

Programs for Certified Businesses

Under the Small, Local, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Act of 2005, as amended (D.C. Law 16-33), there are several ways businesses certified by the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) as local or small can benefit.

1. Every D.C. agency shall exercise its contracting and procurement authority to meet, on an annual basis, the goal of procuring and contracting 50% of the dollar volume of its goods and services, including construction goods and services, from small business enterprises. D.C. Official Code 2-218.41. This means that every D.C. agency's goal is to spend 50% of its expendable budget on goods and services from small business enterprises certified by DSLBD.
2. Every D.C. agency shall set aside every contract or procurement of \$100,000 or less for small business enterprises, including those on the D.C. Supply Schedule. D.C. Official Code §§ 2-218.44 & 45. This means that, by and large, all purchases of \$100,000 or less must go to small business enterprises certified by DSLBD.
3. All construction contracts undertaken by the D.C. government in excess of \$250,000 shall ensure that at least 35% of the dollar volume shall be subcontracted to small business enterprises. D.C. Official Code §§ 2-218.46.
4. All non-construction contracts undertaken by the D.C. government in excess of \$250,000 shall ensure that at least 35% of the dollar volume shall be subcontracted to small business enterprises, unless waived by OCP. D.C. Official Code §§ 2-218.46.
5. In all private development projects for which the District provides grants, bonds, tax incentives, or zoning variances, the District generally requires subcontracting of at least 35% of the Adjusted Development Budget to local business enterprise. (Certified Business Enterprise Utilization Agreement or Zoning Order).
6. In all development projects supported by District funds and in all development projects that take place on District owned property, local, small, or disadvantaged business enterprises certified by DSLBD shall receive 20% in equity and development participation. D.C. Official Code §§ 2-218.49a. This means that certified businesses can obtain equity ownership interest in private projects.
7. On D.C. government solicitations, the District must reduce the bid price (for evaluation purposes only) for businesses certified by DSLBD according to the points awarded for each category in which the business is certified. This means that if a business is certified by DSLBD with 12 points and bids \$100,000 and a business that is not certified bids \$90,000, the District will view the certified businesses' bid as \$88,000 when determining the lowest price. However, once awarded, the District pays the full \$100,000.