# Mentor Protégé Program

**The U.S. Department of Energy's Mentor Protégé Program helps small businesses grow by pairing them with experienced DOE prime contractors. The program builds long-term partnerships and expands opportunities for small businesses to compete for DOE contracts and subcontracts.**

## The program is open to all small businesses, including:

- Small disadvantaged businesses
- Small Business Administration-certified 8(a) small businesses
- HUBZone*
- Woman-owned*
- Veteran-owned*
- Service-disabled veteran-owned.*

*Requires Small Business Administration (SBA) certification

This award-winning comprehensive and established outreach program combines contracting needs at NLR with business practice development provided by NLR. Small businesses learn about doing business with federally funded institutions while providing their goods and services to the laboratory. Learn more about the program during outreach events and through NLR.

*Photo by Gregory Cooper, National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR) 097272*

## Who can participate?

Small businesses may qualify for the Mentor Protégé Program if they:

- Are eligible to receive government contracts
- Have been in operation for at least two years
- Meet small business size standards for the relevant industry
- Do not already have a DOE Mentor Protégé Program agreement.

## So, what is the program?

Once approved, the Mentor-Protégé Agreement is a two-year commitment between the small business and NLR. During that time, the small business is eligible to provide its goods/services under a non-competitively awarded subcontract and will receive an NLR-assigned mentor focused on helping drive developmental activities. The small business will receive periodic coaching from NLR's Acquisition Services Office to help it develop business processes that support successful, long-term relationships in the federal contracting community after graduating from the program.

www.energy.gov/osbp/mentor-protege-program

**Learn more about NLR's Mentor Protégé Program**

**NLR Small Business Office**
**Randy Fransua**
*Socio-Economic Program and Development Manager*
small.business@nlr.gov

15013 Denver West Parkway
Golden, CO 80401
303-275-3000 • nlr.gov

The National Laboratory of the Rockies is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, operated under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308.
NLR/FS-3600-100706 • September 2026 *The National Laboratory of the Rockies prints on paper that contains recycled content.*