



The mission of the Washington Metropolitan Area District Office is focused on maintaining and strengthening the region's economy by enabling the growth and vitality of the small business community. The 8(a) program is our signature program.

Our number one strategic objective is to strengthen the 8(a) program and increasingly refocus it on business development.

We are streamlining internal procedures and processes to simplify the way we support you.

Our Business Opportunity Specialists performance standards and position descriptions have been modified to place more emphasis on assisting firms with their business development needs.

We have proactively implemented a federal agency training initiative whereby we conduct onsite training workshops with federal contracting officials to elevate their understanding, and ultimately use the 8(a) business development program.

Our office has delivered training to 12 agencies in the Washington metro area during the past year.

As we continually transition our approaches and tools, we are deliberately working to identify better procedures and best practices that can be replicated.

We recognize that our efforts are a work in progress and accordingly, appreciate any feedback that you may have for us to help us help you most effectively.

8(a) Business Development Program Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this change being made?

The Washington Metropolitan Area District Office has the highest 8(a) portfolio amongst all Small Business Administration District Offices. Our teams with highly developed expertise will serve all 8(a) firms more effectively and efficiently.

Since I no longer have my own Business Opportunity Specialist (BOS) who do I call for information?

With the implementation, all 8(a) firms will have an expanded relationship with multiple BOS professionals, faster responses to your questions and an elevated level of service. Please call (202) 205-8800 and listen for the list of available options to connect you to the right team to address your concerns or e-mail using the appropriate e-mail addresses.

My previous BOS is currently processing a Joint Venture, Mentor-Protégé, or Change of Ownership request. What should I expect to happen with this in-process request?

Requested items received prior to June 1st will be completed by the initially assigned BOS. Newer requests will be processed by the Mentor-Protégé /Joint Venture Team.

I submitted paperwork that took a while to process. Will this new 8(a) process improve the completion of paperwork submitted in a timely fashion?

Yes. The purpose of this streamline is to handle work more efficiently and improve our customer service. We strive to provide the best customer service and believe that this is a major step in the right direction to achieve that goal.

Can I continue to seek out my previous BOS for guidance?

We have a BOS team of professionals working to support your needs. To ensure key information and knowledge about your firm is not lost, our model incorporates extensive communication within the BOS professional staff regarding your needs, opportunities and requests. Therefore, to maximize the benefits of this new approach it is best to utilize the new teams.

Now that the 8(a) process is streamlined, will the Washington Metro Area District Office be hosting more training and outreach events?

Yes, part of this streamline process is to allow the District Office the opportunity to provide more training and host more outreach events to support and empower small businesses.

If I have sent an e-mail to the appropriate email box and I have not had a response, who can I contact with specific questions and a status update?

In the event that you need a response prior to us getting one to you, please call us on (202) 205-8800 and you will be directed to the appropriate team supervisor.

How can I build a relationship with one BOS if I am not assigned a BOS?

Our number one priority is serving you in a timely manner. You will have more options with the new teams as everyone in the office will become your BOS.