

DBE

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise

Certification through ODOT (and others), with Fed. Highway Adm./Fed. Transit Adm. oversight

ODOT'S GOALS:

- 15.6% of federally-funded highway construction and design contracts (e.g., major highway reconstruction, geotechnical design, environmental consulting) in Federal Fiscal Years 17, 18, and 19.
- 6.75% of federally-funded transit contracts in Federal Fiscal Years 17, 18, and 19.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The primary remedial goal and objective of the DBE program is to level the playing field by providing DBEs a fair opportunity to compete for federally-funded transportation contracts.

DBE ELIGIBILITY

To be certified as a DBE, a firm must be an independent small business owned (51% minimum) and controlled by a socially and economically disadvantaged individual (or multiple socially and economically disadvantaged individuals).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (in part)

- Rebuttably presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged are Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Subcontinent Asian Americans, and women. Others may be eligible on a case-by-case basis.
- The socially and economically disadvantaged individual(s) owning and controlling a firm must have personal net worth (PNW) of less than \$1.32 million.
- A firm must meet SBA small business size standards and the DBE program's statutory receipts cap of \$23.98 million.

SBE

Small Business Enterprise

Certification through ODOT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ODOT's SBE program is a race/gender-neutral set-aside program that restricts competition for prime contracts on certain federally-funded highway construction and design contracts (e.g., culvert replacement, geotechnical design, environmental consulting) to small businesses that have been certified through the program. SBE firms must be prequalified (at bid time) with ODOT in order to bid on SBE set-aside projects. The SBE must perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30% of the total cost of its contract with its own work force.

SBE ELIGIBILITY

To be certified as an SBE, the a firm must be an independent small business owned (51% minimum) and controlled by an individual—or multiple individuals—having personal net worth (PNW) of less than \$1.32 million.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Same as for DBE, except:

- A firm must perform work in construction or construction-related consultant services.
- A firm (including its affiliates) must have average annual receipts of no more than \$15,000,000 (construction firms) or \$7,000,000 (construction-related consultant services firms) over the previous three fiscal years (prorated if firm is <3 years old).
- The individual(s) owning and controlling a firm must have adjusted gross income(s) of no more than \$350,000.
- SBE certification is race- and gender-neutral.

MBE

Minority Business Enterprise

Certification through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services

ODOT'S GOAL: 20% set-aside and 5% participation for 100% State-funded purchases of goods and services (e.g., snow plows, aggregate, quick-setting concrete, traffic cones, transcription services) (note: ODOT's set-aside goal exceeds the 15% required by law).

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Ohio's MBE program is designed to assist minority businesses in obtaining state government contracts for supplying goods and services.

MBE ELIGIBILITY

Business owner(s) must be members of one or more of the following groups: Blacks, American Indians, Hispanics and Asians.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (in part)

- The business must be a for-profit entity.
- In business at least 1 year prior to applying for certification.
- The minority business owner must own and control at least 51 percent for one year prior to applying for certification.
- Owner must be an Ohio resident.
- Owner must be a U.S. citizen.
- Owner has control over day-to-day operations.
- Owner must have all licenses, permits and authorities required by law to perform the scope of work.

EDGE

Encouraging Diversity, Growth & Equity

Certification through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services

ODOT'S GOAL: 5% of highway construction & design contracts that are 100% State-funded, e.g. bridge repair, highway lighting, resurfacing, design services.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

EDGE is an assistance program for economically and socially disadvantaged business enterprises. The program establishes goals for state agencies, boards and commissions in awarding contracts to certified EDGE eligible businesses. EDGE applies to procurements of supplies and services, professional services, information technology services, construction and professional design services. The maximum amount of time a business may participate in the EDGE program is ten years.

EDGE ELIGIBILITY

An EDGE participant must be a small socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprise owned and controlled by U.S. citizens who are Ohio residents.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (in part)

Socially disadvantaged requirements include race, ethnic origin, gender, physical/mental disability or long-term residency in an environment isolated from mainstream Ohio society.

Economically disadvantaged criteria includes both of the following:

- Personal net worth of each owner must not exceed \$250,000 at the time of program entry.
- Personal net worth of each owner must not exceed \$750,000 during participation.

VFBE

Veteran-Friendly Business Enterprise

Certification through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The State of Ohio's Veteran-Friendly Business Enterprise (VFBE) Procurement program provides preference or bonus points to certified companies that compete to contract with the state to supply the goods or services it needs, including eligible construction services.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible for certification, the applicant business must satisfy one of the following criteria:

- At least ten percent of its employees are veterans or on active service;
- At least fifty-one percent of the applicant business is owned by veterans or persons on active service;
- If the applicant business is a corporation fifty-one percent of which is not owned by veterans or persons on active service, at least fifty-one percent of the board of directors are veterans or persons on active service; or
- The business is certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business or a Veteran-Owned Small Business and the owner(s) of the business meets the definition of veteran as defined in Rule 5501:2-12-01 (5) of the Ohio Administrative Code.

For more information on MBE, EDGE, and VFBE certification visit das.ohio.gov/Divisions/EqualOpportunity/BusinessCertification.aspx

For more information on the DBE and SBE programs, visit www.transportation.ohio.gov/dbe

