

# CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

As the contracting, certification, and compliance authority for the City of Chicago, DPS maintains the highest commitment to diversity, equity, transparency & innovation while continuously expanding the resources and programs that empower citizens to become involved in contracting opportunities. We have an obligation in government to ensure that all firms have an opportunity to participate in contracts that are paid for with taxpayer dollars. DPS manages the certifications of over 3,400 firms throughout the Chicagoland area that are minority, women-owned, veteran-owned, and business enterprises owned or operated by people with disabilities or disadvantaged businesses.

## TYPES OF CERTIFICATIONS

- ✓ Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE)
- ✓ Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE)
- ✓ Business Enterprises Owned or Operated by People with Disabilities (BEPD)
- ✓ Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise (VBE)
- ✓ Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
- ✓ Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE)

## BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ **Ownership:** At least 51% of the business entity must be owned by one or more women or minority groups.
- ✓ **Independence:** Must demonstrate the ability to independently perform in the firm's area of specialty/expertise.
- ✓ **Control:** Must exercise control over the firm's management and daily business operations.
- ✓ **Expertise:** Must demonstrate prior experience and expertise in the desired specialty area (i.e., training, licenses, certifications, or academic credentials).
- ✓ **Location:** Must be located in the Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Will, Lake, McHenry for MBE/WBE and VBE/BEPD). Anywhere in Illinois for DBE and ACDBE
- ✓ **Size:** The firm's gross receipts must not exceed the maximum dollar threshold value (as applicable) and must meet other U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards.

## BENEFITS OF CITY OF CHICAGO CERTIFICATION

- ✓ **Certifications that do not expire\***
- ✓ **An MBE/WBE Construction Increased Small Business Size Standard\***
- ✓ **Revised Personal Net Worth Calculation\***
- ✓ Illinois Unified Certification Program (IL-UCP)
- ✓ Reciprocity with Cook County
- \* **Denotes 2021/2022 revision to Certification programmatic criteria**
- ✓ Participation in contracting opportunities targeted towards MBE and WBE certified firms
- ✓ Contract specific goals for participation by certified firms on City contracts
- ✓ Listing in the Chicago Certified Firms Director

## HOW TO APPLY

- ✓ Visit [www.cityofchicago.org/dps](http://www.cityofchicago.org/dps)
- ✓ Certification applications are accepted **ONLINE** only, [www.chicago.mwdbe.com](http://www.chicago.mwdbe.com)

# Chicago Certified Firms Directory - ONLINE



## ONLINE SEARCHABLE DATABASE

Search for certified firms by a number of criteria, including:

- Name
- Description
- Commodity Code
- Location
- Certification Type
- Ward
- Community Area

Get instant results, export as an Excel or CSV file.

### Certification and Compliance System (C2)

#### Chicago Certified Firms Directory

Search City of Chicago's Certified Firms Directory by entering search terms and clicking **Search**. You must select at least one certification type.

Department of Procurement Services Disclaimer

**Search by Business Name or DBA**

Business Name/DBA   
Tip: Try just a few letters of the firm's name.

**Search by Business Description**

Business Description   
Tip: Try just a few letters of a keyword.

**Search by Commodity Code**

Commodity Code [Click to Lookup Commodity Code](#)  
(popup window will appear to browse and search available Commodity Codes)

**Search by Contact Person**

Contact Person/Owner    
Tip: Use the first letter. Tip: Try just the first few letters.

**Search by Location**

City   
State   
Zip Code   
Phone Area Code

**Search by Certification Type**

Certifications

- Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE)
- Business Enterprises owned by People with Disabilities (BEPD)
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
- Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
- Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE)
- Women Business Enterprise (WBE)

**Search by Reference**

Ward   
Community Area

Download Search Results:

Include Commodity Codes in download

>> 63 businesses with 64 certifications found <<

**Search Results**

Click the certification type for contact information and certification details

Vendor	Location	Certification
A D & A Construction INC	Chicago, IL	WBE
AMALGAMATED CONSTRUCTION INC., DBA AMALGAMATED CONSTRUCTION	Chicago, IL	WBE

## TRAINING

DPS offers free workshops presented quarterly or monthly, to educate citizens and business owners about the fundamentals of procurement and the latest developments in procurement, certification and compliance.

To view the workshop calendar and register, go to [www.cityofchicago.org/dpsevents](http://www.cityofchicago.org/dpsevents)

All workshops available on [www.youtube.com/ChicagoDPS](http://www.youtube.com/ChicagoDPS)

### CERTIFICATION/COMPLIANCE WORKSHOPS

**How to Become Certified**

**The Online Certification Application – MBE/WBE/VBE/BEPD**

**The ABC's of DBE and ACDBE Certification**

**Your Business Is Certified: Now What?**

**Compliance Documentation 101**

**Compliance 101 - Honoring Obligations to Chicago Taxpayers**

**Tracking Contract Payments: What You Need to Know**

### WEBINARS

Vendors are able to participate in online webinars, which are held multiple times per week, including evening and weekend sessions. Classes include: Online Certification Application and Contract Compliance Reporting.

## CONTACTS

To apply for certification or check the status of a firm's certification, visit: <https://chicago.mwdbe.com>.

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