Top Four Reasons Why it Pays to be a Certified DBE/MBE Business

Clearly, dual certification is the way to go for qualifying small businesses. The processes to become a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) or Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) used to be separate, redundant and time-consuming. Nowadays, once an organization becomes a certified DBE with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), they automatically can become MBE-certified by DOAS and reap a world of benefits.

DBE/MBE certification:

- **Provides greater exposure to government procurement staff and Georgia corporations.** GDOT and DOAS both maintain and promote lists of certified business partners, lists that are often a first-stop for state procurement professionals seeking minority suppliers. Corporations are also encouraged to review these lists for subcontractor partners.

- **Opens the door to much-coveted federal funding.** GDOT receives federal funding for contracts in which only certified suppliers are allowed to participate. The federal programs are intended to increase the participation of small, minority, women-owned and other eligible certified businesses.

- **Helps to align certified minority subcontractors with Georgia corporations desiring to earn state tax credits.** In an effort to assist minority-owned businesses, Georgia law permits an income tax adjustment on the state tax return of any company (corporation) that subcontracts with a certified minority-owned firm to furnish goods, property or services to the state of Georgia (OCCA, Section 48-7-38). Suppliers should consult with their tax advisors to find out how to take advantage of these tax credits.

- **No longer involves recertification every three years.** The process was recently streamlined into an annual review process. Once a supplier becomes a certified DBE and MBE, the organization remains certified unless it is de-certified for a specific reason. To maintain eligibility, suppliers must simply submit an annual affidavit to GDOT. Contact GDOT for details.

State Purchasing’s Supplier and Customer Relations unit urges all qualifying small businesses to take advantage of the great opportunities that come with DBE/MBE certification. Any questions about the certification process can be directed to Dorna Werdelin at Dorna.Werdelin@doas.ga.gov.