



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the HUBZone Program?

The Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Contracting Program is a federal procurement set-aside program that makes contracting opportunities available to small businesses that are HUBZone-certified. The goal of the program is to contribute to the economic development of communities that need increased investment and expanded employment opportunities.

What is a HUBZone?

HUBZones are geographic areas, typically census tracts in urban areas and entire counties in non-metropolitan areas, that are considered to be economically-challenged, based on income levels, unemployment rates, and other criteria. The SBA maintains an online map that shows which areas are HUBZone-qualified.

[sba.gov/hubzone]

How does a company become HUBZone-certified?

The program is managed by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Small businesses need to determine whether they meet the certification requirements before applying for certification through the SBA. Requirements include: (a) small business status; (b) majority ownership by U.S. citizen(s); (c) principal office location in a HUBZone; and (d) at least 35% of employees residing in a HUBZone.

How do HUBZone set-asides work?

Federal agencies consider their contracting needs and research the marketplace to determine which projects to set aside for HUBZone small businesses. There is a government-wide goal to spend 3% of contracting dollars on HUBZone contracts. Once a requirement has been set aside, only HUBZone-certified businesses are eligible to submit bids to win the contract.



How many HUBZone-certified companies are there?

There are currently about 5,000 certified firms which cover virtually every service and industry sector.



Is there a list of HUBZone-certified firms?

The SBA maintains the Dynamic Small Business Search database, which includes all small businesses that are registered with the federal government, including all HUBZone firms. Companies can be searched using a number of criteria, including location, industry, certifications, and many more.

[dsbs.sba.gov]



What is the HUBZone Council?

The HUBZone Contractors National Council is a non-profit trade association providing information and support for companies and professionals interested in the HUBZone Program. The Council supports the economic development of disadvantaged communities by reducing unemployment and homelessness by strengthening, improving, and promoting the HUBZone Program and by helping HUBZone-certified companies maximize their success in earning federal contracts. The Council's membership includes HUBZone-certified small businesses, other small businesses, prime contractors, government agencies, and other organizations interested in the HUBZone Contracting Program.

[hubzonecouncil.org]