

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
VETERAN INITIATIVE CERTIFICATION**

SUMMARY

AGENCY	LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DESIGNATION	VETERAN INITIATIVE/SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERAN OWNED/ SERVICE CONNECTED DISABLED VETERAN OWNED
RACE CONSCIOUS	NO
GENDER CONSCIOUS	NO
RECERTIFICATION	ANNUAL UPDATES
GRADUATION	NONE
FEE/COST	NONE
CERTIFICATION PROCESS TIMEFRAME	48-HOURS

OVERVIEW

The Louisiana Initiative for Veteran and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Entrepreneurships (the Veteran Initiative) is designed to facilitate the growth and stability of Louisiana's economy while helping veteran-owned and service-connected disabled-veteran-owned small businesses gain greater access to purchasing and contracting opportunities that are available at the state government level.

Benefits of the Veteran Initiative program include:

- Veteran Initiative firm information is accessible to state purchasing officials and prime contractors who are looking for subcontractors;
- State agencies are encouraged to get quotes from and use qualified, certified companies whenever possible;
- For purchases under \$15,000.00, state agencies can waive the required additional quotes if a certified company submits a quote that is reasonable;
- 10% of the total evaluation points can be added to a bid or a request for proposal (RFP); and
- Prime contractors who use VETBIZ firms as subcontractors are eligible to receive additional points on their proposals.

ELIGIBILITY

A Veteran Small Entrepreneurship (VSE) is a Small Entrepreneurship (SE) that is more than 50% owned by either a Veteran, or a Disabled-in-Service Veteran. A Veteran Small Entrepreneurship (VSE) is a firm:

- Independently owned and operated;
- Not dominant in its field of operations, which shall be determined by consideration of the business' number of employees, volume of business, financial resources, competitive status, and ownership or control of materials, processes, patents, license agreements, facilities, and sales territory;
- Is owned by and has officers who are citizens or legal residents of the United States, all of whom are domiciled in Louisiana, and who maintain the principal business office in Louisiana;
- Together with its affiliate entities, has fewer than 50 full-time employees with average annual gross receipts not exceeding \$5,000,000.00 per year for construction operations and \$3,000,000.00 per year for non-construction operations, for each of the previous three tax years; and
- That should be able to produce a copy of a DD Form 214 and/or a U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability award letter if requested.

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- Eligibility requirements include meeting all of the criteria specified in LA. R.S. 39:2006A, as it may be amended from time to time. In order to participate and continue to participate in the program, an individual or firm must meet and continue to meet all such eligibility requirements or criteria.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Complete the online application at www.ledsmallbiz.com. LED will review completed applications within 48 hours of submittal. You will receive an email notification after review that acknowledges your application status. Along with an acceptance notification, approved applicants will receive a certification number and instructions on how to print the SEBD certificate. You must submit annual updates through www.ledsmallbiz.com by your certification anniversary date to remain in the program.

CONTACT

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