One Mission

The mission of the Division of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development is to promote equality of economic opportunities for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) and to eliminate barriers to their participation in state contracts.

We supplement New York State’s economic leadership with information and resources that increase access to opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses throughout the State.

Three Key Objectives:

Certifying MWBEs
- To review applications by businesses seeking certification as an MWBE and to maintain a directory of certified MWBEs

Connecting MWBEs to Contracting Opportunities
- To create matchmaking opportunities and assist state agencies in awarding a fair share of state contracts to MWBEs

Strengthening MWBEs
- To promote the business development of MWBEs through training, education and outreach, and connecting MWBEs to other technical and financial assistance

“We’ve had really great things happen to us since our certification! In short, it gives us a LOT of credibility and considerable access to opportunities that we might not have had admittance to prior to becoming certified.”

MBE Certified Firm
Mr. JEA EDMAN JACKSON
Johnson Edman Advertising

“Once Mrs. Paper became certified, I was able to make contacts within NYS Agencies, gaining opportunities to bid on contracts and have been awarded many. New York State Certification has played a major role in the success of my company.”

WBE Certified Firm
Marion Hindenburg
COPY GRAPHICS INC dba Mrs. Paper
Becoming a NYS MWBE is quick and easy!

Where do I apply for certification?
Apply online at: ny.newnycontracts.com or download the application and mail it to:
Empire State Development – MWBE
633 Third Avenue, 33rd Floor
New York, NY 10017
Fast Track Applications are available for:
■ Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certified firms
■ MWBEs certified by one of our certified partners - a full list of partners is available at: ny.newnycontracts.com
■ Federal 8(a) Development Program firms
■ MWBEs seeking re-certification
All Fast Track Applications are available online.

Need Direct Assistance?
Call the Certification Help Line:
212/803-2414
For more information and detailed instructions, visit:
www.esd.ny.gov/MWBE/Certification.html
For general inquires call the MWBE Resource Line:
855/ESD-4MWB or 855/373-4692

Online Resources

NYS Contract System
ny.newnycontracts.com
Seeking certification?
■ Apply online
■ Utilize a Fast Track application, if eligible
Already certified?
■ Update your profile online
■ Re-certify online
Looking for certified MWBE firms?
■ Access the database of NYS MWBE certified firms
■ See the listing of newly certified MWBE firms

MWBE Resource Center on Business First
www.nyfirst.ny.gov
Looking for resources for your MWBE?
Get access to:
■ Technical assistance resources
■ Certification application assistance through the Entrepreneurial Assistance Center and Small Business Development Center networks
■ Business development programs
■ Surety bond training and financial assistance
■ MWBE workshops and seminars

NYS Contract Reporter
nyscr.org
Seeking contract opportunities?
The NYS Contract Reporter is New York State’s official publication of procurement opportunities from state agencies and authorities.
General access to the NYS Contract Reporter and use of the site is free for businesses that complete the required registration.

Why get certified as an MWBE?
Getting certified as a bona fide MWBE allows your company to grow and develop. Once an MWBE is certified, the company is listed on the directory used by state agencies, public authorities, federal agencies and corporations to find contractors for procurement opportunities, which can mean more customers and business for you. Being certified also gives you access to the statewide network of services and support available to MWBEs.

Who is eligible to be certified?
■ Firms must be at least 51% owned, operated and controlled by minority members and/or women who must exercise the authority to independently control day-to-day business decisions
■ Each minority member or woman upon whom certification is based must have a net worth of less than $3.5 million
■ The business cannot exceed 300 employees and must be independent and authorized to do business in New York

“New York’s strength lies in the diversity, innovation and entrepreneurship of all its residents. By breaking down barriers to growth for MWBEs, we are putting that strength to work for all New Yorkers, building a more diverse and competitive business climate.”

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
State of New York