

## GSA's Office of Small Business Utilization

GSA's Office of Small Business Utilization (OSBU) advocates for small, small disadvantaged, veteran, service-disabled veteran-owned, HUBZone, and women business owners. Its mission is to promote increased access to GSA's nationwide procurement opportunities.

OSBU monitors and implements small business policies and manages a range of programs required by law. GSA's small business programs nurture entrepreneurial opportunities, open doors to new business horizons, and enhance technological capabilities.

OSBU's outreach activities make it possible for the small business community to meet key contracting experts and be counseled on the procurement process. These activities include:

- ◆ Procurement networking sessions;
- ◆ Marketing strategies and techniques workshops;
- ◆ Electronic commerce/electronic data interchange training sessions;
- ◆ Interagency networking breakfasts;
- ◆ Trade missions;
- ◆ Roundtables; and
- ◆ Procurement conferences.

Business activities are supported by program experts at GSA headquarters, through Small Business Utilization Centers in 11 Regional Offices, and by small business technical advisors in the GSA National Office. GSA Regional Offices are located in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Fort Worth, Denver, San Francisco, Auburn (Washington), Washington, DC.

**Mentor-Protégé Program:** Starting September 14, 2009, GSA prime contractors will be able to assist small businesses through GSA's new Mentor-Protégé Program. Check <http://www.gsa.gov/sbu> for updated with information on how GSA will implement the new program and how the Office of Small Business Utilization will work with GSA contracting officers and industry partners in making this program a success.

OSBU is responsible for the scope of small business programs mandated by law. Every federal agency is required by the Small Business Act of 1953, as amended by Public Law 95-507, to establish an office that reports to and advises the head of the agency on the implementation functions and duties under this act.

For more information, go to <http://www.gsa.gov/sbu>.

Taken from <http://www.gsa.gov/sbu>