

APTAC Body of Knowledge Competency Guide

D. Specialized Knowledge

D.6 Mentor Protégé Program

Description

Background:

Congress mandated in the National Defense Authorization Act of 1991 (PL 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2302) that the Department of Defense set up a mentor protégé pilot program. Since then, a number of other Federal agencies through their OSDBU offices have instituted Mentor Protégé programs. Each program differs slightly regarding eligibility requirements and application process; however, many of the core aspects of mentor protégé programs are the same.

Until the passage of the Small Business Jobs Act 2010(PL 111-240), the most restrictive mentor protégé program was SBA's which limited its mentor protégé program participation to 8a companies. With the passage of the Jobs Act, the SBA has the authority to establish mentor protégé programs for WOSB, HUBZone and SDVOB similar to that for 8a companies. The SBA 8a mentor protégé program is unique because it allows an exemption from affiliation under many circumstances and allows 8a firms and large business mentors to Joint Venture on 8a and small business set-asides. It remains to be seen if this will be the case as SBA institutes new mentor protégé programs for WOSB, HUBZone and SDVOB businesses.

Because of agency program differences, it is advisable to go to the particular federal agency website to review requirements for participation in their mentor protégé program or contact the agency representative in charge of the Mentor protégé program.

Agencies links for Mentor Protégé programs:

- Small Business Administration: <http://www.sba.gov/content/mentor-prot%C3%A9g%C3%A9-program>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.sbo.faa.gov/MENTORPROTEGEPROGRAM.cfm>
- NASA: <http://osbp.nasa.gov/mentor.html>
- Department of Transportation: <http://www.osdbu.dot.gov/DBEProgram/final/final60.cfm>
- Veterans Affairs: <http://www.va.gov/OSDBU/veteran/mpp.asp>
- Department of Energy: <http://diversity.doe.gov/business/mentor-protege.htm>
- General Service Administration: <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/105301>
- USAID guide: http://www.usaid.gov/business/small_business/MPP%20Guide%20Mentors%20and%20Proteges.pdf
- Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.hhs.gov/about/smallbusiness/m-pindex.html>
- Department of Treasury: <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sb-programs/Pages/dcfo-osdbu-mentor-protege-index.aspx>

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- DOD: http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/mentor_protege/
- Navy: <http://www.donhq.navy.mil/osbp/programs/mentor-protege.html>
- Army: <http://www.sellintoarmy.info/user/showpage.aspx?sectionID=12>
- Air Force: <http://airforcesmallbiz.org/small-business-programs/support/mentor-protege.php>

Common Elements of Agency Mentor Protégé Programs:

- Established eligibility criteria for both mentors and protégés
- Formal Application process
- Required written agreement between mentor and protégé
- Developmental assistance plan
- Period of performance
- Measurement of program success
- Incentives for Prime Contractor participation

Benefits of the Mentor Protégé Program (s): The mentor firm, the small business and the federal agency all benefit from a mentor protégé program. The Department of Homeland Security mentor protégé site lists the following as some of the benefits for protégé participants: protégés may receive technical, managerial, financial, or any other mutually agreed upon benefit from mentors including work that flows from a government or commercial contract through subcontracting or teaming arrangements. The assistance could result in significant small business development.

References

DOD Mentor Protégé Program DFARS Subpart 219.17:

http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/dfars/pdf/r20101124/219_71.pdf

DHS Mentor Protégé Program http://www.dhs.gov/xopnbiz/smallbusiness/editorial_0716.shtm