

SMALL BUSINESS IS BIG BUSINESS



ONLINE CERTIFICATION PROCESS & INSTRUCTIONS



OEBO PROGRAM

Please refer to the Certification 101 Presentation to learn about:



Becoming a PBC Registered Vendor

The Mission of the OEBO

Benefits of Certification

Certification Eligibility

Business
Category Size
Standards





- ➤ Certification is **FREE OF CHARGE**
 - ✓ However, if you wish to expedite, there is a non-refundable charge of \$300. Expedited applications are <u>approved only when</u> the applicant is responding to a solicitation that is a minimum of 20 days from the date of the application request.
- ➤ In order to do business with Palm Beach County, all vendors are required to register on the Vendor Self-Service System (VSS)





Purchasing Website

OEBO Website

PBC Vendor Directory



User ID

Password

Login

Password Reset

Welcome to Palm Beach County's Vendor Self-Service (VSS) Registration System

As a registered vendor with Palm Beach County, VSS provides you with the following features:

Business Opportunities: Construction & Non-Construction Solicitations; Email Notifications of Business Opportunities; Public Access to Business Opportunities

Financial Transactions: View Payment History; Review Currently Held Master Agreements

<u>Vendor Account Maintenance</u>: Addresses; Contacts; Commodity Code Selections (Vendors must select NIGP Commodity Codes for the good(s) and/or service(s) they provide in order to receive email notifications of business opportunities with Palm Beach Conty.)

Office of Equal Business Opportunity: Small/Minority/Woman Owned Business Enterprise (S/M/WBE) are encouraged to click on the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEBO) link above to learn how to certify their business with Palm Beach County. ALL vendors must be registered in VSS PRIOR TO beginning the S/M/WBE Certification process.

For best utilization of the VSS Registration System, please ensure pop-up blockers are disabled and you are using one of the following certified browsers: Internet Explorer, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Safari, iOS, or Android. Please DO NOT USE Google Chrome to complete the Vendor Registration.

For assistance in registering, please use the VSS New Registration User Guide to guide you through the registration process. If you are a current vendor, but have not activated your VSS account, please use the VSS Activate Existing Account User Guide to complete your account activation.

If you need further assistance, or have questions, **Palm Beach County VSS Assistance** is available Monday through Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm EST and can be reached by calling (561) 616-6800 or email at PBCVendor@pbcgov.org.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with Palm Beach County. We look forward to working with you.

Click the Register button to register a new or existing account.

Register

Public Access

Announcements

05/04/2020

ATTENTION VENDORS: Due to the Local State of Emergency, updates made to Vendor Self-Service Accounts will not be processed until May 18, 2020. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

04/23/2020

ATTENTION VENDORS -

Beginning February 3, 2020, ALL Vendors are REQUIRED to enter the following

User Guides and Forms

Click on a form below to either save it to your desktop or open it in Adobe.



VSS Quick Reference Guide for Solicitations

VSS Activate Existing Account User Guide



PALM BEACH COUNTY
OF BOOM
OFFICE OF EQUAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

SMALL BUSINESS IS BIG BUSINESS

Online Certification



After registering as a vendor and obtaining your Vendor Identification number via the email you provided, your next step is to become a Certified S/M/WBE.

Certifying online is a simple process. Please follow the step-by-step instructions below, in order to successfully complete an online application for Certification, Recertification or Modification.

If you need assistance, call the OEBO at 561.616.6840.



ONLINE CERTIFICATION/RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

STEP ONE

Go to the OEBO website (www.pbcgov.org/oebo) and click on the Vendor Online Certification button.

Click on this button



Certification Flyer - Creole

Certification Flyer - Spanish

Request an Interlocal Coversheet

How to start a Business

Vendor Online Certification

CONTACT US

Tonya Davis Johnson

Office of Equal Business Opportunity Director 50 S. Military Trail, Suite 202 West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Phone: 561-616-6840

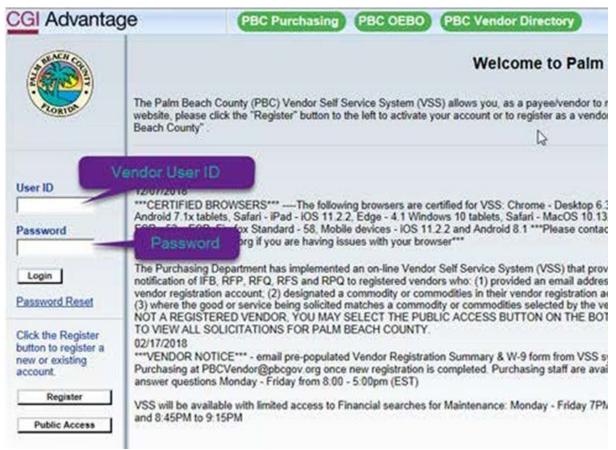
Mapquest

Contact OEBO









STEP TWO

You will be taken to the VSS website where you registered as a vendor. Log in using the Vendor User ID and Password you created.





STEP THREE

Click on the ORANGE OEBO Certification Application button to proceed.





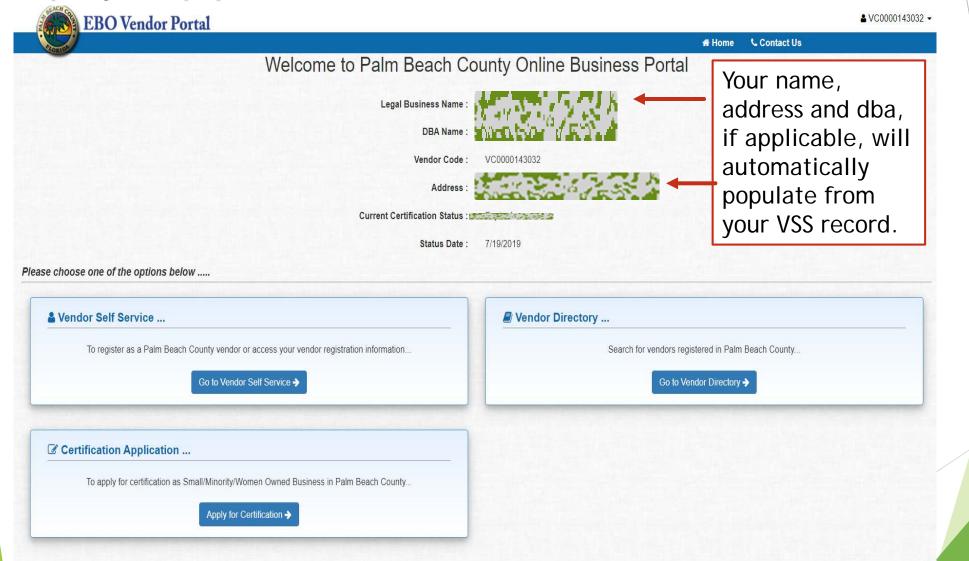
STEP FOUR

After a successful login, you will have three options to choose from. Choose Certification Application.













Step by step process to online certification If you have not registered on the VSS...this is what you will see...

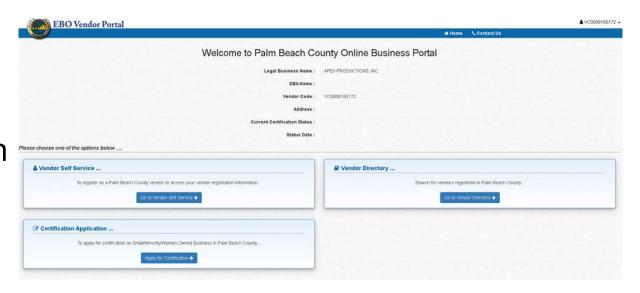


Click on Vendor Self-Service to register your business in the Vendor Self Service (VSS) portal

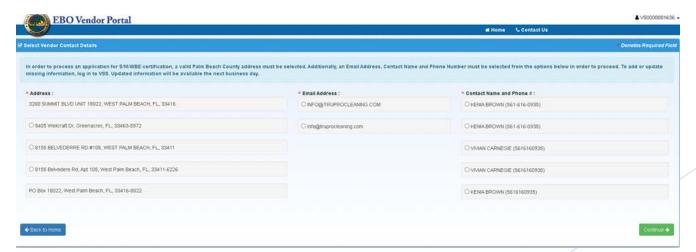




New Certifications Will see this screen



Select your contact information







Applicants applying for RECERTIFICATION will see this screen

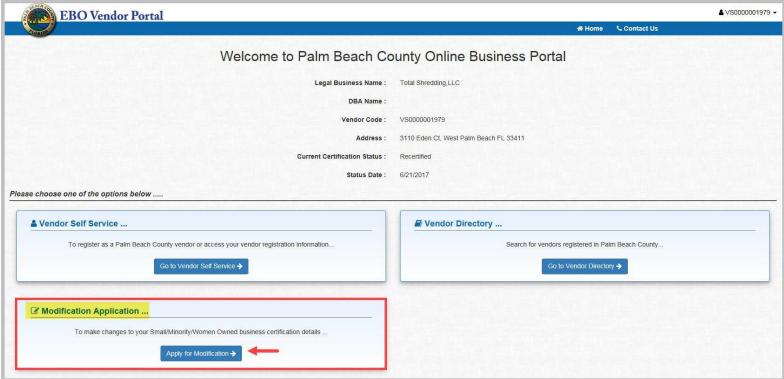


▲ VS0000001636 · **EBO Vendor Portal** # Home Contact Us Welcome to Palm Beach County Online Business Portal Legal Business Name: TruPro Cleaning, Inc. DBA Name Vendor Code : 8155 Belvedere Rd Ste 105, West Palm Beach FL 33411 **Current Certification Status** Status Date : 5/5/2019 Please choose one of the options below .. & Vendor Self Service ... Vendor Directory ... To register as a Palm Beach County vendor or access your vendor registration information Search for vendors registered in Palm Beach County Go to Vendor Self Service > Go to Vendor Directory -Renewal Application .. To renew certification as Small/Minority/Women Owned Business in Palm Beach County Apply for Renewal >

S/M/WBE
Vendors can
recertify before
90 days of
expiration date.
After expiration
a new
certification
application WILL
BE REQUIRED



Applicants applying for MODIFICATION will see this screen



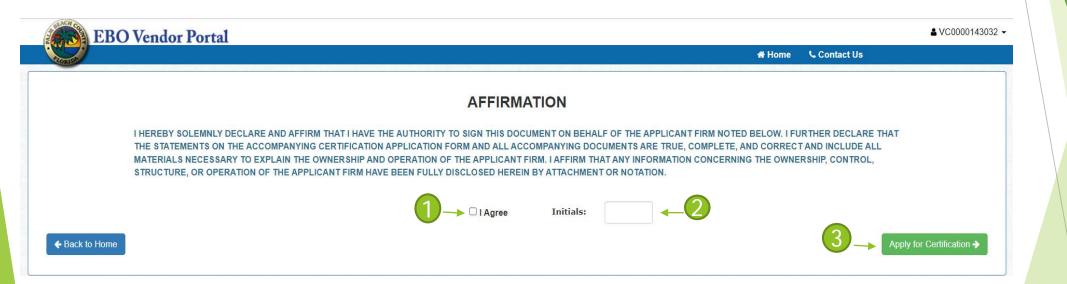
ALL supporting documentation for the modification should be uploaded in the documents section.





AFFIRMATION PAGE FOR ANY APPLICATION





- 1. Click in the "I Agree" checkbox. (Required)
- 2. Click in the "Initials" field and enter your initials. (Required)
- 3. Click on the "Apply for Certification" button. (Required)



VENDOR CONTACT DETAILS

In order to process an application for certification, a valid Palm Beach County address must be selected, as well as an email address, contact name and phone number. **ALL UPDATES AND ADDITIONS MUST BE DONE THROUGH THE VSS**. The OEBO staff is unable to update your information.







VENDOR CONTACT DETAILS

PLEASE NOTE: The EBO Vendor Portal is only set up to allow Palm Beach County commercial and residential street addresses. The system will automatically "gray-out" any outside of County addresses.

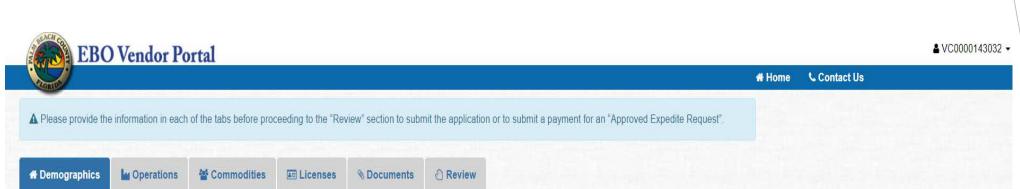






NECESSARY INFORMATION

This is where all of the necessary information is submitted in your application. You will see tabs (Demographics | Operations | Licenses | Documents | Review).



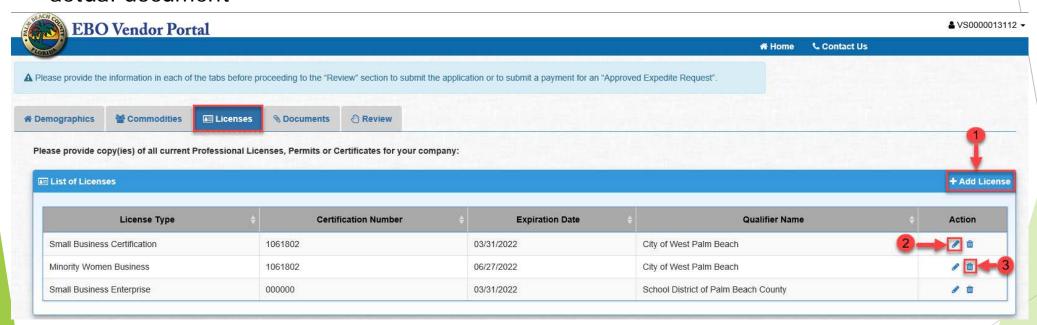
You will have to select each tab to complete the section of the application it references. Many of the fields are required and will not allow you to continue if not completed.





ADDING YOUR INFORMATION

There will be tabs that will ask you to INPUT information before you UPLOAD the actual document



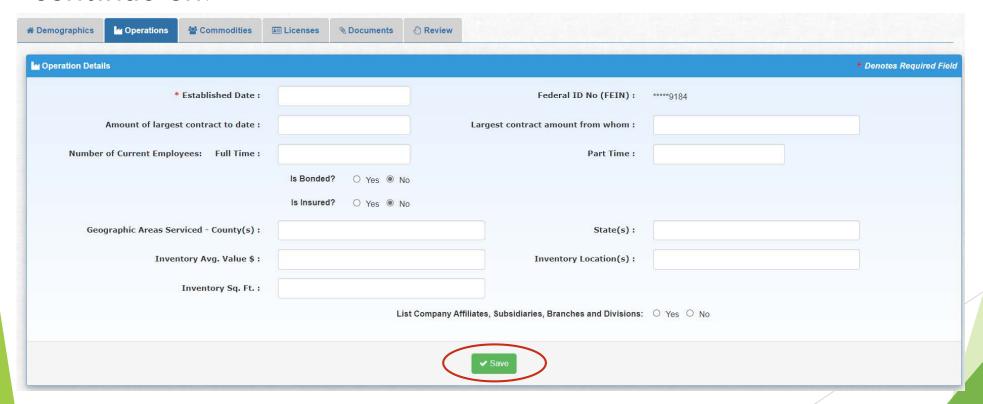
The "ADD" button will be at the top right of function display. For example, Adding a License, you will go to "Add License" to open a window, put the information in and select the pencil icon to edit or the trash can icon to delete.





NECESSARY INFORMATION

After completing the sections you will have to save and continue on.







SAVE AND CONTINUE LATER

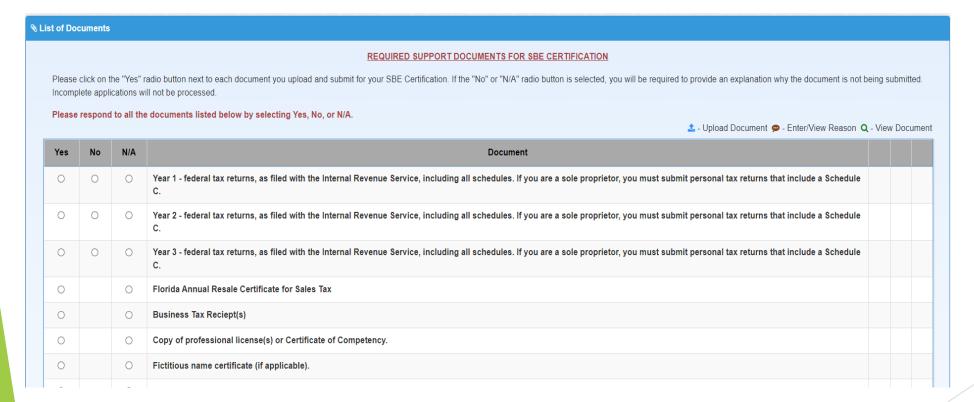
However, if you need to take a break during the process. You can always log back in and continue where you left off.







DOCUMENTS CAN BE UPLOADED AS A PDF



Support documents are required for certification review. Just because you mark N/A, does not mean your Specialist will not ask you for it





EXPEDITE REQUIREMENT



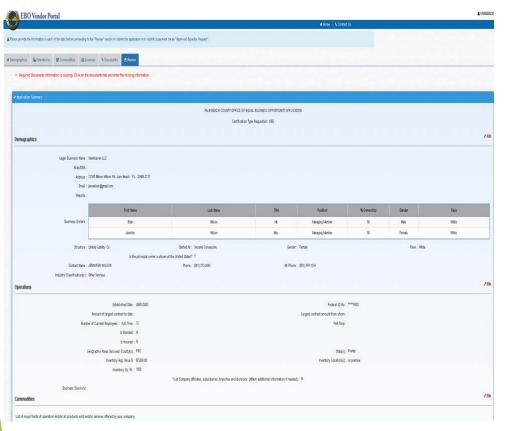


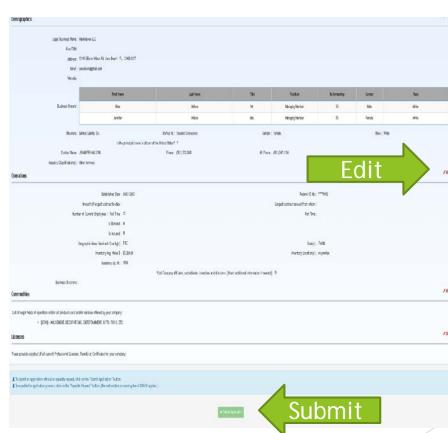
A Please provide the information in each of the tabs before proceeding to the "Review" section to submit the application or to submit a payment for an "Approved Expedite Request".

Expedited applications will only be approved with certain parameters. A payment of \$300.00 (non-refundable) at the time of your request. Most major methods of payments are accepted. However, in the online application the system informs you what to do in order to make it to the request to expedite. Please follow those instructions.



Step by step process to online certification REVIEW AND SUBMIT





Should you need to edit, there are edit buttons on the side that you can select to edit that portion. Once you have completed, Press Submit.





CERTIFICATION REQUIRED DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

A written explanation on company letterhead is required for all documents that are not submitted but are applicable to your business. The OEBO reserves the right to request additional information and conduct on-site visits during the certification process. Please note that all documents submitted will become public record. A cursory review of your application is available upon request. If you do not wish to have your taxes as a part of the public record, you may request to have them reviewed by an OEBO Small Business Specialist. You may contact the office at \$56.5616.6840 to schedule an appointment.

FOR ALL APPLICANTS (in addition to your business structure below)

- 1. Federal Tax returns (and requests for extensions) filed by the firm with related schedules, for the past three years.
- 2. Federal tax returns (and requests for extensions) for subsidiaries and/or affiliates, including all schedules, if applicable.
- 3. For Firms in business less than one year, submit opening balance sheet and income statements for months in business.
- Copies of résumés for owners and directors may be requested.
- 5. Current Palm Beach County Business Tax Receipt and Municipal Business Tax Receipt, when applicable.
- Copy/Copies of professional license(s) or Certificate of Competency or permit(s).
- Fictitious Name Certificate (if applicable).
- 8. Proof of capital investment (identify investors, types of contributions and amount of contributions).
- Copy of current executed lease agreement and any addendums or property tax bill.
- Current list of employee(s) with date of employment/hire and position/title for both full & part-time.
- Current Reemployment tax form RT-6 or tax form 941
- 12. Copies of 1099 for independent contracted employees, if applicable.
- Largest contract to date, to include the date of the project, the owner of the contract and service rendered.
- 14. Provide copies of your insurance and/or bonding to include agent/company and capacity/coverage amount
- 15. Provide a list of all equipment used to provide the services indicated in your commodity list.
- 16. Copies of three current: Customer invoices, Signed contracts or Proposals to include date, owner and service rendered.
- For a provider of Consultant Competitive Negotiations Act (CCNA) Professional Services, submit a copy of your CCNA certification. –
 Contact the Palm Beach County Department of Engineering at 561-684-4000 for more information.

CORPORATIONS (in addition to 1-17 above, if applicable):

- 1. Articles of Incorporation, including date approved by State Department of Corporations, and any subsequent amendments.
- 2. Corporate By-laws.
- 3. List of shareholders, copy of issued stock certificates (front and back); copy of stock ledger; and proof of stock purchase.
- 4. List of Officers and Board of Directors.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES (LLC), (in addition to 1-17 above, if applicable)

- 1. Operating Agreement.
- 2. Membership Units.
- Ledge

PARTNERSHIP (in addition to 1-17 above, if applicable)

Partnership Agreement.

FRANCHISE (in addition to 1-17 above, if applicable)

Franchise Agreement.

SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP (in addition to 1-17 above, if applicable)

1. Most recent three years personal federal tax returns that include a Schedule C and requests for extensions

The Certification Required Documents

Checklist is a part of the paper application found on our website.

Items 1-17, if applicable are for all applicants and additional items are necessary based on your Business

Corporations

Structure.

- > S Corporation
- C Corporation
- Limited Liability Companies (LLC)
 - Partnerships
 - ➤ Sole Proprietorships





WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

- Palm Beach County Business Tax Receipt(s) (BTR) are required (no exceptions). Most municipalities also require a Business Tax Receipt. Check with your city, town or village to see if one is necessary. You will not be able to receive a PBC BTR without one from your municipality.
- > ALL State or County required professional licenses and certificates applicable to your industry: (Professional, Construction, Retail)
- Proof of Capital Investment (identify investors, types of contributions and amounts).
- Federal tax returns (and request for extensions) filed by the firm with related Schedules, for the past three years. (Sole Proprietors: Schedule C is required; Partnerships: Form 1065)
- Federal Tax returns (and request for extensions) for Subsidiaries and/or Affiliates, including all schedules, if applicable.
 - Tax Review is available: Appointments must be scheduled with the assigned specialist.





Documents are public record

Palm Beach County Government is subject to the **Sunshine Law** - meaning, any document you submit to us by mail, online, and/or email is available through a public records request.

- If you <u>do not</u> want your financial information (TAX RETURNS) to be made public, notify your assigned OEBO Specialist to schedule an appointment to have your taxes reviewed.
 - All Schedules and attachments must be present for all Returns to be reviewed. This also applies to affiliates and/or subsidiary companies. If they are not present at the time of initial review, they may be requested at a later date and subject to the Sunshine Law.
 - Once taxes are reviewed by the Specialist, they will be notarized onsite by OEBO staff and returned. An owner, officer or authorized employee of the company must be present to the sign tax review form or they will not be reviewed during the scheduled appointment.
- ALL other documents must be submitted and are subject to the Sunshine Law





DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- For firms in business less than one year, submit opening balance sheet and income statements for months in business.
- Copies of resume for owners/directors may be requested.
- Copy of current executed lease agreement and any addendums or Property Tax Bill (Home office).
- Current list of employee(s) with date of employment/hire and position/title for both full & part-time.
- Current Reemployment tax form RT-6 or tax form 941.
- Copies of 1099 for independent contracted employees, if applicable.
- Largest contract to date, to include the date of the project, the owner of the contract and service rendered.





DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- Provide copies of your insurance and/or bonding to include agent/company and capacity/coverage amount, if applicable.
- Provide a list of all equipment/supplies used to provide the services indicated in your commodity list.
- Copies of three current customer invoices, signed contracts, or proposals to include date, owner, and service rendered.
- ALL Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects, or Surveyors and Mappers must provide a copy of your Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act (CCNA) Professional Services certification received from PBC Department of Engineering. To obtain this certification contact the them at (561) 684-4000, or go to their website: pbcgov.org/engineering/roadwayproduction





Documents needed for various business structures



Corporations

- ➤ Articles of Incorporation, including date approved by State Department of Corporations, and any subsequent amendments
- ➤ Corporate By-Laws
- ➤ List of shareholders, copy of issued stock certificates (front and back); copy of stock ledger; and proof of stock purchase
- > List of Officers and Board of Directors



Documents needed for various business structures



LLC

- ➤ Operating Agreement
- ➤ Membership Units
- ➤ Ledger

Partnership

> Partnership Agreement (signed and dated document)

Franchise

Franchise Agreement (signed and dated document)

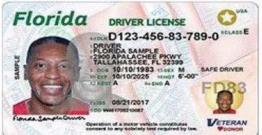


Additional Documentation Needed for Minority and Women Business Enterprises

- Proof of gender and/or ethnicity
- > Examples of documents that can be used to provide proof of gender and/or ethnicity are:
 - Driver's License
 - Passport
 - Birth Certificate
 - Military Record











CERTIFICATION PROCESS



- Palm Beach County
 Board of County Commissioners
- ➤ OEBO has up to ninety (90) business days for standard reviews after all required documents have been received to complete your certification. Failure to submit all information requested will delay the processing.
- ➤ You may request an Expedited Review if you are submitting a Request for Quote (RFQ), Invitation for Bid (IFB) or Request for Proposal (RFP).
- The Expedited Review request must be submitted a minimum twenty (20) business days prior to bid opening or proposal due date to be considered. There is a fee of \$300.00 for expedited processing.



Is the Certification Process Reciprocal with other agencies?

- ➤ There is NO RECIPROCITY in our certification process, however...
- ➤ Palm Beach County, The City of West Palm Beach, and the School District of Palm Beach County share an <u>Inter-local Agreement</u> to reduce time and paperwork for businesses who wish to become certified with these agencies.
 - ✓ Once your business becomes certified as an S/M/WBE with Palm Beach County OEBO, you can request an inter-local coversheet to submit along with your separate application to the entities listed above.
 - ✓ Each entity has their own application process





What's Next After Certification?

MARKET YOUR CERTIFICATION

- > Attend New SBE Orientation Training.
- > Palm Beach County's Library Small Business Resources.
- Participate in outreach activities of local agencies.
- Always check your email for notifications from PBC Purchasing for RFQs, IFBs and RFPs, informing you of bid opportunities on the PBC Purchasing website. Also, check the PBC Business Opportunities link for all solicitations. This also on the OEBO website.







Marketing Your Certification

- ➤ You can also use OEBO's website to locate other S/M/WBE's by clicking on the Vendor Directory tab.
- ➤ Use the internet to check other websites of local, state, and federal agencies for opportunities.
- Attend tradeshows such as Business Matchmaker, join local Chambers to network and market your business, and pass out your business cards.
- Schedule a one-on-one session with an OEBO Specialist to better understand the bidding process, including terms and conditions.





Contact Information

- PBC Office of Equal Business Opportunity | S/M/WBE Certification
 50 South Military Trail, Suite 202 | 561.616.6840
 www.pbcgov.org/oebo
- PBC Purchasing Department Registration | Business Opportunities
 50 South Military Trail, Suite 110 | 561.616.6800
 www.pbcgov.org/purchasing
- PBC Engineering and Public Works Department | CCNA Certification 2300 N. Jog Road, Suite 3W-33 | 561.684.4150 www.pbcgov.org/engineering/roadwayproduction





Questions?

Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners

Send your questions to the OEBO email OEBO@pbcgov.org

