**FACT SHEET FOR WOMAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS**

**What is the WOSB Program?**

It is a program that authorizes contracting officers to specifically limiting, or setting aside contracts for/with:

1. Certain requirements for competition solely amongst women-owned small business (WOSBs)
2. A Economically disadvantaged women-owned small business (EDWOSBs)

**What is the purpose of the WOSB Program?**

1. Federal government has both prime contracting and subcontracting goals for small businesses.
2. 23% of Federal prime contract dollars should be awarded to small businesses, with individual prime and subcontracting goals for certain identified small business groups.
3. Federal government must award 5% of its prime and subcontract dollars to women owned small businesses.
4. Each Federal agency negotiates annual small business goals with the Small Business Administration (SBA) that presents, for that agency, the maximum practicable opportunity for small business.
5. The goal attained by the individual agency is then used to calculate the Government-wide small business goal, including the individual prime and subcontracting goals for the identified small business group, such as women-owned small businesses.
6. One purpose of this program is to enable contracting officers to meet these goals by specifically limiting, or setting aside, certain requirements for competition solely amongst WOSBs or EDWOSBs and ensure a level playing field on which such small businesses can compete for Federal contracting opportunities.

**Who is responsible for the program?**

1. The SBA is charged with implementing and administering the program.
	1. This means that SBA publishes regulations that provide the framework for the program, conducts eligibility examinations of WOSB and EDWOSBs, decides protests, conducts studies to determine eligible industries, and works with other Federal agencies in assisting WOSBs and EDWOSBs.
2. Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council is responsible for implementing procedures for procurement programs in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR). The WOSB Program became effective in the FAR on April 1, 2011.

**WOSB AND EDWOSB CONTRACTING**

**What requirements can be set aside under the WOSB Program?**

**A contracting officer may set aside a requirement for WOSBs if:**

* The North American Industry Classification Systems (NAICS) code assigned to the solicitation, invitation for bid, or quote is in an industry in which SBA has designated that WOSBs are substantially underrepresented.
* The contracting officer has a reasonable expectation that two or more WOSBs will submit offers. This is sometimes referred to as the “rule of two.”
* The anticipated award price of the contract does not exceed $6.5 million in the case of manufacturing contracts and $4 million in the case of all other contracts this cap was removed in May 2013.
* In the estimation of the contracting officer, the contract can be awarded at a fair and reasonable price.

**A contracting officer may set aside a requirement for EDWOSBs if:**

* The NAICS code assigned to the solicitation, invitation for bid, or quote is in an industry in which SBA has designated that WOSBs are underrepresented.
* The contracting officer has a reasonable expectation that two or more EDWOSBs will submit offers. This is sometimes referred to as the “rule of two.”
* The anticipated award price of the contract does not exceed $6.5 million in the case of manufacturing contracts and $4 million in the case of all other contracts this cap was removed in May 2013.
* In the estimation of the contracting officer, the contract can be awarded at a fair and reasonable price.

**How will I know if a requirement is set aside for WOSBs or EDWOSBs?**

1. You can look on the Federal Business Opportunities web site (www.fbo.gov) to find Federal government solicitations that may be set aside for WOSB or EDWOSBs.
2. The announcement and solicitation will state that the agency is limiting competition to either EDWOSBs or WOSBs eligible for the program. In addition, the solicitation should contain certain FAR clauses, which explain that it is set aside for competition.

**CERTIFICATION**

The SBA does not certify companies into the program like it does for the 8(a) BD and HUBZone programs.

**Is this a self-certification program?**

Yes, in part. A WOSB or EDWOSB must:

1. Be certified by a Federal agency, a State government, or a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator, as a small business concern owned and controlled by one or more women (referred to as a Third Party Certifier).
2. Certify to the contracting officer that it is a small business concern owned and controlled by women and provide adequate documentation, in accordance with standards established by SBA, to support such certification.
3. The WOSB or EDWOSB can receive a certification from a Third Party Certifier or self-certify its status. Although a WOSB or EDWOSB can self-certify its status in its offer and contract, they must also provide documents to support this self-certification. This is different from the other self-certification programs like the small business and SDVO programs.