

Literacy — Further Reading (Official Sources)

The official federal sources, consolidated. These are the places the facts in this curriculum come from — and the places you go when a fact matters. One-line notes on what each is for. Accuracy is the point of this layer (per the repo's own rule: if you are not certain of a fact, state it generally rather than inventing specifics).

A note on websites. Interfaces, URLs, and portal names change — that is the *tools* layer (doctrine/08). The *institutions* these sites represent endure: the registry, the bulletin boards, the rules, the published record. If a link moves, search the agency name — you will find the institution.

The bulletin boards and the registry

Source	What it is for	When you need it
SAM.gov — sam.gov	The System for Award Management: the master registry (UEI, CAGE, SAM registration) and the central bulletin board for federal contract opportunities and contract awards .	Registering your entity; finding contract RFPs; seeing who won and for how much.
Grants.gov — grants.gov	The central portal for federal grant opportunities — where NOFOs are published and (for most federal grants) where applications are submitted.	Finding a NOFO; reading a program's eligibility, review criteria, and deadlines; applying.
USAspending.gov — usaspending.gov	The public record of what the government actually spends — trace a dollar from appropriation to a specific award, to an agency, to a contractor.	The money-flow map (where-the-money-flows) made real; post-award research; market intelligence.

The rules

Source	What it is for	When you need it
acquisition.gov (FAR) — acquisition.gov	The Federal Acquisition Regulation — the rulebook for how the government buys things, plus agency supplements (DFARS for DoD, and others).	Checking the actual text behind an RFP's clauses; understanding why a requirement exists.
OMB / Grants.gov policy pages	The grants-policy framework — the rules for assistance dollars (2 CFR and OMB circulars) that sit behind every NOFO.	Understanding the <i>other</i> rulebook — the grants side of the transaction.

The small-business universe

Source	What it is for	When you need it
SBA (Small Business Administration) — sba.gov	The agency that runs the small-business programs: size standards , NAICS guidance, and the certifications (HUBZone, 8(a), WOSB/VOSB).	Confirming a size standard; understanding what a certification requires; applying for or maintaining a certification.
SBIR.gov / STTR — sbir.gov	The Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs: topics, solicitations, awards, and policies for the research set-aside programs.	Finding SBIR/STTR topics (like the one in the worked exemplar); seeing Phase I/II/III awards; reading the program rules.

Worth knowing, one level down

Source	What it is for
GSA eLibrary — gsa.gov/elibrary	The catalog of GSA Schedule / MAS contracts and the contractors on them — the vehicle landscape for repeated purchases.
FPDS (Federal Procurement Data System) — via USAspending.gov	The raw contract award data — the published record of who won what (USAspending is the friendly window on it).
Agency forecasts (DoD, GSA, and others)	Each large agency’s forecast of planned purchases — the market <i>before</i> the solicitation drops.

How to use this list

1. **For the course and the practice layer**, these sources are where “real, published and closed” solicitations come from. Pick one from SAM.gov (an RFP) or Grants.gov (a NOFO) and work the practice bank on it.
2. **For a fact you need to be sure of** (a size standard, a certification rule, a deadline), go to the official source rather than a third-party summary. The literacy layer is accurate, but official sources are the ground truth.
3. **For the weekly habit**, USAspending.gov is the most underrated tool in this discipline: ten minutes a week reading published awards in your NAICS codes teaches you the competitive landscape faster than any newsletter.

The one-sentence summary

The institutions — the registry, the bulletin boards, the rules, the published record — endure even as the websites change. Learn the institutions; the websites are just the current address (doctrine/08).