



MWBE (MINORITY/ WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q: What is MWBE certification?

A: *The certification is a state-issued certification that identifies minority and/ or women owned businesses or enterprises. The certification provides developmental benefits to these businesses, such as access to government contracts or subcontracting opportunities.*

Q: What are the benefits of MWBE?

A: *There are several benefits:*

1. Access to Government Contracts:

Certified MWBEs gain access to government contracts and procurement opportunities. Many government agencies have set-asides or goals for awarding contracts to MWBEs.

2. Networking and Business Development:

MWBE certification offers networking opportunities through events, workshops, and conferences. It helps businesses connect with other MWBEs, prime contractors and potential clients.

3. Visibility and Credibility:

Certification enhances a business's credibility and visibility. It demonstrates commitment to diversity and inclusion, which can attract clients and investors.

4. Financial Incentives:

Some states offer tax incentives, grants, or low-interest loans to MWBEs. These financial perks can assist the business to thrive.

5. Supplier Diversity Programs:

Many corporations have supplier diversity programs and are required to contract with a percentage of MWBE businesses as suppliers. Certification increases the chances of being included in such programs.

Q: How do I get certified?

A: *There are a few necessary steps to get certified:*

- 1. Eligibility:** *Ensure that owner is a U.S. citizen, good moral character who is at least 51% owned, managed and operated by minority group.*
- 2. Gather Required Documents:**
 - Articles of Incorporation
 - Owner information
 - Financial statements
 - Tax Returns

- *Resumes of key personnel*
- 3. *Submit all supporting documents to certrak portal during application process.*
- 4. *Application Review: After intake, an investigator is assigned to the application for an in-depth review of documents submitted for the business.*
- 5. *Site Visit (if required) A site visit may be conducted to verify information provided.*
- 6. *Certification Decision: Once review is complete a certification decision is made, if approved business will be officially certified as an MBE in Massachusetts.*

Q: How long is my certification valid for?

A: Certification is valid for three years in the Directory.

Q: If I certify in another city or town, is it transferable? Or do I need to recertify again?

A: You can update your information; you do not need to recertify again.