

GLOSSARY

Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program

Programs which provide special preference in construction procurement to firms classified as minority business enterprises and/or socially and economically disadvantaged firms (disadvantaged business enterprises — DBEs). Such preference generally takes the form of meeting goals and quotas in the award of construction contracts and subcontracts as, for example, the requirement contained in the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 that requires 10% of the funds authorized to be expended with small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

Small Business Set-Aside Program

The small business set-aside program requires federal procurement agencies to remove individual contracts and classes of contracts from the open competitive system and "set them aside" for restricted bidding by small business firms as defined by SBA regulations.

Small Business 8(a) Program

Under the SBA 8(a) program, the SBA and a federal procurement agency agree to remove a contract from the open unrestricted competitive bid system and sole-source negotiate the contract with a "socially and economically disadvantaged small business firm."

Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) Programs

Programs which provide special preference in construction procurement to firms classified as women's business enterprises. Such preference generally takes the form of meeting goals and quotas in the award of construction contracts and subcontracts.

One or more of the above special preference procurement programs are being utilized in the following federal agencies and construction programs:

- Department of Defense
- Department of Transportation
- Corps of Engineers
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command
- Air Force
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Soil Conservation Service
- Federal Aid Highway Program
- Airport Construction Program
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Construction Grants Program
- General Services Administration
- Veteran's Administration
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Economic Development Administration
- Farmer's Home Administration
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Energy
- Department of the Interior

Similar special preference procurement programs are used extensively throughout the country by the various construction procurement branches of state, city and municipal governments.