



SFMTA



## California Unified Certification Program

# Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

# CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Including one-on-one certification assistance

The Business Outreach Committee (BOC), with co-sponsor Contra Costa Supervisor Federal Glover and City of Pittsburg, invites you to learn about the DBE Certification Program.

Date: Thursday, January 19, 2012

Time: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Place: Pittsburg Senior Center  
300 Presidio Lane, Pittsburg, CA

For information on taking public transit to the event, please visit <http://www.511.org/>

### WHY ATTEND?

- Learn how a DBE certification can provide you access to federally-funded projects. New federal requirements coming into effect February 2012 make it even more important for your firm to be certified.
- Bring your DBE certification application or questions and receive one-on-one assistance. Download an application at [http://www.caltrans.ca.gov/hq/bep/downloads/pdf/DBE\\_Application.pdf](http://www.caltrans.ca.gov/hq/bep/downloads/pdf/DBE_Application.pdf)
- Receive information on upcoming projects from BOC member agencies.

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR DBE CERTIFICATION:

(Go to [www.CaliforniaUCP.com](http://www.CaliforniaUCP.com) for complete details)

- Firm must be at least 51% owned and operated by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.
- Firm must be an independent business.
- Only existing for-profit “Small Business Concerns” as defined by the Small Business Act and Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations may be certified.
- SBA size standards apply.
- Personal Net Worth (PNW) of socially and economically disadvantaged owners must not exceed \$1.32 Million, excluding the individual’s ownership interest in the applicant firm and the equity in his/her primary residence.

To register online or sign up for future newsletters and event information, click link below (or copy to web browser), complete form, then click “submit form’:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en\\_US&formkey=dDZWUu\\_g2ZF83blhPeTZSYUI5MXF4c0E6MQ#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dDZWUu_g2ZF83blhPeTZSYUI5MXF4c0E6MQ#gid=0)

Certifying agencies include BART, SFMTA, Samtrans, and VTA.

## **What are the benefits of being a *CERTIFIED* Disadvantaged Business Enterprise?**

In an effort to eliminate inequalities, each state's Department of Transportation administers a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. The goal of these programs is to "level the playing field" so that minority-owned and women-owned businesses can compete successfully for contracts offered by transportation-related agencies such as transit districts, congestion management agencies, and cities and counties. Contracts run the gamut from highway construction projects, seismic retrofit of bridges, refurbishing of ferry vessels, and installing underground tanks, to design, engineering, and environmental projects, to other professional and non-professional services. There are opportunities for both prime contractors and subcontractors on many of these contracts.

Effective January 1, 2002, the California Unified Certification Program (UCP) went into effect, which created a *One Stop Certification* process. The UCP eliminated the need for firms to acquire multiple DBE certifications throughout California by the creation of a reciprocity agreement among all agencies (California UCP member agencies) that receive funding from the United States Department of Transportation. Simply stated, a DBE certification issued to a firm in California will be accepted by all other California UCP member agencies. DBE certified firms are placed in the California UCP database maintained by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). All California UCP member agencies, as well as firms and agencies in both private and public sectors, use this database to locate DBE businesses.

Every three years, transportation agencies that receive federal funding are required to evaluate their federally-funded contracting opportunities and to determine the level of DBE participation that might be anticipated for these contracts. Overall goals are predicated on availability of DBE firms: the greater the number of DBE firms, the higher the DBE participation goal.

Although being a DBE does not guarantee a contract, it gives your firm expanded exposure. When marketing your company, you can use your certified status as a "foot in the door" when introducing your firm to prime contractors.

DBE certification can help you increase your business opportunities, such as being offered assistance and advice about procurements and procurement practices and policies, receiving advance notice of upcoming projects, participating in one-on-one contacts with agency staff, and being contacted by staff and primes to meet goal requirements.

Learn more about the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program at [www.californiaucp.org](http://www.californiaucp.org).

To download a DBE certification application, visit:

[http://www.caltrans.ca.gov/hq/bep/downloads/pdf/DBE\\_Application.pdf](http://www.caltrans.ca.gov/hq/bep/downloads/pdf/DBE_Application.pdf)

For more information, contact Gail Jackson, DBE Program Administrator  
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