



# CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

## **Business Enterprise Program (BEP)**

### **What is BEP?**

The Business Enterprise Program (or BEP) is the State of Illinois' effort to make an accommodation for vendors that have historically not been given equal opportunities to provide goods and/or services to the State.

The vendors that are recognized through this program by the State are businesses where minorities, females, or persons with disabilities possess a majority of ownership interest in the organization.

Vendors that qualify are invited to submit applications to the State to become BEP Certified Vendors so that State agencies and public institutions of higher education can identify and engage with these vendors whenever possible.

*Chicago State University is committed to increasing institutional engagement with BEP Certified Vendors at all available opportunities.*

### **How does this impact the way that CSU does business?**

Chicago State University is a public institution of higher education in Illinois. We source goods and/or services as directed by the Illinois Procurement Code, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), and other applicable laws and statutes. This includes 30 ILCS 575, which establishes the BEP program described above and details how compliance is achieved.

Following the guidance below will demonstrate that we are doing all that we can to increase our engagement with BEP Certified Vendors. Unless the purchase is exempt from the Procurement Code, or an IPHEC award, or a CMS or other contract approved by State of Illinois is being used, please remember:

1. Purchases up to \$9,999: where practical, always engage with a BEP Certified Vendor if one is found that can provide the required goods and/or services.
2. Purchases \$10,000 - \$19,999: where practical, always seek quotes from BEP Certified Vendors if one or more is found that can provide the required goods/and or services.
3. Purchases \$20,000 - \$99,999: at least one of the three competitive quotes obtained must be from a BEP Certified Vendor, engaging with more than one BEP firm for quotes is encouraged when they can be found.
4. Purchases \$100,000 or greater: an aspirational goal will be established within all solicitations (IFB's, RFP's) so that at least 20% of the activity being performed and the corresponding payment is paid to a BEP Certified Vendor. A BEP Certified Vendor can receive an award and operate as the prime vendor, or can be utilized as a subcontractor by an awarded vendor to achieve this goal.

If in any specific solicitation there is insufficient evidence of BEP interest / participation, the Division of Financial Operations and the Purchasing Department may require additional BEP outreach prior to continuation.



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## How does CSU identify BEP Certified Vendors?

Click on this link: <https://cms.diversitycompliance.com/> Create a bookmark or favorite as you will visit again.

You will arrive at the BEP Certification Portal page. You do not need to sign in. Click on the button circled below:

**OPPORTUNITIES.illinois.gov** OUR MAIN SITE CONTACT SUPPORT

## BEP Certification Portal

Portal Sign-In

### BEP and/or VBP Certification

Search or join our database of registered and/or certified vendors

**BEP and/or VBP Certification Directory**

Apply for BEP and/or VBP Certification

### State Use - Sheltered Workshop Certification

SWS Certification Directory

Apply for SWS Certification

### Account Access

Lookup Vendor accounts or reset user passwords

Account Lookup

Forgot Password

### System Training

Learn how to fully utilize our system with a live trainer

See Online Training Times

### Events

Events

### External Links

Illinois Procurement Gateway (IPG) Registered Vendor Directory

Procurement Opportunities

Pathway to Procurement

Rules & Statutes

### Outreach

Opportunities for vendor involvement

View Outreach Opportunities



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This opens a new pop-up window, part of it is shown below. Enter search criteria in any of the fields – Business Name and Business Description are circled, but any available options may be used to identify vendors.

[Show directory information and instructions](#)

### Search by Certification Type

CERTIFICATIONS

- Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
- Persons with Disability Business Enterprise (PBE)
- Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)
- Sheltered Workshop (SWS)
- Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB)
- Women Business Enterprise (WBE)
- Women/Minority Business Enterprise (WMBE)

### Search by Business Name or DBA

BUSINESS NAME/DBA

Tip: Try just a few letters of the firm's name.

### Search by Business Description

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Tip: Try just a few letters of a keyword.

### Search by Commodity Code

COMMODITY CODES


Scroll down the page, complete any exercise (if requested) and check the box to confirm you are not a robot, and then click the Search button that appears.

GENDER

REGION

RECIPROCAL CERTIFICATION AGENCY

**Complete the reCAPTCHA below to access the search actions:**

I'm not a robot 

reCAPTCHA Privacy - Terms




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Search results are returned and can be downloaded to a spreadsheet if desired. The link in the Certification column can be clicked for the individual vendor's specifics and contact information. This shows the top of the list of results from a search for the business description "marketing":


**Search Parameters** Edit Parameters Clear Parameters

CERTIFICATIONS  
Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)  
Persons with Disability Business Enterprise (PBE)  
Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)  
Sheltered Workshop (SWS)  
Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB)  
Women Business Enterprise (WBE)  
Women/Minority Business Enterprise (WMBE)

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION  
marketing

 Download Search Results

**Search Results** 140 firms with 146 certifications found  
Click the certification type for contact information and certification details

Vendor	Location	Certification
Btiv Labs Corporation	Chicago, IL	 <a href="#">MBE</a>
AdCo Advertising Agency, Inc	Peoria, IL	<a href="#">WBE</a>
Advantage Marketing Group, Ltd	Elk Grove Village, IL	<a href="#">WBE</a>
AEFFECT INC, DBA AEFFECT INC	Rosemont, IL	<a href="#">WBE</a>
Agency Prolific	Chicago, IL	<a href="#">MBE</a>
AGG Consulting, Inc.	Chicago, IL	<a href="#">WMBE</a>
American Marketing Services, Inc.	Chicago, IL	<a href="#">WBE</a>
American Minority Business Enterprise, Inc.	Glenwood, MN	<a href="#">WBE</a>

**\*Please contact the Purchasing Department with any questions about BEP Certified Vendors or the program.**

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