



## National Association of Surety Bond Producers

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October 21, 2014

Ms. Colette Pollard  
Reports Management Officer  
QDAM  
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Room 4176  
Washington, DC 20410-5000

*Delivered via email to: [colette.pollard@hud.gov](mailto:colette.pollard@hud.gov)*

*RE: FR-5753-N-08 Survey Questions for Small Contractor Marketplace RE: Automated Bid Notification System from HUD Grantees.*

Dear Ms. Pollard:

On behalf of the National Association of Surety Bond Producers (NASBP), a national trade association whose membership includes firms employing licensed surety bond producers placing bid, performance, and payment bonds throughout the United States and its territories, I am pleased to respond to your survey dedicated to assisting small contractors. NASBP commends HUD for seeking ways to provide greater opportunities for small and emerging contractors by establishing a website that notifies small contractors of procurement opportunities from HUD grantees. Such a notification process would appear to provide opportunities for small contractors whom may otherwise not be aware of such procurement opportunities offered by HUD grantees.

The role of the producer is not only to assist contractors with obtaining surety credit but to ensure that the contractor's business remains viable and thrives for years to come. For those small businesses that are unfamiliar with surety bonds and the role of the bond producer, NASBP has established a website, [Suretylearn.org](http://Suretylearn.org), designed to orient small and emerging contractors to the basics of bonding and of what is needed to achieve surety credit. Resources at the website include a link to an online bonding orientation course to educate emerging construction business owners about achieving surety credit and the specific steps they need to take to enter into surety credit relationships.

NASBP is glad to hear HUD is partnering with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) on this initiative. NASBP works closely with the Office of Surety Guarantees of the SBA, which offers a bond guarantee program aimed at providing bonds to small and emerging construction businesses. Specifically, the SBA Surety Bond Guarantee (SBG) Program's mission is to provide and manage surety bond guarantees for qualified small and emerging businesses. NASBP members have a long standing professional working relationship with the Program and have assisted countless small businesses in obtaining their first surety bond.

In response to **Section B, "Solicitation of Public Comment,"** NASBP responds in the following manner:

- 1 Yes, NASBP believes this collection of this information would be practical to small contractors.

2. NASBP is unable to comment on **questions 2 and 4** concerning the estimated burden of the proposed collection of information, as we have no direct knowledge of what these issues entail.
3. Concerning **question 3**, the most current and accurate information regarding a contracting firm can be gathered or extracted; either through a direct New Application process or from an existing database such as FedBiz Opps, or the Central Contractor Registration (CCR). Both currently have a centralized database to allow for this information to be easily accessed. HUD should also recognize that other federal agencies may create a similar website and notification process for their grantees to disseminate procurement opportunities for contractors as well.

Thank you for your forward and progressive thinking in ways to assist small contractors with opportunities to bid and secure federal procurement opportunities.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry LeClair". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lawrence E. LeClair  
Director, Government Relations