

How to Get Certified (MBE/DBE/SAM.gov)

Certifications such as MBE (Minority Business Enterprise), DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise), and SAM.gov registration can open doors to government contracts and corporate opportunities. This guide outlines the basic steps to help you get started with each process.

MBE Certification (Minority Business Enterprise)

- Ensure your business is at least 51% minority-owned, operated, and controlled.
- Gather documents: business formation documents, financials, resumes, and identification.
- Apply through your state's certifying agency or the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC).
- Prepare for a site visit and interview.
- Maintain records for renewal and updates as needed.

DBE Certification (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise)

- Business must be at least 51% owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.
- Gross receipts and personal net worth must fall within federal DBE limits.
- Apply through your state's Unified Certification Program (UCP) or Department of Transportation (DOT).
- Submit detailed financials, ownership records, and personal statements.
- Comply with periodic reviews and onsite inspections.

SAM.gov Registration (System for Award Management)

- Obtain an EIN and DUNS Number (now replaced by the Unique Entity ID through SAM).
- Create a login.gov account and register your business at <https://sam.gov>.
- Provide business info: NAICS codes, banking details, points of contact, and capabilities.
- Submit notarized identity verification if required.
- Keep your registration current with annual renewals.