

Can I be Certified as a Woman-Owned Business?

There are several government contract certifications available to for-profit businesses and sole proprietors. According to the Small Business Administration Association (SBA) the federal government's goal is to award at least 5% of all federal contracting dollars to women-owned small businesses each year. This can be one-time instances or up to 5-year contracts to perform services. The bidding process can be for contracts worth millions of dollars each year.

The reason for this program is to help provide a level playing field for women business owners to win a fair share of federal contracts. Firms can still compete for other contract awards they qualify for and regular bidding process and get business mentoring and education to learn how federal contracting works.

What difference does this make to NABFEME members? The government purchases everything for-profit companies purchase including video production, marketing, commercials, performers for conferences, event planners, writers, accountants, lawyers, and the list continues.

There are 2 types of certifications: **WOSB** a women-owned small business or **EDWOSB** economically disadvantaged women-owned small business. What are the differences and eligibility requirements?

- Be a small business: unconditionally and directly own and control at least 51% of the business
- Have average 3-year annual receipts below NAICS code requirements (Ex: 541611 less than \$16,500,000 annual revenue)
- Be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by women who are U.S. citizens

To qualify as an economically disadvantaged business within the women's contracting program, a business must:

- Meet all the requirements of the women's contracting program
- Be owned and controlled by one or more women, each with a personal net worth less than \$750,000
- Be owned and controlled by one or more women, each with \$350,000 or less in adjusted gross income averaged over the previous three years

The certification process will take **approximately 30 days and may cost a small fee.**

If you would like to apply:

[Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contracting Program \(sba.gov\)](http://sba.gov)

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