



# How to Contract with the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Federal Contracting Program

## WOSB/EDWOSB Set-asides

To help level the playing field for women businesses owners, the federal government's goal is to award 5 percent of all prime and subcontracting dollars to women-owned small businesses each year. For the second time in the last seven years, women-owned small businesses exceeded the goal by achieving **5.19 percent, or \$26.0 billion of eligible contracting dollars in 2019 – the highest amount ever, which could equate to over 134.5K jobs.**

To help your agency meet that goal, you can create set-aside or sole-source awards for businesses that participate in the WOSB Federal Contracting Program.

**On October 15, 2020, self-certification for WOSBs and Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Businesses (EDWOSBs) ended.**

Self-certified firms are no longer eligible for WOSB and EDWOSB set-aside and sole-source contracts, and must go through the formal certification process via SBA's online portal on [beta.certify.gov](https://beta.certify.gov). Visit the website to learn more about the [change from self-certification to formal certification](#).

SBA's free online certification process for WOSBs and EDWOSBs can be found on [SBA's online portal](#).

Contracting officers (COs) are allowed to use set-aside and sole source contracts if [the NAICS code assigned to the procurement is authorized](#) for use under the WOSB Federal Contracting Program.



U.S. Small Business Administration

**Note: Not all NAICS codes are authorized for use under the WOSB Federal Contracting Program. The SBA maintains [a list of eligible industries and their NAICS codes](#).**

- You can solicit a **competitive WOSB set-aside contract** if you have a reasonable expectation that at least two responsible WOSBs or EDWOSBs will submit offers and that the resulting contract can be awarded at a fair market price.
- You can award a **sole-source WOSB contract** if you don't have a reasonable expectation that two or more qualified WOSBs or EDWOSBs will submit offers, determine that the qualified small business is responsible, and determine that the contract can be awarded at a fair price. The government estimate cannot exceed \$6.5 million for manufacturing requirements or \$4 million for all other requirements. Please note that a Justification and Approval is required.

Contracting officers can now verify a firm's WOSB Federal Contracting Program participation status by using the [Dynamic Small Business Search \(DSBS\)](#). The following fields have been added to the DSBS:

<b>Women Owned - SBA Certified:</b>		
WOSB Certified?:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
WOSB Certification Date:	11/12/2020	
WOSB Pending?:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>Economically Disadvantaged Women Owned - SBA Certified:</b>		
EDWOSB Certified?:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
EDWOSB Certification Date:		
EDWOSB Pending?:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

The DSBS is updated daily to reflect firms that have moved into pending status or formally certified status.

Firms bidding on procurements must be in a pending status by the solicitation's closing date, and be certified prior to contract award.

If you identify an apparent successful offeror in pending status, you may request expediated processing by emailing [wosbpendingcertification@sba.gov](mailto:wosbpendingcertification@sba.gov).

**Consideration for an expediated request will ONLY be given to COs, in compliance with Title 13 Part 127 Subpart 504 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).**



**LEARN MORE**

For the latest information about contracting with the WOSB Federal Contracting Program, visit [SBA's website](#).

