

## Qualifications for MWBE Certification

To qualify for New York State certification as a minority- or women-owned business enterprise (MWBE), an applicant must successfully demonstrate:

- At least 51 percent owned and controlled by the minority members and/or women
- The minority and/or women ownership is real, substantial and continuing
- The minority and/or women ownership has and exercises the authority to independently control the day-to-day business decisions
- Independently owned, operated and authorized to do business in NYS, and
- The business generally must be in operation for at least one year.

### Definition of a Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE)

Under [Article 15-A of the Executive Law](#), an MBE is a business enterprise in which at least fifty-one percent (51%) is owned, operated and controlled by citizens or permanent resident aliens who are meeting the ethnic definitions of:

Group	Definition
Black	Persons having origins from any of the Black African racial groups
Hispanic	Persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican, Cuban, Central or South American descent of Either Indian or Hispanic origin, regardless of race.
Asian-Pacific	Persons having origins from the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Pacific Islands
Asian-Indian Subcontinent	Persons having origins from the Indian subcontinent.
Native American	Persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America.

### Definition of a Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE)

Under [Article 15-A of the Executive Law](#), a WBE is a business enterprise in which at least fifty-one percent (51%) is owned, operated and controlled by citizens or permanent resident aliens who are women.

### Out of State Applicants

Out-of-state applicants should be certified as a MWBE in their home state, if a similar process exists, before applying for MWBE certification in New York State.

All applicants **must** have the authority to do business in New York State from the NYS Department of State (download an application [here](#)). For more information on how to become authorized to do business

in New York, go to <http://www.dos.state.ny.us> or contact the Department of State, Division of Corporations at (518) 473-2492 or by e-mail at [corporations@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:corporations@dos.state.ny.us).