

# Parity among Small Business Programs

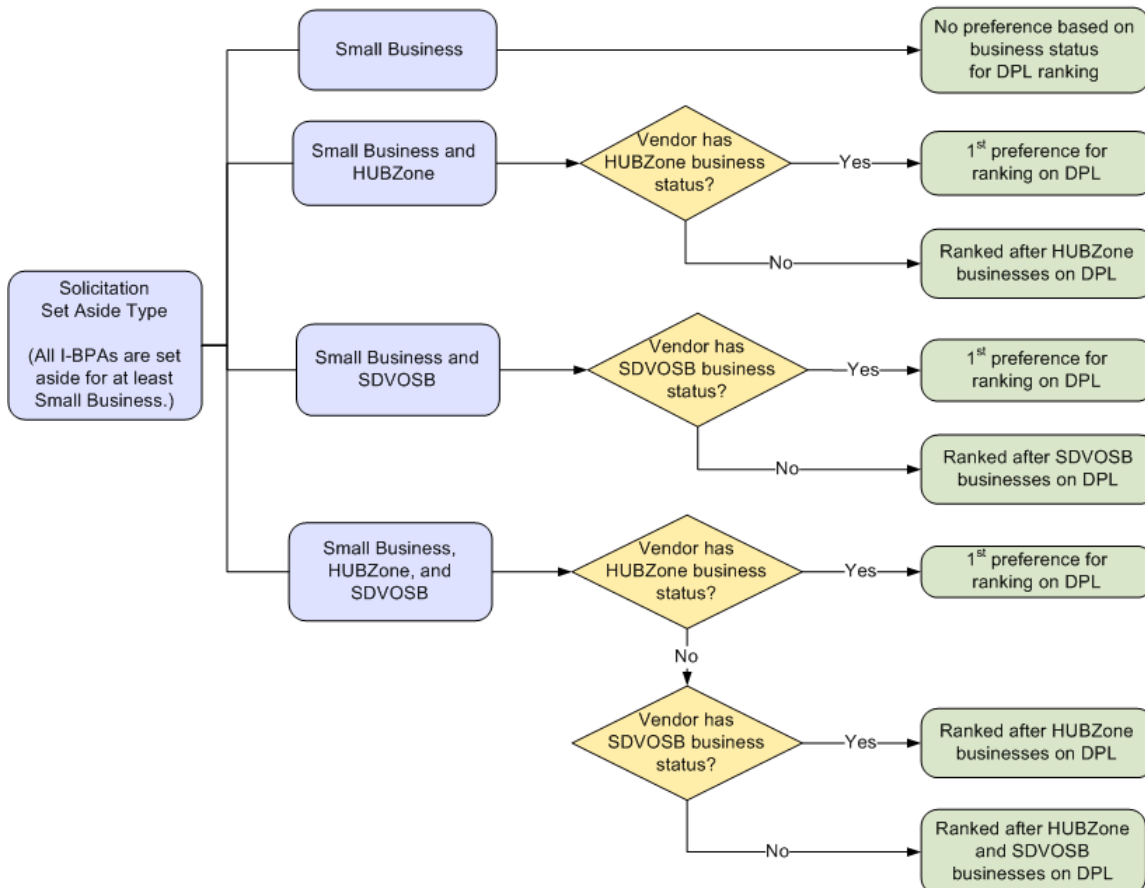
December 16, 2009

## What does this mean to me as a participant in the Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPA) process?

Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPA) are awarded as a result of competitive solicitations for resources to support fire and other incidents. All I-BPAs are set aside for small business, and I-BPAs awarded prior to 2010 contained a provision where preference could be provided to vendors certified in other small business programs (HUBZone; Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB); and 8(a)). Depending on how the solicitation was set aside, the provision gave preference to these vendors before other small businesses both for award and for ranking on the dispatch priority list (DPL). For example, if a solicitation was set aside for small business, HUBZone, and SDVOSB, first preference was given to HUBZone vendors, then SDVOSB vendors, and then other small businesses.

OMB Memorandum M-09-23, dated July 10, 2009, affirmed that Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations provide for parity among all small business programs, therefore, I-BPAs awarded in 2010 and beyond will treat HUBZone, SDVOSB, and 8(a) vendors equally if the solicitation is set aside for multiple preference programs. This policy will not be applied retroactively to previous awards.

Previous I-BPA Award/DPL Ranking Flow Chart (Used Prior to 2010)



**New I-BPA Award/DPL Ranking Flow Chart (Used after 2009)**

