

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES – PRIVATE CERTIFYING ENTITIES

In addition to federal and state government resources for small businesses, there are a number of privately operated reputable certifying bodies that also provide development and contracting assistance.

The **Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC)**, is one of the 23 regional councils of the **National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)** that serves the six (6) New England States. NMSDC was founded in 1972 with a mission to advance economic equality for its members and is the longest-operating business growth entity in the country. GNEMSDC promotes business opportunities for certified Native American business enterprises and connects them to corporate members. GNEMSDC was incorporated in 1975 to provide increased procurement and business opportunities for minority businesses of all sizes. Corporate members of the GNEMSDC provide the minority owned businesses with a link to opportunities that they need to grow, prosper and maintain or increase their employment base. Supplier diversity programs that support minority business development allow corporations to increase market share and provide them with a competitive advantage. For more information about GNEMSDC and their programs, visit their website: <https://gnemsgdc.org/>.

The **National Women Business Owners Corporation (NWBOC)** offers a variety of business development programs that include trainings, webinars and conferences to help certified members become more procurement-ready. NWBOC has formed partnerships with corporations and government organizations that seek opportunities to connect with its members. NWBOC offers certifications for women, minority and veteran-owned businesses. Certification ensures that a private, for-profit company is truly owned and controlled by a woman and/or veteran. NWBOC is also a third-party certifier for two of the SBA's certification programs. To learn more about what NWBOC offers and their certification programs, visit their website: <https://nwvoc.org/>.

The **Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)** supports female entrepreneurs and those who do business with them by raising awareness for why, where and how to buy Women Owned. Any business with the Women Owned Logo has been certified as at least 51 percent owned, operated and controlled by a woman or women by WBENC in the United States. For more information about WBENC's programs, visit their website here: <https://www.wbenc.org/>.

The MERO provides information about select small business resources that is intended to be accurate but general information. These resources are not exhaustive and better resources may exist for the needs of a particular business. Each business is encouraged to conduct their own research and analysis.

For additional information, please contact the organizations directly.

The links provided were active as of the document date. Nothing herein constitutes legal advice.