



U.S. Department of Defense Mentor Protégé Program

We assist small businesses in successfully competing for prime contract and subcontract awards by partnering with large companies.

The Mentor-Protégé Program* was established to address technical capability gaps in Small Disadvantaged Businesses (SDBs), hindering prime contractors from meeting SDB subcontracting goals. The program prioritizes education and collaboration to enhance small businesses' competitiveness in the defense marketplace as subcontractors and suppliers.

OBJECTIVES



Increase participation of Small Disadvantaged Women Owned, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned, and HUBZone businesses; organizations employing severely disabled individuals; and non-traditional entities with goods and services critical to the defense supplier base.



Increase the capabilities of small businesses to perform on DoD contracts.



Facilitate and enhance long-term business relationships.



Increase and strengthen the defense industrial base.

TYPES OF AGREEMENTS

Mentor-Protégé Agreements focus on areas of developmental assistance, which can include technology transfer and technical enhancement, cybersecurity readiness, and business infrastructure.

- Reimbursable: Up to \$1M per year for 3 years
- Credit: Small business subcontracting credit to the mentor
- Hybrid: Subcontracting credit for 1 year and reimbursement for an additional 2 years

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE



MENTORS

- Currently performing under an active approved subcontracting plan
- Eligible for Federal contracts
- For-profit business concern



PROTÉGÉS

Small Disadvantaged, Women-Owned, HUBZone, or Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses

OR

Located in a Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone)

*Established November 5, 1990 (Public Law 101-510) and made permanent in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (10 USC 4902).

PROGRAM BENEFITS

MENTORS

- Develop Relationships with Small Businesses
- High-Quality Subcontracting Pool
- Enhance Technical Capabilities
- Pursue New Market Opportunities
- Non-Competitive Subcontracts to Protégés
- Gain Source Selection Past Performance Factor
- Cost Reimbursement or Small Business Contracting Credit



PROTÉGÉS

- Technology Transfer
- Engineering and Technical Training
- Business Infrastructure Enhancement
- Prime Contractor Partnerships
- Subcontracting Opportunities
- Business Development Training
- Competitive Advantage Improvement
- Acquire New Certifications
- Up to 25% Reimbursement for Engineering, Software Development, or Manufacturing Customization (pilot program)



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- 1 Establish a Counterpart:**
Mentors and Protégés are responsible for finding each other.
- 2 Determine Agreement Type:**
Reimbursable, Credit, or Hybrid.
- 3 Develop the Agreement:**
Align developmental assistance with the protégé's strategic vision.
- 4 Submit Agreement Proposal:**
Contact the agency's small business office for submission details.
- 5 Start the Agreement:**
Credit agreements start on approval; reimbursed agreements start when funds are obligated.
- 6 Follow Reporting and Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Review and Reporting Requirements:** These impact the mentor's reimbursement eligibility in the remaining years of direct reimbursement agreements.
- 7 Ask Questions:**
Contact your agency's small business office or email dodmpp@osd.mil for assistance.

FAQs

- **How do I find a Mentor?**
Look at companies your firm does business with or review the DoD Subcontracting Directory. A current directory is on our website.
- **How do I become a Mentor?**
Submit a Mentor Application at business.defense.gov/Programs/Mentor-Protégé-Program
- **What are the areas of focus for Mentor-Protégé Agreements?**
Each DoD agency and military service defines its area of development assistance focus. Contact their small business office for specific information.
- **When and how do I submit agreements?**
Each DoD agency and military service may accept applications at different times, and solicitation processes may also differ. Check with the agency for more information. A list is on our website.

We're Here to Help:



[BUSINESS.DEFENSE.GOV/
PROGRAMS/MENTOR-
PROTÉGÉ-PROGRAM](https://business.defense.gov/Programs/Mentor-Protégé-Program)



[OSD.PENTAGON.OUSD-A-
S.MBX.OSBP-MPP@MAIL.MIL](mailto:OSD.PENTAGON.OUSD-A-S.MBX.OSBP-MPP@MAIL.MIL)



[osd.pentagon.ousd-a-s.mbx.osbp-
mpp@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.ousd-a-s.mbx.osbp-mpp@mail.mil)



[business.defense.gov/Programs/
Mentor-Protégé-Program](https://business.defense.gov/Programs/Mentor-Protégé-Program)



(571) 372-6191