

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is posting this notification to satisfy the requirements in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 7.107-5(b) *Notification to Public of Rationale for Bundled Requirement*, paragraph (1).

Current Notifications:

The SSA has solicited and will award two firm-fixed price contracts-to provide Medical Expert (ME) witnesses in hearings before an administrative law judge (ALJ) or senior attorney for its 10 Regions and National Hearing Center. Such hearings involve issues under the following titles of the Social Security Act, as amended: Title II, Disability and Title XVI, and Supplemental Security Income. SSA conducts hearings at Hearing Offices, Remote Sites, Satellite Sites, Temporary Sites, and Claimant Only Video Sites throughout the United States, including the territories, such as Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa. These hearings are administrative proceedings that do not take place in a court of law.

The Medical Expert solicitation is a bundled requirement. Currently SSA has hundreds of ME Blanket Purchase Agreements and will be reducing the number of contracts to two. The specific benefits anticipated to be derived from substantial bundling include cost savings, quality improvements that will save time, improve and enhance performance and efficiency, reduce acquisition cycle time, and provide better contract terms and conditions.