

Fact Sheet:

Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) and Economically-Disadvantaged Woman-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB)

Program Overview

PL1005-664 provides for a Women-Owned set-aside and is aimed at expanding federal contracting opportunities for WOSBs. The WOSB Federal Contract Program authorizes Contracting Officers to set aside certain federal contracts for eligible:

- Women-owned small businesses (WOSBs)
- Economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses (EDWOSBs)
- When the WOSB program was initiated by the SBA in 2011, set-asides to WOSBs were limited to contracts in 83 specific NAICS codes. On March 3, 2016, the SBA authorized the use of a total of 113 NAICS codes for WOSB and EDWOSB set asides: WOSBs are eligible for contract participation in 92 NAICS codes and EDWOSBs are eligible for contract participation in 21 designated NAICS codes, along with the 92 NAICS codes identified for WOSB.

Eligibility

- 51% owned and unconditionally controlled by one or more women.
- Owned by U.S. citizen(s).
- For an EDWOSB, it must be “small” in its primary industry in accordance with SBA’s size standards. (This stipulation does not apply to WOSBs. See 13 CFR 127.200.)
- For EDWOSB status, must demonstrate *economic disadvantage* (presumed if woman owner’s net worth is less than \$750,000, annual income averaged over past 3 years did not exceed \$350,000, and fair market value of all assets, including personal residence and value of business, does not exceed \$6 million.
- Unlike the 8(a) program, there is no term limit on participation in the WOSB program, as long as eligibility requirements are met.
- To be considered “unconditional,” the ownership must not be subject to any conditions, agreements, voting trusts, or other arrangements that cause or potentially cause ownership benefits to go to another.
- The management and daily business operations of the concern must be controlled by one or more women. Control means that both the long-term decision making and the day-to-day management and administration of the business operations must be conducted by one or more women.

Certification

Certification as a WOSB or EDWOSB must be accomplished *in one of two ways*:

1. *Self-certify* – Firm must register as a WOSB in the System for Award Management (SAM) at www.sam.gov as well as upload certain required documents to certify.SBA.gov.

2. *Be certified by an SBA-Approved 3rd Party Certifier*:

- El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- National Women Business Owners Corporation
- U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce
- Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)

Award Procedure

Upon notification that the WOSB is the apparent successful offeror, the WOSB must log-in to certify.SBA.gov and, from the drop-down menu, select the Federal agency and Contracting Officer to authorize that individual to access the business' documents.

For more information, go to: <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/women-owned-small-business-federal-contracting-program>

WOSB Mentor-Protégé

- The SBA's "all small" mentor-protégé guidelines apply across all small business categories. Details at: <https://www.sba.gov/contracting/government-contracting-programs/all-small-mentor-protége-program/about-all-small-mentor-protége-program>.

Major Changes Since WOSB Program Launch

- When the WOSB program was launched in February 2011, there were dollar caps on contracts that could be set aside for WOSB firms. These caps were removed by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2013. The SBA issued a final interim rule on this matter on May 7, 2013 (see 78 Fed. Reg. 26504) and the FAR has been updated to reflect this change. In addition, on December 31, 2015, the FAR was updated allowing sole source awards to be made to WOSBs. On March 3, 2016, the SBA expanded the number of NAICS code categories in which contracts may be set aside for WOSBs.

(Download this fact sheet at: <https://contractingacademy.gatech.edu/teaching-your-clients-how-to-obtain-a-small-business-certification>)