



TESSERACT™

## CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT



# Goodwill Southeast Georgia Achieves CMMC Compliance with Tesseract

### Headquarters



7220 Sallie Mood Dr  
Savannah, GA  
31406

### Industry



Non-Profit

### Size



750  
Employees

### Products & Services



Empowering Individuals  
to Achieve their Highest  
Potential

Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire (GICE), a subsidiary of Goodwill Southeast Georgia, operates with a mission that goes beyond retail operations. As a workforce development non-profit, GICE focuses on empowering individuals by providing them with the tools, training, and resources necessary to overcome barriers and achieve self-sufficiency through employment.

As part of their efforts, GICE conducts business with the Department of Defense (DoD), which imposes stringent cybersecurity and compliance requirements. This meant that GICE needed to meet Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) compliance, a critical requirement for all organizations working with sensitive DoD data.

## Understanding the Challenge

Before adopting Tesseract, GICE's primary concern was ensuring that their O365 environment and broader cybersecurity practices met the necessary standards to achieve CMMC 2.0 certification. With limited experience in handling DoD-specific cybersecurity policies and procedures, GICE knew that they needed expert guidance to navigate the complex requirements of the certification.

### Key Cybersecurity Needs:

- Achieve CMMC 2.0 certification for their Office 365 tenant.
- Establish a strong cybersecurity governance structure.
- Ensure compliance with DoD security policies and procedures.

## The Solution: Tesseract's Expertise and Step-by-Step Support

GICE learned about Tesseract through a customer recommendation, which had successfully achieved compliance using Tesseract's services. With this referral and a clear need for CMMC 2.0 certification, GICE engaged Tesseract to help them achieve their compliance goals.

GICE chose an Advanced Complete program with a Core service level that delivered policy guidance and subject matter expertise, daily monitoring of their Microsoft GCC-High environment, Microsoft 365 engineers and admins to setup logical safeguards to protect their sensitive data, and a step-by-step compliance roadmap making it the ideal solution for GICE. Unlike other organizations, GICE did not need to compare multiple providers because of the strong trust they placed in the recommendation and Tesseract's clear value proposition.

### Why GICE Chose Tesseract:

- ✓ **Proven expertise** in guiding non-profits to CMMC certification.
- ✓ **Clear compliance roadmap**, especially in handling DoD-specific requirements.
- ✓ **Policy knowledge** and robust project management to ensure timely completion.

## The Result: Improved Cybersecurity and Compliance Readiness

Since adopting Tesseract, GICE has seen a marked improvement in its cybersecurity posture. The governance framework introduced by Tesseract has provided a solid foundation for GICE to operate under, and the policies and procedures established for CMMC compliance have been adopted to other areas of their business, strengthening overall cybersecurity.

### Outcomes:

- ✓ **CMMC 2.0 Certification Achieved:** GICE successfully met CMMC 2.0 requirements ahead of the 2025 DoD deadline.
- ✓ **Cybersecurity Improvements:** The governance structure put in place has been leveraged to enhance security across other business units, beyond their DoD-related operations.
- ✓ **Ongoing Benefits:** GICE now operates with a higher level of cyber awareness, and their improved security posture has helped them build trust with both government and non-government partners.

For GICE, the collaboration with Tesseract has been transformative. What began as a compliance initiative has evolved into a broader enhancement of their cybersecurity framework, with far-reaching benefits across the organization. With Tesseract, GICE was able to meet CMMC compliance and improve their overall security posture, securing their future as a trusted partner to the DoD and other government agencies.



"We've become CMMC 2.0 compliant ahead of the DoD 2025 deadline for contractors. Tesseract's team provided us with invaluable guidance throughout the process. Their policy knowledge and project management skills were

instrumental in helping us achieve our cybersecurity goals."

**James Ratliff, IT Operations Manager, Goodwill Southeast Georgia**

To learn more about Tesseract™, visit: [www.tesseract.ardalyst.com](http://www.tesseract.ardalyst.com)

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