



FEDERAL SURPLUS



Information for Veteran Owned Small Businesses

Thank you for your interest in the Federal Surplus Property Program! Public Law (115-416) "Veteran Small Business Enhancement Act" gives Veteran-Owned Small Businesses access to our program. Below are some frequently asked questions that we hope will help introduce you to the program. You are also welcomed to browse our inventory and website: www.SurplusTexas.gov/federal.

1) How do I know if my veteran owned small business (VOSB) will qualify to receive federal surplus property?

- There are two basic pre-requisites: Your business must be certified as a Veteran-Owned Small Business with the SBA, and your business must have a location and operations in Texas.

2) My business meets the criteria listed above. How do I join the Federal Surplus Property Program?

- If you meet the two criteria listed in question #1 above, then the next step is to complete our Application for Eligibility and VOSB Narrative forms which can be found in the "Forms" section of our website: www.SurplusTexas.gov/federal.

3) I am not sure if my business is registered with the SBA. How can I check?

- To check the online database of currently verified VOSBs, please visit www.dsbs.sba.gov. For more information about the SBA's certification process, or to apply for certification, please visit: www.certifications.sba.gov.
- If you are not currently registered with the SBA, or if your certification has expired, then we strongly recommend that you start the application or renewal process NOW! Sources tell us that SBA processing times for new applicants can take approximately 30-60 days.

4) Do service disable veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB) qualify?

- Yes, if the SDVOSB is certified by the SBA. For the purposes of our program, there is no difference between SDVOSBs and VOSBs when determining if you are eligible.

5) My business's headquarters is in another state, but I have a location and operations here in Texas. Will I qualify?

- Generally speaking, yes, and you may also qualify in the state in which your headquarters is located. However, property obtained from our program must be used in Texas while it is under restriction. Contact our office for more details.

6) How do I search for available property?

- Our entire inventory is available online at: www.SurplusTexas.gov/federal.
- We have two warehouse locations: Fort Worth and San Antonio. We do not offer shipping services; you are responsible for picking up the item from its current location.
- Our program offers personal property only; we do not offer real property (ex. fixed buildings, land) through our program.

7) Will the property be offered to my business at no charge?

- All property obtained through our federal program will have an associated service charge that your business must pay. On average, the service charge is 5-10% of the item's original cost, but will vary according to the item's type, condition, and current value. The service charges paid by participating organizations fund our program; we do not receive any funding from the State or Federal government.

8) How do I pay the service charge?

- Payment must be in the form of a company check or credit card. Cash, cashier's checks, personal checks, and moneyorders are not accepted.

9) Are there restrictions on the types of property that my business can obtain, and how it must be used?

- Veteran-Owned Small Businesses will be subject to our standard restrictions on the use of property. For example, property must be obtained to support your businesses operations. It may not be used for personal or unrelated reasons. There will be a certain restriction or “compliance” period, during which the property must be used by your business. The compliance period is typically 12-18 months but may vary according to the item’s type and value.
- During the property’s compliance period, you may not sell, trade, lease, lend, bail, cannibalize, encumber, or otherwise dispose of such property, or remove it permanently, for use outside the State, without the prior, written approval of TFC and/or GSA. SBA approval may also be required for small businesses.

10) Are there any other businesses that can currently obtain Federal Surplus?

- Yes, small businesses certified by the SBA under the 8(a) program also qualify and will use the same “Application for Eligibility” to apply; however, the compliance restrictions vary from VOSBs. SBA 8(a) businesses are also subject to direct oversight from their SBA District Office.

11) Do nonprofits who assist veterans qualify for the program?

- Yes, some nonprofits who assist the elderly, impoverished, and/or homeless do qualify, as well as Veterans Service Organizations recognized by the VA. Please see pages 9-12 of our “Application for Eligibility” for more details.

Finally, below is additional information on other opportunities the Texas Facilities Commission offers regarding the sale of surplus property to the public, as well as how to do business with our agency.

- **State Surplus Store & Online Auctions:**

All members of the public are welcome to shop at the State Surplus Store and Online Auctions. Commonly available items include vehicles, office supplies, equipment & furniture, apparel, jewelry, knives, tools, books, sunglasses, toys, and much more! Please see the State Surplus Program’s website for more information: www.SurplusTexas.gov/state.

- **Contracting Opportunities:**

- *Service-Disabled Veteran, Woman or Minority-Owned Small Businesses*
The Texas Facilities Commission procures a wide variety of goods and services. TFC is responsible for managing state-owned buildings, as well as construction on new facilities across the state. For more information about bidding as a prime contractor or subcontractor on TFC projects, please contact the TFC Historically Underutilized Business Program at HUB@tfc.texas.gov.
- *Freight Transportation Vendors*
The Surplus Property Program is responsible for arranging shipping of surplus property from locations across the U.S. to our warehouses in Texas. For vendors who are interested in providing freight transportation services for the Surplus Property Program, please contact surplusfreight@tfc.texas.gov.
- *Information about doing business with the State of Texas*
TFC is responsible for managing state-owned buildings, and handles both minor repairs, as well as construction of new facilities across the state. For more information about bidding on state contracts, please see the Comptroller’s website: www.comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/vendor.

If you have any additional questions, please contact us at federal.surplus@tfc.texas.gov or by phone at (512) 962-4167 or (512) 364-2345.