

VA



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Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

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@VAVetBiz NEWS

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FALL 2018 ISSUE

Thank you for reading *@VAVetBiz NEWS*, the quarterly newsletter for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU).

We refreshed our look to strengthen our commitment to offer you quick access to the latest news, information, and resources relevant to the Veteran small business community. We encourage you to tell us what you think and welcome your feedback via our [survey](#). To learn more about VA OSDBU, visit www.va.gov/osdbu.

We look forward to continuing to serve you.

IN THIS ISSUE:

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

3 DAYS + 2 EVENTS + 1 PLACE = ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

VA NOW USES SBA ELIGIBILITY RULES

SBA AND VA JOIN FORCES TO ADVANCE VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP



What's New With VA OSDBU

Note from the Director

Coordinated for the eighth year by VA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), the 2018 National Veterans Small Business Engagement (NVSBE) Targeted Industry Engagement event was held in New Orleans the last week in October. This was 3 days, 2 major events, and 1 location with Endless Opportunities.

Focused on the construction industry, the 2018 NVSBE was supported by 208 VA employees, and attracted 1,044 small businesses and 301 large businesses. The annual event provides visible demonstration to all stakeholders of VA's commitment to enable Veteran-Owned Small Businesses access to economic opportunities.

Co-located this year with Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Small Business Conference, NVSBE is the centerpiece of the OSDBU Direct Access Program which enables Veteran-Owned Small Businesses and other small and large businesses to add value to VA procurement projects by providing them with direct access to VA, other federal agency and commercial buyers. VA's commitment to the construction related industry included a FY 18 budget of \$5.9 Billion with an additional budget of approximately \$2 Billion for FY 2019. Both fiscal year construction budgets will be extended to use in future years. This also includes more than 850 projects on Strategic Capital Investment Planning (Minor Construction and Non-Recurring Maintenance) and 3,400 future projects (Minor Construction and Non-Recurring Maintenance).

One of the more visible highlights of the NVSBE took place on November 1, 2018 when VA

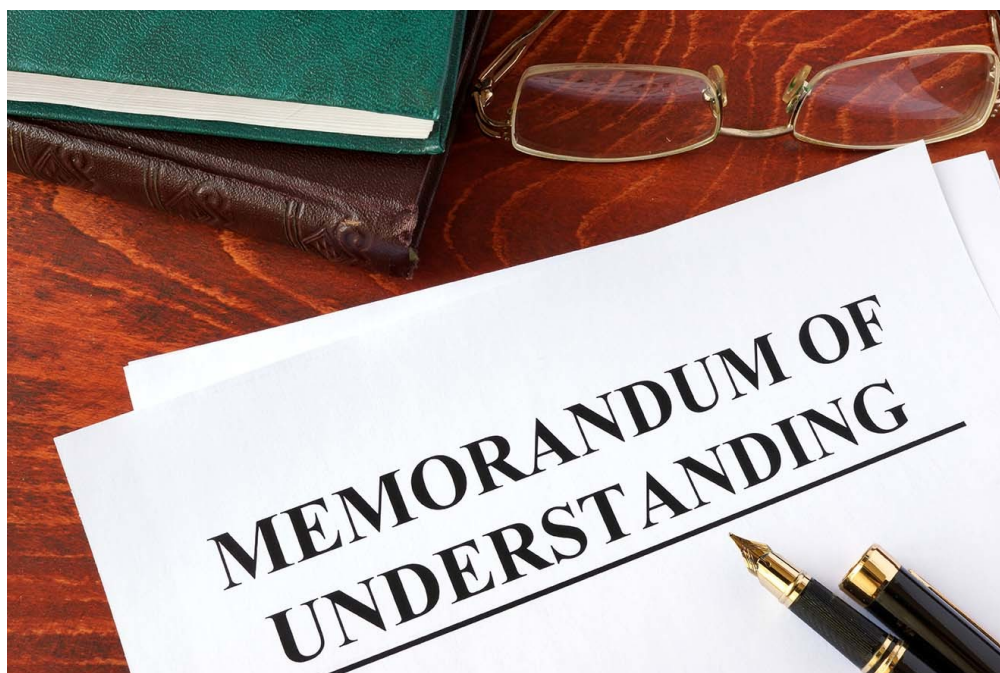
Secretary Robert Wilkie and Administrator Linda McMahon, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced a new partnership dedicated to supporting Veteran Entrepreneurial Programs.

Secretary Wilkie and Administrator McMahon signed a Memo of Understanding between the SBA and VA to collaborate and scale a new pilot program that will offer intensive management and leadership training for Veteran entrepreneurs.

3 Days + 2 Events + 1 Place = Endless Opportunities

For three days at the end of fall, more than 1,300 businesses gathered in New Orleans to share information about their products and services directly with buyers and decision makers. This unique opportunity was the result of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) co-locating VA's National Veterans Small Business Engagement (NVSBE) and SAME's Small Business Conference. Both events focused on construction services and started small businesses on the path to compete for more than \$5.9 billion in VA construction opportunities.

Take an inside look at NVSBE, [view photo highlights](#) from the event. Increase your opportunity to compete for business, make sure you are at the next event! In addition, view the video of [VA Secretary Honorable Robert Wilkie During His Visit in New Orleans](#).



VA Now Uses SBA Eligibility Rules

VA began using the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) regulations governing the ownership and control of Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSB) and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) on October 1. By consolidating the eligibility requirements for SDVOSBs and VOSBs, the SBA and VA hope to eliminate confusion.

This change does not move the verification process from VA to SBA. VA's Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE), a subdivision of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), will continue to verify that firms meet the ownership and control requirements under the regulations now provided by SBA. In addition, VA trains and certifies verification assistance counselors who are available to help with issues concerning a company's eligibility. [Find a verification assistance counselor in your area.](#)



SBA and VA Join Forces to Advance Veteran Entrepreneurship

On November 1, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to offer intensive management and leadership training for Veteran entrepreneurs was signed between SBA and VA. SBA Administrator Linda McMahon and VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, announced the partnership between the agencies and the plans to scale this new program. "By signing this MOU between VA and the SBA, we are committing two federal agencies to advance, improve, and expand opportunities for transitioning Servicemembers and Veterans to own their own businesses," says VA Secretary Wilkie. President Donald J. Trump showed his commitment to small

businesses and Veterans by donating his second-quarter salary to the SBA. These donated funds will assist with the development and launch of this new pilot program. [Read more about this SBA, VA partnership.](#) In addition, watch the [video](#) about the MOU that was signed at the 2018 National Veterans Small Business Engagement (NVSBE) in New Orleans, LA.

