



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 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 (OCGA, 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.