

The Benefits of Certification

Office of Economic Opportunity



Certification Designations



Small/Micro Business Enterprise Program

- ❖ Provides a race and gender-neutral program designed to encourage greater availability, capacity development, and contract participation in School Board contracts.

Veteran Business Enterprise Program

- ❖ Provides a race and gender-neutral program designed to benefit all veteran businesses. At least 51% of the business must be owned by a veteran.

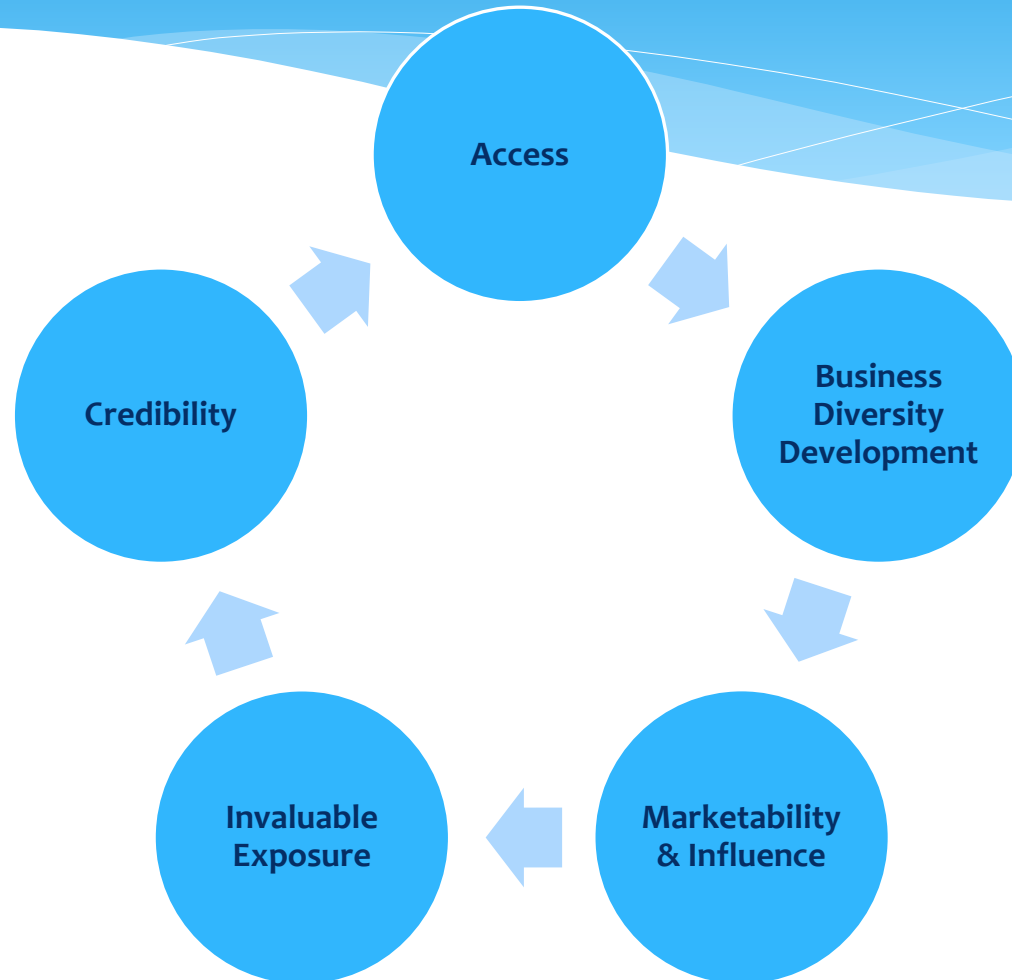
Minority/Women Business Enterprise Program

- ❖ Provides a race and gender-conscious program for minority/women businesses with an equal opportunity to participate in M-DCPS contracting purchasing programs.

Eligible Groups:

- ❖ Non-Minority Women
- ❖ African-American
- ❖ Hispanic-American
- ❖ Asian-American
- ❖ Native-American

5 Benefits of Certification



Access



Becoming a certified vendor with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will afford you access to various current and upcoming opportunities to bid and/or respond to Invitation to Bid (ITB) or Request for Proposal (RFP) through the Office of Procurement Management (OPM). The benefits of getting certified include:

- ❖ First Tier Referrals to other departments.
- ❖ Sheltered market opportunities for only certified firms to compete for school district contracts.
- ❖ Notice of upcoming contracting opportunities.
- ❖ Automatic subscription to Opportunity Knocks Monthly Newsletter.
- ❖ Automatic subscription to 'Weekly Digest' Newsletter (weekly contracting opportunities, events).

Business Diversity Development



M/WBE certification with M-DCPS allows businesses to enhance their service capacity and depth of knowledge through business development opportunities, networking events, and community engagement activities. Some of these events and/or opportunities may include:

- ❖ Mandatory subcontracting opportunities with Prime Contractors.**
- ❖ Eligibility for participation in the Supplier Development Program (through the M-DCPS Office of Procurement Management).**

Marketability & Influence



As OEO certification encompasses vendors throughout the Tri-County area, vendors will have the opportunity to present their business in various markets. Certification will afford them opportunities to:

- ❖ Pitch and promote their business in multiple settings.
- ❖ Partner with other similarly situated firms to increase economic growth.
- ❖ Take advantage of critical areas of supplier demand.

Invaluable Exposure



Certification with M-DCPS will afford businesses the honor of being included in the M-DCPS Annual Business Directory & Resource Guide. This directory is the first of its kind of any school district in South Florida and is considered a premier resource for the local business community. An additional benefit of getting certified will include:

- ❖ Prominent listing of your business in our exclusive online directory of certified firms.**

Credibility



Certification with M-DCPS gives its vendors instant business credibility. As M-DCPS is the 4th largest school district in the country, rest assured its certification standards are aligned with the State of Florida, Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD). Additionally, being certified with M-DCPS will allow vendors to utilize their certification as a “pathway” to certification with other governmental agencies in the Tri-County area: (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach).

Contact Information



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