

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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California Veteran Reintegration Program Fact Sheet Veteran Business Ownership/DVBE

Starting a Business

The following groups can provide assistance if you need help in starting a business or have business related questions:

- California's Regional Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Programs archive.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/sbdc/index.html – The SBDC Program facilitates the success of small business through business management counseling and training.
- Sacramento Veterans Business Outreach Center www.vboc-ca.org/ – The Sacramento Veterans Business Outreach Center links veterans with a broad range of business services to assist them with starting or expanding a business.
- The Center for Veterans Enterprise Web Portal www.vetbiz.gov/ – The principle purposes of this site are to provide information about the VIP verification process; to assist Veteran business owners in registering their business in the Secretary's Database of Veteran-owned small businesses and to enable VA contracting officers to easily identify Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and VOSBs eligible for procurement opportunities.
- Small Business Administration (SBA) Small Business Planner www.sba.gov/smallbusinessplanner/plan/index.html – Whether you're sitting down to write your business plan, wondering about your legal obligations, or researching your financing options, you'll find the information you need right here.

Business Financing Options

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is the primary source for business loans. Please contact your local SBA office and ask for the Veterans Business Development Officer for assistance archive.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/reservists/businessdev/index.html. CalVet, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), and the Department of General Services (DGS) **do not** have programs for business start-up funding.

PLEASE REFERENCE THE BROCHURE [HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT](#) FOR AN EXCELLENT OVERVIEW OF WORKING WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

THE DISABLED VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DVBE) PROGRAM

The State of California established the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Program to help DVBEs compete more effectively for a portion of the State's contract dollars. It also

promotes self-reliance for California's disabled veterans by offering them the opportunity to gain experience in business, while sharing their expertise with the citizens of California. The program provides a goal that, at a minimum, 3% of all state contract dollars be spent with certified disabled veterans.

To become a DVBE, a veteran must have received an honorable discharge, be at least a 10% service-connected disabled, and a California resident. Furthermore, the state requires a business be 51% owned by one or more California-resident disabled veterans. A DVBE may have its daily operations managed and controlled by one or more disabled veterans; the disabled veteran(s) who manages and controls the business is not required to be the disabled veteran business owners(s). The home office of the DVBE must be located in the United States: the office cannot be a branch or subsidiary of a foreign corporation, foreign firm, or foreign-based business. The business must be certified through California Department of General Services (DGS) as a DVBE.

As a certified DVBE, the firm is eligible for the DVBE Participation Program which:

- May market to State agencies under GC Section 14838.5, the SB/DVBE Option described on the DGS website;
- Is listed in the State's Internet Certified firm listing giving the firm more visibility and expanded business networking opportunities with State and Local Government Reciprocity partners and prime contractors;
- Is now eligible for a DVBE incentive on applicable State contracts.

Certify Online

Certify online at www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Programs/OSDS/GetCertified.aspx. There is no charge for certification and the business can apply online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It takes only minutes if all the required financial information is at hand.

The certification process is the responsibility of DGS, Procurement Division (PD), and Office of Small Business and DVBE Services (OSDS). The OSDS is available to assist in completing the necessary documents and ensuring appointments are available in Sacramento for personal assistance. There is no cost involved with applying for certification. The firm may also qualify for a small business certification, which offers additional contracting benefits. To obtain DVBE certification, a firm must:

- Complete the online application at www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Programs/OSDS/GetCertified.aspx;
- Provide a copy of an Award of Entitlement (AOE) letter from the VA or the DoD, dated within six months of the date the application is submitted to OSDS (To obtain a copy of the AOE letter, call the VA at (800) 827-1000);
- Other required support documents will be determined when completing the online STD Form 812. OSDS will provide assistance in this area.

For more information or help certifying, contact:

Office of Small Business and DVBE Services
707 3rd Street, 1st Floor, Room 400
West Sacramento, CA 95605
(916) 375-4940 or leave a message if after hours

CalVet highly recommends all DVBEs also certify as a Small Business. To verify qualification as a small business, go to www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Home.aspx. When certifying, complete the small business form first. Upon completion, most of that information will be transferred over to the DVBE application.