



Minority business certification is designed to ensure that all applicants meet the eligibility requirements for participation in a particular race and/or gender-based public contracting program. Certification for participation in such programs is typically granted to disadvantaged, minority- or women-owned businesses. The certification process may also be used to identify businesses that are small, local or underutilized for participation in race- and gender- neutral contracting programs. The benefits of and requirements for certification vary among programs. Typically, the eligibility criteria for race-conscious programs are more rigorous than those for race-neutral programs.

Firms considering certification should carefully review each program's requirements for minority status, ownership, control, personal net worth, business size standards and residency when considering which program(s) best suit their business needs.

Public Sector Certification Agencies

City of Baltimore

Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office
410-396-4355

<http://www.baltimorecity.gov>

The mission of the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office is to ensure that the City of Baltimore is prepared to create new opportunities for women and minority owned businesses. MWBOO is the certification agency for the City's Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Program and its Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program.

Commonwealth of Virginia

Department of Minority Business Enterprise (DMBE)
804-786-6585

<http://www.dmbv.virginia.gov>

The Department of Minority Business Enterprise (DMBE) is dedicated to enhancing the participation of small, women- and minority-owned businesses in Virginia's procurement process. DMBE is the certification agency for the Small, Women- and Minority-owned Business (SWaM) Procurement Initiative and the federal U.S. Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.

District of Columbia

Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD)
202-727-3900

<http://dslbd.dc.gov>

DSLBD is charged with fostering economic growth and the development of emerging District-based businesses. DSLBD is the certification agency for the District's Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) Program, which offers several different types of business certifications including Local Business Enterprise (LBE) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification.

District Department of Transportation (DDOT)

Office of Civil Rights
202-673-6813

<http://dbe.ddot.dc.gov>

DDOT certifies firms as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) for participation on its U.S. Department of Transportation funded contracts. DDOT strongly encourages the use of DDOT certified DBEs for contracting and subcontracting opportunities.

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE)

410-865-1269/800-544-6056

<http://www.mdot.maryland.gov>

Maryland is committed to assisting small, minority and women-owned firms in gaining greater access to government contracting opportunities. OMBE is the official certification agency for Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program and the federal U.S. Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)

Equal Opportunity Programs Department

703-417-8625

<http://www.mwaa.com>

MWAA's equal opportunity programs help to maximize opportunities for small, disadvantaged, minority and women-owned businesses interested in competing for Authority-sponsored contracts. The Equal Opportunity Department is the certification agency for MWAA's Local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (LDBE) Program and the federal U.S. Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.

Prince George's County

Office of Central Services

Supplier Development & Diversity Division

301.883.6480

<http://diversity.mypgc.us>

The role of the Prince George's County Office of Central Services Supplier Development & Diversity Division (SDDD) is to ensure that MBE/DBE and County based businesses have an equal opportunity to compete and win direct and indirect procurements. SDDD also serves as the official certification agency for local, small and minority businesses and your connection to resources and opportunities in Prince George's County and throughout the region.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

202-272-0345

<http://www.sba.gov>

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is an independent agency of the federal government that aides, counsels and protects the interests of small business. SBA offers a wide variety of programs and services and is the certification agency for the SBA 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone, Small Business and Women-Owned Small Business federal contract programs.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

Office of Procurement & Materials, DBE Branch

202-962-2409

<http://www.wmata.com>

WMATA is dedicated to ensuring full and open competition and equitable treatment of all potential sources in the procurement process. The Office of Community Relations is the certification agency for the Small Local Business Program (SLBP) and the federal U.S. Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)

Small, Local Minority Business Enterprise Office (SLMBE)

301-206-8800

<http://www.wsscwater.com>

The Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission is dedicated to creating an inclusive purchasing environment and expanding opportunities for small and local businesses. SLMBE is the certification agency for the Small, Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) Program.

Private Sector Certification Organizations

Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council (CRMSDC)

301-593-5860

<http://affiliate.nmsdc.org/crmsdc/>

Capital Region MSCD is a privately funded, non-profit, small business development organization that provides minority suppliers and corporate representatives with varied opportunities to build mutually productive working relationships. Members are certified as Minority Business Enterprises (MBE).

The Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)

Certification & Affiliate Relations Office

202-872-5515

<http://www.wbenc.org>

WBENC fosters diversity in the world of commerce in an effort to expand opportunities and eliminate barriers for women business owners by encouraging the utilization and expansion of supplier/vendor diversity programs in corporate America. Members are certified as a Women's Business Enterprise (WBE).