

Certification Glossary

Acronym / Certification	Full Name & Certifying Body	Key Purpose
DBE	Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DOT / GDOT / USDOT)	Helps socially and economically disadvantaged U.S.-owned small businesses win transportation-related contracts
MBE	Minority Business Enterprise (NMSDC or state-level)	Supports minority-owned businesses (51% ownership and control) in corporate and govt procurement
WBE / WOSB / EDWOSB	Women's Business Enterprise (WBENC) / Women-Owned Small Business & Economically Disadvantaged WOSB (SBA)	Certifies women-owned businesses and offers special access to federal and private sector contracts
8(a)	8(a) Business Development Program (SBA)	Nine-year program for socially & economically disadvantaged businesses includes training, sole-source federal contracts
SDB / SDB (self-cert)	Small Disadvantaged Business (SBA)	SBA self-declared status; useful in SAM.gov for federal contracting visibility
HUBZone	Historically Underutilized Business Zone (SBA)	Supports small businesses in distressed zip codes; requires HQ and employees to be HUBZone-based
VOSB / SDVOSB	Veteran-Owned / Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (VA)	Certifies veteran-owned (51%+) businesses; SDVOSB adds requirement of service-connected disability