

## Small Business Administration

## § 125.7

set-aside or an SDB has claimed a preference, and refers the matter to SBA for a COC determination.

(g) Where an offeror is exempt from affiliation under §121.103(f)(3) of this chapter and qualifies as a small business concern, the performance of work requirements set forth in this section apply to the cooperative effort of the team or joint venture, not its individual members.

[61 FR 3312, Jan. 31, 1996; 61 FR 39305, July 20, 1996; as amended at 64 FR 57372, Oct. 25, 1999; 65 FR 45835, July 26, 2000]

### § 125.7 What is the Very Small Business program?

(a) The Very Small Business (VSB) program is an extension of the small business set-aside program, administered by SBA as a pilot to increase opportunities for VSB concerns. Procurement requirements, including construction requirements, estimated to be between \$2,500 and \$50,000 must be reserved for eligible VSB concerns if the criteria in paragraph (c) of this section are met.

(b) *Definitions.* (1) The term *designated SBA district* means the geographic area served by any of the following SBA district offices:

(i) Albuquerque, NM, serving New Mexico;

(ii) Los Angeles, CA, serving the following counties in California: Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura;

(iii) Boston, MA, serving Massachusetts;

(iv) Louisville, KY, serving Kentucky;

(v) Columbus, OH, serving the following counties in Ohio: Adams, Allen, Ashland, Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Coshocton, Crawford, Darke, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Meigs, Mercer, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Paulding, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Putnam, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Shelby, Union, Van Wert, Vinton, Warren, Washington, and Wyandot;

(vi) New Orleans, LA, serving Louisiana;

(vii) Detroit, MI, serving Michigan;

(viii) Philadelphia, PA, serving the State of Delaware and the following counties in Pennsylvania: Adams, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Perry, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Wyoming, and York;

(ix) El Paso, TX, serving the following counties in Texas: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, and Terrell; and

(x) Santa Ana, CA, serving the following counties in California: Orange, Riverside, and San Bernadino.

(2) The term *very small business* or *VSB* means a concern whose headquarters is located within the geographic area served by a designated SBA district and, together with its affiliates, has no more than 15 employees and has average annual receipts that do not exceed \$1 million. The terms *concerns*, *affiliates*, *average annual receipts*, and *employees* have the meaning given to them in §§121.105, 121.103, 121.104, and 121.106, respectively, of this chapter.

(c)(1) A contracting officer must set aside for VSB concerns each procurement that has an anticipated dollar value between \$2,500 and \$50,000 if:

(i) In the case of a procurement for manufactured or supply items:

(A) The buying activity is located within the geographical area served by a designated SBA district, and

(B) There is a reasonable expectation of obtaining offers from two or more responsible VSB concerns headquartered within the geographical area served by that designated SBA district that are competitive in terms of market prices, quality and delivery; or

(ii) In the case of a procurement for other than manufactured or supply items:

(A) The requirement will be performed within the geographical area served by a designated SBA district, and

(B) There is a reasonable expectation of obtaining offers from two or more responsible VSB concerns headquartered within the geographical area served by that designated SBA district that are competitive in terms of market prices, quality and delivery.

(2) The geographic areas served by the SBA Los Angeles and Santa Ana District Offices will be treated as one designated SBA district for the purposes of this section.

(3) If the contracting officer determines that there is not a reasonable expectation of receiving at least two responsible offers from VSB concerns headquartered within the geographic area served by the applicable designated SBA district, he or she must include in the contract file the reason(s) for this determination, and solicit the procurement pursuant to the provisions of 48 CFR 19.502-2. SBA may appeal such determination using the same procedure described in 48 CFR 19.505.

(4) If the contracting officer receives only one acceptable offer from a responsible VSB concern in response to a VSB set-aside, the contracting officer will make an award to that firm. If the contracting officer receives no acceptable offers from responsible VSB concerns, he or she will withdraw the procurement and, if still valid, must resolicit it pursuant to the provisions of 48 CFR 19.502-2.

(d) Where a procurement is set aside for VSB concerns, only those VSB concerns whose headquarters are located within the geographic area served by the applicable designated SBA district are eligible to submit offers in response to the solicitation.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter in any way the procedures by which procuring activities award contracts under the SBA's 8(a) Business Development program (*see* 13 CFR part 124).

(f) This pilot program terminates on September 30, 2000. Any award under this program must be made on or before this date.

[63 FR 46642, Sept. 2, 1998]

## PART 126—HUBZONE PROGRAM

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