



To Whom It May Concern:

On August 5th, 2025 WSDOT issued a revision to 1-07.11.OPT6.FR1 to clarify which classification can be used for PWSBE and SBE. The following language is included in the GSP revision.

Only firms on the OMWBE Certified Business Directory with the PWSBE certification can be used to fulfill the PWSBE mandatory goal.

DBE and SBE are Federal designations and cannot be used to fulfill the mandatory State goal, the business must also have the PWSBE designations.

Overview of the November 4th changes:

- 1. WSDOT may increase small business goals on contracts to a maximum of 20% depending on project conditions.**
- 2. Bidders will now need to use the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) certified Public Works Small Business Enterprise's (PWSBEs) instead of Washington's Electronic Business Solution (WEBS) certified Small Business Enterprise (SBEs) to meet small business condition of award (COA) goals.**
- 3. Bidders will now need to use Department of Veterans Affairs certified Veteran-Owned Businesses instead of WEBS certified Veteran-Owned Businesses to meet COA goals.**
- 4. The General Special Provisions, Forms and bid submission process have been updated to reflect these changes.**

Goal changes

Twenty percent is the cap for Public Works Small Business Enterprise (PWSBE) participation. This change will provide the capacity for the department to adjust small business contract goals as appropriate, including possibly moving to an entirely race and gender-neutral program. As WSDOT found in its most recent Disparity Study, minority and women-owned firms—many of which are also small businesses—make up 18 percent of WSDOT's contracting market. While individual contract conditions may vary, establishing the cap at 20 percent provides room for Small Business Enterprise (SBE) goals to be adjusted in response to changes in the contracting and legal landscape.

Certification changes

WSDOT will adopt the PWSBE certification administered by the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE), making OMWBE the registering or certifying agency for small businesses that wish to become certified. This change will provide clarity and lower barriers to certification by

making OMWBE a “one-stop shop” to businesses who wish to be certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and/or PWSBE.

Public Works Small Business Enterprise (PWSBE) – A public works small business meeting the requirements of RCW 39.19 and WAC 326-20 and certified by the Washington State Office of Minority & Women’s Business Enterprises. Public Works Small businesses can be located by searching the directory:

<https://omwbe.wa.gov/directory-certified-businesses>

To view businesses that count towards PWSBE, select the following OMWBE state certifications: Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE), Combination Business Enterprise (CBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (FAA Only) (DBE (FAA Only)), Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), Minority/Women Business Enterprise (MWBE), Public Works Small Business Enterprise (PWSBE), Small Business Enterprise (SBE), Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SEDBE), and Women Business Enterprise (WBE).

| Search by Certification Type | |
|------------------------------|--|
| CERTIFICATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Combination Business Enterprise (CBE)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (FAA Only) (DBE (FAA Only))<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minority/Women Business Enterprise (MWBE)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Works Small Business Enterprise (PWSBE)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Business Enterprise (SBE)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SEDBE)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Women Business Enterprise (WBE) |

Please Note: Businesses with Federal DBE Certification are also SBEs. Businesses with any State Certification (MWBE, MBE, WBE, CBE, SEDBE) are also PWSBEs. These certifications are displayed differently and appear under “Additional Information” in every business profile. To search for SBE or PWSBE businesses, keep all certification types checked in the “Search by Certification Type” section, then scroll down to the “Search by Reference” section and select “Yes” in the drop down menu for either “SBE Certification” or “PWSBE Certification”. SBE and PWSBE businesses searches must be conducted separately. Selecting “Yes” in both menus will display incomplete search results. State funded projects will utilize PWSBE’s for their COA goals.

| Search by Reference | |
|----------------------|--|
| UDBE | <input type="text" value="Select one or more"/> |
| SBE CERTIFICATION | <input type="text" value="Select one or more"/> |
| PWSBE CERTIFICATION | <input type="text" value="All selected"/> |
| UBI # | <input type="text"/> |
| CERTIFICATION NUMBER | <input type="text"/> |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Select all] |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |

Following these steps will ensure your search includes a complete list of minority- and women-owned businesses.

Veteran-Owned Business (VOB) – A veteran-owned business meeting the requirements of RCW 43.60A.010 and listed certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veteran-Owned businesses can be located at:

<https://www.dva.wa.gov/veterans-service-members-and-their-families/veteran-owned-businesses>

As of October 2024, all OMWBE State Certified businesses have been given PWSBE certification. You can learn more about that here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAOMWBE/bulletins/3bcbc76>. [Learn more here](#). Federally certified businesses can opt-in for State Certification with OMWBE. Opt-in options are available for businesses who have Small Business Enterprise (SBE), and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE). The opt-in option may not apply for out of state businesses that are only DBE interstate certified with OMWBE. In this case, a new PWSBE application may be required. For information on the certification process including a link to start your application, please visit:

<https://omwbe.wa.gov/certification/public-works-small-business-enterprise>

General Special Provisions

Sections 1-02.6, 1-02.9, 1-02.13 and 1-07.11 have been updated. Updates are attached in track changes format. You may also see the current update available at:

<https://wsdot.wa.gov/engineering-standards/all-manuals-and-standards/general-special-provisions-gsp>.

Forms

The Public Works Small and Veteran Business Plan (Form 226-018) and the Public Works Small and Veteran Business Written Confirmation (Form 226-017) have been updated. The new forms are attached. You can download the form updates online at the links below.

Public Works Small and Veteran Business Plan:

<https://wsdot.wa.gov/publications/fulltext/forms/226-018.pdf>

Public Works Small and Veteran Business Written Confirmation Form:

<https://wsdot.wa.gov/publications/fulltext/forms/226-017.pdf>

Bid submission

Instructions to bid have been revised. Please see attached revised instructions. These instructions will be included in any bid proposal containing Condition of Award (COA) Public Works Small and Veteran Business (PWSVB) goals.

Questions?

Questions regarding the new processes or upcoming PWSVB program training should be directed to the Office of Equity and Civil Rights at (360) 705-7090.