



## CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC SOURCING INITIATIVE SMALL BUSINESSES AND DISABLED VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS	ANSWER
<p>What is the commitment to small businesses and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBEs)?</p>	<p>California continues to maintain its commitment to small businesses and DVBE program participation levels. The State's specific approach to Strategic Sourcing keeps small businesses and DVBE program goals as an integral part of the project.</p> <p>For further information on small business and DVBE services, click on <a href="http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus/default.htm">http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus/default.htm</a>.</p>
<p>How is the CSSI specifically addressing the needs of small businesses and DVBEs?</p>	<p>The Department of General Services is hosting a series of “partnering workshops” to help build new business relationships between small businesses/DVBEs and potential prime vendors on a category-by-category basis.</p> <p>These workshops provide premium opportunities for small businesses and DVBEs to meet “one-on-one” with other suppliers to discuss teaming arrangements for Strategic Sourcing contracts.</p> <p>In addition, these workshops provide added value by creating a forum where small businesses and DVBEs can discuss potential contracting opportunities outside of the CSSI.</p>
<p>Will small businesses and DVBEs be relegated to a subcontractor for the remainder of their business?</p>	<p>Absolutely not. Not every contract will lend itself to being strategically sourced, so there will be many cases where State departments will continue to procure the goods and services they need using the State's traditional competitive bidding processes.</p> <p>For those categories that are strategically sourced, consideration will be given for how to best support small businesses and DVBE participation. In some cases, it will be advantageous for firms to combine resources to pursue and win a statewide or large contract that no single firm could win alone.</p> <p>The DGS provides venues where firms can meet with other firms to form such business relationships. In some cases, these may be traditional prime/subcontractor arrangements, but relationships could be joint ventures, consortiums or other approaches that harness the creative energy that makes small businesses and DVBEs so important to California's economy.</p>
<p>Exactly what steps can I take to become a part of the CSSI process?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give your small business and/or DVBE a contracting advantage by becoming “California-certified.” To begin the one-page certification process, please go to <a href="http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus">www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus</a> or call 916-375-4940.</li> <li>2. Visit the California State Contracts Register (CSCR), your one-stop information source for State contracting opportunities. The CSCR connects businesses to government, providing an easy-to-use, online resource that contains announcements for all strategically sourced contracting opportunities, plus hundreds of other opportunities including services and construction contracts valued at more than \$5,000, commodity contracts valued at more than \$25,000, and IT goods contracts valued at more than \$100,000. Visit the CSCR at</li> </ol>



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	<p><a href="http://www.cscr.dgs.ca.gov/cscr">www.cscr.dgs.ca.gov/cscr</a>.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Register with the DGS Subscription Outreach Service (SOS), an online tool that automatically notifies you when bids for the type of goods or services you provide are released. All Strategic Sourcing contract opportunities are published through the SOS at <a href="http://www.cscr.dgs.ca.gov/cscr/sosdesc.asp">www.cscr.dgs.ca.gov/cscr/sosdesc.asp</a>.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Participate in CSSI events that are relevant to your business. The DGS sponsors, where applicable, small business and DVBE partnering workshops that coincide with Strategic Sourcing bidders' conferences. A calendar of CSSI events and announcements can be found at <a href="http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/StratSourcing/statusreports">www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/StratSourcing/statusreports</a></p> <p><b>5.</b> Subscribe to the CSSI Web site update service. This service notifies you, via e-mail, whenever the CSSI Web site is updated with information about upcoming contracting opportunities, bidders' conferences, partnering workshops, and other news and events. To register for this free service, please go to <a href="http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/StratSourcing/statusreports">www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/StratSourcing/statusreports</a></p>
I still have specific questions regarding my business and Strategic Sourcing. Where can I get answers?	Please contact us with your detailed questions via e-mail at <a href="mailto:Strategicsourcing@dgs.ca.gov">Strategicsourcing@dgs.ca.gov</a> or call the CSSI Information Line toll-free at 866-885-8344.