



**How do I get certified?**  
Apply online at [www.mbe.ohio.gov](http://www.mbe.ohio.gov)

**Do I have to be certified to do business with the state?**  
No. Most state contracts are available to any qualified vendor. Being certified as a minority-owned business means you can compete for contracts which have been designated as “set aside”; meaning they can only be bid on by certified minority businesses. And if you have a certified, minority-owned business, there are programs available to grow your small business by providing access to capital or increased bonding capacity.

**Glossary**

**Minority-owned business enterprise (MBE):** A company must be owned and controlled at least 51% and for more than a year by an Ohio resident and U.S. citizen who belongs to one of the following ethnic groups: African American, Asian, Hispanic or Native American.

**Set aside:** State contracts for goods or services which are only available for bidding by certified minority-owned businesses.

**Participation:** When a minority-owned businesses wins a contract with the state through a bidding process open to any vendor.

**To get help with certification:**

**Region 1**  
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