

SBA CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

“A Quick Snapshot”



Certification Programs

- Formal SBA Certification Programs
 - 8(a) Business Development Program
 - HUBZone Program
- Self-certification Programs
 - SDVO Small Business Program
 - WOSB Program

Some Initial Notes

- The SBA Certification Programs are intended for those firms seeking to do business with the federal government.
- The certification programs are not for everyone
 - Must understand the purpose/goals of the program
 - Must provide a good/service that is being used by the federal agencies
 - Must understand the purpose/goals of the program
 - Must be willing to do paperwork
 - Must be willing to continue to market their firms
 - Must be patient
- Being certified does not equal to immediate success!

8(a) Business Development Program

Purpose:	The purpose of the 8(a) BD program is to assist eligible small disadvantaged business concerns compete in the American economy through business development.
Eligibility:	A concern meets the basic requirements for admission to the 8(a) BD program if it is a small business which is unconditionally owned and controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who are of good character and citizens of and residing in the United States, and which demonstrates potential for success.
Type of Program:	Business Development Program
Type of Certification:	Formal
Regulation:	13CFR124.1

Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone)

Purpose:	The purpose of the HUBZone program is to provide federal contracting assistance for qualified SBCs located in historically underutilized business zones in an effort to increase employment opportunities, investment, and economic development in such areas.
Eligibility:	Its principal office must be located within a “Historically Underutilized Business Zone,” which includes lands considered “Indian Country” and military facilities closed by the Base Realignment and Closure Act and at least 35% of its employees must reside in a HUBZone.
Type of Program:	Contracting Program
Type of Certification:	Formal
Regulation:	13CFR126.100

Service Disabled Veteran Owned (SDVO) Small Business Program

Purpose:	To provide procuring agencies with the authority to set acquisitions aside for exclusive competition among service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns, as well as the authority to make sole source awards to service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns.
Eligibility:	A concern must be at least 51% unconditionally and directly owned by one or more service-disabled veterans who has a service-connected disability that has been determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense
Type of Program:	Contracting Program
Type of Certification:	Self-certification
Regulation:	13CFR125.8

Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program (WOSB)

Purpose:	The Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Federal Contract program authorizes contracting officers to set aside certain federal contracts for eligible Women-owned small businesses (WOSBs) or Economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses (EDWOSBs). The goal of the program is to expand federal contracting opportunities for women-owned small businesses.
Eligibility:	A firm must be at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more women, and primarily managed by one or more women.
Type of Program:	Contracting Program
Type of Certification:	Self-certification*
Regulation:	13CFR127.100
Note:	There has been legislature approved that will make changes to this program. Changes are pending.

Program Preference

- There is no order of precedence among the 8(a) BD, HUBZone, SDVO SBC or WOSB programs.
- SBA believes that Progress in fulfilling the various small business goals, as well as other factors such as the results of market research, programmatic needs specific to the procuring agency, anticipated award price, and the acquisition history, will be considered in making a decision as to which program to use for the acquisition.

Additional Notes

- To be certified in one of the special areas the following conditions apply:
 - Firm must be a small business
 - Business must be owned (at least 51%) by the individual in the requested special category.
 - Business must be controlled by the individual in the requested special category.
 - Ownership must be unconditional and direct.
- Owner must understand that certification does not equal to immediate success. Must continue to market the business.

Quick Updates

- **WOSB Program: 2015 NDAA Eliminates Self-Certification:** While the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act made changes to the WOSB Program, these changes have not been implemented. The next phase of this legislative process involves a formal review and development of the regulations. Once this phase is completed, then the changes will be incorporated into the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and the Code of Federal Regulations.
- **Small Business Government Contracting and National Defense Authorization Act of 2013 Amendments:** This act impacted various sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, to include “Limitations on Subcontracting.” Changes to the current regulations are being proposed and have been published in the Federal Register for comments. Once the comment period is over, the comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the proposed regulations. Once the proposed rules have completed the appropriate reviews/notifications in the Federal Register final implementation instructions will be issued by SBA.

Questions????