

Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE)

FAQs

1. What is a M/WBE?

A minority-owned business is defined as being owned, capitalized, operated and controlled by a member of an identified minority group. Ownership by minority individuals means the business is at least 51% owned by such individuals or, in the case of publicly-owned business, at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals.

A women-owned business is defined as being owned, capitalized, operated and controlled by a woman or group of women. Ownership by women means the business is at least 51% owned by a woman or group of women. In the case of a publicly-owned business, at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more women.

2. Do M/WBE firms have to be certified?

The use of non-NYS certified firms is not acceptable for M/WBE goal attainment. Only M/WBE firms certified by Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), Division of Minority & Women's Business Development can be utilized to meet M/WBE goals.

3. What does a supplier have to do to become New York State certified?

To obtain information on becoming certified in New York State as a minority or woman-owned business, have them contact one of the offices below:

Albany

**Department of Economic Development
Division of Minority and Women's Business Development
30 South Pearl Street – 2nd Floor
Albany, NY 12245
Phone: (518) 292-5803**

New York City

**633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017-6706
Phone: (212) 803-27411
Fax: (212) 803-3223**

4. If the firm is certified by the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), is it automatically certified by every Agency and Authority in New York State?

No. If a firm is NYS certified by the Empire State Development Corporation, it can be utilized for goal attainment purposes by most agencies or authorities in New York State. However, some entities like Port Authority of NY/NJ, Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Transportation Authority have additional certification programs.