



Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Certification Webinar
Tuesday, March 16, 2021 | 10:00 AM

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Q1: Is the DBE Program limited to transportation related contracts?**
A: No. Several industries are able to be certified. Airport Concession DBEs (ACDBEs) cover businesses like food and beverage and retail operations.
- Q2: If I have DBE certification here in Northern California, is also good for Southern California?**
A: Yes, the DBE Program is a federal program that is administered from state to state. So, if you are certified by a Northern California agency, your certification is recognized statewide.
- Q3: On the same note, if I only have my DBE certification for California, can I use it in Arizona – Colorado? If not, what do I need to do in order to expand it?**
A: Since the program is administered by each state, you will have to go through the interstate certification process in order to be recognized in the state you would like to operate in.
- Q4: If I am already doing certification for Disabled Veteran and Woman Veteran Owned Small Business, is it really necessary to get a DBE certification as well?**
A: If you are looking to bid on DBE contracts, then yes. Those other certifications do not cross over.
- Q5: How long are DBE certifications good for and is there an annual renewal requirement?**
A: Certifications need to be renewed annually.

Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit)
Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC)
Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)
California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS)
California High Speed Rail Authority (HSR)
Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (County Connection)
City of Rio Vista (Delta Breeze)
City of Santa Rosa
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD)
Marin Transit
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA)
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain)
San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA)
San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA)
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)
San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans)
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD)
Solano County Transit (SolTrans)
Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works
Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART)
Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA)
Tri Delta Transit (ECCTA)
Western Contra Costa Transit Authority (WestCAT)

Q6: I am a white Irish man, I lost my arm 23 years ago and am wondering if I am eligible to qualify?

A: You can certainly apply. If you are able to demonstrate how your circumstance renders you socially and economically disadvantaged, your firm may be able to be certified.

Q7: What is included/not included in the Personal Net Worth calculation? For example are retirement accounts, pension accounts, and homes included?

A: Yes, most assets as well as liabilities are assessed to determine your net worth.

Q8: Do we only certify once or annually?

A: You are certified once then there is an Annual Update Affidavit (AUA) that needs to be submitted along with other documentation yearly.

Q9: If your firm was previously certified but the certification lapsed, do we need to recertify or just do an Annual Update Affidavit?

A: If your firm was decertified, you will need to recertify by starting the process over again.

Q10: Can you elaborate more on Personal Net Worth in regards to pension accounts? How do you value a pension that depends on how long you live?

A: In respect to a pension for calculating the amount for Personal Net Worth purposes, an owner reports the full value of the pension, if distributed today, minus taxes, interest and penalties.