

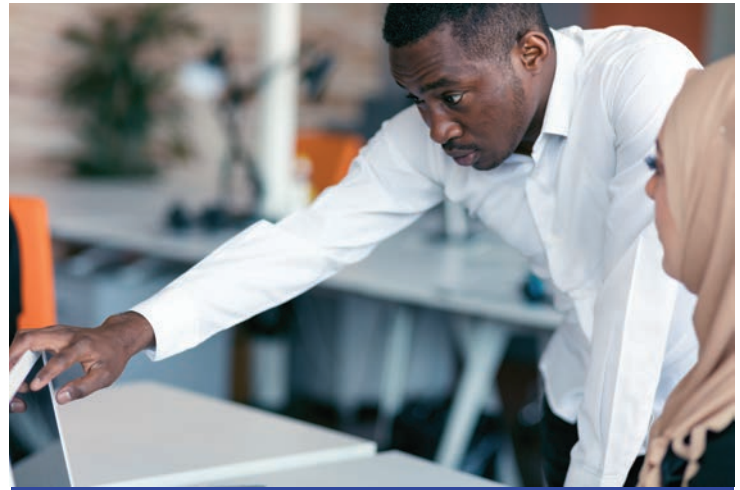
# All Small Mentor-Protege Program

## Program eligibility

- Proteges must have a mentor prior to applying for the program. This is not a matching program.
- You must be certified as a small business within your NAICS industry classification and have experience in that field.
- Mentors and proteges must be organized for profit or as an agricultural cooperative.
- Mentors cannot own more than 40 percent equity in the protege's business.
- An SBA "determination of affiliation" must not exist between the mentor and the protege. All Small-approved partnerships receive an exclusion of affiliation for contracting purposes.

## Need to know

- The SBA will not approve a Mentor-Protege Agreement unless it determines that the mentor-provided assistance will promote real developmental gains for your business, not just act as a vehicle to receive federal small business set-asides.
- Proteges can have only one mentor at a time. The SBA can approve a second mentor partnership if no conflict exists. Proteges can have up to two SBA Mentor-Protege Agreements in the lifetime of the business.
- You can be both a protege and mentor with different business partners if no competition or conflict exists.
- A mentor cannot have more than three proteges at one time.
- A small business can apply for a Mentor-Protege Agreement in a secondary NAICS code. The SBA will not authorize agreements in which no past experience in that NAICS code has been documented.



The U.S. Small Business Administration's **All Small Mentor-Protege Program** encourages small businesses to partner with a more experienced firm for mentorship. At the same time you're gaining invaluable direction and experience, you and your mentor can compete for government contracts, further growing your business.

### How to find a mentor

Visit your local SBA office, [sba.gov/tools/local-assistance](https://www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance), for guidance. Ask about the Procurement Technical Assistance Program and the SBA's Resource Partners.

### Need help?

Visit [sba.gov/allsmallmpp](https://www.sba.gov/allsmallmpp) or email [AllSmallMPP@sba.gov](mailto:AllSmallMPP@sba.gov).

- The SBA can request financial statements or tax returns at any time during the life of the agreement, if necessary.
- You're required to give an annual report and participate in an evaluation process.
- For businesses with 8(a) Mentor-Protege Agreements: You can transfer your existing 8(a) mentor agreement within six months of the term expiring.



U.S. Small Business Administration