

Small/Underutilized Business Certifications and Benefits

As part of its [commitment to diversity](#), the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) encourages eligible firms to obtain certifications from District-approved certifying agencies. Eligible small and historically underutilized business enterprises may report their status using the SDCCD's [Certification Verification](#) Form and affidavit while awaiting certifying agency determinations.

While the SDCCD does not currently have any numeric goals for small or historically underutilized business participation, some certifications may provide for bid preferences or streamlined bid processes when pursuing State or Federal work. By obtaining all certifications for which you are qualified, you will be included in databases utilized by a variety of public agencies, prime bidders, professional services firms and suppliers.

[Small Business Enterprise \(SBE\)](#)

The SDCCD recognizes SBE and microbusiness certifications obtained through the California Department of General Services (DGS) and relies on the DGS' [Bid Sync](#) tool to identify local SBE-certified firms to notice for bid opportunities. Resources to help you [get certified](#) include:

- [SBE Eligibility Requirements and Benefits](#)
- [Certification Requirements](#)
- [Certification Instructions](#)

The SDCCD also recognizes SBE certifications from the [Central Contractor Registry](#) (CCR) and utilizes its [CCR Search tool](#) to identify small and underutilized firms using federal small business size standards.

To certify with the CCR, you must complete an [online registration](#) with CCR and then verify your certification information by completing your [Online Representations & Certifications Application \(ORCA\)](#), which requires electronic signature by an authorized representative of the company. You may find it helpful to review [what you need to register](#) and the list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for CCR registration. A [reference guide, handbook, and frequently asked questions](#) are also available to assist you in completing your ORCA.

[Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\)](#)

The SDCCD recognizes DBE certifications obtained through California Department of Transportation's [Unified Certification Program](#) (UCP) and relies on the UCP's [DBE Firm Search](#)

[Query](#) tool to identify local DBE firms to notice for bid opportunities. Resources to help you obtain DBE certification include:

- [DBE Eligibility Requirements and Application](#)
- [DBE Certification Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The SDCCD also recognizes DBE self-certifications from the [Central Contractor Registry](#) (CCR) detailed in the SBE certification section above.

[Minority Business Enterprise \(MBE\)](#)

Certification programs for MBE firms vary among public agencies. The SDCCD relies on the California United Certification Program (UCP) [Firm Search Query](#) tool to identify State certified MBE firms to notice for bid opportunities. Eligible firms may submit applications to the [State of California Minority Business Enterprise \(SMBE\) and Women Business Enterprise \(SWBE\) program](#).

The SDCCD also recognizes MBE self-certifications from the [Central Contractor Registry](#) (CCR) detailed in the SBE certification section above.

[Woman Business Enterprise \(WBE\)](#)

Certifications for WBE firms vary among public agencies. The SDCCD relies on the United Certification Program (UCP) [Firm Search Query](#) tool to identify WBE firms to notice for bid opportunities. The UCP has a [State of California Minority Business Enterprise \(SMBE\) and Women Business Enterprise \(SWBE\) program](#).

The SDCCD also recognizes WBE self-certifications from the [Central Contractor Registry](#) (CCR) detailed in the SBE certification section above.

[Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise \(DVBE\)](#)

The SDCCD recognizes DVBE certifications obtained through California's Department of General Services (DGS) and relies on the DGS' [Bid Sync](#) tool to identify DVBE-certified firms to notice for bid opportunities. Resources to help you [get certified](#) include:

- [DVBE Eligibility Requirements and Benefits](#)
- [Certification Requirements](#)

The SDCCD does not recognize certifications from agencies or organizations which charge a fee and/or a renewal fee for the certification. Please review the District's list of [approved certifying agencies](#) to learn more.

No-cost workshops and training to help firms obtain certification(s) are periodically offered by business development organizations including:

- [San Diego Contracting Opportunities Center](#)
 - For assistance with certifications, please [Apply here](#) or e-mail Leanne Cabling at lcabling@ptac-sandiego.org. In either case, indicate that certification assistance is needed for SDCCD purposes.
- [Small Business Development Center](#)
- [Small Business Administration, San Diego](#)
- [SCORE Business Counseling](#)

For additional information, please contact Ursula Kroemer, SDCCD Contractor Outreach Coordinator, at ukroemer@sdccd.edu or (619) 819-5484.