



- 1. What is CVE and who needs it?** As stated by the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), “the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-461) provides VA with unique authority for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) and Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) set-aside and sole source contracts. VA refers to this program as the Veterans First Contracting Program. The Vets First Verification Program affords verified firms owned and controlled by veterans and service-disabled veterans the opportunity to compete for VA set asides. During Verification, the Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) verifies SDVOSBs/VOSBs according to the tenets found in Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 74 and 13 CFR Part 125 that address veteran eligibility, ownership, and control. In order to qualify for participation in the Veterans first Contracting Program, eligible SDVOSBs/VOSBs must first be verified.” Due to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021, the functions of VA’s CVE are being transferred to the SBA on January 1, 2023 in order to streamline the process of all other small business certification programs.
- 2. Why is VA’s CVE verification program moving to the SBA?** The NDAA for Fiscal Year 2021 transfers the function currently at VA for verifying SDVOSBs and VOSBs for VA contracts to the SBA on January 1, 2023. The agencies are cooperatively working on the transfer to ensure there is a seamless transition and to maintain efficiencies already in place.
- 3. How will the SBA address the VA’s Veterans First authority once the database transfers to the SBA?** There is no effect on VA’s Veterans First contracting authority. VA will continue to implement this policy utilizing SBA’s certification program and database for verification purposes as of January 1, 2023. There is no government-wide VOSB program, but VA will retain its unique authority to award set-asides to VOSBs and SDVOSBs. VA’s database of verified firms will also transfer to SBA’s Administrator, who will own and maintain the database. VA contracting officers will use SBA’s database to confirm a firm’s eligibility when awarding on SDVOSB or VOSB set-asides.
- 4. After the transfer, how will the SBA determine veteran status?** VA will continue to determine status for veterans and service-disabled veterans and maintain records. The SBA will rely on VA to provide that information once the database is transferred.
- 5. My business is CVE verified. How will this change impact me? What do I need to do?** As a CVE verified business, you will need to keep your verification active and renew your status according to CVE requirements. The SBA offers a full complement of training and counseling services available nationwide. Firms previously verified by CVE will not lose their status unless their program eligibility time has expired.
- 6. My business is currently self-certified. What do I need to do?** As of January 2023, self-certified SDVOSBs can begin submitting their certification applications to the SBA. Self-certified SDVOSBs will



receive a one-year grace period, and applicants during this period will maintain eligibility until SBA reviews the application. There is no action required at this time. Self-certified firms can reach out to their local SBA resources for additional guidance and help preparing for government-wide certification.

7. **Will there be any changes to the existing CVE verification program during the database transfer to the SBA?** Congress has not authorized changes to the CVE program, only that the ownership and maintenance of the database will be transferred to the SBA. No changes will be made to the program – it is being transferred as-is to the SBA.
8. **I am a contracting officer. What do I need to know about this change?** Until the transfer date, verification of SDVOSBs and VOSBs seeking VA contracts will remain with VA and contracting officers outside of VA should continue to award set-asides using self-certification for SDVOSBs. After the transfer to the SBA on January 1, 2023, any small business wanting to compete in the federal market as a VOSB or SDVOSB will need to be certified by the SBA. VA will retain its unique authority to make contract award set-asides to VOSBs and will rely on the SBA's certification beginning January 2023 to verify SDVOSB or VOSB eligibility.
9. **Will the SBA make changes to the VA's CVE program when VOSB and SDVOSB become part of the SBA government-wide certification program?** The SBA will continue to look for opportunities for improvements and efficiencies for SDVOSBs and VOSBs. The SBA will provide opportunities to the public to provide input during the rulemaking process.
10. **Where can I go for more information about the CVE transfer?** The SBA created an email address for all CVE-related questions and is distributing monthly updates about the transfer. To be added to the distribution list, please email cvetransfer@sba.gov.