



# *“LA UCP DBE Certification”*

---

**PRESENTED BY:  
SJB DBE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES REGION A  
CONSULTANT FOR LADOTD**



# LOUISIANA UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

---

Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) Program was created to remedy the past and current discrimination against Minority and Women-owned businesses. The intention is to level the playing field of socially and economically disadvantaged individuals wanting to do business with the LADOTD on Federally assisted projects.

The Small Business Element (SBE Program) was created in 2012 to level the playing field for economically disadvantaged individuals wanting to do business with the LADOTD on Federally assisted projects.

In 1999 the U.S. Department of Transportation mandated that each state develop a Unified Certification Program.

In 2003, the Louisiana Unified Certification Program (LAUCP) was implemented and is now in full operation.

# LOUISIANA UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

---

## Certifying Agencies

There are Four (4) Certifying Agencies in Louisiana, Divided into 2 Regions

### **REGION 1 – CERTIFIES STATEWIDE**

- Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development

### **REGION 2 - CERTIFIES IN THE NEW ORLEANS AREA ONLY**

- Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport
- New Orleans Regional Transit Authority
- Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development – New Orleans Location

# LOUISIANA UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

---

## DBE PARTICIPATION

Only firms that are certified with the LA UCP can be counted towards DBE goals for projects requiring DBE Participation.

A DBE or SBE project goal is a percentage of the awarded contract amount that must be subcontracted by the Prime Contractor to certified DBE or SBE Firms.

All project goals are set by the DBE and SBE Goal Committee prior to advertisements. Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) goals are set on projects that are estimated to be \$500,000 and above.

Small Business Element (SBE) goals are set on projects that are estimated to be between \$150,000 and \$500,000.

# LOUISIANA UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

---

## Should I Apply?

You may be eligible to participate in the DBE/ACDBE Program if:

- The Firm is a for-profit business that performs or seeks to perform transportation work (or a concession activity) for a recipient of Federal Transit Authority, Federal Highway Administration, or Federal Aviation Administration funds.
- At Least 51% owned by socially or economically disadvantaged individual who controls it.
- Disadvantaged owners are U.S. Citizens or a lawfully admitted permanent resident of the U.S.
- Meets the Small Business Administration (SBA) size standard and does not exceed \$26.29 million in gross annual receipts (over the preceding three fiscal years) for DBE (56.42 Million for ACDBEs).
- Personal Net Worth does not exceed \$1.32 million.

# LOUISIANA UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

---

## SUGGESTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

- BECOME FAMILIAR WITH ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS BEFORE YOU APPLY. REMEMBER, THE APPLICANT FIRM HAS THE BURDEN OF PROVING ELIGIBILITY – NOT THE CERTIFIER.
- BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION, REVIEW IT TO ENSURE ACCURATE INFORMATION AND KNOW THAT YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT ANY ERRORS IN THE APPLICATION UP UNTIL THE RECIPIENT ISSUES AN ELIGIBILITY DECISION.
- DURING YOUR ON-SITE INTERVIEW, BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF YOUR BUSINESS.
- SUFFICIENTLY EXPLAIN YOUR EXPERIENCE ON YOUR RÉSUMÉ AND BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THE ROLES OF EACH DIRECTOR OR EMPLOYEE.
- SUFFICIENTLY EXPLAIN HOW THE FIRM'S MAJORITY OWNER'S OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS INTERESTS DO NOT CONFLICT WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FIRM.
- KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO APPEAL AN ADVERSE CERTIFICATION DECISION AND BE FAMILIAR WITH THE PROCESS. FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR APPEAL MUST BE TIMELY AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC GROUNDS SUPPORTING YOUR ARGUMENTS FOR REVERSAL OF THE DECISION TO DENY CERTIFICATION.

# LOUISIANA UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

---

## SJB DBE Supportive Services Team

Region A: Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Lafayette, Shreveport, Monroe

### **SJB DBE Supportive Services:**

- Ms. Jackie des Bordes, Program Manager
- Ms. Grace Chatman, Communication Specialist
- Mr. Daryl Ivy, Program/Training Manager

### **Solid Ground Innovations:**

- Ms. Sevetri Wilson, Webinar Training Oversight Manager

### **Little Dog Marketing:**

- Ms. Meghan Montgomery, Digital Marketing Consultant

# LOUISIANA UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

---

## SJB GROUP CAN ASSIST DBES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- **BY PREPARING** COMPANY BUSINESS CARDS, PROFILE SHEETS, AND PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RECOMMENDED TARGET AREAS FOR YOUR MARKETING EFFORTS.
- **BY ACTING** AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE DBE CONTRACTOR AND PRIME CONTRACTOR FOR PROJECT INFORMATION AND IN PROBLEMS OCCURRING ON THE JOBSITE.
- **BY INFORMING** YOU OF UPCOMING LA DOTD LETTINGS, AND PROJECT INFORMATION FOR OTHER AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE. SJB CAN ASSIST YOU IN LOCATION BID TABULATION INFORMATION AS WELL.
- **BY PROVIDING** GUIDANCE ON MATERIAL TAKEOFFS, BID PREPARATION AND ESTIMATING, PROJECT SCHEDULING, AND PLANNING FOR PROJECTS THAT DBES ARE BIDDING OR PLAN TO BID IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
- **BY HELPING** WITH OFFICE COMPUTER OPERATIONS TO INCLUDE TROUBLE-SHOOTING PROBLEMS, INTERNET ACCESS AND SOFTWARE INSTALLATION, AND BASIC TO TECHNICAL COMPUTER TRAINING.
- **BY ASSISTING** IN FINANCIAL AREAS SUCH AS LOAN AND BOND PACKAGE PREPARATIONS, COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, BUSINESS PLAN PREPARATION AND SBA 8(A) AND HUB-ZONE CERTIFICATION PACKAGES.

# LOUISIANA UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

---

## CONTACT INFORMATION

SJB DBE Supportive Services

Region A: Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Lafayette, Shreveport, Monroe

Mr. Kenyatta Sparks, SJB DBE Supportive Services, Program Assistant

Phone: 225-706-5756

Email: [Kenyatta.Sparks@SJBGroup.com](mailto:Kenyatta.Sparks@SJBGroup.com)

SJB DBE Supportive Services Website: [www.louisianadb.com](http://www.louisianadb.com)

Social Media Platforms: Facebook , LinkedIn , and Twitter 

❖ Social Media Handle (All Three Platforms): **@SJBDBELouisiana**

**THANK YOU**

