

## **Minority Business Certification Options in Nebraska:**

**The State of Nebraska does not have a statewide women- or minority-owned business certification program** such as practiced in various cities and states around the country.

Below are listed several ways this issue is addressed by the organizations identified. In addition to options described below, a firm may identify itself as woman- and/or minority-owned when registering with the Nebraska Dept. of Administrative Services Materiel Division, but they do not officially 'certify' this status of firms on their bid list.

If you would like further information on the **State of Nebraska's procurement policies and procedures**, contact the Materiel Division of the Department of Administrative Services at **402-471-2401** or visit their web site at:

<http://www.das.state.ne.us/materiel/purchasing/purchasing.html>

The **Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)** has a certification program:

<http://www.wbenc.org/Certification/>

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### **The current options for business ownership certifications in Nebraska:**

#### **STATE:**

The **Nebraska Department of Roads** has adopted Federal [49-CFR, Part 26](#) (**DBE - Disadvantaged Business Enterprise**) standards as a certification program for companies with which they contract (primarily construction, but transportation companies may inquire). Call or e-mail Joe Kisicki at (402) 479-4531 / [jkisicki@dor.state.ne.us](mailto:jkisicki@dor.state.ne.us) or visit their DBE web site at: <http://www.dor.state.ne.us/letting/dbeinfo.htm> for further information.

#### **FEDERAL:**

**Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program:** To be eligible, a firm must be at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more women, and primarily managed by one or more women. The women must be U.S. citizens.

-- <http://www.sba.gov/content/women-owned-small-business-federal-contract-program>

**Central Contractor Registration (CCR)** is the primary registrant database for the U.S. Federal Government. CCR collects, validates, stores and disseminates data in support of agency acquisition missions. They have a registration database online that allows a company to 'self-certify' by type of ownership:

-- <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/default.aspx>

\* The **Nebraska Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)** provides assistance with obtaining **self certification** for free. PTAC also helps get businesses register in the **Central Contractor Registration**.

-- <http://ptac.unomaha.edu/contactus.cfm>

A company can be Federally certified as minority owned. First, they can identify themselves as minority owned (based on ethnicity, not gender) in each solicitation they submit for a government contract. If the company's minority-owned status is challenged, the Small Business Administration may be called in to verify the company's claim of being minority owned. Second, a company can apply through the **SBA Small Disadvantaged Business Certification Program**. For information on this option, please see: <http://www.sba.gov/content/disadvantaged-businesses>

**SBA 8a Certification** program (see: <http://www.sba.gov/content/8a-business-development>). The contact person for this in the Omaha SBA office is **Kathleen Piper** at (402) 221-7205. As in the other program, minority owned status is based on race, not gender.

#### **OMAHA:**

Contact Kathy Hendrix at 402-444-5056 / [khendrix@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:khendrix@ci.omaha.ne.us) - or Maria Partida 402-444-5053 / [mpartida@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:mpartida@ci.omaha.ne.us) in the **City of Omaha Human Rights and Relations Department** (Gail Kinsey Thompson, Director). The Department has discontinued it's woman- and minority-owned business certification program. For information on their new Tier 1 and Tier 2 poverty area certification program see: <http://www.co.douglas.ne.us/omaha/humanrights/contract-compliance>

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