans and active duty military servicemen and women with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments, certain neurological conditions, and other disabilities participated in the [National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic](#) in Snowmass, CO.



Figure 1 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

Originating in the early 1980s, the Clinic began as an effort to use recreational sports therapy in an effort to aid in the mental healing of Veterans with disabilities. Since its [inception in 1987](#), nearly 7,500 Veterans from all eras and active duty service members have participated in the Clinic, making it one of the most successful Veterans adaptive sports programs.

Sponsored by the VA and Disabled American Veterans (DAV), with assistance from various corporate sponsors and individual donors, the Winter Sports Clinic gives Veterans with disabilities the chance to test their new abilities and lifestyle skills allowing them an opportunity to surpass perceived limitations and learn to live life to the fullest. In addition to outdoor adventures, participants take part in workshops and educational

sessions designed to positively impact their rehabilitation and readjustment in their communities. Through sports, leisure, and education, the Clinic teaches participants that having a disability need not be an obstacle to an active and rewarding life.

VA Medical Center Spotlight:

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Committed to service America's Veterans, the [Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital](#) is located just outside of Chicago, Illinois. With nearly 500 beds and serving over 56,000 veterans, the Hines campus offers specialty care programs including [spinal cord injury care](#), cardiovascular surgery, polytrauma center, [blind rehabilitation center](#), [dental services](#), [homeless veterans care](#), [women's health care](#), as well as [substance abuse](#) and [post-traumatic stress disorder](#) programs. In addition to state-of-the-art specialty care programs, the Hines campus is the proud home of Illinois' first Fisher House, which offers free on-campus lodging for patient families as they accompany loved ones receiving medical treatment at Hines.

Working with the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, Hines houses one of VA's premier [research](#) facilities. With research in traumatic brain injury treatment, Parkinson's disease, ALS, spinal cord injuries, and much more, Hines helps ensure that veterans have access to cutting edge medical information and technology.



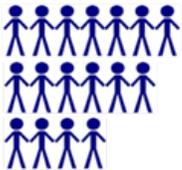
Figure 2 Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital
5000 South 5th Avenue, Hines, IL 60141
(p) (708) 202-8387 | [Directions](#)

Check out the [Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital Facebook page](#) for up-to-the-minute news and updates!

Did You Know... May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

From the first Japanese immigrants, to the Chinese workers that helped build the transcontinental railroad, to distinguished political leaders, as well as actors, authors, and entertainers, Asian Pacific Americans have a long and storied history in the United States. To honor the accomplishments of this community, President George H. W. Bush designated the month of May as [National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#). For more information and to learn about VA sponsored events honoring National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month visit the [VA's Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Total Population



17.1 million

Total business receipts
521 billion



288,293
Total veterans

30
Total Medal of Honor recipients

Figure 3 Asian Pacific American Data Infographic. For more statistics visit the [US Census Bureau 2011 Asian/Pacific Heritage Month Facts for Features](#) page!

Useful Web Links

[FSS Web Portal](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Customer Survey](#)

[Resource Library](#)

[VA Schedule Programs](#)

[Training](#)

[FSS Contractors](#)

[Sales Reports & IFF](#)

[Modification Request Forms](#)

[FSS Customers](#)

[Priorities of Use](#)



Upcoming Events

May 1, 2012 [FSS/SPH Supplier Show](#)

VISN 22 Long Beach, CA

May 2, 2012 [FSS/SPH Supplier Show](#)

VISN 22 Los Angeles, CA

May 2, 2012 [FSS/SPH Supplier Show](#) VISN 1 Brockton, MA

May 8, 2012 [FSS/SPH Supplier Show \(Safe Patient Handling\)](#)

VISN 6 Salisbury, NC

May 15, 2012 [FSS/SPH Supplier Show](#) VISN 12 Milwaukee, WI

May 15 – 17 2012 [GSA Training Conference and Expo](#)

Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas
<http://www.expo.gsa.gov/>

May 16, 2012 [FSS/SPH Supplier Show](#) VISN 12 Hines, IL

May 17, 2012 [FSS/SPH Supplier Show](#) VISN 12 Chicago, IL

May 30, 2012 [FSS/SPH Supplier Show](#) VISN 17 Dallas, TX

MAY 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

For more, check out the [FSS Calendar of Events!](#)

New VA FSS Contracts

To better serve our readers, the *New VA FSS Contracts* section is now available online. Visit [the New VA FSS Contracts](#) page for a complete listing of contracts awarded in April 2012. For a complete listing of all VA Schedules and additional information on the Schedule programs managed by the VA FSS Service, visit the [VA Schedules Programs](#) webpage.

Visit the [NAC Contract Catalog Search Tool \(CCST\)](#) or [GSA eLibrary](#) to obtain pricing information for these and all VA FSS contracts. For questions, comments, or to learn more about the VA FSS program contact the FSS Help Desk

Monday – Friday 7:30am – 3:30pm

(e) helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov (p) (708) 786-7737

VA NAC Federal Supply Schedule

Address: PO Box 37, Building 76
1st Ave North of Cermak Ave
Hines, IL 60141

Phone: (708) 786-7737

Fax: (708) 786-5828

E-mail: helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov

Web Portal: <http://www.fss.va.gov>

Customer Survey: <http://www.va.gov/nac/customersurvey/>

