How to Use USASpending.gov for Contract Award Data and Federal Marketplace Research

Using USAspending.gov to analyze the market for your products or services in the Federal space gives you valuable information such as what products and services agencies are buying, in what quantities or at what dollar amounts, from whom they are buying, how they are buying (i.e., competitive actions or sole source, set-asides or full and open competition), and what they are paying.

(NOTE: Grants.gov is also a direct source for specific grants awards information.)

Data is updated every day after nightly data pipeline runs, however, not all government data is publicly available or made available immediately.

- DoD and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) data is delayed for 90 calendar days from public view for mission security purposes. This means that if you are interested in, let's say, the complete data set of government-wide spend for FY2026 that includes DoD and USACE 4th quarter spend (spend through 9/30/2026) that it will not be available publicly in these tools until January 1, 2027.
- Non-FAR agreements such as Other Transaction Agreements (OTAs) and other arrangements as a result of a Commercial Solutions Offerings (CSO) are not required to be reported in USASpending.gov as of the date of this document.

FedSubK's recommendations for the data that provides the fastest and easiest to under award details for prime contracts is found by using only the following columns:

- C – Award ID PIID (i.e., contract number)
- H – Parent ID PIID (i.e., parent contract number)
- J – Federal Action Obligation (i.e., total dollars obligated for payment on this action)
- K – Total Obligated Amount (i.e., total dollars obligated to date across all actions for this PIID)
- N – Current Total Value of Award (i.e., all dollars awarded to date)
- P – Potential Total Value of Award (i.e., the current ceiling amount for the action)
- V – Action Date
- W – Award Latest Action Date Fiscal Year (if viewing multiple FYs of data)
- X – Period of Performance Current Start Date
- Y – Period of Performance Current End Date
- AD – Awarding Agency Name
- AF – Awarding Sub Agency Name
- AH – Awarding Office Name
- AJ – Funding Agency Name
- AL – Funding Sub Agency Name
- AN – Funding Office Name
- AY – Recipient Name
- BK – Recipient City Name
- BM – Recipient State Name
- CI – Award Type (i.e., BPA call, purchase order, delivery order, etc.)
- CQ – Type of Contract Pricing

- CM – Prime Award Base Transaction Description (i.e., description of services / products purchased)
- CR – Transaction Description (i.e., Project Title)
- CU – Action Type
- CV – Solicitation Number (if applicable)
- CZ -- Product or Service Code (PSC) (NOTE: Column CS includes the PSC description)
- DF – NAICS code (when searching multiple NAICS) (NOTE: Column CY includes the NAICS description)
- DW – Subcontract Plan (lets you know if subcontracting opportunities exist – applicable to large business prime awards only)
- DY – Extent Competed
- EA – Solicitation Procedures
- EC – Type of Set-Aside
- EL – Number of Offers Received
- HG -- Contracting Officer's Determination of Business Size

With this information you can analyze the data from a variety of perspectives to find buying trends by industry, agency, type, and business size.

- **Is the Government buying what you sell?**
  CR (Transaction Description) + CZ (PSC Code) + DF (NAICS)
- **Who is buying?**
  Add: AD (Awarding Agency) + AF (Awarding Sub Agency) + AH (Awarding Office),
- **Who is funding?** (aka Who is the Requiring Activity, and possibly, the End User?)
  Add: AJ (Funding Agency (i.e., Requesting Agency / End User) + AL (Funding Sub Agency) + AM (Funding Office)
- **How are they buying?**
  Add: CI (Award Type) + DY (Extent Competed) + EA (Solicitation Procedures) + EC (Type of Set-Aside)
- **Who is my competition?**
  Add: AY (Recipient Name) + HG (Contracting Officer's Determination of Business Size)
- **Subcontracting opportunities?**
  Add: DW (Subcontracting Plan)
- **Contract Amounts and Total Funds?**
  Add: K (Total Obligated Amount) + N (Current Total Value of Award) + P (Potential Total Value of Award)
- **Award and End Dates?**
  Add: V (Action Date) + X (Period of Performance Current Start Date) + Y (Period of Performance Current End Date)

Using the PIID (H) you can search SAM.gov inactive actions for copies of scope, pricing, and evaluation factors/criteria for use in preparing for future opportunities of a same/similar nature.