

Questions	Answer
<p>How can there be a preference for HUBZone businesses in a VA source selection and not be a preference for SDVOSB and VOSB?</p> <p>Does 38 USC 8127 establish a basis for SDVOSB and VOSB preference above HUBZone, 8a, and other disadvantaged businesses in VA source selection?</p> <p>Does the 8 February 2018 PPM 2018-4 (attached) describe procedures and requirements for award solicitations which include preference to SDVOSB and VOSB above HUBZone, 8a, and other disadvantaged businesses in VA source selection?</p> <p>Does the June 2017 VA Source Selection Guide state the following on Page 18 under the heading Small Business Evaluation: "Pub. L. 109-461 (the Veterans First Contracting Program), requires VA to provide priority and establish special acquisition methods to increase contracting opportunities for SDVOSBs/VOSBs—both above and below the simplified acquisition threshold (SAT). Set-asides under the Veterans First Contracting Program in subpart 819.70 have precedence over other small business set-asides referenced in FAR part 19."?</p> <p>If the answers to questions 2, 3 & 4 above are "yes", then how can a preference for HUBZone businesses exist in a VA source selection, while no credit is provided for SDVOSB or VOSB?</p>	<p>VA Procurement Policy Memorandum (PPM) 2018-04 does not establish a contracting activity requirement to utilize tiered evaluations (cascading) as source selection strategy. PPM 2018-04 establishes guidance and procedures on how to use tiered evaluations.</p> <p>In PPM 2018-04, Paragraph No. 1 (Purpose) states that the PPM "provides guidance, standardized procedures, and required solicitation provisions <u>when employing tiered evaluations for single or multiple-award solicitations.</u>" Paragraph No. 3 (Applicability) states the PPM "applies to all competitive procurements using tiered evaluations. <u>The use of tiered evaluations is not mandatory.</u>"</p> <p>Solicitation No. VA101-17-R0437 is unrestricted (not limited/set-aside for any socio-economic small business category) and is not utilizing a tiered evaluation.</p>
<p>The amendment deletes Appendix C.3 regarding Physical Security Standards. However, there was no Appendix C.3 in the original RLP downloads. Can you ask the VA if this was a mistake?</p>	<p>Appendix C.3 - VA Memo Physical Security Standards for Lease Projects is not included in the RLP. Amendment #1 reflects a revision in Section 1.06 List of RLP Documents and Section 3.02 Receipt of Lease Proposals, removing Appendix C.3 from both lists.</p>
<p>In further exploration of the VAAR regarding contracting considerations for veteran owned businesses, it appears that the following evaluation clause should be included in the RLP:</p> <p>VAAR 852.215-70 Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and Veteran-Owned Small Business Evaluation Factors.</p> <p>Deviation per Class Deviation—Veterans First Contracting Program (VFCP 2016), dated July 25, 2016, revises the clause at VAAR 852.215-70 to update the web address for the VIP database. This deviation is effective until incorporated into the VAAR or the VAAM or is otherwise rescinded.]</p> <p>As prescribed in 815.304–71(a), insert the following clause:</p> <p>SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED AND VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS EVALUATION FACTORS (JUL 2016) (DEVIATION)</p> <p>(a) In an effort to achieve socioeconomic small business goals, depending on the evaluation factors included in the solicitation, VA shall evaluate offerors based on their service-disabled Veteran-owned or Veteran-owned small business status and their proposed use of eligible service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses and Veteran-owned small businesses as subcontractors.</p> <p>(b) Eligible service-disabled Veteran-owned offerors will receive full credit, and offerors qualifying as Veteran-owned small businesses will receive partial credit for the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and Veteran-owned Small Business Status evaluation factor. To receive credit, an offeror must be registered and verified in Vendor Information Pages (VIP) database (https://www.vip.vetbiz.gov).</p> <p>(c) Non-Veteran offerors proposing to use service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses or Veteran-owned small businesses as subcontractors will receive some consideration under this evaluation factor. Offerors must state in their proposals the names of the SDVOSBs and VOSBs with whom they intend to subcontract and provide a brief description of the proposed subcontracts and the approximate dollar values of the proposed subcontracts. In addition, the proposed subcontractors must be registered and verified in the VetBiz.gov VIP database (https://www.vip.vetbiz.gov).</p> <p>Is the VA going to include this clause in the RLP?</p>	<p>As prescribed in <u>815.304–71(a)</u>, the contracting officer shall insert the clause at <u>852.215–71, Evaluation Factor Commitments, in solicitations and contracts that include VAAR clause 852.215–70, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and Veteran-Owned Small Business Evaluation Factors.</u></p> <p>Keep in mind this is a FAR 15.101-2 Lowest price technically acceptable source selection process. As such, award will be made on the basis of the lowest evaluated price of proposals meeting or exceeding the acceptability standards for non-cost factors. <u>Furthermore, Proposals are evaluated for acceptability but not ranked using the non-cost/price factors. This procurement is not considered a set aside, so technical acceptability will not be evaluated for anything other than the minimum requirements set forth in the solicitation.</u></p>