



Global Supplier Diversity Business Development

Fall 2013 Newsletter

Contracting News – U.S. Small Business Administration

Women-owned Small Business (WOSB) Programs

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Women-Owned Small Business Program (WOSB)—also referred to as 8(m)—now allows federal agencies to set aside contracts specifically for WOSBs. “Today, women own 30 percent of all small businesses, up from just 5 percent 40 years ago. As one of the fastest-growing sectors of small business owners in the country, opening the door for women to compete for more federal contracts is a win-win,” said Karen Mills, SBA administrator.

Eligibility requirements for WOSBs:

- A firm must be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more women, and primarily managed by one or more women.
- The women must be U.S. citizens.
- The firm must be “small” in its primary industry, in accordance with the SBA’s size standards for that industry.
- In order for a WOSB to be deemed “economically disadvantaged,” its owners must demonstrate economic disadvantage in accordance with the requirements set forth in the final rule.

The SBA has approved four organizations to act as third-party certifiers under the WOSB Program. The four organizations and their contact information are:

- [El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [National Women Business Owners Corporation](#)
- [U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Women’s Business Enterprise National Council \(WBENC\)](#)

Click here for the most [recent updates to the WOSB Program](#).

Additional Resources:

- [Federal government compliance guidelines for women-owned small business programs. State of Women-Owned Business Report—American Express Open Forum, 2013](#)