

Is your minority-owned business located in Charles County?

If your minority-owned business is physically located in Charles County, Maryland, we encourage you to also register with our Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) Program.

The SLBE Program was created to promote the procurement of goods and services from qualified small businesses that are located and operating in Charles County.

The SLBE Program allows certified small local businesses to receive a preference when competing for Charles County procurement opportunities. To be eligible for the SLBE Program you must first register your firm with the State of Maryland's Small Business Reserve (SBR) Program. The State of Maryland must certify that your firm is operating as a small business and falls within their eligibility criteria standards. This race-neutral SBR Program allows small businesses to participate as direct, prime contractors on Maryland State contracts without competing with larger more established businesses.

To register with the SBR program, visit the eMaryland Marketplace website at www.emaryland.buyspeed.com. Once you have received your SBR Certification number, complete and submit a Charles County SLBE registration form which can be downloaded at www.MeetCharlesCounty.com/Main/Local-Minority-Business-Programs.

Charles County Commissioners



Charles County Government

Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program



Charles County Economic Development Department

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www.MeetCharlesCounty.com

Mission Statement — The mission of Charles County Government is to provide our citizens the highest quality service possible in a timely, efficient, and courteous manner. To achieve this goal, our government must be operated in an open and accessible atmosphere, be based on comprehensive long- and short-term planning, and have an appropriate managerial organization tempered by fiscal responsibility. We support and encourage efforts to grow a diverse workplace.

Vision Statement — Charles County is a place where all people thrive and businesses grow and prosper; where the preservation of our heritage and environment is paramount; where government services to its citizens are provided at the highest level of excellence; and where the quality of life is the best in the nation.

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Minority Business Enterprise Program

The Charles County Government established its **Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program** in 2005, to promote the growth of minority-owned businesses, and increase their participation in the county's procurement process. The county conducts its own MBE registration and also recognizes the MBE certification by the Maryland State Department of Transportation (MDOT), the official certification agency for minority business enterprises, and 8-A certification offered by the Federal Small Business Administration (SBA).

MDOT's MBE Program was established in 1978 and is the oldest program in the country. The purpose of the MDOT Program is to assist small, minority, and women-owned firms that have been traditionally kept out of the State procurement process, to gain greater access to State government procurement opportunities. You can contact MDOT directly to obtain a copy of their MBE application form and to attend their free monthly Application Assistance Workshop. Details: www.mdot.maryland.gov.

Charles County also recognizes the federal government's 8-A Business Development Certification Program. The 8-A program is a business assistance program for socially or economically disadvantaged small businesses. For details, please visit www.sbdchelp.com or www.sba.gov.

Firms are encouraged to register with the Charles County Government's MBE Program. The MBE program application is available online at www.MeetCharlesCounty.com/Main/Local-Minority-Business-Programs.

Does your business qualify as an MBE?

To qualify as an MBE, you must own 51 percent of your business and fall into one of the following classifications:

African American • Asian
American Indian/Native American • Hispanic
Disabled American Veteran
Physically and Mentally Disabled • Woman Owned

Our Core MBE Practices

- We handle the procurement function in a professional manner and deal with each prospective MBE firm with honesty, fairness, and integrity.
- We reach out to qualified MBE firms by participating in business opportunity events and encouraging them to register with Charles County's MBE Program.
- We maintain and provide information regarding the State of Maryland's Department of Transportation (MDOT) certified MBE program.
- We provide technical assistance regarding MDOT's certification application process including where to submit form(s), and who to contact for additional technical assistance.
- We also provide technical assistance to MBE firms regarding the county's overall procurement and bidding procedures.
- We strongly encourage the use of our MBE subcontractors by our prime contractors who have been awarded county construction contracts.
- We facilitate networking amongst MBE firms and other small business development practitioners and resource providers.

Additional Resources

Charles County Minority Business Advocacy Council
mbacmoses@yahoo.com
www.mbaccc.com

Governor's Office of Minority Affairs
410-767-8232
www.goma.maryland.gov

Maryland Department of Commerce
410-767-6300
www.commerce.maryland.gov

Maryland Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP)
301-403-2740 • www.mdptap.org

Maryland Small Business Development Center, Southern Region
301-934-7580 • www.sbdchelp.com

Maryland Technology Development Corporation
410-740-9442 • www.marylandtedco.org

Maryland Washington Minority Contractors Association, Inc.
443-759-8580 • www.mwmca.org

Minority Business Development Agency
202-482-1940 • www.mbda.gov

Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce
443-646-5744 • www.smbcc.org

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland Regional Minority Business Resources
301-274-1922 • www.tccsmd.org/mbr