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## Avoid the Scams, SAM Registration is free!

Creative entrepreneurs are always coming up with new ways to earn money. Offering to complete your System for Award Management (SAM) registration for a fee is one of them! Be wary of companies reaching out to you stating that your SAM registration is about to expire. Updating your SAM profile is free and relatively easy, you don't need to pay hundreds of dollars for someone else to do it for you. If you have questions or need help with your SAM registration you can contact the Federal Service Desk (FSD) at 866-606-8220 or [www.fsd.gov](http://www.fsd.gov) or your PTAC counselor.

SAM scams are not the only ones out there. Be wary of any company advising you to register on a website you are not familiar with. A good rule of thumb is to always make sure the government website you are visiting ends in a ".gov" or ".mil", government websites will never end in ".com". If you are unsure of the legitimacy of a company that is contacting you, reach out to your PTAC counselor for advice.

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## Calling All Construction, Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Firms!

The US Coast Guard and the US Army Corps of Engineers are looking for construction, architecture, engineering, and environmental firms to perform work on various projects in New England. The RI PTAC will host a session on October 3, 2017 that will give an overview of what each agency is looking for during the upcoming year. To register for this session, please visit <https://riptac.ecenterdirect.com/events>.

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## New HUBZone Designations

The Small Business Administration (SBA) recently released new HUBZone maps. The new maps contain the latest HUBZone designations and include a number of enhancements to improve usability. The new maps can be viewed [here](#).

In order to qualify for the HUBZone program, the business must be located in an area designated as a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Zone and at least 35% of its employees must reside in a HUBZone. For more information about HUBZones, read the SBA's [Understanding the HUBZone](#). To check if your business is in a HUBZone, type the address into the map to see if it falls under one of the qualified HUBZones. If you would like help understanding HUBzones, or if you would like assistance in applying contact your PTAC counselor!

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## VA Issues Final Rule on Re-verification

The VA issued its final rule on re-verification of Veteran Owned and Service Disabled Veteran Owned small business status on July 12, 2017. The rule upholds the interim final rule stating that VOSB/SDVOSB must submit documentation for re-verification of status every three years. Previously, re-verification was required every two years.

The VA states, "The purpose of this change is to reduce the administrative burden on SDVOSB/VOSBs regarding participation in VA acquisitions set asides for these types of firms." The VA feels that this change does not affect the integrity of the program due to the "robust examination" conducted on the business owner's personal and company documentation to verify ownership and control. Evidence of the low risk of extending the period comes from fiscal year 2016 data showing that less than 1% of applications for re-verification were rejected last year. In addition, this longer eligibility period is consistent with other federal set-aside programs like the HUBZone program. If you would like to read the entire notice, visit the [Federal Register site](#).

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## Introduction to Government Contracting Class

The RI PTAC will be hosting an "Introduction to Government Contracting" class on August 17th. The topics covered are relevant to those who might be new employees to a company already involved in government contracting or to companies who are completely new to the government contracting world. To register, please visit <https://riptac.ecenterdirect.com/events>.

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### Upcoming Events and Workshops

Introduction to Government Contracting - August 17, 2017

Register at : <https://riptac.ecenterdirect.com/events>

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