

BRUCE BLAKEMAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE



NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

LIONEL CHITTY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MWBE FAQs

What is an MWBE?

The Office of Minority Affairs was established in 2002, when the Nassau County Legislature passed Local Law No. 14-2002. The primary purpose of the Office of Minority Affairs is to foster the development, advancement, and betterment of economic, employment, business and cultural opportunities for the minority residents of the County and the improvement and stabilization of economically-deprived areas in the County. As such, OMA serves a central coordinating body for County funded and County assisted agencies or offices involved in any initiatives which intend to further its purpose.

Who is Eligible for MWBE Certification?

- Black persons having origins in any of the Black African racial groups
- Hispanic persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican, Cuban, Central or South American descent of either Indian or Hispanic origin, regardless of race
- Native American or Alaskan Native persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America
- Asian and Pacific Islander persons having origin in any of the Far East countries, South East Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands

How Can I Meet the MWBE Certification Criteria?

- **Ownership, Operation and Control:** Firm must be independently owned, operated and controlled by minority and/or women members. The ownership must be real, substantial, continuing, and owner(s) must exercise the authority to control and independently operate the day-to-day business decisions.
- **Personal Net Worth (PNW) Restriction:** Each minority or woman owner seeking certification cannot have a personal net worth exceeding \$ 15 million, after allowable deductions.
- **Small Business Restriction:** Firm cannot exceed 300 full-time and/or part-time employees.
- **Independent, Active and in Business for One Year:** Firm must operate independently of other firms, demonstrate business activity and be in operation for at least one year.

Out of State Applicants: Firm should be certified as an MWBE in their home state, if a similar program exists. Firm must have authority to do business in New York State from the Department of State Division of Corporations

Why Should I Become a Certified MWBE in Nassau County?

Advocacy. County agencies must consult with OMA when engaging in procurement activity of any kind. OMA will only advocate on behalf of those vendors who are certified.

Good Faith Efforts. Prime Contractors who bid on County-funded construction projects must make good faith efforts to find and contract with certified minority and women-owned firms to meet goals established by the County. Outreach is only required for certified M/WBEs. Becoming certified increases your chance of participating as a sub-contractor where aspirational goals have been set.

Business Outreach. OMA in partnership with its consultants and other community-based organizations will provide information, referral and procurement assistance and serves as an information conduit to business resources only for certified businesses. Those who are not certified will not receive targeted communications.

Entrepreneurial Training. OMA in partnership with its consultants and other community-based organizations will be conducting training programs. The classes will include but not be limited to the following: business plan preparation; marketing; financial planning; BID/RFP preparation; etc. Training programs are only available to certified M/WBEs.

Technical Assistance Services. OMA in partnership with its consultants will conduct financial assistance workshops; a specialized needs assessment of each client; and referrals to business professional services, such as accounting services, advertising services, etc. to businesses that are certified

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
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