Small Business Enterprise (SBE)

To be considered a “small business” as determined by the State of California, businesses must meet these requirements:

- Must be independently owned and operated;
- Cannot be dominant in its field of operation;
- Must have its principal office located in California;
- Must have its owners (or officers in the case of a corporation) domiciled in California; and
- Together with its affiliates, be either:
  - A business with 100 or fewer employees and an average annual gross receipts of $14 million or less (over the previous three tax years), or
  - A manufacturer with 100 or fewer employees.

Reference: California Department of General Services: [http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus/sbcert.htm](http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus/sbcert.htm)

Federal Definition of Small Business

Small business size standards differ by NAICS code.

SBA Size Standards Table: [http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/Size_Standards_Table.pdf](http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/Size_Standards_Table.pdf)

Find SBE firms:
- California Department of General Services BidSync Site: [http://www.bidsync.com/DPXBisCASB](http://www.bidsync.com/DPXBisCASB)
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO): [http://www.metro.net/about/deod/cucp/](http://www.metro.net/about/deod/cucp/)
- City of Los Angeles: [http://bca.lacity.org/index.cfm?nxt=cc&nxt_body=div_occ_cca_forms.cfm](http://bca.lacity.org/index.cfm?nxt=cc&nxt_body=div_occ_cca_forms.cfm)
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

In order to be considered a “disadvantaged business enterprise” by the State of California, businesses must meet these eligibility requirements:

- The firm must be at least 51% owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.
- The firm must be an independent business, and one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged owners must control its management and daily operations.
- Only existing for-profit “Small Business Concerns,” as identified by the Small Business Act and Small Business Administration (SBA), may be certified. DBE applicants are first subject to the applicable small business size standards of the SBA. Second, the average gross receipts for the firm (include its affiliates) over the previous three fiscal years must not exceed must not exceed the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) cap of $20.41 million.
- The Personal Net Worth (PNW) of each socially and economically disadvantaged owner must not exceed $1.32 million, excluding the individual’s ownership in interest in the applicant firm and the equity in his/her primary residence.

Reference: CalTrans  [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/downloads/Word/Application_for_Regular_DBEs_2.22.08.doc](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/downloads/Word/Application_for_Regular_DBEs_2.22.08.doc)

Find DBE firms:
CA Unified Certification Program (CUCP)  [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm)
System Award Management (SAM) – SBA-certified Small Disadvantaged Business or 8(a) Program participant:  [https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/](https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/)

Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)

An MBE is a for-profit enterprise, regardless of size, physically located in the U.S. or its territories, which is 51% owned, managed, operated and controlled by an ethnic minority or group of ethnic minorities on a day-to-day basis. An ethnic minority is an individual whose origin or heritage is of or from:

- Any of the Black racial groups of Sub-Saharan Africa (African-Americans)
- Any of the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean and Brazil (Afro-Brazilians and Brazilian Indians only) (Hispanic Americans)
- American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut or Native Hawaiian (Native Americans). Native Americans must be documented members of a North American tribe, band or organized group of native people indigenous to the continental U.S.
- Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Guam, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, the U.S. Trust Territories of the Pacific or the Northern Maritans and Vietnam. (Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Asian Indian Americans)


Find MBE firms:
CA Unified Certification Program (CUCP)  [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm)

Woman Business Enterprise (WBE)

A WBE is a business owned and controlled by one or more women. Owned and controlled means that at least 51% of the small business concern is owned by one or more women; and whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more women who own it.


Find WBE firms:
CA Unified Certification Program (CUCP)  [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm)

Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE)

In order to be considered a Service-disabled Veteran-owned Business Enterprise, the firm must be:

- At least 51% owned, managed and operated by one or more service disabled veterans, or;
- In the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51% of the stock must be owned, and the business managed and operated by service disabled veterans.


Find DVBE firms:
CA Department of General Services BidSync Site:  [http://www.bidsync.com/DPXBisCASB](http://www.bidsync.com/DPXBisCASB)