

Definitions

The City of Knoxville uses the State of Tennessee's Diversity Business Enterprise definitions established by T. C. A. 12-3-1102 and Executive Order 14, to increase opportunities for Diversity Business Enterprise businesses.

Diversity Business Enterprise (DBE's) are minority-owned, women-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, and small businesses, who are impeded from normal entry into the economic mainstream because of past practices of discrimination based on race or ethnic background. These persons must own at least 51% of the entity and operate or control the business on a daily basis.

Minority: A person who is a citizen or lawful admitted permanent resident of the United States and who is a member of one (1) of the following groups:

- a. **African American**, persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa;
- b. **Hispanic American**, persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race;
- c. **Native American**, persons who have origin in any of the original peoples of North America ;
- d. **Asian American**, person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.

Minority-owned Business (MOB), is a continuing, independent, for profit business that performs a commercially useful function, and is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more minority individuals.

Woman-owned Business (WOB), is a continuing, independent, for profit business that performs a commercially useful function, and is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more women.

Service Disabled Veteran-owned Business (SDVO), is a continuing, independent, for profit business that performs a commercially useful function, owned by any person who served honorably on active duty in the armed forces of the United States with at least a twenty percent (20%) disability that is service connected. Meaning such disability was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air service, and is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more service disabled veteran.

Businesses owned by persons with Disabilities (DSOB), "Business owned by persons with disabilities" means a business owned by a person with a disability that is a continuing, independent, for-profit business that performs a commercially useful function, and is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by one (1) or more persons with a disability.

"Person with a disability" means an individual who meets at least one (1) of the following:

- (A) Has been diagnosed as having a physical or mental disability resulting in marked and severe functional limitations that is expected to last no less than twelve (12) months;
- (B) Is eligible to receive social security disability insurance (SSDI); or
- (C) Is eligible to receive supplemental security income (SSI)

Small Business (SB), is a continuing, independently owned and operated, for profit business which performs a commercially useful function and has total gross receipts of not more than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) average over a three-year period or employs no more than ninety-nine (99) persons on a full-time basis.

Franchise, The State of Tennessee is does not certify franchise's as small businesses since they do not meet the definition of a small business being "independently owned and operated."