

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs is an agency of the Federal government which was created to fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.

VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system, with more than 1,700 hospitals, clinics, community living centers, domiciliaries, readjustment counseling centers, and other facilities. VA operates 135 national cemeteries in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. VA also administers a variety of benefits and services that provides assistance to veterans and their dependents including compensation, home loans, education, and vocational rehabilitation.

To learn more about VA in preparation for your meetings, visit

<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/about/index.asp>

What does the VA purchase?

- Medical equipment and supplies
- Surgical equipment and supplies
- IT equipment and services
- Furniture
- Drugs
- Perishable subsistence
- Medical gases
- Equipment, supplies, and materials for facility operation
- Maintenance and repair of medical and scientific equipment
- Prosthetic and orthopedic aids
- Laboratory equipment and supplies
- Communication systems and equipment

What Certifications are important to the VA?

VA has special authority under Public Law 109-461, for VA verified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses and VA verified Veteran-Owned Small Businesses set-asides and sole source contracts. These are the VA's top certifications. Other important certifications include:

- Small Business
- 8(a)
- Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone)
- Woman Owned Small Business (WOSBs) & Economically Disadvantaged Woman Owned Small Businesses (EDWOSBs)