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# SBA - HUBZONE

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## CONTINUED CERTIFICATION LETTER (RECERTIFICATION)

Robert R Ramirez -  
21941 US HIGHWAY 19 N  
CLEARWATER, FL, 33765-2359

Dear Robert R Ramirez:

I am pleased to advise you that based on the affirmations provided by the firm's highest ranking official or designee, the firm has successfully completed the recertification process and continues to be included on the list of qualified HUBZone small business concerns found at [http://dsbs.sba.gov/dsbs/search/dsp\\_searchhubzone.cfm](http://dsbs.sba.gov/dsbs/search/dsp_searchhubzone.cfm). This certification will remain in effect for one year unless: the firm acquires, is acquired by, or merges with another firm during that one-year period; the firm is performing a HUBZone contract and fails to attempt to maintain the minimum employee HUBZone residency percentage; or the firm voluntarily withdraws from the program. The information below sets forth facts concerning the company's continued eligibility and its responsibilities.

### The Firm's Responsibilities as a Certified HUBZone Small Business Concern

As a certified HUBZone small business concern, the firm may receive program benefits, including eligibility for HUBZone set-aside awards, HUBZone sole source awards, the HUBZone Price Evaluation Preference in full and open competition, and HUBZone reserves. These benefits come with important responsibilities, including:

- **Keeping up-to-date on the HUBZone area designations by visiting the HUBZone Maps on the HUBZone website at <http://www.sba.gov/hubzone>.**
- Annually recertifying the eligibility of the firm.
- Checking SBA's HUBZone Maps to determine whether changes in HUBZone area designations impact, or will impact, the firm's eligibility. Note that changes in HUBZone designations may critically affect the firm's compliance with the program requirements that its principal office be located in a HUBZone and that at least 35% of its employees reside in a HUBZone.

- Signing up to receive HUBZone News Updates by entering your email address at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSBA/subscriber/new>. Once there, expand the "SBA Initiatives" subscription topic, select HUBZone News, and click "Next." This is the simplest single step you can take to keep current on key program changes that may affect the firm's eligibility.
- Complying with the limitations on subcontracting requirements and nonmanufacturer rule when performing any HUBZone contracts (see 13 C.F.R. §§ 126.700, 125.6, 121.406).
- "Attempting to maintain" compliance with the 35% HUBZone residency requirement during the performance of any HUBZone contracts. "Attempt to maintain" means making substantive and documented efforts, such as written offers of employment, published advertisements seeking employees, and attendance at job fairs and applies only to concerns during the performance of any HUBZone contract. A certified HUBZone small business concern that has less than 20% of its total employees residing in a HUBZone during the performance of a HUBZone contract has failed to attempt to maintain the HUBZone residency requirement and may be proposed for decertification.
- Notifying SBA if the firm is performing a HUBZone contract and has fewer than 20% of its employees residing in a HUBZone.
- Notifying SBA within 30 days if the firm is acquired by, acquires, or merges with another firm.
- Keeping the firm's System for Award Management (SAM) and Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS) records up-to-date. For the firm to receive benefits from the HUBZone Program (i.e., to be identified by contracting officers as eligible to receive HUBZone contracts), these records must remain up-to-date. You must validate the firm's information at least annually or its SAM registration will become inactive. If you need assistance in updating the firm's SAM or DSBS information, please go to the SAM Help Desk at <https://fsd.gov/fsd-gov/home.do>.
- Responding to notices from SBA, including notices regarding program examinations, protests, proposed decertifications, and recertifications. The HUBZone Program sends such notices to the firm's email addresses on record in DSBS. If the firm fails to respond to these notices, SBA will propose the firm for decertification and may subsequently decertify it from the Program. Therefore, it is critical that you keep the firm's SAM and DSBS profiles current and check your email's SPAM folder to make sure that you are receiving emails from SBA.

Note Regarding Redesignated Areas

In accordance with Section 1701 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2018, areas that would have lost their HUBZone eligibility during 2018 and 2019, through expiration of their status as a redesignated area, will retain their HUBZone eligibility until December 31, 2021. For planning purposes, if the firm's principal office is located or some of its employees reside in such an area, you should consider actions to maintain program compliance after that date.

#### Misrepresentation

By bidding on any Federal solicitation that is set-aside or reserved for certified HUBZone small business concerns or for which a HUBZone price evaluation preference will be applied, the firm's submission of that offer is deemed to be a representation to the United States that the company is a certified HUBZone small business concern in compliance with the HUBZone Program requirements. ANY FIRM FOUND TO HAVE WILLFULLY MISREPRESENTED ITS HUBZONE STATUS IN OBTAINING SUCH AN AWARD MAY BE SUBJECT TO A RANGE OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES, TREBLE DAMAGES UNDER THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT, AND/OR SUSPENSION OR DEBARMENT FROM FEDERAL CONTRACTING.

#### How to get the most out of the Program

Although the firm's status as a certified HUBZone SBC greatly improves its access to Federal awards, this certification does not guarantee contract awards. Your ability to research opportunities and competitively bid on them will be the key to your success in this program. I recommend you utilize the following additional web resources designed to help you maximize the Program's benefits:

- SBA's Government Contracting Classroom website, available at <http://www.sba.gov/gcclassroom>, provides valuable information on Federal contracting.
- Contract Opportunities (<https://beta.sam.gov/>) serves as a central listing for Federal procurement solicitations to the public. The Federal Procurement Data System is a database accessible to the public at no cost and you may use it to learn about contract awards to businesses in various socioeconomic categories, including HUBZone. Please note that while your concern was approved under the primary North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code found in your firms SAM and DSBS profiles, you may be awarded contracts under other NAICS Codes, as long as your firm meets the applicable size standard and is determined to be

responsible to perform the required work. You may benefit from researching and identifying potential HUBZone contracting opportunities outside your firm's primary NAICS code.

We wish you the best of luck as a certified HUBZone small business concern - your success will help improve the economic future of the HUBZones in which the firm operates.

If at any time you have any questions about the Program or how SBA may be able to support your business objectives, the HUBZone Office offers assistance via an interactive conference call where we can respond to general questions and concerns in real-time. For additional information, visit our website at <http://www.sba.gov/hubzone> or contact the HUBZone Help Desk at [HUBZone@sba.gov](mailto:HUBZone@sba.gov).

**Respectfully,**

**Lori Gillen  
Director  
Office of HUBZone Program  
U.S. Small Business Administration**

Email: [HubZone Helpdesk](mailto:HubZone Helpdesk)