

How to Become a Certified Ohio Minority Business Enterprise

Presented by the
Equal Opportunity Division

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OhioDAS
Service · Support · Solutions

Ohio | Development
Services Agency



Program Eligibility

- Owned and controlled by a U.S. citizen and Ohio resident who belongs to one or more of the following minority groups:
 - Blacks or African Americans
 - American Indian
 - Hispanics or Latinos
 - Asians
- Must have been in business for at least one year prior to applying and at least 51 percent minority-owned

Additional information available at mbe.ohio.gov



Program Eligibility (cont.)

- Must possess requisite knowledge of the business and industry, and demonstrate capability and expertise within the classifications identified for a period of one year prior to certification
- Must have day-to-day control over the business, exercising final authority over all aspects of daily operations
- Must possess of all required licenses and permits to perform the scope of work

Additional information available at mbe.ohio.gov



Certification Processes

There are four different certification options that a company can choose from, based on its needs:

1. Standard
 - Average 19 days
2. Fast Track*
 - As few as 5 days
3. Licensed Professional
 - As few as 5 days
4. Cross Certification
 - As few as 5 days

*Requires pending contract award, loan or bonding



Standard Process

1. Complete a Unified Application via the Ohio Business Gateway portal – obg.ohio.gov
 - MBAC assistance is available
2. Submit required documents based on business entity structure
3. Attend in-person or phone interview
 - Additional documents may be reviewed at the interview
4. State Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator (State EEO Coordinator) makes certification determination
5. Average certification time – 19 days



Fast Track Process

Fast Track process is available, upon request from a Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC), when an applicant has a pending contract award, loan or bond, where certification is a requirement

1. MBAC and applicant complete a Unified Application via the Ohio Business Gateway portal
2. MBAC reviews gathered documentation with applicant



Fast Track Process (cont.)

3. MBAC submits required documentation for applicant
4. Applicant attends in-person or phone interview
 - Additional documents may be reviewed at the interview
5. State EEO Coordinator makes certification determination
6. Average certification time – 5 days



Licensed Professional Process

1. Complete a Unified Application via the Ohio Business Gateway portal
 - MBAC available for assistance
2. Submit Professional Affidavit with required documentation
3. Attend in-person or phone interview
 - Additional documents may be reviewed at the interview
4. State EEO Coordinator makes certification determination
5. Average certification time – 5 days



Cross Certification

The Equal Opportunity Division has agreements with the following certification programs and is able to accept a current certification from any of the following entities for MBE cross certification:

- Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission
- Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council
- *Please note that in addition to having one of the above listed entity's certification, the business owner and the business must meet all requirements listed in Ohio Adm. Code 123:2-15-01 and may be subject to an on-site inspection.*



Program Benefits

- **Contract assistance**
 - Listed in statewide searchable database of certified companies
 - Opportunity to compete for 15 percent of agencies' spending budgets in sheltered bidding process
 - Goods and services
- **Financial and bonding assistance**
 - Through programs offered by the Development Services Agency:
 - Exclusive access to certain loan and bond programs, which can provide access to capital and bonding for firms that many not qualify for traditional lending or bonding



Program Benefits (cont.)

- Management and technical assistance
 - Through centers administered by the Development Services Agency:
 - Access to assistance identifying federal, state and local contracting and subcontracting opportunities
 - Access to free accounting assistance, structuring internal accounting systems, auditing management records, business plan development, technical advisory services, marketing plans and evaluation of company operations/management processes
 - Access to minority business development organizations that facilitate training, strategic management, networking and mentoring opportunities with major corporations



Thank you

Contact us:

- Phone: 614-466-8380
- Web: das.ohio.gov/eod
- MBE Program: mbe.ohio.gov
- EDGE Program: edge.ohio.gov
- OBG: obg.ohio.gov
- Email: das.mbe-edge@das.ohio.gov