Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: July 28, 2026

From: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of Information and Technology (005A)

Subj: FedRAMP and Cloud Procurement Clarification (V14895023)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and other Key Officials

1. This memorandum (memo) clarifies that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) acquisition documents, including Requests for Information, Requests for Quotation, and/or Request for Proposal, **shall not state or imply that existing FedRAMP certification is required for an offeror to compete for or receive an award at VA**. All security and authorization requirements for cloud systems, services, and solutions will be met through the implementation and adherence of NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-53 Revision 5 (https://csrc.nist.gov/pubs/sp/800/53/r5/upd1/final), updated controls in SP 800-53 Rev 5.2.0 (https://csrc.nist.gov/projects/cprt/catalog#/cprt/framework/version/SP_800_53_5_2_0/home), VA Directive 6500, VA Cybersecurity Program, (https://www.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=1254&FType=2) and VA Handbook 6500.6 Appendix C (Contract Language) (https://www.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=471&FType=2) ensuring full compliance with security requirements and VA Authorization to Operate (ATO).

2. In conjunction with the attached "Authorization to Operate (ATO) in 60 Days" memo and additional resources (ATO in 60 Days SharePoint site) (https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/oitknowledgeservice/SitePages/Authorization-to-Operate-(ATO)-in-60-Days-Memo.aspx?TeamsCID=7d0962b8-3f62-42bf-919a-0cd47c5cac8b), this memo supports VA's ability to sustain momentum with mission needs to provide secure technology solutions in a dynamic cyber risk environment, while avoiding unnecessary delays in the procurement of critical systems and services. It is consistent with Executive Order (EO) 14271, Ensuring Commercial, Cost-Effective Solutions in Federal Contracts (https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/ensuring-commercial-cost-effective-solutions-in-federal-contracts/), which emphasizes the use of commercially available, cost-effective solutions to reduce unnecessary procurement burden and support competition. VA will remain compliant with applicable Office of Management and Budget memoranda and EOs on cybersecurity and procurement.

3. This memo does not waive, defer, or diminish any otherwise applicable VA security, privacy, or authorization requirements. Before any cloud system/service may go into operation, it must still comply with all applicable VA policies and security authorization requirements, regardless of whether it has Fed RAMP certification at the time of procurement. This distinction is intended to preserve acquisition flexibility while maintaining VA's risk management and operational security standards.

4. To support VA's authorization process, post contract award cloud service providers should be prepared to provide security and privacy related documentation to receive a determination for operating within VA's environment. At a minimum, this includes the items listed below. Additional documentation may be necessary as the system progresses through VA's Assessment & Authorization process.

a. Security Assessment Report

b. Architecture/Data Flow Diagrams

c. Asset Inventory

d. Vulnerability Scans

e. If applicable, implementation status of Fed RAMP 20x key security indicators.

5. As the Federal cloud authorization environment continues to evolve, VA policy and implementation expectations will continue to be updated to ensure continued access to high-quality cloud capabilities and to support the timely and secure delivery of services to Veterans.

6. Thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration as VA modernizes our processes to ensure the delivery of secure, reliable technology at the speed our Veterans deserve. For questions related to this memo, please contact Jeffrey Spaeth, Chief Information Security Officer at Jeff.Spaeth@va.gov or the Authorization Acceleration mailbox at OngoingAuthorizationProgram@va.gov.

Zack Schwartz

Attachment