

8(a) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ROAD MAP TO THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Eligible small businesses receive:

- ✓ Exclusive access to reserved federal contracting opportunities
- ✓ Training and technical assistance
- ✓ Customized business development services

The road to 8(a) certification just got easier! The SBA has streamlined the application.

If you're eligible, follow this road map for a successful application.



STEP 1

Review application guidance resources.

Visit the [Knowledge Base](#) at certify.sba.gov to download and preview the application. View the [8\(a\) Guidance](#) and [training videos](#) and download the [Application Checklist](#) to prepare. The tools will help you ensure you've gathered all necessary documentation and information for the application.



STEP 2

Meet with your local SBA Resource Partner.

Get one-on-one assistance from our network of local partners or your SBA District Office. You can find both at SBA.gov/local-assistance.



STEP 3

Apply for 8(a) BD Program certification.

Once you've identified your primary [NAICS code\(s\)](#) and registered your business in the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#), you are ready to [apply for 8\(a\) certification](#)!

Use the [Certify Help Desk](#) to submit technical questions as they relate to your 8(a) application. Please include your company name and DUNS number in your inquiry.



STEP 4

Stand by for notifications from the SBA.

Your application will be screened and processed. The SBA will notify you through certify.sba.gov. You will need to log into Certify to view messages and follow any next steps.

Once certified, your profile in SAM.gov and the DSBS.SBA.gov will show your 8(a) BD Program approval and exit dates. You will receive the SBA's decision letter from Certify. A local SBA District Office will connect with you to schedule program orientation and provide next steps.

For more information about the certification process visit certify.sba.gov.



U.S. Small Business
Administration

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.