



# SBA Government Contracting Assistance Programs: **LEVEL UP YOUR BUSINESS**

*SBA helps qualified small businesses develop the critical skillset needed to get federal contract ready. With certification, you can be eligible to successfully compete for government contracts that can help boost revenue and growth. The government awards billions of dollars in prime contracts annually with small business set-asides. **Get certified today!***

## **8(A) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Spanning nine years, this program focuses on providing firms with business development assistance to accomplish their business plan objectives. Your business will be **eligible for contracting set-asides** and preferences after certification.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Businesses cannot have previously participated. At least 51 percent of the business must be owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged U.S. citizens. The owner must have a personal net worth  $\leq$  \$850K, adjusted gross income  $\leq$  \$400K, and assets  $\leq$  \$6.5 million; demonstrate good character; and have been in business for two years.

## **HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS ZONE (HUBZONE) PROGRAM**

This program fuels small business growth in historically underutilized business zones with a goal of awarding **an average of 3 percent of federal contract dollars** to HUBZone-certified companies each year.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible small businesses must have a principal office located in a HUBZone and at least 35 percent of its employees living in a HUBZone. Joining the HUBZone program makes your business eligible to compete for the program's set-aside contracts and receive 10 percent price evaluation preference in full and open contract competitions.

*For all of these programs, you must meet the statutory criteria for eligibility.*

If you are eligible for one or more of these programs, it's important to ensure that your business is ready to effectively compete for federal procurements before you apply to be certified. For more information visit <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-guide>.

## WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS (WOSB) PROGRAM

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**An average of 5 percent of federal contracts are awarded to WOSBs for goods and services** in specific industries where WOSBs are underrepresented. Some contracts are restricted further to economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses (EDWOSBs). These programs provide access to technical assistance and networking opportunities.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The business must be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more women. A woman must hold the highest officer position, and women must manage the daily business operations on a full-time basis and conduct long-term decision making and planning.

## VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (VETCERT)

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Through the VetCert Program, veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) qualify to **compete for approximately 5 percent of all federal-wide acquisition opportunities**. The program allows certified VOSB and SDVOSB companies to apply for federal surplus property equipment.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The business must be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more veterans. For SDVOSB, it must be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more veterans rated as service-disabled by the VA.

## SBA MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM (MPP)

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In this program, small business protégés **gain experience and expertise from a larger, experienced mentor business**. You compete together for government contracts, further growing your business.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Protégés are small business with industry experience and have a proposed mentor. Mentors must have good character, not be on the federal list of debarred or suspended contractors, and be able to impart value. Both parties may not be affiliated at the time of application.

## EMPOWER TO GROW (E2G)

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E2G offers **free, hands-on, customized training, executive education, and one-on-one consulting** tailored specifically for eligible disadvantaged U.S. small businesses to compete for federal contracts and be procurement-ready.

**Eligibility Requirements:** E2G-eligible small businesses are located in an underserved area comprised of low-income populations or affected by high rates of unemployment; owned by low-income individuals; or certified as an 8(a) participant, HUBZone small business, or economically disadvantaged women-owned small business.

**Want to learn more about these programs and your eligibility?**

Visit <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs>



U.S. Small Business  
Administration