

Certifications

There are several certifications offered throughout the State, knowing who offers what and how they can be used is vital. Please note this is simply a quick reference and in no way claims to account for any and all certifications offered in California.

The following are some of the certifications that the Office of Business & Economic Opportunity receives the most inquiries for:

California Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Certification Program:

- This certification is offered by the Department of General Services (DGS).
- It is accepted by all State Departments for state funded contracting and procurement opportunities.
- Some local agencies and governments also accept and recognize this certification, although it is not mandated.
- Please visit the DGS website for further information <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Programs/OSDS.aspx>

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Certification Program:

- This certification is offered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as well as 8 other certifying agencies within the State.
- This certification can be accepted and used on Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funded contracts.
- These federally funded contracts can often be found with (but are not limited to) Caltrans, Local Governments and Transportation Agencies.
- Please visit the Caltrans, Office of Business & Economic Opportunity website for further information <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/>

State Women and Minority Business Enterprise Certification Program:

- This certification is offered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and can be applied to online through the Supplier Clearinghouse at <http://suppliernetwork.net/>
- This certification cannot and is not accepted by State Departments for State contracting and procurement. (per Prop 209)
- However, this certification is recognized by public utility companies and some municipalities, often referring to it as their "Diversified Supplier" program.
- Please visit the CPUC website for further information <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/supplierdiversity/>

Federal Small Business Administration Certification Program:

- There are multiple certifications offered by the Federal Small Business Administration (SBA). Some of them are:
 - Small Disadvantaged Business
 - Women Business Enterprise
 - Service-Disabled-Veteran Owned Business
 - Hub Zone
 - Small Business
- Please note, some Local Governments may utilize these certifications while California State Departments cannot.
- These certifications are recognized by Federal Departments in their contracting and procurement opportunities.
- Please visit the SBA website for further information <https://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/contracting/getting-started>



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