

New – Federal Contractor Certification Program

APTAC and the Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE), with the assistance of the Defense Acquisitions University (DAU), have teamed to create the Federal Contractor Certification (FCC), a training program for business owners intended to help them to understand Federal contracting, respond intelligently to solicitations and perform successfully once a contract has been won. CVE will issue certifications to Veteran-owned businesses successfully completing the requirements; APTAC will confer certification to other categories of participants.

The program, when fully implemented, will consist of four levels of certification, each built upon successful completion of all previous levels. Level 1 certification covers the Basic Understanding of Federal Contracting, including 10 topics each requiring successful completion of one to two DAU course modules. Level 2 will cover Teaming, Joint Ventures and Legal Issues. Level 3 will be industry specific - the participant will choose his or her particular industry (*e.g.* Construction, Manufacturing, IT, Services, *etc.*) to learn the issues, regulations or policies that are unique to that industry. Level 4 is the most advanced and covers Special Certifications, Large Contract Vehicles and Advanced Issues. The curriculum for Levels 2-4 are still being developed.

To take part in the training program, interested businesses owners must register with a counselor at a participating PTAC. The counselor will interview the owner to determine eligibility for the program, which is aimed at established businesses that have a basic knowledge of prerequisites such as Federal database registrations and other topics as determined by the counselor. Once registered, owners will take required course modules at their own pace and present the completion certificates to their counselor. When all topics in the level have been completed, participants will be eligible to take the comprehensive level exam at the center. There will be a minimum number of questions from each topic that need to be passed in order to pass the exam. Those passing the exam will be presented with a lapel pin, logo and certificate to advertise their capability.

Information for PTACs participating, or considering participation, in the program – including a list of the DAU courses required for Level 1 Certification – can be found on the Download Library page of the APTAC website – <http://www.aptac-us> or the Center for Veteran’s Enterprise website – <http://vetbiz.gov>. .