



MBE Program Overview

The State of Ohio's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program is designed to assist minority businesses in obtaining state government contracts through a set aside procurement program for goods and services.

The state recognizes the need to encourage, nurture and support the growth of minority businesses to foster their development and increase the number of qualified competitors in the marketplace.

MBE eligibility
In order to be certified as a MBE, the business owner(s) must be members of one or more of the following groups: African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics and Asians.

Benefits of MBE certification
Certified MBE program participants are eligible for:

- contract assistance
- financial and bonding assistance
- management and technical assistance

The State of Ohio developed the program because it is committed to making all state contracts, services, benefits and opportunities available without discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or ancestry.

MBE establishes a 15 percent goal for state agencies, boards and commissions in awarding contracts to certified MBE businesses. MBE applies only to procurements of goods and services.

Additional eligibility requirements

- The business must be a for-profit entity.
- The company must have been in business at least one year prior to applying for certification. This requirement shall not apply to joint venture applicants.
- The business must be at least 51 percent **owned and ultimately controlled** by one or more of the person(s) belonging to the following groups: African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics and Asians for one year prior to applying for certification.
- The owner of the business must be an Ohio resident.
- The owner of the business must be a U.S. citizen.

Additional eligibility requirements (cont.)

- Possess requisite knowledge of the business and industry in which he/she is applying.
- Have **day-to-day control** over the business and must exercise final authority over all aspects of the daily operations of the business, including, but not limited to operations, financial, business management, human resources and policy decisions.
- Demonstrated capability and/or expertise within classifications identified for a period of one year prior to certification.
- Possession of all licenses, permits and authorities required by law to perform the scope of work within classifications requested.

For more information or an MBE certification application, contact:



Ohio Department of Administrative Services
Equal Opportunity Division
MBE Certification Office
4200 Surface Road
Columbus, Ohio 43228