

Give your business a competitive edge with official recognition as a diverse supplier. Why should you pursue these certifications? In short, because certification as a Women’s Business Enterprise (WBE), Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Disability-Owned Business (DOBE), LGBT Business Enterprise (LGBTBE), or Veteran-Owned Business gives you expanded opportunities to connect with the 85% of U.S. organizations who are investing in supplier diversity programs. Certification will also give you access to a broad, supportive community of others who are certified and ready access to critical databases, tax incentives, and loans. Here are the need-to-know details for each of the major supplier certifications.

	<b>MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS</b>	<b>WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS (WBE)</b>	<b>DISABILITY-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DOBE)</b>	<b>VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS (VOB) AND SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS (SDVOSB)</b>	<b>LGBTQ+-OWNED BUSINESS (LGBTBE)</b>
<b>Certifying Organization:</b>	Minority-owned business (MBE)	Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)	Disability IN	U.S Department of Veterans Affairs	National LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC)
<b>Renewal:</b>	MBE certifications are valid for three years, with a yearly renewal the first two-years after certification, and a recertification the third year.	WBE certifications are valid for three years, with a yearly renewal the first two-years after certification, and a recertification the third year.	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Online Application:</b>	<a href="#">Click here.</a>	<a href="#">Click here.</a>	<a href="#">Click here.</a>	<a href="#">Click here.</a>	<a href="#">Click here.</a>

\*Certification costs based on annual revenue.

	MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS	WBE	DOBE	SDVOSB	LGBTBE
<b>Criteria:</b>	<p>To become a Certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), the business must meet the following requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United States citizens.</li> <li>• Minority businesses must be at least 51% minority-owned operated and controlled.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Must be a profit enterprise and physically located in the U. S. or its trust territories.</li> <li>• Management and daily operations must be exercised by the minority ownership member(s).</li> </ul>	<p>In order to be eligible for woman-owned certification (WBE), an applicant business must meet certain requirements that include, but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority (at least 51%) ownership by one or more women</li> <li>• Demonstrated proof of female management and control of business</li> <li>• Unrestricted female control of the business in legal documents and day-to-day operations</li> <li>• A woman holding the highest defined title in the company’s legal documents</li> <li>• Documented evidence of female contribution of capital and/or industry expertise</li> <li>• Status of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Permanent Resident for woman owner(s) constituting majority</li> </ul>	<p>A disability-owned business enterprise (DOBE) is a for-profit business that is at least 51% owned, managed and controlled by a person with a disability regardless of whether or not that business owner employs person(s) with a disability.</p> <p>Non-profit organizations are not certified.</p> <p>For an overview of disabilities: <a href="#">Download Word Doc List of Disabilities</a>. See also <a href="#">Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business</a>.</p>	<p>A Veteran is a person who served on active duty with the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard for any length of time and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Reservists or members of the National Guard called to federal active duty or disabled from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or while in training status also qualify as Veterans. A Service-disabled Veteran is a Veteran who possesses either a disability rating letter issued by VA establishing a Service-connected rating between 0 and 100 percent, or a disability determination from the Department of Defense.</p> <p>At least 51 percent of the business must be directly and unconditionally owned by one or more Veteran(s) or Service-disabled Veteran(s).</p> <p>The Veteran owner(s) must have full control over the day-to-day management, decision-making, and strategic policy of the business; possess the managerial experience of the extent and complexity needed to manage the business; be the highest-compensated employee (unless the Veteran can explain how taking lower compensation benefits the business); devote fulltime to the business; hold the highest officer position in the business; and has the ability to exercise independent business judgment.</p>	<p>Business is at least 51% owned and operated by LGBTQ+ individuals.</p>