

**Topic**

# 8(a) Program: Sole Source Status

**Office of Small  
Business Programs**  
Fort Worth District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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# 8(a) Sole Source Status

## Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

- The 8(a) Program remains a vital acquisition tool under FAR 19.108-7.
- However, policy now mandates a "Competition First" mentality.
- Sole source awards are permitted but require rigorous, audit-ready justification within the Market Research Report (MRR), especially for high-dollar requirements.

Priority	Strategy	Requirements & Constraints
Primary	Maximum Competition	Default approach to ensure best value and transparency.
Mandatory Review	Actions > \$30M	Should be competed. Sole Source at this level is heavily discouraged without extraordinary justification.
Secondary	8(a) Sole Source	Only utilized if competition is unsuccessful. Requires detailed documentation in the MRR.

# 8(a) Sole Source Status

## Audit Readiness & Justification

The acquisition strategy must be a direct reflection of data-driven market research. Any 8(a) Sole Source award will be audited.

Documentation must be diligent and address the following mission factors:

- **Need & Urgency:** Clearly defined operational requirements.
- **Funding:** Available budget and fiscal year constraints.
- **Market Research:** Evidence that competition was explored *and* Why it was not viable.

# 8(a) Sole Source Status

## Critical Actions for 8(a) Participants

Focus Area	Mandatory Action
<i>Platform Sync</i>	Ensure SAM.gov and SBA Small Business Search (SBS) profiles are identical and updated.
<i>Consistency</i>	Align your website and Capability Statement with your official government profiles.
<i>Proposal Detail</i>	Provide granular cost breakdowns to prove compliance with “Limitations on Subcontracting.”
<i>Compliance</i>	Maintain a ready-file of updated compliance documentation for immediate review.

# Limitations on Subcontracting

FAR Overhaul 19.108-8 *Limitations on subcontracting*: **8(a) Program**

FAR Overhaul 19.104-3 (52.219-14, *Limitations on Subcontracting*): **Small Business**

**Performance of work for: 8(a) Participants and Small Business**

- For **Services** (except construction): 50%
- For **General Construction**: 15%
- For construction by **Special trade contractors**: 25%

★ **JOINT VENTURE**: The **8(a) partner** to a joint venture **must** perform: **40%**

**Compliance period reviews: 8(a) Participants**

- Either by end of Performance Period  
- OR -
- By end of Base & each option period  
(*Contracting Officer Discretion*)

# Fort Worth District (SWF) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)



SWF OSBP *Website*

Click on  
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Opportunity Forecast



Updated after the 4th of every month.

View **Opportunity Forecast**, **FAQ** (*Frequently Asked Questions*) and **Events**  
**Request Capability Briefing** (SB 1<sup>st</sup> priority / LB must include SB)