



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
Washington DC 20420

In Reply Refer To: 00SB

TO: VIP Dear VIP Veteran Small Business Owner

Subject: Extension of Period of Eligibility for VOSB adversely affected by VEMS Transition Issues

The VA Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) has experienced a number of information technology issues during the transition from the legacy Veterans Case Management System (VCMS), to the Veterans Enterprise Management System (VEMS). Some of these issues included:

- During the transition period, May 21, 2018 to July 25, 2018, Veterans were unable to log in to VEMS effectively.
- Case Analysts and Veterans were unable to view legacy documents in VEMS as part of re-verification applications, requiring additional time and effort in identifying, finding, retrieving required documentation.

To mitigate Veterans inability to log on and efficiently process verification applications due to VA IT system issues, all firms currently in process, that submitted an application prior to May 21, 2018, and all firms that were eligible to submit an application for re-verification during the period of May 21, 2018 to August 31, 2018 will have their Period of Eligibility extended by 60 days from current date of expiration. In addition, all firms that expired between May 21, 2018 and July 26, 2018 will be reinstated and have their eligibility period extended by 60 days from the date of reinstatement. Reinstated firms will not have any retroactive Veterans First Contracting Program eligibility.

It should be noted that verified firms have an ongoing obligation pursuant to 38 C.F.R. § 74.15(a) to inform CVE of any changes made during the firm's Period of Eligibility that would adversely the firm's eligibility.

Finally, CVE will continue to work to refine and improve the Veteran Verification process experience in terms of access, ease of use, IT functionality, and customer service. If you have any problems with a verification process action or have any questions during the process please contact the OSDBU Call Center at (866) 584-2344 and/or send an email to vip@va.gov. Thank you for your participation in the Veterans First Contracting Program and your Service to our great country.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Leney
Executive Director
Small and Veteran Business Programs