



Reciprocal Small-Local Business Certification Program

The County of San Diego's new Reciprocal Small-Local Business Certification Program makes it easier for small businesses to access County contracting opportunities. If your business is already certified as a small business by another public agency or jurisdiction, the County will recognize that certification, there is no need to apply for a new one. Businesses that meet the County's definitions of both "small" and "local" can qualify for valuable benefits, including a 15% pricing preference when their bids are evaluated. This program helps lower barriers for small and diverse businesses and promotes inclusive economic growth in our region.

To qualify as a **local business**, your company must meet one of the following:

- Have its main office or headquarters in San Diego County
- Have a physical location in San Diego County where regular business work is done
- Be part of a legal partnership or joint venture where at least one member meets the above criteria and:
 - Performs a commercially useful function
 - Has an ownership stake in the business
 - Is not simply a subcontractor

To meet the County's definition of a **small business**, the County currently recognizes the following certifications:

- **Federal**
 - HubZone
 - Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB)
 - Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOB)
- **State of California Department of General Services:**
 - Small Business (SB)
 - Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE)
- **City of San Diego:**
 - Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE)
 - Emerging Local Business Enterprise (ELBE)

How It Works:

1. Businesses who are interested in this program must hold a valid certification from the list above, and must meet the "local" definition listed above.
2. Complete and submit a Self-Certification when responding to a procurement.

The County is not a certifying agency. This program recognizes certifications from other bona fide certifying institutions. If your business does not have one of the above certifications but you believe you may be eligible, you can request no cost technical assistance and resources through the [Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\)](#) or [Apex Accelerator](#).

Visit [Login: San Diego County BuyNet](#) to register on BuyNet, the County's procurement portal and to get information on upcoming opportunities. For more information or to recommend a certification to be added to this program, contact: econdev@sdcounty.ca.gov