Small Business Enterprises

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

Businesses interested in pursuing SBE certification must meet the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards and submit a completed application. Firms currently certified as a DBE by the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program (PA UCP) are eligible to participate in the SBE Element and DO NOT need to submit a SBE application.

Contractors looking for certified SBEs can search the online SBE database by Firm Name, Business Profile, Working County, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code, or Work Description at www.dotsbe.pa.gov.

Why does the Small Business Enterprise Element exist?

Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 26.39 requires that PennDOT include an element in its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program to structure contracting requirements to facilitate small business participation on U.S DOT-assisted contracts.

PennDOT has developed an element to overcome barriers/obstacles faced by small businesses and will encourage participation in transportation related procurements.

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

Visit PennDOT's SBE website at www.dotsbe.pa.gov.
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 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 funded by FAA, FHWA, or FTA.
- SBEs will have ready access to training and consulting services through the SBE Supportive Services Center.
- The SBE Supportive Services Center will provide all services free of charge including:
  - Bid assistance
  - Business Planning
  - Computer Training
  - Oversight and Assistance
  - Engineering and Construction Management
  - Construction Management System (ECMS) access

Are DBEs eligible to participate as SBEs?

Yes, all PA Unified Certification Program DBEs are eligible to participate as SBEs and will NOT be required to complete a separate SBE application. The PA Unified Certification Program will provide DBEs with assistance to become eligible to participate as SBEs. The Center can be contacted at 1-855-4SBE4U (727-3498) or through the website www.pennsbess.com.

Is there a cost to become certified?

No, certification is free.

How do prime contractors and consultants benefit?

- Prime contractors and consultants will benefit from the use of SBEs by prime contractors and consultants who are looking for qualified business partners to participate on projects funded by FAA, FHWA, or FTA.
- SBEs will provide documentation of Good Faith Efforts on federally assisted transportation projects.

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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 with a personal net worth that does not exceed $1.32 million.
2. A firm that does not exceed $23.98 million in gross annual receipts for the three previous fiscal years.
3. A firm whose average annual gross receipts for the three previous fiscal years does not exceed $2.298 billion.
4. A U.S. citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident with a personal net worth of at least $2 million.

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

What benefit does certification provide to firms seeking to participate in the Small Business Element?

Firms seeking to participate in the Small Business Element must be certified as a Small Business Enterprise. In addition, PennDOT will work closely with other Federal, State, and local agencies to make sure that small, minority, and woman business organizations, other minority and women business organizations, and other business size, ownership, personal net worth, and control criteria are used to certify SBEs.

PennDOT has created a SBE Supportive Services Center to support SBEs in a number of areas including, but not limited to:

- Business Planning
- Computer Training
- Oversight and Assistance
- Engineering and Construction Management
- Construction Management System (ECMS) access
- Business Assistance
- Bid Assistance

The SBE Supportive Services Center will provide all services free of charge via telephone, email, or one-on-one consultation. The Center can be contacted at 1-855-4SBE4U (727-3498) or through the website www.pennsbess.com.

PennDOT will work closely with minority and women business organizations, other trade and professional organizations, and State and local agencies to actively promote and engage in the Small Business Element.