Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

State certification
Administered by the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE)



MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CERTIFICATION

Work, Wages and Wealth!

The **Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program** seeks to enhance economic opportunities for minority-owned, women-owned, and disability-owned businesses by promoting their participation in State procurement and contracting. Established in 1978, the program helps certified MBEs compete for State contracts that carry MBE participation goals.

Why get certified?

Count toward MBE goals
Certified MBEs count toward participation goals on State and local contracts, as prime contractors or subcontractors.

Be found by buyers
Your firm is listed in the State's MBE directory, which Contract Entities and prime contractors search for partners.

Pair it with DBE
Firms can hold MBE and federal DBE certification. One portal, marylandmdbe.gob2g.com, handles both.

No cost
There is no fee to apply for, maintain, or recertify MBE certification.

51%
minimum ownership and control by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals

$0
cost to apply for or keep your certification

1978
the year Maryland created the MBE Program

Program details and application help

Eligibility and how to apply 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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WHO QUALIFIES AND HOW TO APPLY

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MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE MBE PROGRAM

Am I eligible?

- **Ownership.** At least 51% owned and controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who are U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents.
- **Eligible groups.** African Americans, American Indians and Native Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, women, and individuals with a physical or mental disability. Owners outside these groups may qualify by showing social and economic disadvantage.
- **Control.** Each qualifying owner must have managerial and technical competence and experience directly related to the type of business.
- **Personal net worth.** Each qualifying owner's personal net worth must not exceed $2,192,035 (2026 limit), not counting the business, home equity, or up to $500,000 in retirement accounts. (Note: Threshold is adjusted annually.)
- **Size.** Must meet the small business size standards of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Staying certified

Annual review

Every year, upload a signed No Change Affidavit and proof of good standing in B2G. OMBE emails instructions 60 days before your anniversary date.

Report changes

If ownership, control, or size changes, email mbe.dosem@maryland.gov and submit the change in the Certification Management System.

Need help applying?

Attend a free monthly application assistance workshop or book a 30-minute one-on-one cursory review of your application. Find both under **Certification Application Assistance** at EconomicMobility.Maryland.gov. Your application must be at least 80% completed prior to your scheduled review.

How to apply

1 Application

Confirm your business is in good standing with SDAT, then submit your application and documents as PDFs at marylandmdbe.gob2g.com.

2 Investigation

A certification officer reviews your documents, interviews you at your office or job site, and writes a report.

3 Evaluation

OMBE's Certification Review Committee reviews the report to decide whether your firm meets MBE program requirements.

4 Determination

OMBE issues a written determination. If approved, your letter lists your approved NAICS codes.

Ready to get started?

Step-by-step instructions to apply and recertify

Ready to apply? Go to the application portal

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