



Veterans Fact Sheet

SBA Opportunities for Veteran Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners

Supporting veteran-owned small businesses is an important part of the Small Business Administration's mission. Veterans over-index in entrepreneurship. One in seven veterans are self-employed or small business owners, and about one quarter of veterans say they are interested in starting or buying their own business. With this in mind, SBA has an extensive portfolio of effective loan, counseling and contracting programs that benefit the veteran community.

SBA Programs Supporting Veteran Small Business Ownership

- *Loans Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners*
 - SBA's two largest loan programs, 7(a) and 504, offer effective financing opportunities for veteran entrepreneurs and small business owners. In FY 2011, SBA supported more than 4,300 7(a) and 504 loans to veterans totaling \$1.5 billion.
 - The **Patriot Express Loan Program**, extended through 2013, offers low interest loans to members of the veteran and military community. Over the past three years, SBA has supported more than \$460 million in lending through the Patriot Express Loan Program.
- *Entrepreneurship Education for Veterans Wanting to Start or Grow Their Business*
 - SBA advised, counseled and trained more than one million small businesses in FY 2011 with the help of its resource partners including **Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, SCORE, and Veteran Business Outreach Centers**.
 - SBA's district office **Veterans Outreach Initiative** provided small business ownership guidance to more than 48,000 veteran entrepreneurs in FY 2011.
 - Over the past two years nearly 45,000 people self-identified in the Military Community (Veterans and Reservists) have taken SBA's **online entrepreneurship training course**.
 - The **Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV)**, a partnership between SBA and Syracuse University, delivers entrepreneurship training through a one-year "boot camp" for service-disabled veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who want to start or grow small businesses. This program expanded from one to eight locations at top United States business schools in FY 2011.
 - **Operation Endure & Grow** is a program that expands on the SBA and Syracuse University "boot camp" and provides high quality training, networking and mentoring to support Reservists and U.S. Military family members. The SBA expects 550 individuals to participate in 11 eight week online training cycles and courses.
 - SBA is funding an entrepreneurship program for women veterans, **Women Veterans Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE)**, which by the end of FY 2012 will have trained more

than 750 women veterans. The program consists of a three-day, off-site training program, online training and network support structures.

- SBA is launching **Operation Boots to Business: From Service to Startup**, a training course to expose returning service members to entrepreneurship. The pilot program will be launched in fall 2012 at four locations: Quantico, VA; Cherry Point, NC; Camp Pendleton, CA; and Twenty-Nine Palms, CA.
- SBA and SCORE supported the First Lady's Joining Forces campaign through the **Veterans Fast Launch** initiative, which provides scholarships to members of the military community and their immediate family members to participate in SCORE workshops for free; mentors to guide them every step of the way and free or significantly discounted resources for starting businesses, such as computer software and business services made available by major corporate partners
- *Expanding Opportunities for Veterans to Compete for and Win Federal Contracts*
 - The Small Business Jobs Act established "**parity**" or a **level playing field** between service-disabled veterans and other groups of small business owners in the contracting arena. Parity is increasing government contracting opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB), helping to achieve the government wide 3 percent SDVOSB goal.
 - The Small Business Jobs Act established the SBA Mentor-Protégé Program for Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses, which will be launched in 2012.
 - The SBA **expanded its outreach to service-disabled veterans** with a new online [contracting tutorial](#) to help veterans and military spouses who own small businesses identify and take advantage of federal contracting opportunities.
 - SBA worked with contracting officers and veteran-owned small businesses in FY 2010 to deliver the highest-ever percentage of federal contracts to service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses, totaling \$10.4 billion.
- *Continuing to Strengthen Support for Veteran Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners*
 - SBA chairs the **Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development** focused on improving and expanding opportunities for veteran business owners. The Task Force delivered its first report to the President in November 2011, which set forth recommendations including increasing opportunities for growth, improving and expanding counseling and training services, and reducing barriers to growth and improving coordination for veterans.