

# The Competitive Edge: SBA Certifications



Minority, Women, and Veteran Small Business Administration Certifications add credibility and set your company apart in the marketplace.



- Increased access to government contracting opportunities, including set-aside and sole-source contracts
- Eligibility for financial assistance including low-interest loans and grants
- Business training, mentorship, and counseling
- Exposure to industries in which there are racial, gender, and veteran status disparities

## Certification Types

### 8(a) Business Development

8(A) Business Development provides procurement, training, coaching, and financial assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs (considered Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native Americans).

### Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone)

HUBZone provides federal contracting opportunities to entrepreneurs with businesses and residences in historically underutilized urban and rural census tracts.

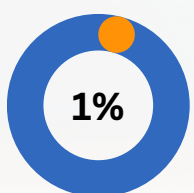
### Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) & Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB)

WOSB & EDWOSB programs work to level the playing field for women entrepreneurs who have traditionally faced barriers and obstacles in the business world.

### Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) & Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)

The VOSB programs aim to provide procuring agencies with the authority to set acquisitions aside for exclusive competition among veteran-owned small businesses.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Women start new businesses at twice the rate of men yet less than 1% of ALL women-owned businesses have their WOSB Certification.

According to the SBA, the federal government is the largest buyer of goods and services, and the agency aims to have more small businesses reap the benefits through certification.

Obtaining an SBA certification requires dedication and effort, but the benefits can be significant. Contact **St. Louis Business Empowerment Center** for free services to position your small business for success in the federal contracting arena.