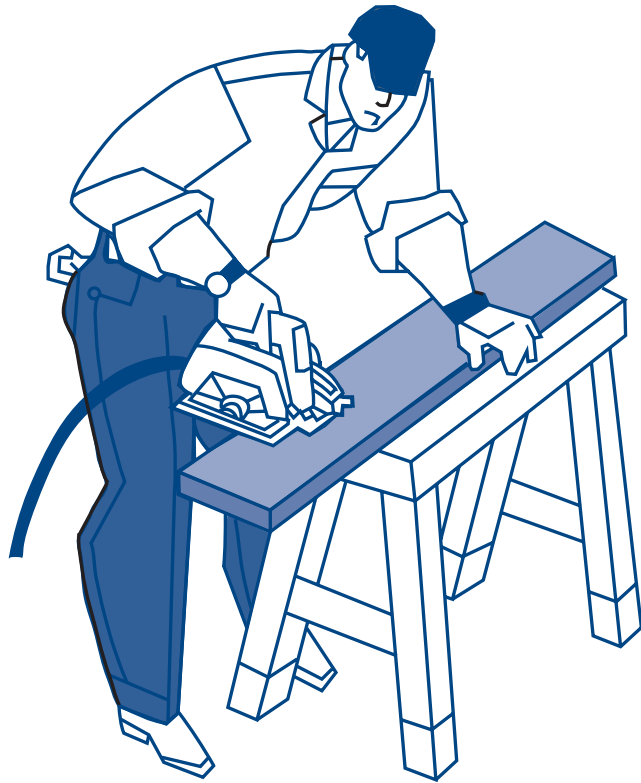


# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE HUBZone EMPOWERMENT CONTRACTING PROGRAM



Supplied by:  
**NEWPORT NEWS  
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT**

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE HUBZone EMPOWERMENT CONTRACTING PROGRAM

### *1. What is the HUBZone Empowerment Contracting Program?*

The HUBZone Empowerment Contracting Program, which is included in the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997, is a program designed to stimulate economic development and create jobs in urban and rural communities by providing federal contracting preferences to small businesses located in and hiring employees from historically underutilized business zones. Seven census tracts in Newport News have been designated as a HUBZone.

### *2. Does this program only apply to firms that are currently located in HUBZones or can firms move to these areas and then become eligible to participate?*

This program applies to firms that are currently located within HUBZones, start-up businesses that are located in these areas and existing firms that choose to move their business to qualified areas.

### *3. How does a firm qualify for this program?*

The census tracts contained in the Newport News HUBZone are shown on the map on the back of this brochure. A list of HUBZone eligible addresses is available from the Newport News Department of Development. In order to qualify for the program, a firm must be located within a designated HUBZone area. Further requirements are that the firm must be a small business that is owned and controlled by U.S. citizens and at least 35% of its employees are HUBZone residents.

### *4. Specifically what benefits will small businesses receive under this program?*

Small business firms will have the opportunity to negotiate sole source contracts with federal agencies and participate in restricted competition for federal contracts limited to HUBZone firms. Also, small businesses located in HUBZone areas will be allowed a ten percent price evaluation preference in full and open competition for federal contracts. In such cases, the price offered by a HUBZone firm will be determined lower than the price offered by a non-HUBZone firm as long as the HUBZone firm's price is not more than 10% higher than the price offered by the otherwise lowest, responsive offeror.

**5. *How can a business located in an HUBZone participate in the program?***

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is responsible for regulating and implementing the HUBZone Program. It certifies firms for eligibility to receive HUBZone contracts. An application for certification is available from the Newport News Development Department.

**6. *Can businesses in the Newport News HUBZone begin taking advantage of the program now?***

Yes. The SBA began accepting applications as of March 23, 1999.

**7. *What type of contracts will be available under the Program?***

All types of contracts normally authorized under the Federal Acquisition Regulation will be available. These include procurement opportunities of the following Federal agencies: U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**8. *Will 8(a) firms that relocate in a designated HUBZone area be eligible to receive both 8(a) and HUBZone contracting opportunities?***

Yes. 8(a) firms that relocate into HUBZone areas will be able to receive contracting opportunities under both programs.

**9. *Can a business's subsidiary that is located in a HUBZone be eligible to participate even though the principal office is in a non-HUBZone area?***

No.

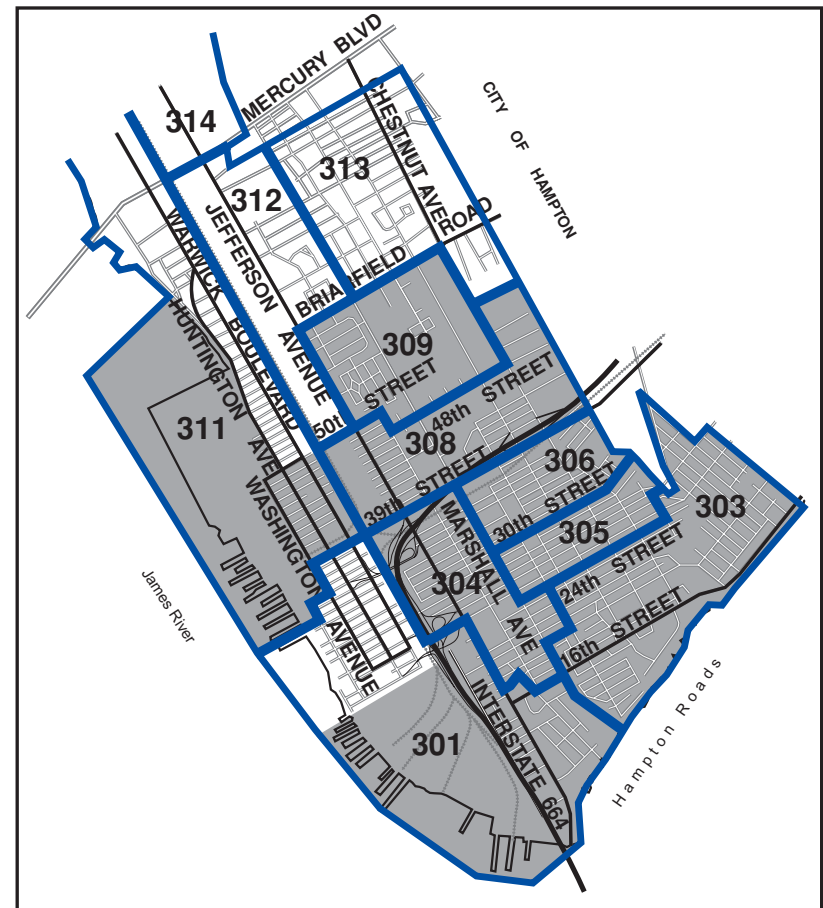
**10. *How can a firm's eligibility as a HUBZone participant be challenged?***

The specific process for challenging a firm's eligibility as a HUBZone participant is detailed in the SBAs operating regulations. These regulations allow an interested party to challenge the veracity of a certification made or information provided to the SBA. SBA will have final authority in this regard.

**11. *Can the SBA protest a contracting officer's decision not to award a contract opportunity to a qualified HUBZone small business?***

Yes. The Administrator of the SBA may file a written request for reconsideration of the contracting officer's decision with the Secretary of the Department or Agency head.

## Census Tracts Located in the Newport News HUBZone



For more information about this and other programs to benefit existing businesses contact:

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