

APTAC Body of Knowledge Competency Guide

A. Program Requirements

A.1 PTAP Information and History

Description

1. The Purpose of Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) Program has been stated in various ways.
 - “The purpose of the PTAP is to generate employment and to improve the general economy by assisting business firms in obtaining and performing under federal, state and local government contracts.” **MLF 2012 Volume: 6, Issue: 5 (June)**
 - “The DoD Procurement Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program was established by Congress in 1985. The purpose of the program is to generate employment and to improve the general economy of a locality by assisting business firms in obtaining and performing under federal, state, and local government contracts.” **DLA Small Business Website –July 2, 2012**
 - “Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §2418, the procurement technical assistance furnished by eligible entities assisted by DOD under this program includes technical assistance relating to contracting and subcontracting opportunities with DOD, other Federal agencies and/or State and local governments.” **2011 SCAA**
2. The PTAC Mission, briefly stated, is to provide assistance to businesses that are selling to, or have the potential to sell to, federal, state, and local governments.
 - “PTACs provide day-to-day assistance to firms seeking to do business with federal agencies and state and local governments in the form of such services as helping prepare bids/proposals, marketing to potential buyers, establishing electronic commerce capability, setting up or improving quality assurance and accounting systems, and resolving payment problems. This specialized and professional assistance may consist of but is not limited to outreach and counseling type services.

Participants in this program are expected to seek out and assist small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, historically underutilized business zone small business concerns, veteran-owned small businesses (VOSB) including service-disabled VOSB, and historically black colleges and minority institutions. Participants also provide assistance to large businesses seeking small businesses of all types with whom to subcontract.” **Military Logistics Forum 2012 Volume: 6 Issue: 5 (June)**
3. The Procurement Technical Assistance Program was established by legislation in 1985.
 - “The DoD Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) was established by Congress in 1985 to provide DoD assistance to eligible entities by sharing the cost of establishing new and/or maintaining existing procurement technical assistance programs.” **Military Logistics Forum 2012 Volume: 6, Issue: 5 (June)**

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4. The DoD Procurement Technical Assistance Centers website includes links to individual programs
 - “The Defense Logistics Agency, on behalf of the Secretary of Defense, administers the DoD Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP). . . . PTA Centers are a local resource available at no or nominal cost that can provide assistance to business firms in marketing products and services to the Federal, state and local governments.” **DLA PTAP Page**
5. There is a difference between Cooperative Agreements, in which money is provided to carry out a public purpose, and Contracts, which are used to purchase products and services.
 - “Cooperative Agreements are different from contracts. A Cooperative Agreement is an assistance instrument where the principal purpose is to transfer funds to a person or entity to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the U.S. On the other hand, a contract is used to acquire goods or services for the U.S. government.” **MLF 2012 Volume: 6, Issue: 5 (June).**
 - Furthermore, Cooperative Agreements form a collaborative relationship between the sponsoring agency and the organization awarded the agreement in which participation is expected from both parties in achieving the stated objectives.
 - Cooperative Agreements are also different from grants, in that the funding agency has a direct role to participate in operating the program it funds with a CSCA, whereas its role in performance of a grant-funded program is primarily oversight. Accountability is the recipient's responsibility with a grant, whereas in a CSCA the funding agency shares accountability with the recipient.
6. Individual programs are established (and continued) under cost sharing cooperative agreements to provide a local resource, available at no or nominal cost, that can provide assistance to business firms in marketing their products and services. DLA issues *Notices of Proposed Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement Applications (SCAA)* in the Federal Register. SCAA documents are posted on the DLA Website. Note: “*The Defense Logistics Agency, on behalf of the Secretary of Defense, administers the DoD PTAP.*”

REFERENCES

- **MLF 2012 Volume: 6 Issue: 5 (June)**
<http://www.military-logistics-forum.com/military-logistics-forum/411-mlf-2012-volume-6-issue-5-june/5588-dod-procurement-technical-assistance-program.html>
- **DLA Small Business Page**

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<http://www.dla.mil/SmallBusiness/Pages/default.aspx>

- **DLA PTAP Page**

<http://www.dla.mil/smallbusiness/pages/ptap.aspx>

- **DLA SCAA Page**

<http://www.dla.mil/smallbusiness/pages/scaa.aspx>

- **2011 SCAA**

<http://www.dla.mil/SmallBusiness/Documents/SCAA2011.pdf>

- **2008 SCAA**

http://icainfo.org/SCAA_2008_Draft.pdf

- **10 USC 142**

<http://uscode.house.gov/download/pls/10C142.txt>

- **Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts**

<http://www.hjf.org/guide/grants>