

Introduction to Federal Contracting

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CONNECTING MILITARY AND BUSINESS

NCMBC.us

Disclaimer

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Agenda

- **Welcome**
- North Carolina federal market overview
- How the government purchases goods and services
- Federal contracting – business development programs
- Leveraging the market – NCMBC services, tools
- Getting started in the market
- Finding opportunities and next steps



Welcome

Each year, the government awards hundreds of billions of dollars in federal contracts to businesses like yours to meet the needs of the military and federal agencies. The government's goal is to award at a minimum **23 percent** of those contracts to small businesses.



Welcome

To sell your products or services to the federal government, your business **must meet specific requirements**. Although the contracting process can seem complicated and overwhelming at first, the government provides information and tips to help you learn to compete as a federal contractor in North Carolina.



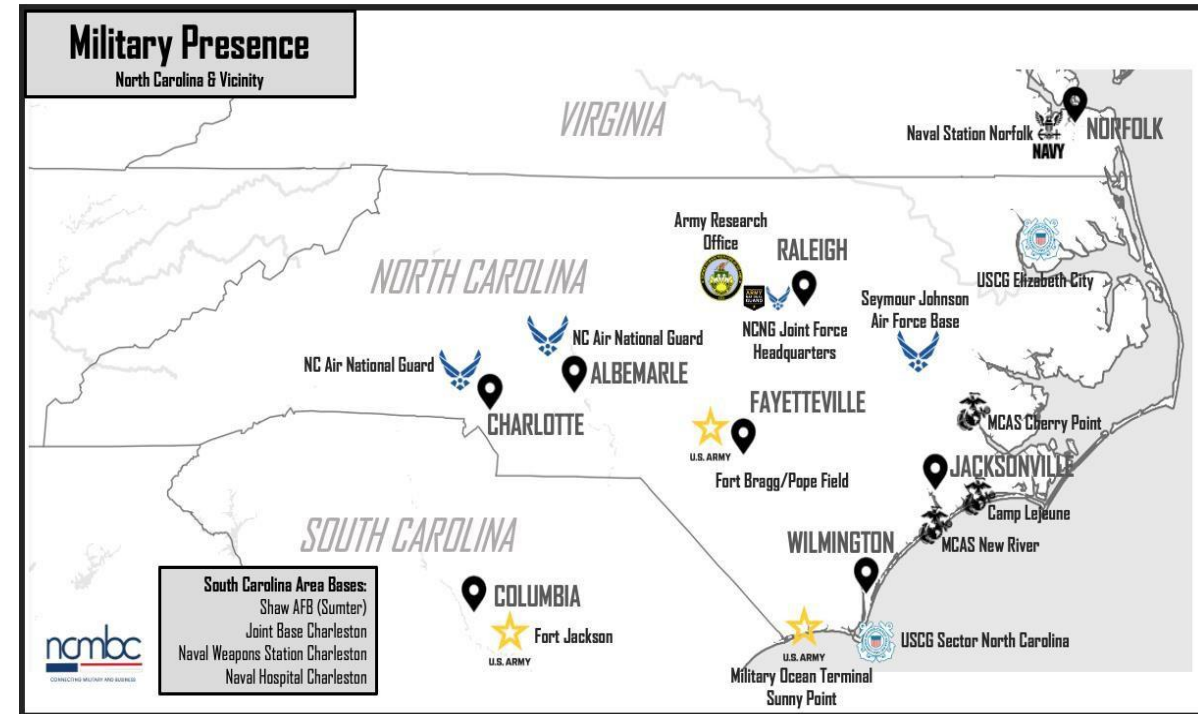
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Situation: Military Presence

- **4th highest military presence in US**
- 6 major installations (5 DoD/1 DHS)
- Over 100 National Guard & Reserve facilities
- 130,000 active, Guard and Reserve personnel
- 18,000 annual transitions



Situation: Military Impact on NC Economy

Total Annual Impact: \$79.7 billion*	Gross State Product: 12.7%
Military/civilian payroll: \$19.2 billion	(Second largest sector of NC economy)
Over 653,000 jobs impacted	Personal income: \$49 billion
Federal contracts, FY25: \$10.60 billion**	DoD contracts, FY24: \$6.98 billion**
Subcontracts: additional billions	

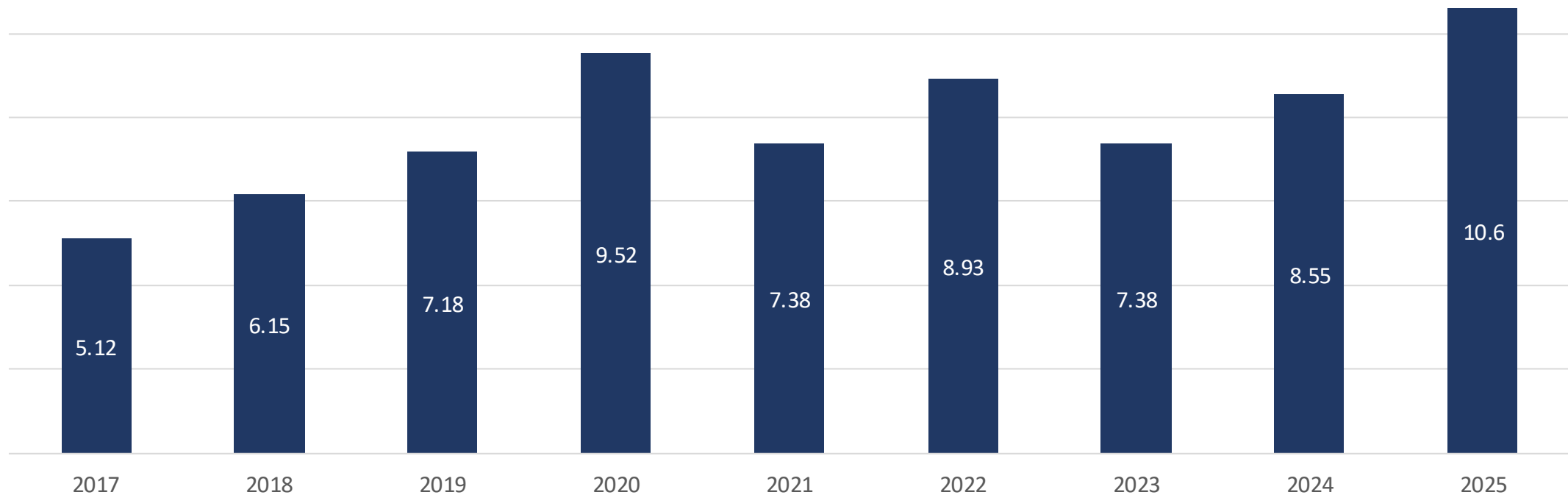
* "The Economic Impact of the Military on North Carolina," NC Department of Commerce, 2022

**Federal Procurement Data System



Situation: Federal Procurement FY2025

Prime contracts, all Federal in NC: **\$10.60 billion** (98 of 100 Counties)

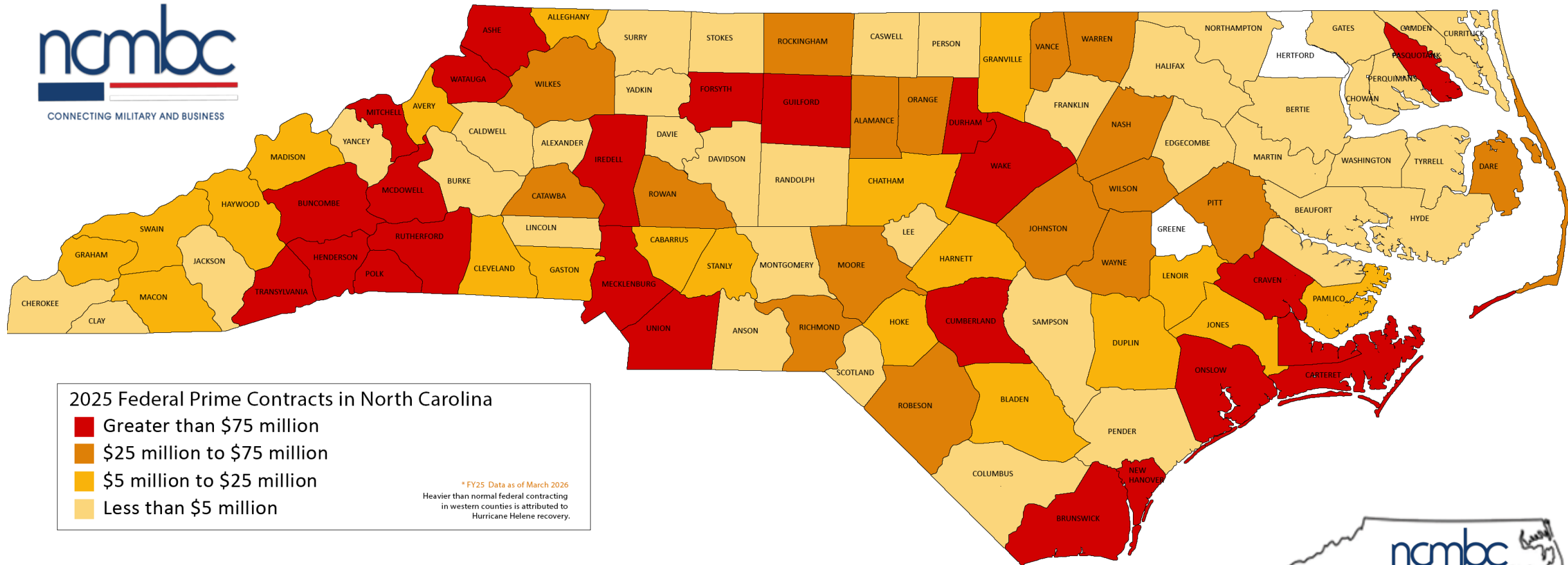


Prime contracts, DoD in NC: **\$6.98 billion** (85 of 100 Counties)

**FY2025 Data: SAM.gov, as of March 2026*



Situation: Federal Procurement, FY2025



Positioning Your Business to Engage

- Need computer and **internet access** - the government does everything online
- Best for firms with at least **two years of sales**, in business for two years
- Record of experience and **(good) past performance** - commercial and subcontracting past performance is acceptable
- Must be competitive, as well as **technically and financially capable**
- High competition – no easy sales, not a lifesaver for struggling businesses, **teaming often critical**



Positioning Your Business to Engage

Research

In order to bid on and win government contracts, you'll need to know what products and services the government buys — and at what price. Spend time upfront to make sure there's a market for your product(s) or service(s), determine how big the market is and find potential buyers.

Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS)

The Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation is the repository of all federal contracting data for contracts over \$25,000. You can see which agencies have contracts and with who, what agencies buy, and which contractors have contracts.



Positioning Your Business to Engage

USASPENDING.gov

[USASpending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov) tracks government spending through the contracts it awards. This searchable database contains information for each federal contract. You can use this information to help identify government purchasing trends by county and state.

Federal Agency Procurement Forecasts

Each government agency releases a procurement forecast that includes contracting opportunities for small businesses. You can review these Agency Recurring Procurement Forecasts to find out if there are agencies that buy what you sell. Data is loaded on www.ncmbc.us **future opps database**.



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How the Government Purchases Goods and Services

- “Who’s Who” and “What’s What” in federal acquisition
 - Users (with requirements)
 - Contracting Offices (acquire goods, services for users)
 - Federal acquisition regulations (and supplements)



How the Government Purchases Goods and Services

Prioritized Sources

- Agency inventories
- Other agency excess
- [Federal Prison Industries](#)
- [Ability One](#)
- Wholesale supply sources (Defense Logistics Agency, [DLA](#))
- General Services administration, mandatory, then optional federal supply schedules ([GSA](#))



How the Government Purchases Goods and Services

- **Prioritized Sources**
- Commercial sources including:
 - Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts ([IDIQ](#))
 - Multiple Award Construction Contract ([MACC](#)) (construction)
 - Multiple Award Task Order Contract ([MATOC](#)) (construction)
 - Single Award Task Order Contract ([SATOC](#))
 - Sole Source Set Aside
 - **Competitive**



How the Government Purchases Goods and Services

- Rules depend on the “color of money” and value of the procurement
- **Non-Appropriated Funds**: monies derived from **sources other than Congressional appropriations** and commissary surcharge funds, primarily from the sale of goods and services to DoD military and civilian personnel and their family members that are used to support Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs.
- **Appropriated Funds**: monies allocated by legislation **passed by Congress** and signed by the President. Appropriated Funds are usually specified in Congress's yearly budget or continuing resolution. Appropriated Funds may only be used for the purpose for which they were appropriated.



How the Government Purchases Goods and Services

Non-Appropriated Funds

- Spent by MWR (Army), MCCS (Marines) to support troops
- No need to register anywhere (but you should)
- Rules and processes are simple
 - If <\$10,000, competition is not required
 - \$10,000 to \$150,000 must solicit two sources
 - Purchases >\$150,000 a minimum of three qualified sources.

Market your business directly to the buyers



How the Government Purchases Goods and Services

- **Appropriated Funds**

- Government seeks to give businesses a fair chance to compete
- Government may use “best value” - may not be lowest price
- Purchasing Laws are followed in accordance to:
 - [Code of Federal Regulation](#)
 - Federal Acquisition Regulation ([FAR](#))
 - Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation ([DFAR](#)), or...
 - Other Federal Agency Supplements



How the Government Purchases Goods and Services

- **Appropriated Funds**

- Micro Purchases – Up to \$15,000
 - Buyer only has to solicit one source
 - Price must be reasonable
 - Usually paid by [Government Purchase Card \(GPC\)](#)
 - Many federal employees have GPC's and make small purchases everyday



How the Government Purchases Goods and Services

- **Appropriated Funds**

- Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT), up to \$25,000
 - Set-aside for small business (SB)
 - SB dealer/distributor may offer product of any size manufacturer
 - Handled by contracting officers
 - Assigned by commodity
 - 3 quotes from **vendors they know and locate**
 - Award based on low best price/delivery requirements



How the Government Purchases Goods and Services

Appropriated Funds

- Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT), \$25,000 - \$350,000*
 - Usually set aside for small business (SB)
 - Under SB set aside, dealer/distributor must sell product of small business manufacturer
 - May use "Best Value," not always the lowest price
 - Solicitations posted on [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

• * Exceptions to the limit exist for CONUS/OCONUS contingency operations, disaster prevention/response/recovery



How the Government Purchases Goods and Services

Appropriated Funds

- Purchases over \$350,000
 - Subject to other federal business development programs
 - Past Performance will be a factor in the decision process
 - May require a technical proposal
 - More formal process - **must follow instructions** in the Request for Quote (RFQ) or Request for Proposal (RFP)



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Federal Contacting – Business Development Programs

- Federal Government has instituted business development programs to meet **national policy goals**
- Firms that qualify:
 - May receive contracts on a sole source basis
 - May only have to compete with similar firms
 - May get a price preference
 - Help the Government agency meet its goals
 - Help prime contractors meet their goals



Federal Contracting – Business Development Programs

- Business development programs and federal government goals:
- Small Business Concerns – **23% of all contract value**, with subsets:
 - HUBZone Small Business Concerns – **3%**
 - Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses – **5%**
 - Small Disadvantaged Businesses – **5%**
 - Women-Owned Small Businesses – **5%**
- Source: US SBA, Federal Contracting, Contracting assistance programs <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs>,



Federal Contacting – Business Development Programs

- **Small Business Concerns**

- Firm must: be for-profit, independently operated, located in US, not
 - “nationally dominant,” and meet size standards for “small:”
 - **Vary by North American Industry Classification System Code**
 - May be based on # of employees, or average annual receipts over the last 3 complete fiscal years (or 5 years)
 - Include the parent and/or affiliate companies
- Firm may be SB for one product/service, large for others

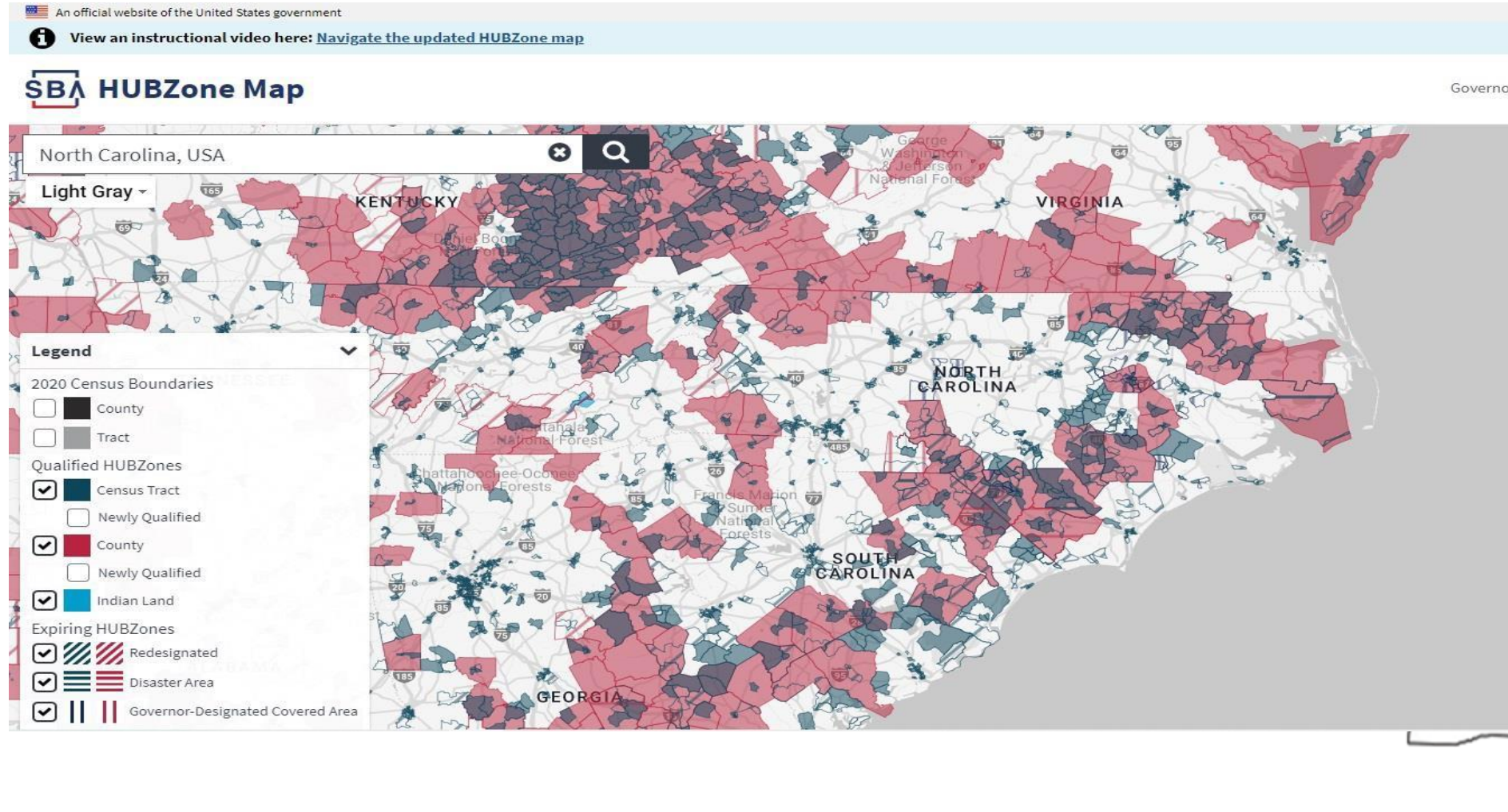


Federal Contacting – Business Development Programs

- **HUBZone Program**
- **Census tracts** designated based on median income or unemployment
 - Must be SBC, 51% US-owned, with principal office and 35% of employees living in a HUBZone; apply to SBA for certification
 - Eligible for sole source, set-asides, price preference (10% in full and open competitions)
 - Example: [Reprogram Chiller](#)



Federal Contacting – Business Development Programs



Federal Contacting – Business Development Programs

Veteran Assistance Programs

- Must be SBC, at least **51%** owned, controlled and operated by service-
 - disabled veteran(s)
- Owner(s) needs disability **rating letter** from VA
- As of 1 JAN 2023, must be **SBA Certified** for VA contracts under **Veterans First Contracting**
- Eligible for **sole source contracts and set-asides**
- Example: **Sign Language Interpretation and CART Services**



Federal Contacting – Business Development Programs

- **Small Disadvantaged (SDB) and 8(a) Business Development Program**
 - SBC must be at least **51%** owned & controlled by a socially **and**
 - economically disadvantaged individual (8a-“potential for success”)
 - “Socially” **includes all minority groups**; others may justify status
 - **8(a) requires SBA certification** - **SDBs self-certify**; size/control same
 - **8(a) allows sole source/set asides** - SDB for agency goals only
 - Example 8(a) set-aside: [Repair and Restore Parking Apron](#)



Federal Contacting – Business Development Programs

Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Programs

- SBCs at least **51%** owned, controlled, operated by woman(en)
- Additional requirements for Economically Disadvantaged (EDWOSBs)
- Certification: as of 15 Oct 2020, you must certify by the SBA at
 - <https://wosb.certify.sba.gov/>. **No more self-certifying.**
- Contracts in **444 NAICS codes** (sectors WOSBs were disadvantaged) qualify for set-aside/sole source in the “WOSB Federal Contracting Program,” including 80 NAICS for EDWOSBs only
- Example: [Procurement of Backshells](#)

- * SBA may require supplemental information



Federal Contacting – Business Development Programs

- **All-Small Mentor-Protégé Program**
 - Approved mentor-protégés can form joint ventures (JV)
 - **JVs can compete for small business set-asides**, including WOSB, VOSB and HUBZone contracts
- **Natural Resource Sales Assistance Program**
 - Set-asides allow SBCs to compete for national resources contracts
 - Rules depend on type of natural resources



Federal Contacting – Business Development Programs

- **Subcontracting Opportunities**

- Federal subcontracts = commercial contracts between two firms
- Subcontracting plan required for awards to other SBC primes when
 - Contract value exceeds \$750,000 (\$1.5 million for construction)
 - SBCs can execute at fair market value, without disrupting performance
- **Large primes have goals** for SBCs, HUBZone, SDVOSB, SDB, WOSBs
- May be the best market for new contractors, initially
- Access sub opportunities via NCMBC events,
www.ncmbc.us, [SBA Subnet](#)



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Who We Are

- The **NCMBC** is a statewide, business development and technology transition **entity of the State of North Carolina**, embedded in the state's community colleges and headquartered at Fayetteville Technical Community College.
- Totally State-funded, the **NCMBC** is the **only statewide, military-focused economic development entity in the US**, and the only NC entity solely focused on growing the defense economy through existing industry.



Mission, Goals and Outcomes

- **Mission:** To leverage military and federal business opportunities to expand the economy, grow jobs and improve quality of life
- **Goals and Operations:**
 - 1 - **Increase** federal revenues for businesses
 - 2 - **Support** integration of military into workforce
 - 3 - Support defense-related **business recruitment**
 - 4 - Support **technology transition** to federal agencies
- **Outcomes:** Contracts (6,934), revenues (\$18.92b), jobs!

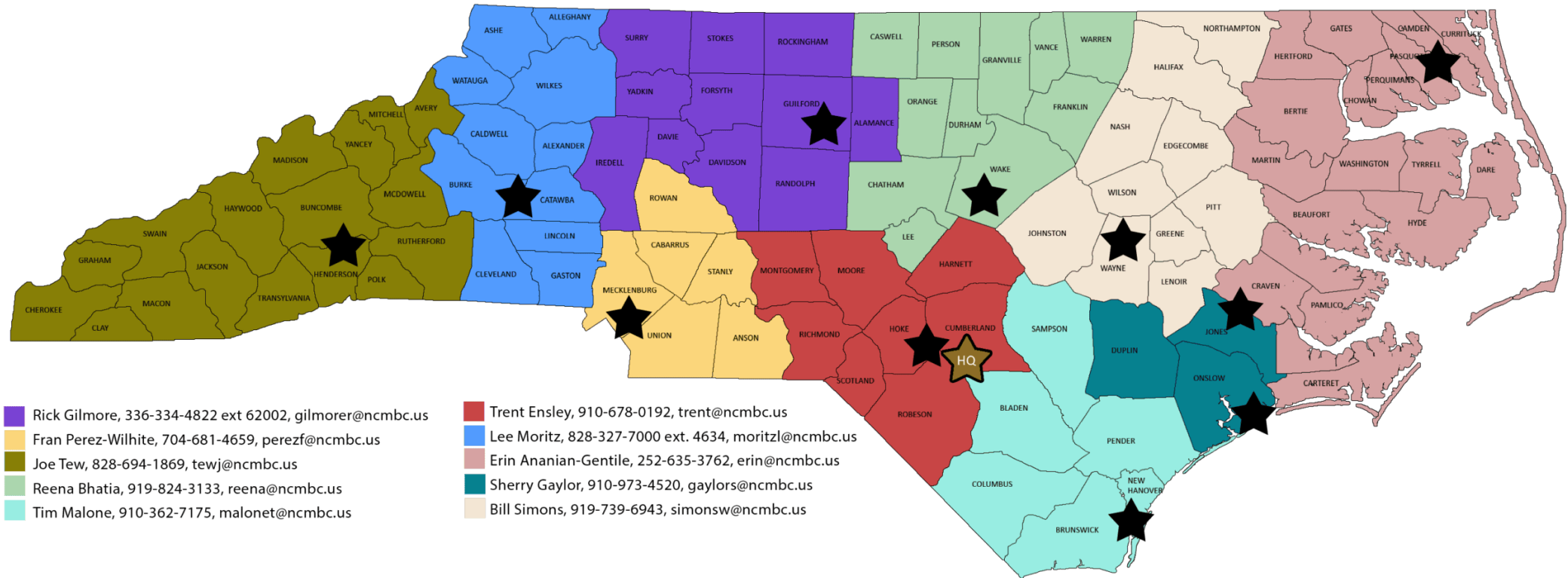


Operations: Business Development

Operations at Colleges	Future Opportunities	Current Opportunities
Recruit to market	Identify, analyze	ID, analyze most lucrative
Engage in market	Connect to businesses	Connect to businesses
Training, webinars	Market intelligence	Solicitation support
Counseling, 1-on-1	Pre-positioning	Proposal support
Events, statewide	Teaming, subcontracting	Contract execution



Operations: Business Development Team



Rick Gilmore, 336-334-4822 ext 62002, gilmore@ncmbc.us
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Operations: Business Development

Unverified NCMBC: Federal Contract Opportunities for 08/01/2026

noreply@salesforce.com <noreply@salesforce.com> on behalf of
NC Military Business Center <admin@ncmbc.us>
To: Jaycie Beam

Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 7:01 AM



NC Military Business Center
An official entity of the State of North Carolina

FEDERAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
08/01/2026

The North Carolina Military Business Center's (NCMBC) Regional Program Manager team identifies high-value contract opportunities, notifies and positions businesses for those opportunities, and assists clients in understanding government solicitations, developing competitive proposals, and successfully executing federal contracts.

The table below highlights a selection of newly released federal business opportunities that North Carolina businesses are encouraged to pursue. Please share these opportunities with companies in your region that may be qualified to perform the work. Click on each "Opportunity Title" to view additional details.

YOUR REGIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER (RPM)
Lee Moritz
moritzl@ncmbc.us

Agency	Opportunity Title	Type	PSC	NAICS	RPM	Response Date
AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF FOREST SERVICE, USDA-FS, CSA EAST 12	North Mills River Campground	Total Small Business Set-Aside (FAR	Y1FB	236220	Tim Malone	Friday September 04 13:00:00 EDT

- **Daily email** from NCMBC HQ
- Contains **screened/matched** federal opportunities from NCMBC BD staff. Your match will be highlighted based on your registration.



Operations: 2026 & 2027 Major Events

- Medical, Biomedical & Biodefense Symposium (SEPT 24-25, Chapel Hill)
- Defense Industrial Sustainment for Combat Systems Summit (TBD, 2027)
- SE Region Federal Construction, Infrastructure Summit (APR 20-22, 2027
Wilmington)
- Federal and Defense Textile & Tactical Equipment Summit (MAY 25-26,
2027, Hickory)





CONNECTING MILITARY AND BUSINESS

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CONNECTING MILITARY AND BUSINESS

Business Development Support for Federal Contractors

CONTACT NCMBC

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Getting Started in the Market

- **Identify your business and capabilities**
 - Obtain an Employer ID Number (EIN/TIN) from the [IRS](#)
 - UEI when you register in SAM
 - Identify all NAICS codes that may apply to your products/services
 - Wholesaler, dealer, distributor, manufacturer
 - NAICS Lookup on [US Census Bureau NAICS](#)



Getting Started in the Market

- **Identify your products and services**
 - Identify your [Federal Supply Class Codes](#) (2 Digit)
 - Identify your [Product Service Codes](#) (4 Characters)
 - [Acquisition.gov Product and Service Code Manual](#)
 - Products: digit in first position
 - Services, R&D: letter in first position



Getting Started in the Market

Determine if your business is a **small business concern (sbc)**

- Size standards vary by NAICS code
- Businesses may be a sbc for one and not small for other NAICs
- Include parent and/or affiliate companies
- Most businesses will qualify as sbcs:
 - manufacturing businesses with **<500 employees**
 - non-manufacturing businesses with **average annual receipts for last three full FYs under \$7.5 million**
- SBA [Table of Small Business Size Standards](#)

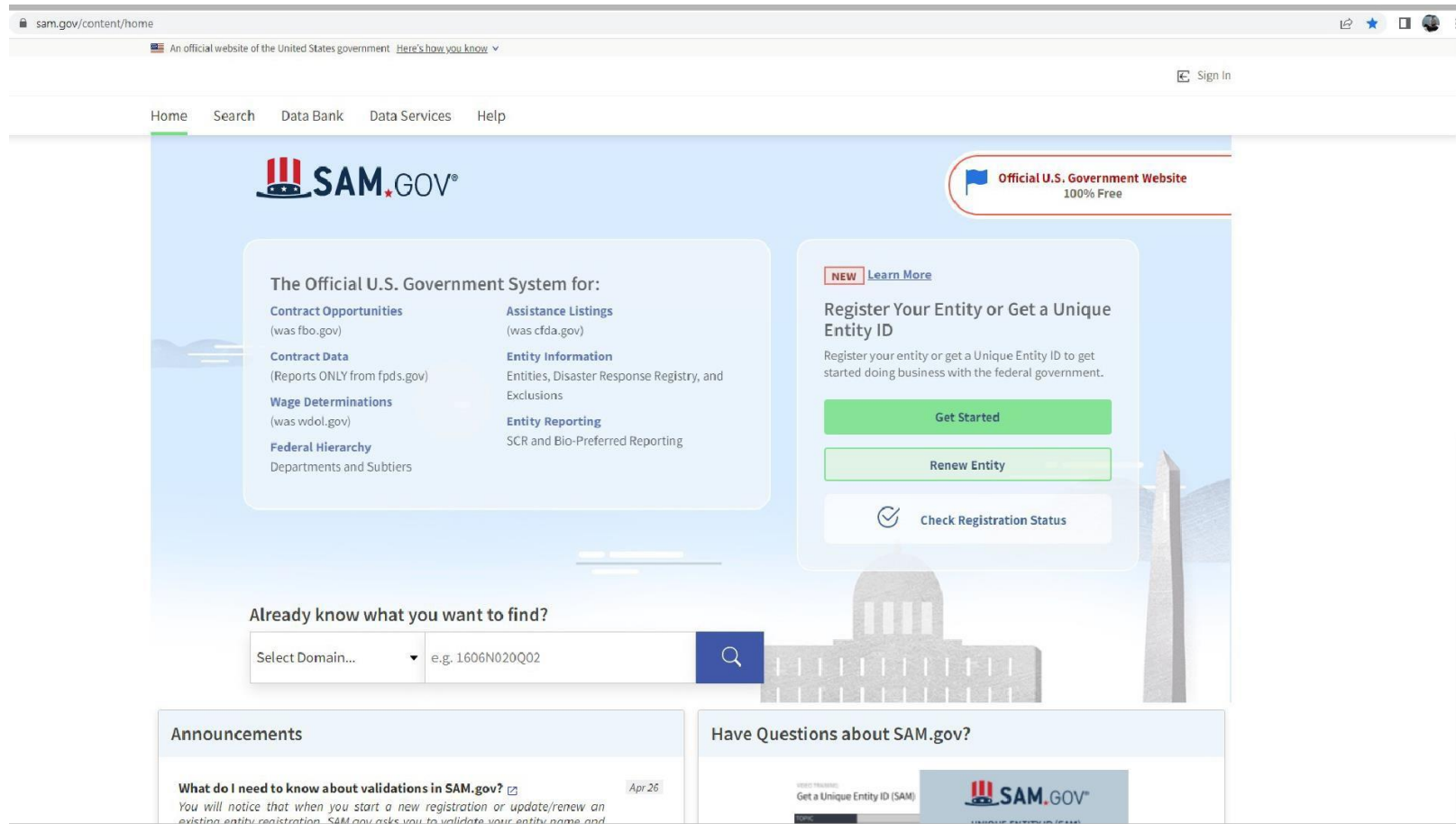


Getting Started in the Market

- Register in [System for Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](https://sam.gov)
 - SAM.gov is an official, free website of the U.S. government
 - Register to do federal contracting
 - Check status, update or **renew (annually)** entity registration
 - Search for entity registration and exclusion records
- **Registration in SAM.gov is mandatory** before award of a contract vehicle
- Complete the “SBA Supplemental Pages” to transfer entity data into the SBA Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS) database
- Results in assignment of **CAGE Code**, allows electronic payment which is mandatory



Getting Started in the Market



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Finding Opportunities and Next Steps

NCMBC Business Development Team

http://www.ncmbc.us/contact-us-ncmbc_staff/

SAM.gov

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



Sources Sought

- A request for information (RFI), or a solicitation of interest, from an agency. The RFI may help an agency **understand the interests and capabilities of businesses** that would submit proposals for a future contract. A sources sought notice may or may not be followed by a solicitation.
- Example [Four-terminal Guarded Coaxial Scanner](#)



Pre-Solicitation Notice

- A notice about contract opportunity **proposals will open in the future**. The notice may ask interested businesses to submit information, which may help the agency determine whether the contract should be reserved for businesses that qualify for certain types of set-asides.
- Example [Land-based Air Conditioner](#)



Solicitation

- Any request to submit offers or quotations to the Government.
- Solicitations under sealed bid procedures are called “invitations for bids.” Solicitations under negotiated procedures are called “requests for proposals.”
- Solicitations under simplified acquisition procedures may require submission of either a quotation or an offer.
- Example [88th Army Band Musical Instruments](#)



Combined Synopsis/Solicitation

- A combination of a synopsis of an opportunity and the solicitation for that opportunity, **used for commercial items** to streamline the acquisition process
- Example [29—Radiator, Engine COO](#)



Award

- When a federal agency awards a contract in response to a solicitation, it may choose to upload a notice of the award to allow the public to view which vendor received the awarded contract and the contract amount awarded. Requirements for posting award notices vary based upon the agency and the solicitation.
- Example [68—Gas, Natural, Dry](#)



Justification

- A contracting office may need to document the contract file regarding the **accuracy of a decision and obtain required approvals.** Details for the content of a justification are specific to the action being accomplished
- Example [Spiral 4 Justification for Exception to Fair Opportunity](#)



Finding Opportunities and Next Steps

- **What you need to do:**
 - Become web-enabled to find contracts
 - Learn the basic rules of contracting
 - Learn to describe your business and your products/services (UEI, NAICS, CAGE, FSC and PSC codes)
 - Develop marketing materials and capabilities statements: in “government speak”
 - Follow the checklist on www.ncmbc.us!
 - Register: SAM.gov



Finding Opportunities and Next Steps

- **What you need to do:**
 - **Certify** with the Small Business Administration (SBA) for Contracting Programs
 - **Monitor Opportunities:** SAM.gov, etc.
 - Respond to opportunities, including Sources Sought and Requests for Information
 - **Network with prime contractors** for subcontract opportunities
 - **Leverage resources** – Join networks/connecting organizations, use NCMBC/SBTDC/SBA/SBC and attend EVENTS!



Contact Information



- **Scott Dorney**, Executive Director, scott@ncmbc.us
- **Courtney Smedick**, Operations Director, courtney@ncmbc.us
- **Jimmy Hendrix**, Director of Regional Programs, hendrixm@ncmbc.us
- **Lee Moritz**, RPM Hickory NC Moritzl@ncmbc.us

