

STEPS TO EDGE CERTIFICATION

1. Visit the Ohio Business Gateway at obg.ohio.gov;
2. Log in using username and password;
3. Select **Start a Service**;
4. Select **Equal Opportunity Division**;
5. Select **Unified Application** and complete the form;
6. Complete the confirmation and checkout process; and
7. Submit supporting documentation as required to das.bcu@das.ohio.gov.

For help with the certification process, business owners are encouraged to visit a regional Minority Business Assistance Center operated by the Ohio Development Services Agency.



ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY, GROWTH AND EQUITY (EDGE)



Ohio Department of Administrative Services
Equal Opportunity Division
Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity Program

4200 Surface Road
Columbus, Ohio 43228

614-466-8380 / das.bcu@das.ohio.gov
edge.ohio.gov

The State of Ohio's Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) program is designed to assist socially and economically disadvantaged businesses in obtaining state government contracts. The State of Ohio developed the program because it recognizes the need to encourage, nurture and support the growth of economically and socially disadvantaged businesses to foster their development and increase the number of qualified competitors in the marketplace.

BENEFITS OF EDGE

The EDGE program establishes annual goals for state agencies, boards and commissions, as well as guidelines for state universities, in awarding contracts to EDGE-certified businesses.

EDGE applies to procurements of:

- Construction, engineering and architecture;
- Professional services;
- Goods and services; and
- Information technology services.

Certified EDGE participants are eligible for:

- Contract assistance, including the opportunity to compete for contracts from state agencies, boards, commissions and universities, which must meet annual EDGE goals;
- Financial and bonding assistance; and
- Management and technical assistance, including mentoring opportunities with larger, more established businesses.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

An EDGE-certified business must be owned and controlled by a U.S. citizen who is a resident of Ohio. A business may qualify for EDGE certification if either (a) its owner is both socially and economically disadvantaged, or (b) the business is located in a qualified census tract and the owner is economically disadvantaged. Economic disadvantage is based primarily on the owner's personal net worth.

In addition, the business must have been in business for at least one year prior to applying and be at least 51 percent owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. Moreover, the socially and economically disadvantaged business owner or owners must have day-to-day control

over the business, exercising final authority over all aspects of the daily operations of the business, including operations, financial and business management, human resources and policy decisions; and possess all licenses and permits required by law to perform the scope of work within the classifications requested.

