Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

State and federal certifications
Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility (DoSEM)

WHY GET CERTIFIED?

Six certifications. Two offices. $0 to apply.

Work. Wages and Wealth!

Maryland reserves some State contracts for small businesses and sets participation goals on others, to open State contracting to small, disadvantaged, minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and disability-owned businesses. **Certification** is how your business shows it qualifies. It does not guarantee a contract, but it lets you compete for work that is reserved or carries a goal.

What certification can do for your business

Count toward participation goals
Certified firms count toward MBE, VSBE, DBE, and ACDBE goals on State and federally funded contracts.

Compete in reserved markets
CSBs can bid on Small Business Reserve solicitations and get a price preference.

Be found by buyers
Contract Entities and prime contractors search eMMA and Maryland's certified firm directory.

Get free help to apply
Free monthly application workshops, one-on-one reviews, and T.I.P.S. webinars help you prepare.

From certification to opportunity

1 Certification	2 Capacity building	3 Contract award	4 Operational revenue	5 Business growth	6 Economic mobility
Prove who owns and runs your business.	Use free training and one-on-one help.	Bid, team up, and count toward goals.	Deliver the work and build revenue.	Use your record to bid on larger work.	Add jobs, wages, and wealth.

20%
goal of each Contract Entity's procurement dollars for small businesses

3%
statewide VSBE participation goal

$0
cost to apply for any DoSEM certification

Certification details and application help

Which certification fits your business, and how to start, are on the other side.

EconomicMobility.Maryland.gov
410-697-9600 | economic.mobility@maryland.gov | 100 Community Place, 4th Floor, Crownsville, MD 21032

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WHICH CERTIFICATION FITS YOUR BUSINESS?

Six certifications from two DoSEM offices, OMBE and OSBA

Certification		Who it is for	Where it counts
OSBA certifies in eMMA			
	CSB	**Certified Small Business.** Independent, for-profit small businesses within the size limits for their industry.	Small Business Reserve solicitations and the Small Business Preference.
	VSBE	**Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise.** Small businesses at least 51% owned and controlled by veterans.	VSBE goals on State contracts, with a 3% statewide goal.
OMBE certifies at marylandmdbe.gob2g.com			
	MBE	**Minority Business Enterprise.** Small businesses at least 51% owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, including minority, women, and disabled owners.	MBE goals on State and local contracts.
SBE	**SBE**	**Small Business Enterprise.** Small businesses within USDOT size and personal net worth limits. Race- and gender-neutral.	Federally assisted MDOT highway, transit, and aviation projects.
DBE	**DBE**	**Disadvantaged Business Enterprise.** Small businesses at least 51% owned and controlled by owners who show social and economic disadvantage.	DBE goals on USDOT-funded transportation contracts.
ACDBE	**ACDBE**	**Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise.** Airport concessions and their suppliers, at least 51% owned and controlled by owners who show disadvantage.	Concession goals at BWI Marshall and Martin State Airport.

Many firms hold more than one

One portal handles MBE and DBE, and one application covers DBE and ACDBE. A Maryland-certified DBE is automatically an SBE. Disability-owned businesses can also join Employment Works.

DBE and ACDBE rule change

DoSEM is accepting new applications under the USDOT final rule of September 25, 2026. Maryland must finish reevaluating firms certified before October 3, 2025 by December 24, 2026. Until then, new DBE or ACDBE goals cannot be set or participation counted.

How to get started

1

Choose

Use the chart above. You can hold every certification you qualify for.

2

Get ready

Confirm your business is in good standing with SDAT and gather your documents as PDFs.

3

Apply online

CSB and VSBE: emma.maryland.gov. MBE, DBE, ACDBE, and SBE: marylandmdbe.gob2g.com.

4

Put it to work

Watch eMMA for solicitations and check the FY27 Procurement Forecast at EconomicMobility.Maryland.gov.

Ready to get started?

Apply for CSB or VSBE in eMMA

Apply for MBE, DBE, ACDBE or SBE

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