



Dear Business Owner:

Maryland is home to one of the most robust communities of small, women- and minority-owned businesses in the nation and State procurement agencies are working diligently to spend at least 25% of their procurement dollars with certified minority firms.

You must be certified as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) in order to be counted toward the minority participation goal on a State contract. The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is the State's official certification agency for the Minority Business Enterprise Program. Administered through MDOT's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE), certification is free. Applicants may simultaneously apply for certification to participate as a minority business on federally funded contracts as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE).

MBE and DBE certification offers a number of benefits, including greater exposure to contracting opportunities and inclusion in MDOT's online directory of certified firms. Certified firms actively participate in meeting public and private minority participation goals and have exclusive access to Maryland's Linked Deposit Program which offers discount loans and lines of credit through participating banks.

I encourage you to use this website to learn more about the MBE Program, access the online directory, read our newsletter, check out upcoming procurement and business network events, and connect to a wide variety of valuable information and resources.

I also cordially invite you to attend our free Application Assistance Workshop held the first Tuesday of every month. It provides a comprehensive overview of the program and offers you the opportunity to meet with a certification expert one-on-one. Be sure to visit the Application Assistance Workshop section of the website for complete details and to register online.

I firmly believe that certification as an MBE/DBE provides great opportunities to small, minority- and women-owned businesses and I hope you consider joining our program. Don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions at 410-865-1269 or mbe@mdot.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

Richelle Thomas
Director
Office of Minority Business Enterprise