

EASTERN MINORITY SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Type of Certification: Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)

The Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council (EMSDC) is an affiliate of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), one of the country's leading corporate membership organizations. Whether you are a small minority-owned organization or a billion-dollar powerhouse, the EMSDC as part of the NMSDC network, including 23 regional councils, is committed to helping solve the growing need for supplier diversity. We do this by matching our more than 12,000 certified minority-owned businesses to a vast network of corporate members who wish to purchase their products, services and solutions. Our corporate membership includes many of the largest public and privately-owned companies, as well as healthcare institutions, government/quasi-governmental agencies, colleges/universities, and others.

Benefits:

- National recognition as a certified MBE by 1,750 corporate members and government agencies.
- Inclusion in the searchable MBE database.
- Contact information for supplier diversity and procurement representatives.
- Access to bid opportunities.
- Facilitate MBE-to-MBE partnerships to meet the needs of our corporate members.
- Build MBE capacity and capabilities through our programs and other education offerings.
- Targeted trainings, conferences, meetings and networking events to expand your professional network.
- Opportunities to compete for prestigious local, regional, and national supplier excellence awards.
- Executive leadership scholarships.

Requirements/Eligibility:

- The owner(s) must be a United States citizen.
- Minority businesses must be at least 51% minority-owned, operated and controlled. For the purposes of NMSDC's program, a minority group member is an individual who is at least 25% Asian, Black, Hispanic or Native American. Minority eligibility is established via a combination of screenings, interviews and site visits. Ownership, in the case of a publicly-owned business, means that at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more minority group members.
- Must be a for-profit enterprise and physically located in the U.S. or its trust territories. If your business is NOT located in Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey or Delaware, refer to NMSDC.
- Management and daily operations must be exercised by the minority ownership member(s).

Cost:

- There is a non-refundable application fee for the certification ranging from \$300 - \$1250.

Contact Information:

Philadelphia Office
Address: Rodin Place, 2000 Hamilton Street,
Suite 308, Philadelphia, PA 19130
Number: (215) 569-1005

Pittsburgh Office
Number: (412) 710-2060
Email: info@emsdc.org
Website: www.emsdc.org

WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTER (WBEC-EAST)

Type of Certification(s): Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) Women Owned Small Business Government Certification (WOSB)

Women's Business Enterprise Center (WBEC-East) is a regional partner organization of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), the nation's third party certifier of women owned businesses.

Benefits:

- Access to supplier diversity and procurement executives at hundreds of major U.S. corporations and federal, state, and local government entities that accept WBENC Certification.
- Formal and informal opportunities to pursue business with Corporate and Government Members, as well as other WBENC-Certified WBEs.
- Access to networking events and programs, procurement opportunities, mentoring, executive education, capacity development programs, and other business tools and resources.
- Eligibility for regional and national awards and recognition.
- Use of Women Owned Logo and Women's Business Enterprise Seal as a marketing tool to promote your business and expand your company's visibility.
- Community of support from other female business owners and like-minded professionals all dedicated to the growth and success of women-owned businesses.

Requirements/Eligibility:

- Majority (at least 51%) ownership by one or more women.
- Demonstrated proof of female management and control of business.
- Unrestricted female control of the business in legal documents and day-to-day operations.
- A woman holding the highest defined title in the company's legal documents.
- Documented evidence of female contribution of capital and/or industry expertise.
- Status of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Permanent Resident for woman owner(s) constituting majority ownership.

Cost:

- The certification fee ranges from \$350 - \$1,250 on a sliding scale, based on gross receipts.

Contact Information:

Philadelphia Office
Address: 123 S. Broad Street – Suite 500,
Philadelphia, PA 19109
Number: (215) 790-9232 / (877) 790-WBEC

Pittsburgh Office
Address: 700 River Avenue – Suite 210,
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Number: (412) 935-2545
Website: www.wbeceast.com

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Allegheny County Airport Authority - (412) 472-3779
www.flypittsburgh.com
- Allegheny County Dept. of Equity and Inclusion - (412) 350-4309
www.alleghenycounty.us/equity-inclusion/index.aspx
- Allegheny County Economic Development - (412) 350-1048
www.alleghenycounty.us/economic
- Allegheny County Housing Authority - (412) 402-2460
www.achsng.com
- ALCOSAN - (412) 732-8020
www.alcosan.org
- City of Pittsburgh Equal Opportunity - (412) 255-8804
Review Commission
www.eorc.pittsburghpa.gov
- Community College of Allegheny County - (412) 237-3023
www.ccac.edu
- Diversity Business Resource Center (DBRC) - (412) 322-3272
www.riversidecenterforinnovation.com
- Government Agency Coordination Office (GACO),
APEX Accelerator at PennWest University - (724) 738-2346
www.calu.edu/gaco
- Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh - (412) 643-2768
www.hacp.org
- Pittsburgh Parking Authority - (412) 560-7275
www.pittsburghparking.com
- Pittsburgh Public Schools - (412) 529-4661
www.pghschools.org/mwdbe
- Pittsburgh Regional Transit - (412) 566-5257
www.rideprt.org
- Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority - (412) 255-8800 x6440
www.pgh2o.com
- Riverside Center for Innovation - (412) 322-3523
www.riversidecenterforinnovation.com
- Sports & Exhibition Authority - (412) 393-7102
www.pgh-sea.com
- Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh - (412) 255-6418
www.ura.org
- U. S. Small Business Administration - (412) 395-6560
www.sba.gov



Disclaimer: This brochure is for informational purposes only.
For full details, contact certification agency.
REV 03/2023



Connecting Business and Opportunity

BUSINESS CERTIFICATION REFERENCE GUIDE

Our Mission:

To create effective methods that strengthen economic opportunities for Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

To provide assistance enabling contractors and businesses to secure contracts in the goods and service, construction and professional services markets leading to profitability and growth for these businesses.



mwdbegovpgh@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Type of Certification: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

Benefits:

Eligible to bid on Federal Transportation related contracts. DBE Certification is recognized by Federal, State, and Local governmental entities in meeting participation requirements on contracting opportunities. DBE certification designation is also recognized broadly by industry and corporate entities seeking women and minority business participation on contracts. All firms wishing to be certified as a DBE must complete an application at www.paucp.dbesystem.com and submit it to the PAUCP for determination of their eligibility. The application is subject to review and verification. Before a determination is made, additional information may be requested and an on-site review with the firm's principals may be conducted by the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program.

Requirements/Eligibility:

Must be a U.S. Citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident of the U.S. Socially & Economically Disadvantaged Individuals who are women, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Subcontinent Asian Americans, or other minorities found to be disadvantaged by the SBA. Firm must be 51% owned by a socially and economically disadvantaged individual(s) who controls the firm. Personal Net Worth not exceeding \$1.32 million dollars. A small business that meets the Small Business Administration's business size standard and does not exceed \$28.48 million in annual gross receipts over the firm's previous three fiscal years.

Cost:

- Certification is free.

Contact Information:

Agency: Allegheny County Department of Equity and Inclusion
Number: (412) 350-4309
Website: www.alleghenycounty.us/equity-inclusion/index.aspx

Agency: Pittsburgh Regional Transit
Number: (412) 566-5257
Website: www.rideprt.org/business-center/dbe/

Agency: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Bureau of Equal Opportunity
Number: (717) 787-5891
Website: www.penndot.pa.gov/about-us/EqualEmployment/Pages/default.aspx

Agency: Philadelphia International Airport
Office of Business Diversity
Number: (215) 937-1801
Website: www.phl.org/business/OBD

Agency: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)
DBE Program Office
Number: (215) 580-7278
Website: www.septa.org/business/dbe/

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Type of Certification: 8(a) Certification

Benefits:

- Sole-source contracts up to \$7.5M for Mfg / \$4.5M for Non-Mfg

Requirements/Eligibility:

- 51% or more owned by socially/economically disadvantaged individual(s)
- Adjusted net worth below \$850,000
- Small Business according to firm's primary NAICS code
- 2 years in business with good past performance on contracts

Type of Certification:

HUBZone Certification (Historically Underutilized Business Zone)

Benefits:

- Set-aside contracts, Sole source contracts up to \$7.5M for Mfg / \$4.5M for Non-Mfg
- 10% price evaluation preference in full & open competition

Requirements/Eligibility:

- Small Business by SBA standards
- Principal Office must be in a HUBZone
- 35% of employees must reside in a HUBZone

Type of Certification(s):

WOSB – Women Owned Small Business

EDWOSB - Economically Disadvantaged WOSB

Benefits:

- Set-aside contracts, Sole source contracts up to \$7M for Mfg/\$4.5M for Non-Mfg

Requirements/Eligibility:

- Small Business by SBA standards in designated NAICS codes
- 51% or more owned/controlled by women; Manage daily operations; long term decision maker
- Certified by SBA or third party certified
- Net worth < \$750,000 for EDWOSB

Type of Certification(s):

SDVOSB - Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business

VOSB – Veteran Owned Small Business

Benefits:

- The Dept. of Veteran Affairs has a priority in acquisitions to SDVOSB/VOSB
- Firms can receive sole source awards up to \$7.0M Mfg / \$4M Non-Mfg

Requirements/Eligibility:

- SDVO must hold the highest officer position
- Now an SBA Certification: veterans.certify.sba.gov

Cost:

- All certifications and services listed above are free.

Contact Information:

Address: 3 Parkway Center-Suite 325, Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Phone Number: (412) 395-6560
Email: wpainfo@sba.gov
Website: www.sba.gov/contracting

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

Type of Certification: Small Business Self-Certification and Small Diverse Business and Veteran Business Enterprise Verification

Benefits:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is committed to providing opportunities for small, small diverse, and veteran businesses to compete in state contracting with the goal of promoting economic growth and success of those small, small diverse and veteran businesses. The Department of General Services (DGS), Bureau of Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities (BDISBO) administers the Small Business (SB), Small Diverse Business (SDB), and Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE) programs which support small businesses and those small businesses that are minority, women, veteran, service-disabled veteran, LGBT-owned, and disability-owned business entities in their efforts to participate in Commonwealth contracts. The SB, SDB, and VBE programs strive to increase opportunities for small and small diverse businesses to compete as both prime and sub-contractors for Commonwealth contracts and enables them to compete on a more level playing field. The Bureau administers a pro-active compliance review program for monitoring utilization to ensure that contractual commitments between prime contractors and SB, SDB, and VBE sub-contractors are met. Finally, BDISBO conducts outreach and training to expand and enhance the program.

Requirements/Eligibility:

Businesses interested in participating as a small business in the Small Business Program must first register to do business with the Commonwealth, obtain a PA Vendor Number, and self-certify through an online application as a "small business."

To self-certify and participate in the program, a business must meet each of the following requirements:

- The business must be a for-profit, United States business.
- The business must be independently owned.
- The business may not be dominant in its field of operation.
- The business may not employ more than 100 full-time equivalent employees.
- The business may not exceed \$38.5 million three-year average gross revenues.

The opportunity for Small Diverse Business and Veteran Business Enterprise Verification is offered once a business has received a PA Vendor Number and is successfully self-certified with the Commonwealth as a small business.

Department of General Services will accept approved third-party certifications from any of the entities listed below:

- Unified Certification Program (UCP)
- National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)
- Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)
- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 8(a) Program
- Vets First Verification Program www.va.gov/osdbu/verification/
- Disability: IN www.disabilityin.org
- National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC)

Cost:

- DGS Self-Certification and Verification are free.

Contact Information:

Address: 401 North Street – Room 611, Harrisburg, PA 17120
Number: (717) 783-3119 | (717) 787-7052 Fax
Website: www.smallbusiness.pa.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Type of Certification: HUD Section 3 Business Self-Certification

Benefits:

The HUD Section 3 Business Self-Certification certifies businesses that are owned and controlled by low-income individuals or businesses that provide substantial economic opportunities or employment for low-income people in Allegheny County, PA and surrounding counties, as "Section 3 Eligible". Certification as a Section 3 Business entitles the business to a qualified contracting preference on HUD-funded development projects and opportunities. Certified businesses are listed in a searchable, national on-line database that can be used by developers, contractors, government entities and organizations to identify eligible Section 3 Business Concerns. Section 3 of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 requires recipients of HUD funding to provide training, hiring and contracting opportunities, to low and very low-income residents of the area, where the HUD-funded project is located, "to the greatest extent feasible". Section 3 applies to contracts worth over \$200,000 in federal housing and community development funds (CDBG HOME, NSP, etc.) and to all contracting and employment by public housing authorities. Section 3 Certification does not automatically entitle a business to a contract on HUD-funded development projects, only a contracting preference.

Requirements/Eligibility:

A business is eligible for HUD Section 3 Business Self-Certification if it meets any one of the following criteria:

- 51% or more of the business is owned and controlled by low or very low-income persons whose household income is no greater than 80% of the HUD Area Median Income (AMI).
- 51% or more of the business is owned and controlled by current public housing residents, or residents who currently live in Section 8-assisted housing, or
- 75% or more of the labor hours performed for the business over the prior three-month period, have been performed by Section 3 workers that meet the definition of low or very low-income persons whose household income is no greater than 80% of the HUD AMI within five years prior to the initial date of hire with the business.

Cost:

- HUD Section 3 Business Self-Certification is free.

Contact Information:

Address: 451 7th Street S.W., Washington, DC 20410
Number: (202) 708-1112
Website: www.hud.gov/section3/
(Once on the website to self-certify and register: Click on the opportunity portal, then under Section 3 businesses click on search for contracts, hit the business search tab and click on sign-in.)