

As the contracting, certification and compliance authority for the City of Chicago, DPS maintains the highest commitment to diversity, transparency & innovation while continuously expanding the resources and programs that empower citizens to become involved in the contracting opportunities. We have an obligation in government to ensure that all firms have an opportunity to participate in contracts that are paid for with taxpayer dollars. DPS manages the certifications of approximately 2,700 new and renewing firms that are minority, women-owned, veteran or disadvantaged businesses.

TYPES OF CERTIFICATIONS

- **MBE:** Minority-Owned Business Enterprise
- **WBE:** Women-Owned Business Enterprise
- **BEPD:** Business Enterprises Owned or Operated by People with Disabilities
- **VBE:** Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise
- **DBE:** Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
- **ACDBE:** Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise

BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Ownership:** At least 51% of the business entity must be owned by one or more women or minority groups. Independence: Must demonstrate the ability to independently perform in the firm's area of specialty/expertise.
- **Control:** Must exercise control over the management and daily business operations of the firm.
- **Expertise:** Must demonstrate prior experience and expertise in the desired specialty area (i.e. training, licenses, certifications or academic credentials).
- **Location:** Must be located in the Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Will, Lake, McHenry
- **Size:** Firm's gross receipts must not exceed the maximum dollar threshold value and must meet other U.S. Small

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

- The City of Chicago is a part of the Illinois Unified Certification program (IL-UCP)
- Reciprocity with Cook County, which means certified firms will be qualified for opportunities through Cook County, as well as other government entities.
- Opportunities to participate in a number of programs, including the Target Market Program, which is designed to promote contracting opportunities for MBE and WBE firms.
- Contract specific goals for participation by certified firms on contracts bid by the city.
- Listing in the Chicago Certified Firms Directory.

HOW TO APPLY

- Visit www.cityofchicago.org/dps
- Certification applications are accepted **ONLINE** only

Chicago Certified Firms Directory – ONLINE



Chicago Certified Firms Directory

MBE / WBE / BEPD VBE / DBE / ACDBE

ONLINE SEARCHABLE DATABASE

Search for certified firms by a number of criteria, including:

- Name
- Description
- Commodity Code
- Location
- Certification Type
- Ward
- Community Area

Get instant results, export as an Excel or CSV file.

Chicago Certified Firms Directory

Search City of Chicago's Certified Firms Directory by entering search criteria and clicking Search. You must select at least one certification type. You can also search by a variety of other fields which are listed below.

Search results may be downloaded to Excel, by clicking the "Download Results to Excel" button after your search results are displayed. To download the full Certification Directory do not enter search criteria, scroll to the bottom of the page and click the "Download Entire Directory to Excel" button.

Search by Certification Type

- CERTIFICATIONS
- Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE)
 - Business Enterprises owned by People with Disabilities (BEPD)
 - Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
 - Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
 - Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE)
 - Women Business Enterprise (WBE)

Search by Business Name or DBA

BUSINESS NAME/DBA

Tip: Try just a few letters of the firm's name.

Search by Business Description

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Tip: Try just a few letters of a keyword.

Search by Contact Person

CONTACT PERSON/OWNER

First Name

Last Name

Tip: Use the first letter. Tip: Try the first few letters.

Search by Location

CITY

ZIP CODE

Tip: Search for multiple zip codes by separating with commas.

STATE

PHONE AREA CODE

Search by Reference

WARD

COMMUNITY AREA

TRAINING

DPS offers free workshops presented quarterly or monthly, to educate citizens and business owners about the fundamentals of procurement and the latest developments in procurement, certification and compliance.

To view the workshop calendar and register, go to www.chicago.gov/dpsevents

All workshops available on www.youtube.com/ChicagoDPS

CERTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WORKSHOPS

How to Become Certified

The Online Schedule A Application – MBE/WBE/VBE/BEPD

The ABC's of DBE and ACDBE Certification

Your Business Is Certified: Now What?

Compliance Documentation 101

WEBINARS

Vendors are able to participate in online webinars, which are held multiple times per week, including evening and weekend sessions. Classes include: Online Certification Application and Contract Compliance Reporting.

CONTACTS

To apply for certification or check the status of a firm's certification, visit: <https://chicago.mwdbe.com>

Certification Contacts:

Jacquelyn Charleston, Deputy Procurement Officer | 312-742-5042 | jacquelyn.charleston@cityofchicago.org

Desiree Otkins, Manager of Certification | 312-744-1909 | desiree.otkins@cityofchicago.org

121 North LaSalle, City Hall Room 806, Chicago, IL 60602 | 312-744-4900 | dps.certification@cityofchicago.org