FY26-Q3 | Issue 81

VA FSS Newsletter

Your source for VA Federal Supply Schedule News and Updates

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Important Alert for Vendors

FRAUD ALERT: Fake Contract Compliance Notices Targeting VA Vendors

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

PURPOSE

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is notifying all vendors and contractors of an active scam involving fraudulent compliance notices related to contract records digitization and credentialing requirements. These scams impersonate federal agencies and attempt to solicit payments and sensitive information through deceptive emails and fake compliance documents.

BACKGROUND

Scammers are sending emails to VA vendors and contractors claiming that contract files are "non-compliant" due to missing digitization or credentialing per federal regulations and NARA requirements. These communications often reference government memoranda and bulletins, include real or fabricated contract numbers, and provide official-looking attachments or notices. Vendors are instructed to resolve alleged deficiencies by completing a digitization process and paying a credentialing fee, typically through unauthorized payment portals.

Common features of this scam include:
1. Notices purporting to be from the General Services Administration (GSA) or other federal agencies, often citing OMB and NARA directives.
2. Instructions on digitizing and authenticating contract records, including links or directions to pay a fee.
3. Attachments containing forged letterheads, contract numbers, and references to administrative holds or contract delays.
4. Requests for payment, usually described as a one-time processing fee for digitization and credentialing.
5. Contact information and help desk details that do not connect to legitimate VA or federal resources.

PROTECT YOUR COMPANY
Examine any unsolicited notices regarding contract compliance, digitization, or credentialing thoroughly. Verify all contract-related communications directly with your VA contracting officer or known official contacts before taking any action or providing payment. Confirm that any email addresses and domains used in the correspondence match official VA or GSA sources, ending in ".va.gov" or ".gsa.gov". Do not pay any credentialing or compliance fee unless specifically instructed by your verified contracting officer through formal VA channels.

If a communication cites urgent compliance deficiencies, threatens contract holds, or requests immediate electronic payment via unfamiliar portals, treat it with caution and verify its authenticity. Save all suspicious communications for further investigation.

REPORTING FRAUD
If you receive a suspected fraudulent compliance notice, do not respond, click links, or open attachments.

Immediately report the incident to the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline link at www.vaoig.gov/hotline or call 1-800-488-8244. Correspondence may also be sent to Hotline (53H), 810 Vermont Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

You may also report suspected scams to the Federal Trade Commission link at https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/ or at 1-877-382-4357.

If the scam impersonates the General Services Administration, report it to the GSA Office of Inspector General link at OIG_PublicAffairs@gsaig.gov.

If the scam impersonates the National Archives and Records Administration, contact the NARA Office of Inspector General by telephone at 301-837-3500 (local) or 1-800-786-2551 (toll-free), by fax at 301-837-3197, or by email link at oig.hotline@nara.gov.

If you believe you have been either solicited or victimized by one of these procurement scams, report the incident immediately to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center link at https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx.

Notify your VA FSS contracting officer using verified contact information to confirm any questionable communications.

FSS in the VA News!!!!

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced it has secured a record-high $10.44 billion in pharmaceutical price reductions so far in fiscal year 2026 – nearly double the value achieved in the last year of the Biden Administration.

During the second Trump Administration, VA launched a major effort to secure lower prices on the pharmaceuticals the department uses most frequently to treat Veterans, and this effort has yielded the highest level of price reductions ever recorded. Lower prices on pharmaceuticals enable VA to treat more Veterans and focus on emerging therapies that can be more expensive at the beginning of their product life cycle.

In FY 2024, VA achieved $5.23 billion in price reductions through these negotiations. But under President Trump, VA achieved $7.99 billion in price reductions in FY 2025 and is benefitting from $10.44 billion in price reductions so far in FY 2026.

“Under President Trump, VA is racking up huge wins for Veterans and taxpayers by demanding a better deal from pharmaceutical companies,” said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**. “Our team already provides world-class care for Veterans, and through smart, tough negotiations with drugmakers, we will continue to deliver more care and better care than ever before.”

Making the most effective use of congressional funding is just one of several steps VA is taking to serve Veterans better. For example, VA has:

- Enrolled more than 215,000 new Veterans in VA healthcare in 2026.
- Opened 40 new VA healthcare facilities since Jan. 20, 2025, expanding healthcare access for Veterans around the country.
- Reduced the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits by more than 70% since Jan. 20, 2025, after it increased 24% during the Biden Administration.
- Completed a record high 82,083,918 direct care appointments in FY 2025, up 4.1% from FY 2024.
- Completed a record high 59,989,662 community care appointments in FY 2025, up 12% from FY 2024.
- Offered Veterans more than 3.1 million appointments outside of normal operating hours, giving Veterans more timely and convenient options for care.
- Permanently housed 51,936 homeless Veterans across the country in FY 2025, the highest total in seven years.

Link: https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-secures-10b-in-pharmaceutical-price-reductions-so-far-in-fy-2026/

Inside FSS

FSS Chief’s Corner – James Booth

As you know, the Enterprise Procurement Office (EPO) has now been officially established. This important milestone represents a major step toward strengthening procurement

operations across the VA healthcare community and enhancing support for federal stakeholders and our industry partners.

Looking ahead, we will begin incorporating an enterprise level cadence to ensure that all EPO entities—including the former National Acquisition Center, Strategic Acquisition Center, and VHA procurement offices—are strategically aligned in their goals, best practices, and resources. Historically, the VA healthcare supply chain has been fragmented; however, our desired future state is a unified structure that leverages the strengths of existing programs, such as the Federal Supply Schedule (FSS), to better meet customer needs.

This alignment will enable us to identify and remove barriers to innovative contracting, develop new contract vehicles when needed, address areas of weakness through targeted improvement strategies, and set the foundation for a cohesive, multi decade enterprise strategy for procurement excellence.

We have already begun modernizing the FSS by transitioning to Evergreen contracts, providing all contracts with a potential 20-year lifespan. This long-term structure will improve planning, reduce risk, and incentivize ordering offices to rely on the FSS as either a complete solution set or a major component of their acquisition strategy. The establishment of the EPO will further strengthen this effort by enhancing training for ordering offices in terms of the value and capabilities of the FSS, while also creating clearer pathways for those offices to communicate their needs so we can adapt quickly and provide timely, effective support.

Did You Know…

House Passes Strong Whistleblower Protections for Government Contractors

Washington - July 20, 2026 - In a major win for government accountability, the U.S. House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass the Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act H.R.5578—landmark legislation introduced by Representatives James Comer (R-KY) and Robert Garcia (D-CA). This win comes after a unanimous Senate vote for analogous legislation, S.4631, co-sponsored by Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), Rand Paul (R-KY), and Charles Grassley (R-IA). Differences between the two chambers about the scope of protection must be resolved, as the House bill does not cover Intelligence Community contractors.

For over five years, the bi-partisan Make it Safe Coalition and Government Accountability Project have championed this makeover for dated contractor rights in a once-landmark 2012 law that has been gutted by loopholes and hostile court rulings. Depending on the year, two to three times as many contractors as civil service employees spend taxpayers' money. The stakes have increased sharply with over $4 trillion in new spending since the pandemic, with much of it going to contractors.

Legislation unanimously agreed by both House and Senate includes:

- Protection against retaliation for contractors, as well as their employees;
- Protection for exposing misconduct in international contracts;
- Protection against blacklisting;

- Protection for refusing to violate the law;
- Restoration of court access with jury trials to enforce rights; and
- Liability for government officials who pressure contractors to retaliate.

More than 200 organizations across political affiliations have endorsed these reforms and applauded the unanimous restoration of bi-partisan congressional support for those who risk their professional lives to fight fraud, waste, and abuse.

"Government contractors are the foot soldiers for President Trump's war on fraud. Whistleblowers can thank the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Chairman James Comer's (R-KY) leadership for this win." stated **Government Accountability Project Legal Director Tom Devine.** "However, the House and Senate must still reach consensus on the reform's scope. Once that occurs, government contractor whistleblowers will have America's strongest anti-retaliation rights." https://whistleblower.org/press/house-passes-strong-whistleblower-protections-for-government-contractors/

Contact: press@whistleblower.org

Did You Know…

Labeler Code Clause AS1346 Reminder VA Federal Supply Schedule

NOTICE UPDATE
This notice updates and supersedes the previously issued July 31, 2026, notice seen below regarding renewed enforcement of the AS1346 Labeler Codes' clause. The message below has been rescinded. Future or potential updates will be provided, please stay tuned!!

July 31, 2026, Notice
VA Federal Supply Schedule
The Veterans Affairs Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Program is issuing this notice to inform all current contract holders and prospective offerors of an upcoming change in the enforcement of an existing solicitation requirement regarding the use of labeler codes for non-covered drugs. The 65 I B FSS solicitation has long included the AS1346 Labeler Codes clause (June 2005), which states that dealers of non-covered drugs must submit offers and product additions under their own labeler code if they wish to participate in the VA's Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor program:

AS1346 LABELER CODES (JUN 2005)
(This applies to dealers wishing to participate in VA's Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor (PPV) program. May not be applicable to SINs 42-1, 42-3, 42-5 and 622.)
Dealers must provide their own labeler code, to be used in the National Drug Code (NDC) number for the offered items. If a dealer does not have a labeler code, it must apply and be approved with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for its own labeler code prior to making an offer under this solicitation.
While this requirement has been part of the solicitation, FSS acknowledges that it has not been consistently enforced over an extended period of time. As a result, FSS is providing advance notice of its intent to resume full enforcement of this requirement in order to afford

all affected contractors and prospective offerors sufficient time to come into compliance. Effective upon the close of the 30-Day notice, all non-covered drug offers and new product additions must utilize the submitting company's own labeler code if wanting to participate in the PPV. This requirement applies to both new offerors seeking FSS contract awards and to existing FSS contract holders adding products to their schedules. However, please note drugs currently on FSS contracts will not be removed and are granted and exemption to this enforcement for the remaining of the contract term. FSS is committed to providing industry a reasonable and fair opportunity to achieve compliance. The following timeline will govern enforcement of this requirement:

- 30-Day Notice Period — New Contracts and Offers. This notice serves as the formal 30-day notice to industry. Beginning September 4, 2026, all new FSS offers and product addition submissions for non-covered drugs must utilize the submitting company's own labeler code if wanting to participate in the VA's PPV. Submissions that do not comply will not be added to the VA's PPV.

If you are a new vendor, you must comply with AS1346 before a contract will be awarded. If you have questions regarding this notice or need clarification on how this requirement applies to your specific contract or submission, please contact your assigned Contracting Officer directly.

Thank you,
FSS

FSS Core Values: Accountability | Teamwork | Customer Service | Quality | Professionalism
VA Core Values | ***I***ntegrity | ***C***ommitment | ***A***dvocacy | ***R***espect | ***E***xcellence ("***I CARE***")
VA Core Characteristics: Trustworthy | Accessible | Quality | Innovative | Agile | Integrated

VA Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Service, P.O. Box 76, Bldg. 37,
1st Avenue, 1 Block North of Cermak Ave, Hines, IL 60141

Did You Know…

2026 VETS-4212 Filing Cycle Is Underway

The 2026 VETS-4212 filing cycle is open from **August 1 through September 30, 2026**. Covered federal contractors and subcontractors should act promptly to ensure their annual report is complete and submitted before the deadline.

VETS-4212 reporting is required for organizations that hold a qualifying federal contract or subcontract valued at **$200,000 or more**, regardless of workforce size. The report provides the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service with workforce data by job category, location, and protected-veteran status, including protected-veteran hiring activity during the applicable 12-month reporting period.

Employers should verify coverage, assemble accurate workforce and hiring data, and submit the report through the VETS-4212 reporting process before September 30. Electronic filing is encouraged, particularly for organizations reporting across multiple locations. Missing the

deadline can create unnecessary compliance risk for federal contractors, so early preparation and filing are strongly recommended. https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/vets4212

FSS Working for You

Avoidable Processing Delays

VA FSS processing time often depends on submission quality. Incomplete, inaccurate, or inconsistent packages may be returned for correction, extending review time.

Common delays include:

- Missing, unsigned, or incomplete documents and attachments
- Outdated templates or incorrect submission formats
- Inconsistent pricing, product, catalog, or supporting data
- Missing product documentation, authorizations, or compliance information
- Modification requests that are unclear, unsupported, or improperly submitted
- Additional compliance reviews based on product type, volume, pricing, or supply-chain concerns
- Incomplete contact information or incorrect email routing

Before submitting, ensure all required documents are current, complete, signed, and consistent; clearly explain and support requested changes; follow current schedule instructions; use the required email format; and remain available for questions.

A complete first submission cannot eliminate normal review time, but it reduces avoidable delays.

Around the VA

Electronic Health Record Modernization Rollout: What Suppliers Need to Know

VA has resumed deployment of its Federal Electronic Health Record after a multi-year pause, creating sustained opportunities for suppliers across health IT, clinical operations, cybersecurity, interoperability, training, and infrastructure.

Initial deployments began in April at four Michigan VA facilities, with additional 2026 sites planned in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Alaska, and Cleveland. VA is using a regional “wave” approach as it transitions from VistA to a shared Federal EHR across VA, DoD, the Coast Guard, NOAA, and participating community-care providers.

For suppliers, the restart increases demand for:

- Systems integration, cloud operations, cybersecurity, data migration, analytics, and help-desk support
- Workflow redesign, change management, facility readiness, user training, and post-go-live optimization
- Interoperable medical devices, diagnostics, imaging, and patient-monitoring tools
- Referral, records-exchange, scheduling, patient-access, and care-coordination solutions

Vendors should confirm interoperability, cybersecurity, privacy, and implementation capabilities; monitor deployment regions; and demonstrate how their offerings improve clinician workflows, patient safety, and continuity of care. With 13 deployments planned for 2026 and a broader rollout potentially extending to 2031, Federal EHR modernization represents a long-term VA market opportunity.

Pharm Facts!

Trade Agreements Act Compliance for Pharmaceutical Suppliers

For pharmaceutical suppliers on VA Federal Supply Schedule contracts, Trade Agreements Act (TAA) compliance is essential to product eligibility and ongoing contract management. Generally, products must be U.S.-made or substantially transformed in a designated country, unless a specific exception or covered-drug pathway applies.

Country of origin is based on where the final product is substantially transformed not simply where it is shipped, packaged, labeled, or distributed. Suppliers should evaluate each NDC, including its dosage form, strength, package size, manufacturing process, API source, final-dose production, testing, and packaging.

Maintain a country-of-origin file for every contracted product with manufacturing locations, process flow, certifications, and the rationale supporting the determination. Reassess compliance whenever manufacturing, sourcing, formulation, packaging, or product configuration changes.

Covered drugs may follow a separate VA pathway, but this is not a blanket TAA exemption. Confirm product-specific contract and certification requirements before offering or continuing to sell an item.

Making TAA review part of routine product governance helps protect contract eligibility, ensure accurate VA representations, and prevent disruptions in federal-market availability.

Training Center

Navigating GSA's Sales Reporting Portal: VA Resources, Electronic Sales Reporting, and IFF Payments

The Sales Reporting Portal (SRP) is GSA's modernized, secure, web-based system that standardizes sales reporting for Enterprise Procurement Office (EPO, formerly VA NAC) FSS contracts, enabling contractors to report sales and remit the Industrial Funding Fee (IFF) electronically.

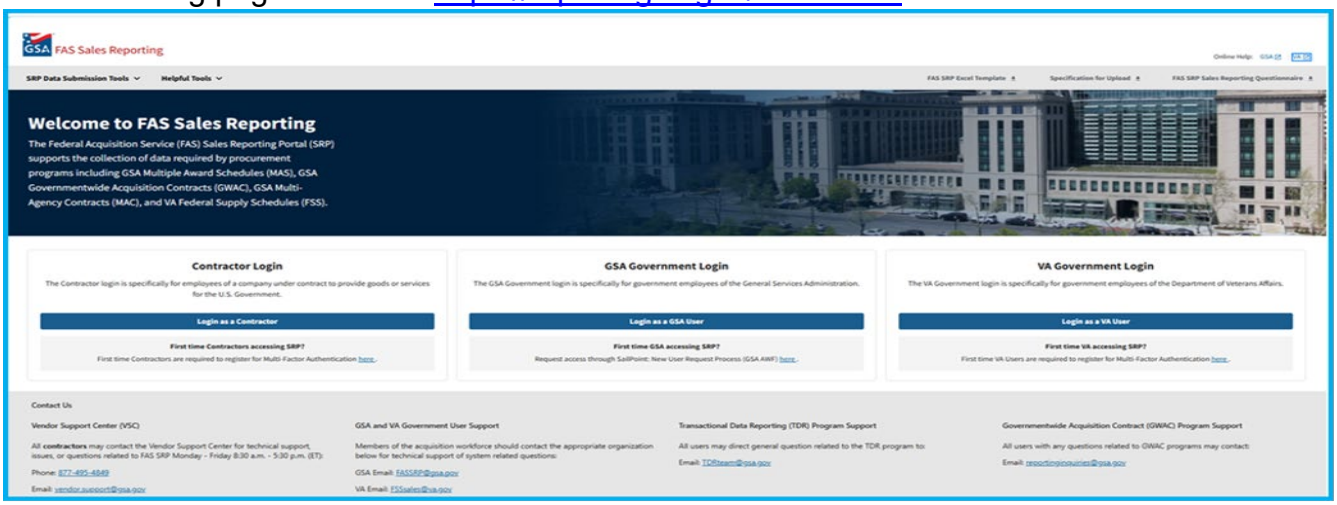
Upon accessing the SRP landing page (https://srp.fas.gsa.gov/index.html), users can easily navigate key resources, including the Vendor Support Center in the bottom-left corner for assistance and Online Help Resources in the top-right corner for additional guidance.

Selecting "VA" from the landing page directs users to the VA User Guide, which provides detailed, VA-specific reporting instructions. The site also features Training Videos to help both contractors and Contracting Officers become familiar with the system. The

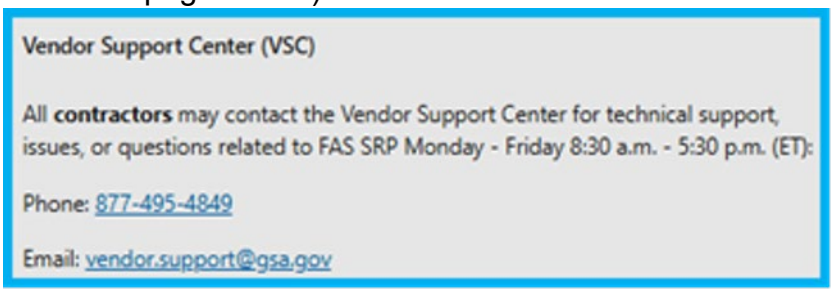
accompanying snips included below provide additional visual guidance on these navigation points and highlight where these tools and resources are located on the landing page.

Overall, SRP provides a unified method for submitting sales and corresponding IFF payments and supports FSS's transition to fully electronic payment processes—an improvement that enhances efficiency for all contract holders.

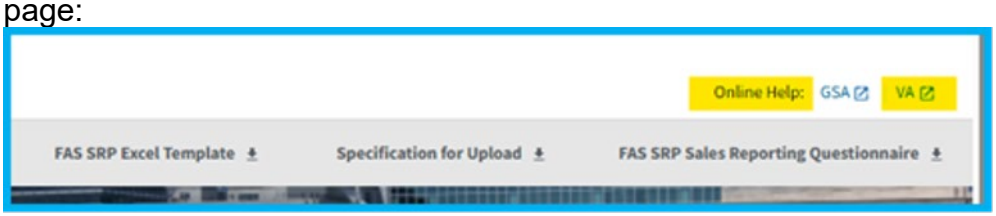
1. The landing page for SRP: https://srp.fas.gsa.gov/index.html



2. Vendor Support Center (VSC) contact information (please note the this is on the bottom left of the page above):



3. Online Help information (please note that this is located on the top right of the landing page:



4. Selecting “VA” will link to the following (VA User Guide):

4a. Selecting “Training Videos” will provide information for both contractors and CO’s

Web Wisdom

Keep Your FSS GovDelivery Subscription Active

Federal Supply Schedule Service (FSS) uses GovDelivery to communicate important information, updates, and notices that may impact your contract. If you unsubscribe from GovDelivery messages, FSS is unable to resubscribe you on your behalf, which means you may miss vital communications regarding your FSS contract. If you have previously unsubscribed or are no longer receiving FSS GovDelivery messages, you must resubscribe directly by visiting the link below and completing the subscription form:

Resubscribe to FSSS GovDelivery:
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAOPAL/signup/23471

We strongly encourage all vendors to remain subscribed to ensure you receive timely information and important updates related to your contract.

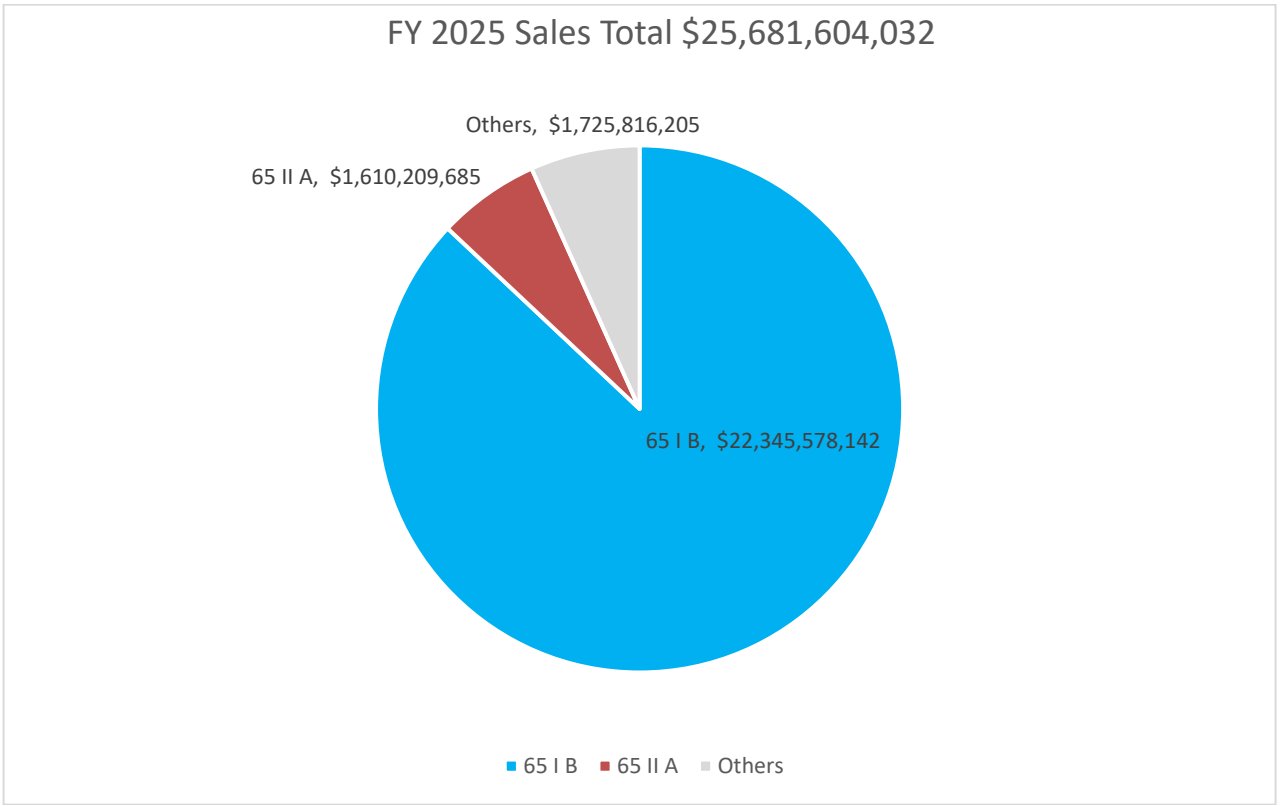
Contract Corner

FY25 and Current FY26 Awarded Contracts/Options/Modifications Progress Report

FY2026 accomplishments to date include the award of 137 FSS contracts, the exercise of options on 63 contracts, and completion of 7,017 contract modifications.

Below are FSS Service's accomplishments from the start of FY2025 (October 1, 2024) through September 30, 2025. Highlights include the award of 243 FSS contracts, exercising options on 92 contracts, and completing 7,197 modifications, all of which exceeded FY2024 totals. FSS sales of more than $25 billion also exceeded FY2024 FSS sales.

Schedule	FY2025 Contract Awards	FY2025 Contract Extensions	FY2025 Contract Modifications
621 I	44	16	584
621 II	5	2	124
65 I B	76	0	3180
65 II A	94	59	2581
65 II C	3	2	155
65 II F	16	10	369
65 V A	0	0	9
65 VII	4	1	106
66 III	1	2	89
Grand Total	243	92	7197



G.R.I.T. Corner

(Great Rescues Impactful Treatments)

FSS relies on partnerships with suppliers to deliver care from factory to foxhole. However, our FSS team often isn't aware of the immense life-changing impacts at the point of care. To address this, we are inviting FSS contract holders to share real-life experiences where their products or services have saved lives or greatly benefited others. The goal of GRIT is to raise awareness among FSS staff of the significant impacts resulting from their acquisition support.

We will hold a GRIT event every quarter, using an objective method to select from the relevant nominations. Please submit your story or testimonial video to benjamin.webb1@va.gov with slides or a narrative explaining the product and situation. GRIT submissions will be showcased through email or virtual events, ensuring wide accessibility.

FSS employees are encouraged to promote the GRIT initiative to their vendors, emphasizing the crucial partnership between contracting specialists and vendors. By doing so, we can highlight shared successes and remarkable stories of excellence and lifesaving products.

"The United States Department of Veterans Affairs does not support nor endorse one private entity over another in accordance with 5 CFR 2635.702 b & c."

FSS FAQ???:

Are resellers required to obtain letters of commitment from their manufacturers?

Yes, resellers must submit a letter of commitment from *each* manufacturer for which they resell products. Information and instructions on this requirement are available online.

If a contractor has any questions or concerns regarding their contract, they should first contact their assigned Contract Specialist for assistance.

FSS Virtual Industry Day

On August 26, the Coalition for Common Sense in Government Procurement hosted a virtual Industry Day with the Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) program and its vendor community. The session included a general discussion with FSS representatives, followed by breakout sessions focused on individual schedule areas. During these discussions, vendors raised questions that were addressed by the FSS team. To help ensure that all FSS contractors have access to the information shared, the questions and corresponding FSS responses are provided below. Vendors with additional questions or contract-specific concerns should contact their assigned Contract Specialist for assistance.

General Questions

1. Status of solicitation updates and any SIN updates.

VA Response: The solicitation updates are currently under internal review. SIN updates will be addressed separately in a future refresh and are not part of the current solicitation update process.

2. Will VA provide a preview of the new clauses/provisions that will be incorporated into the solicitations?

   VA Response: Not at this time.

3. Will they publish the updated solicitations to SAM.gov as an RFI before the go-live date? Or will the draft solicitation be posted to GSA Interact with an opportunity for public comment (similar to GSA MAS)?

   VA Response: Not at this time.

4. As it relates to cybersecurity requirements, what is the implementation plan for current contractors? Will they be given adequate time to review their networks and make changes as needed?

   ????Need clarification about specific requirements????

5. Will they provide an org chart of which teams COs are on so we know to whom we should escalate issues (correct SCS and Chief)?

   VA Response: Yes…org chart will be published online when reorg is finalized.

6. Evergreen Contracts:

   VA Response: A mass modification has added evergreen clauses to contracts, allowing for four- or five-year renewal terms. Contractors with agreements beyond the five-year base period should work with their assigned contract specialist and contracting officer to determine the appropriate extension path. FSS is also developing a more streamlined option process, but further details are still under internal review

   a. The FSS contracts were supposed to be extended to 10 years as the base period. Has this been made official? When does it occur for current contracts?

      VA Response: No. FSS contracts were never intended to have a 10-year base period and will continue to follow GSA MAS contract guidelines.

7. How is the FSS Office looking to streamline the modification process?

   VA Response: FSS is working to make modification forms more comprehensive and to use internal databases to support market research where appropriate. Contractors should ensure submissions are complete and accurate and are encouraged to contact their assigned contract specialist before submitting a modification to clarify requirements and help minimize processing time. The contractor remains responsible for providing the documentation required to support the requested change.

8. What is the new Negotiations Division? Which contracts will it be responsible for and what is its mission?

VA Response: Pharm-Dental/Invitro schedule contracts. Will be managing the high value contracts within FSS that aligns with our mission and meets the customer needs. Special projects related to Pharm/Dental Invitro Diagnostics

9. Please confirm that once a submission occurs email confirmation of submission has been received:

    a. If there is a published refresh solicitation/modification package, and the VA exceeds 90 days to begin their review of the "now outdated" solicitation/modification--will the VA automatically reject and "no award"?

    VA Response: No

Breakout Questions

Medical/Surgical Breakout:

1. **Comparable Tracking Customers**
   Will the VA establish objective standards requiring the designated tracking customer or customer category to be genuinely comparable to FSS transactions based on freight, installation, order size, geography, volume, payment terms, and contractual commitments? In particular, will the VA reconsider the use of "all commercial customers" when those customers purchase under materially different conditions?

   VA Response: FSS evaluates comparability using the circumstances of each contract and does not intend to establish a single, rigid standard or require use of one designated tracking customer. A category of commercial customers may be appropriate when it reflects comparable transactions. Scope and volume are relevant considerations in determining price comparability; factors such as geography and payment terms may be less material depending on the transaction. Contractors should discuss their commercial sales practices and proposed customer category with their assigned contract specialist.

2. **Delivered FSS Pricing Versus Commercial Pricing**
   Medical equipment FSS prices frequently include nationwide freight or delivered pricing, while commercial customers are commonly invoiced freight separately. What methodology should contractors use to normalize freight before determining whether a commercial sale disturbed the awarded tracking-customer ratio?

   VA Response: Because FSS contracts are generally FOB destination, contractors should accurately disclose differences between delivered FSS pricing and commercial transactions in which freight is charged separately. Contractors should work with their assigned contract specialist to determine an appropriate, supportable method of normalizing freight for the particular contract and customer relationship.

3. **Transactional Data Reporting**
   What is the VA's current plan and anticipated timeline for implementing Transactional Data Reporting for the Medical/Surgical Equipment and Services schedules? If

implemented, will TDR replace Commercial Sales Practices disclosures, tracking-customer requirements, and the traditional Price Reductions

VA Response: GSA is moving toward broader use of Transactional Data Reporting, while FSS is continuing to evaluate its applicability to the Medical/Surgical Equipment and Services schedules. No implementation date is available at this time. If adopted, FSS expects a hybrid approach may remain necessary because commercial data continues to be important for evaluating pricing; therefore, Commercial Sales Practices disclosures and Price Reductions Clause requirements may continue in some form rather than being fully replaced.

Pharmaceutical Breakout:

1. We'd like to ask about products being listed on Test Kit FSS Contracts but showing up on the Pharma NAC.

   VA Response: Test kits are generally listed under Part 7 and may carry an NDC. FSS's belief is, this question is quiring or questioning the FSS catalog-search tool, a test kit listed under an FSS contract may also appear in the pharmaceutical contract catalog search results. A definitive response will require additional information about the specific item, catalog location, and nature of the concern, for example the specific schedule which is of concern.

2. Will the new Negotiations Division manage some 65 I B pharmaceutical contracts? If so, which ones? What will be the processes/procedures for contracts managed by this division? VA Response:

   VA Response: In development. Reviewing contract inventory and reassignments to balance workloads

3. Regarding the upcoming FSS refresh solicitation-

   a. Is there any more information available related to this topic since the webinar?

      VA Response: No

   b. What is the expected solicitation refresh publish date? VA Response:

      VA Response: Early FY 27.

   c. Will there be updates on this topic other than the VA FSS email blast?

      VA Response: FSS Newsletter, interact and GovDelivery.

4. According to the VA's FSS website, specific to 65IB FSS follow on contracts:

   a. Can the current solicitation package be used up to 90 days after publication of the next solicitation package.

VA Response: Yes

b. Is the information on VA's FSS website accurate, complete, and current? If not, are there plans to update it?

VA Response: Currently in development.

5. What is the general expected time frame for VA action when:

a. Submissions occur and a confirmation is received/tracking number is assigned.

VA Response: When FSS receives a complete offer package 180 days – OFFERS – 30-60 days – modifications.

b. For awards: confirmation is received, BUT since there are multiple layers of review, when does the actual clock start?

VA Response: PALT starts when a complete offer package action is received.

6. For FY26, activity and actions on modifications submitted has slowed. Depending on which contracting officer companies are assigned, the RFM is either executed seamlessly, or the delays take weeks (even months) to process. Is this due to changes in the available workforce? How is the VA addressing this?

VA Response: The reorganization will help streamline processes following a 19.8% reduction in full-time staff due to DRP losses. If you have specific concerns or questions, please direct them to the Division Chief.

a. It seems to be limited to certain contracting officers. How can VA FSS address this disparity?

VA Response: Please contact Division Chief.

Services

1. **Transactional Data Reporting**
What is the VA's current plan and anticipated timeline for implementing Transactional Data Reporting for the Services schedule? If implemented, will TDR replace Commercial Sales Practices disclosures, tracking-customer requirements, and the traditional Price Reductions Clause?

VA Response: There is no active implementation timeline for Transactional Data Reporting on the Services schedule. FSS continues to evaluate modernization options, but no date can be provided at this time. Until further notice, FSS will continue to use Commercial Sales Practices disclosures and applicable Price Reductions Clause requirements; any future TDR approach would be communicated through the appropriate solicitation or contract-update process.

Follow up Questions

1. Where will information about the public meetings that FSS Director Sharon Chang announced be posted?

   VA Response: TBD

2. Does MSPV administered by the SAC have mandatory buying preference for VAMCs, due to VHA Directive 1761, over the Federal Supply Schedules for overlapping products? For example, if general syringes are available on FSS and MSPV, is there a preferred contract vehicle for procurement?

   VA Response: Questions regarding the requirements and supply performance measures should be directed to the VHA Logistics Operations Center at vhalogopscenter@va.gov.

3. What are the implications of the new Enterprise Procurement Office (formerly the NAC and SAC) on the FSS schedules?

   VA Response: None

4. For FSS 65IIF it appears there is no prime vendor for this schedule. Is this the case and why?

   VA Response: Items are custom assembled to patient needs. Prosthetics Services have actual patient specific requirements and FSS does not administer prime vendor contracts.

5. Can the VA do anything about lengthy product addition timeframes? The target timeframe we have been given is 60 days, but we have experienced times [well] past that for years without any fix seemingly happening. We have spoken with other vendors who are experiencing the same lengthy mod timelines. Furthermore, what would be the best policy to escalate this issue if we reach 60+ days with little to no progress?

   VA Response: Contact the appropriate Division Chief

6. What does “evergreen” mean for the Pharmaceutical Schedule?

   VA Response: The pharmaceutical schedule has a maximum period of 20 years. Renewals under the 65 1B solicitation require a follow-on offer packet to be submitted every five years.

7. VA FSS Solicitation:
   a. We understand that VA is issuing a new FSS solicitation “refresh” to all schedules by end of Q3. What is the expected timing of the related Mass Modification?

VA Response: The refresh will issue in early FY27, and the related mass modification will be released at the same time for current contract holders.

b. Is VA planning to release the Mass Modification on the pharma schedule during Public Law or after?

VA Response: The solicitation refresh is still under legal review. An exact release date is unknown at this time.

c. Will the refresh and mass modification reflect/implement the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul?

VA Response: Yes, all FAR revisions will be incorporated.

8. Will the VA be reevaluating the sales thresholds for distributors that trigger the requirement of an OIG audit for addition and price increases?

VA Response: An updated Procedural Guideline 22 will emphasize that sales thresholds are a consideration, not an automatic trigger, for OIG pre-award audits related to product additions and price increases. Contracting Officers retain discretion to request a review based on the overall risk and circumstances of each action, and the VA will continue to assess whether the thresholds remain appropriate.

If a contractor has any further questions or concerns regarding the Industry Day questions and answers, they should contact their assigned Contract Specialist or the Divisions Chief for assistance. Please note that FSS has gone through a reorganization and to see the Contact Us section below on page 19 for the updated Division Chief assignments.

Contact Us!

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To subscribe to our VA FSS Newsletter, e-mail your request to vacsd@va.gov.

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