

Small Business Enterprises

The SBE is designed to facilitate greater participation of small businesses in transportation-related procurements. This program only applies to federally-assisted transportation projects (highway, transit, and aviation).

To qualify for SBE certification, businesses must meet U.S. Small Business Administrative (SBA) size standards. Certification is issued by PennDOT. You can apply directly through the Diversity Compliance System powered by B2GNow at <https://penndot.dbesystem.com/>.

Contractors looking to find certified SBE firms can browse the on-line database by navigating to the Vendor Certification page and clicking "Search Certified Directory."

Note: Your firm may require additional approvals or requirements to conduct business with PennDOT including, but not limited to:

- Business Partner Registration
- Prequalification
- Consultant Qualification

Bureau of Workforce and Business Opportunity

Why does the Small Business Enterprise Program exist?

The Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program is PennDOT's response to a federal requirement — Title 49 CFR, Part 26.39 — to structure contracting so small businesses can compete on U.S. DOT-assisted contracts.

PennDOT has developed the SBE Program to overcome barriers and obstacles faced by small businesses and will encourage participation in transportation-related procurements.

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Visit PennDOT's Website at
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/penndot/about-pennndot/equal-opportunity-equity/small-business-enterprise-sbe>

Visit SBESSC website at pennsbe.com.

PennDOT's Small Business Enterprise Program

Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses



Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation

Pub 742 (7-26)



Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation

What is a Small Business Enterprise (SBE)?

A Small Business Enterprise is:

1. A for-profit business, owned by a U.S. citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident of the U.S.
2. A firm that does not exceed the Small Business Administration's size standards for the work they desire to perform.
3. A firm whose average annual gross receipts for the three previous fiscal years does not exceed \$32.82 million.

Firms seeking to participate in the Small Business Enterprise Program must be certified as a Small Business Enterprise. PennDOT will certify firms using the same business size, ownership, Personal Net Worth, and control criteria used to certify DBEs.

The SBE program is race and gender neutral. PennDOT created a database of SBE certified firms and will encourage their use and participation on federally assisted transportation projects.

If your firm meets the above criteria you may be eligible to be certified as an SBE.



Frequently Asked Questions

What benefit does certification provide to SBEs?

- ◆ SBEs can become more visible and viable for contractors and consultants who are looking for qualified business partners to participate on projects funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA).
- ◆ SBEs can become eligible to bid as prime contractors on specific municipal highway projects.
- ◆ SBEs will have ready access to training and consulting services through the SBE Supportive Services Center (SBESSC). The SBESSC will be equipped to provide SBEs with tools and skills that will enable them to more effectively compete for federally assisted transportation contracts and subcontracts.

Is there a cost to become certified?

- ◆ No, certification is free.

How do prime contractors and consultants benefit?

- ◆ Prime contractors and consultants gain easy access to certified SBEs for use on projects funded by the FAA, FHWA, or FTA.
- ◆ The use of SBEs by prime contractors and consultants will constitute race-neutral participation and may provide documentation of Good Faith Efforts on federally assisted transportation projects.

How can firms apply for SBE certification?

- ◆ Firms can apply for SBE certification by accessing the Diversity Compliance System powered by B2GNow at <https://paucp.dbesystem.com/>. Click on the partner logo. Navigate to Vendor Certification and click on "Apply for/Renew SBE Certification."

SBE Supportive Services

PennDOT has launched a dedicated SBE Supportive Service Center (SBESSC) to empower SBEs. The SBESSC provides these services to help businesses successfully navigate procurement. Services include, but are not limited to :

- bid assistance;
- business planning;
- computer training;
- overhead rate assistance;
- Engineering and Construction Management System (ECMS) access; and
- construction management.

The SBESSC provides the services completely free of charge. You can easily access this support through one-on-one consultations, email, or telephone. The SBESSC can be reached at 833.SBE-Penn or (833) 723-7366; Email: mail@pennsbe.com or pennsbe@prorankllc.com.

Website: www.pennsbe.com.

In addition, PennDOT will work closely with minority and women business organizations, other trade organizations, and state and local agencies to actively promote and engage SBEs in the procurement of DOT assisted contracts.

