

Minority, Women, Veteran, and Small Business Certification Guide

The Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) certifies small businesses owned by women, minorities, and socially and economically disadvantaged persons. The Department of Veterans Affairs certifies businesses owned by veterans. The Department of Enterprise Services has an online director of small businesses.

WHY BECOME CERTIFIED

- Being certified may increase your marketability:
 - In the larger business community.
 - To state and local governments.
 - To contractors who are hired by the government and offer subcontracting opportunities.
 - Agencies and prime contractors can find certified firms in a centralized database.
- State and local agencies set participation goals, and recognize that improving opportunities for small and minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses drives innovation and economic growth and translates to stronger Washington communities.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) distributes federal funds to finance state, local, public transportation, and airport transportation projects. Recipients of USDOT funds must set an overall goal for participation of certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.
- State certification makes you eligible to apply for the Linked Deposit Program, which can decrease interest rates on qualified small business loans by 2 percent.

TYPES OF CERTIFICATION

The back of this document lists types of certifications, basic requirements, and where you can go to get more information and apply. The certifications and certifying agencies listed are the only ones recognized by the State of Washington.

RESOURCES

Below are a few additional resource for firms. Please see OMWBE's website for more information.

- Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC): no cost help for small businesses to find and bid on government contracts.
washingtonptac.org | info@washingtonptac.org | (360) 464-6043
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) DBE Support Services: Provides services to federally certified firms interested in working on WSDOT highway projects.
wsdot.wa.gov/EqualOpportunity/DBE.htm DBESS@wsdot.wa.gov | (888) 259-9143

	Types of Certification	Certification Requirements	How do I apply for certification?
USDOT Funded Transportation Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (minority- or woman-owned businesses¹) (DBE) Federal Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) 	<p>Business must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For-profit. A small business according to the U.S. Small Business Administration (see application information) <p>Eligible owner(s) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be female, African American/Black, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latinx Native American, Native Hawaiian, or Alaska Native¹ Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident (federal only). Own at least 51% of the business. Control managerial day-to-day operations. Have a personal net worth less than 1.32 million not including primary residence or applicant business. 	<p>Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises</p> <p>Apply online at: www.omwbe.wa.gov</p> <p>For more information: (360) 664-9750 1-866-208-1064 TechnicalAssistance@omwbe.wa.gov</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Woman Business Enterprise (WBE) Minority Woman Business Enterprise (MWBE) Combination Business Enterprise (CBE) Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SEDBE)² 		
State Contracting	Veteran or Service Member Owned Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington State Business. Proof of honorable veteran or service member status. Proof of 51% ownership. 	<p>Department of Veteran Affairs</p> <p>Register as a vendor on WEBS and indicate you want to apply for veteran certification. pr-webs-vendor.des.wa.gov</p> <p>For more information: www.dva.wa.gov 1-800-562-0132 vob@dva.wa.gov</p>
	State Small Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington State Business. 50 or fewer employees, or gross revenue less than \$7 million. 	<p>Department of Enterprise Services</p> <p>Register as a vendor on WEBS and indicate you meet the criteria for a small business. pr-webs-vendor.des.wa.gov</p> <p>For more information: 360-902-7400 webcustomerservice@des.wa.gov</p>

¹ Other individuals may be found to be socially disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis.

² Owned by a person who is not presumptively socially disadvantaged but demonstrates she or he is socially disadvantaged.