

I'm a veteran. Are there any special loans to finance my business? Yes. The US Small Business Administration provides three types of VA loans. The Veteran's Advantage program waives all upfront loan guaranty fees for veterans who qualify for an SBA Express Loan. Veterans can borrow up to \$350,000. The SBA's 7(a) loan program provides up to \$5 million in funding. For veterans who qualify, it provides upfront guaranty fees of zero for loans of \$125,000 or less, and a 50-percent reduction of guaranty fees for vets that borrow amounts greater than \$125,000. The SBA also provides counseling and training to go along with its loans to give borrowers support in their business ventures. The MREIDL or Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan provides working capital to businesses that could have met their obligations and continued to meet their obligations had the principal owner not been called up for military service. All active military personnel, veterans, service-disabled veterans, and their current spouses or widows are eligible for these loans. Veterans who received a dishonorable discharge are not eligible for the loan programs. Contact your local SBA office for more information: <https://www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance/districtoffices>

Can I get business incorporation fees waived? What about business taxes? Yes. New, qualified, veteran-owned businesses are eligible for a waiver of incorporation fees as well as 5-year franchise tax exemption. To qualify, the new business must be formed after Jan. 1, 2016 and Jan 1, 2020, and be 100% veteran-owned by a person honorably discharged from active duty. For more information, go to the Texas Secretary of State's page on business Information for veterans:

I want to buy a franchise. Can veterans get help with financing? Yes. For veterans considering buying a franchise, the International Franchise Association offers discounts and other assistance to veterans. Some franchisors waive training fees, other discount franchise fees, but all offer better deals to veterans than other investors. Visit the Veterans' Transition Franchise Initiative at www.vetfran.com

Does my veteran-owned business have an advantage when bidding on government contracts? In addition to other resources and support, certain veteran-owned small businesses may have an advantage when bidding on government contracts, through the Vets First Verification Program. To qualify, the veteran must meet all of the following:

- Own 51% or more of the company to be registered, and
- Have full control over the day-to-day management and experience needed to manage the business, and
- Is the highest-paid person in the company, holds the highest officer position in the company, and works full time for the business.

Register for the Vets First Verification Program at www.vets.gov/employment/job-seekers/register-your-business/. If you want to sell to the federal government, the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) can help with the required documentation and registration to bid on government contracts. To find your nearest location, visit <http://www.aptac-us.org/>

Are there any special benefits for service-disabled veteran business owners? Yes, through the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Concerns (SDVOSBC) program, which allows federal contracting officers to restrict competition to SDVOSBCs. For details, see <http://business.defense.gov/Small-Business/SDVOSB/> and www.sba.gov/contracting/government-contracting-programs/service-disabled-veteran-owned-businesses.

More resources: The Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Small Business programs (<https://business.defense.gov/>) has information and a guide to marketing the DoD: <http://business.defense.gov/Small-Business/Marketing-to-DoD>. The SBA has resources to help you start or grow your own business. Many universities and nonprofit organizations offer free or low-cost entrepreneur and business-focused courses both in-person and online, for veterans and military family members. [Visit the Small Business Administration website.](#)