

Statewide Certification Programs

Texas Unified Certification Program (TUCP)

The TUCP is a Federal DBE program that allows certified businesses to seek partnerships with any Texas entity that receives funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). TUCP DBE certifications are available through six certifying agencies throughout the state and are valid and accepted by any USDOT-funded entities.

- City of Houston, Office of Business Opportunity
<http://www.houstontx.gov/obo/>
- City of Austin, Small Business Development
<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/small-and-minority-business/about>
- Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority
<http://crrta.org/opportunities/dbe-certification/>
- North Central Texas Certification Agency
<http://www.nctrca.org/>
- South Central Texas Certifying Agency
<https://sctrca.org/>
- Texas Department of Transportation
<http://www.txdot.gov/business/partnerships/dbe.html>

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Small Business Enterprise Program

Businesses that meet the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) size requirements can apply for a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) certification through this statewide program. With this certification, businesses can access highway construction and maintenance projects that are fully funded by local or state funds. Businesses with a DBE certification do not have to apply for this certification. For more information please visit: <http://www.txdot.gov/business/partnerships/dbe.html>

Local and Regional Programs

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) DBE Programs

The METRO Office of Small Business offers DBE and SBE certifications to businesses in the Harris County region. This program is gender and race neutral, open to qualifying business owners of any sex, color, age, religion, national or ethnic origin, race, or disability. This SBE certification is recognized for inclusion in the women, disadvantaged, minority, and small business development programs offered by the Houston Community College Small Business Procurement, Houston First Corporation, Port of Houston Authority, and Fort Bend ISD. For more information please visit: <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/SmallBusiness.aspx>

Minority Supplier Development Council MBE Programs

Businesses that are at least 51% owned by one or more ethnic minorities can get an MBE certification from the Minority Supplier Development Council (MSDC). This organization offers minority business certifications for companies throughout Texas through locations in Houston, Austin, El Paso, San Antonio, and Dallas/Fort Worth. For more information please visit: <http://www.nmsdc.org/>

Texas Small Business Association DBE Programs

The Texas Small Business Association offers certifications to woman, veteran, and minority-owned businesses, as well as small businesses. These SBA-approved certifications can help businesses find greater opportunities for government and public contracting through the state. For more information please visit: <https://www.texasba.us/>

National Certification Programs

Women's Business Enterprise National Council WBE Program

The Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) is a third-party business organization that offers certifications to women owned businesses throughout Texas. Applying business must meet WBENC procedures and standards and be at least 51% owned by a woman. This council is dedicated to bettering opportunities for women who are business owners or corporate members through programs, professional networking, and education. For more information please visit: <http://www.wbenc.org/>

National Women Business Owners Corporation

More than twenty years ago, NWBOC became the first organization to create a national certification program for women-owned businesses. Yet, the platform it developed is much more than a certification – it is a powerful network of resources for business development and access to new opportunities. NWBOC helps its certified members to scale, become more sustainable – and ultimately more procurement ready – to do business with government and private sectors. For more information please visit: <http://www.nwboc.org/>

National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)

The National Minority Supplier Development Council advances business opportunities for certified minority business enterprises and connects them to corporate members. For more information please visit: <http://www.nmsdc.org/>

U.S. Women Chamber of Commerce

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce gives voice to the collective strength of women in the U.S. economy. Using a platform of influence, innovation, and opportunity, we work with and for our members to grow successful businesses and careers. For more information please visit: <https://uswcc.org/>

U.S. Department of Transportation DBE Program

The USDOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program aims to increase the participation of minority and women owned businesses in state and local transportation projects that are funded by the Department through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). For more information please visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/small-business/disadvantaged-business-enterprise-dbe-program>

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Contracting Assistance Programs

The SBA provides several programs to help small businesses win federal contracts. Participating in these programs helps small businesses: Win a fair share of federal contracts; Qualify for exclusive set-aside and sole-source contracts; Partner with established contractors to win contracts; Get business mentoring and education to learn how federal contracting works. For more information please visit: <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs>