Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Federal certification

DoSEM is Maryland's certifying agency. Certified by the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE)

AIRPORT CONCESSION DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CERTIFICATION

ACDBE

FEDERAL CERTIFICATION

Work, Wages and Wealth!

The **Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) Program** lets certified firms count toward participation goals for concessions at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and Martin State Airport, which the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration (MDOT MAA) owns and operates. Concessions are businesses at the airport that sell goods or services to travelers, along with the firms that supply them.

Why get certified?

Airport concession goals

Certified ACDBEs count toward participation goals for concessions at BWI Marshall and Martin State Airport.

Certified firm directory

Your firm is listed in Maryland's directory, which concession operators and Contract Entities search for partners.

One application

The Uniform Certification Application lets you apply for ACDBE and DBE certification at the same time.

No cost

There is no cost to apply. Certification does not guarantee a concession; you still compete for it.

Important Regulatory Notice: Changes to ACDBE Certification

A USDOT final rule published September 25, 2026 changed how ACDBE eligibility is decided. Race and sex no longer create a presumption of disadvantage; each disadvantaged owner shows it in a personal narrative. **DoSEM is accepting new ACDBE applications under the new rules.** Maryland must finish reevaluating the ACDBEs it certified before October 3, 2025 by December 24, 2026. Until then, federal rules do not allow new ACDBE goals to be set or ACDBE participation to be counted.

2
Maryland airports: BWI Marshall and Martin State

$56.42M
five-year average gross receipts limit for most concessions

$0
cost to apply for ACDBE certification

Program details and application help

Eligibility, reevaluation dates, 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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ACDBE

Am I eligible?

- **Ownership and control.** Disadvantaged owners must own at least 51% of the business and control its management and daily operations.
- **Personal narrative.** Each disadvantaged owner names at least one objective distinguishing feature, such as a disability, national origin, language, or discrimination they faced, and shows the economic harm it caused compared with non-disadvantaged people of comparable or lesser qualifications. Group membership alone is not enough.
- **Personal net worth.** Each disadvantaged owner's personal net worth must be $2,047,000 or less, not counting the business, home equity, or qualified retirement assets (still reported). Being under the limit does not by itself prove economic disadvantage.
- **Small, for-profit business.** Five-year average annual gross receipts, including affiliates, cannot exceed $56.42 million for most concessions. Car rental companies, banks, pay telephone companies, and new car dealers use other limits.

ACDBE certified before October 3, 2025? Key dates

Now
Submit your narrative, a current Personal Net Worth Statement, and documents in B2G. No need to reapply.

December 24, 2026
Maryland must finish reevaluating. Firms that have not submitted get a notice of nonresponse.

March 24, 2027
Last day for those firms to submit before they are disqualified.

Reevaluation looks only at disadvantage. Each firm gets a written decision it can appeal to USDOT. Keep filing your annual Declaration of Eligibility. To skip reevaluation, the majority owner can withdraw by email; MBE and SBE certification are not affected. **Questions?** Email mbe.dosem@maryland.gov with the subject line **"Final Rule Certification Reevaluation Question."**

How to apply

1

Check your registration

Your business must be in good standing with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT).

2

Apply

Complete the Uniform Certification Application. Choose ACDBE, or ACDBE and DBE. Write N/A where a question does not apply.

3

Prepare your narrative

Each disadvantaged owner writes a personal narrative using OMBE's guidance and completes a current Personal Net Worth Statement.

4

Submit online

Submit at marylandmdbe.gob2g.com and track status there. You will receive a written determination.

Ready to get started?

Program details and application help

Ready to apply? Go to the certification portal

Office of Minority Business Enterprise
410-697-9600
mbe.dosem@maryland.gov