



U.S. Small Business
Administration

HUBZone Program Benefits for Tribal Communities

The HUBZone program fuels small business growth in historically underutilized business zones with a goal of awarding at least 3 percent of federal contract dollars to HUBZone-certified companies each year.

Becoming HUBZone certified makes your business eligible to compete for the program's set-aside contracts. To qualify for the HUBZone program, your business must:

- Be a small business according to SBA size standards
- Be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by U.S. citizens, a community development corporation, an agricultural cooperative, an Alaska Native corporation, a Native Hawaiian organization, or an Indian Tribal Government
- Have its principal office located in a HUBZone
- Have at least 35 percent of its employees living in a HUBZone

Tribal Community Participation in the HUBZone Program

- All Federal Indian Lands are considered HUBZones. Over 500 certified HUBZone firms are located in Indian Lands.
- There are nearly 100 tribally owned, certified HUBZone firms. They were awarded over \$766 million in federal contracts in FY 2022.
- There are over 300 Native American-owned HUBZone certified firms. They were awarded over \$1.3 billion in federal contracts in FY 2022.

Eligibility Options if Your Business Is Tribally Owned

Tribally owned businesses are at least 51 percent owned by one or more Indian Tribal Governments, or by a corporation that is wholly owned by one or more Indian Tribal Governments.

If your business is tribally owned, you may choose from one of the two options below to apply for HUBZone certification:

1. Certify that when performing on a HUBZone contract, at least 35 percent of the employees performing on that contract will reside within a reservation governed by the Indian Tribal Government owners or reside within an adjacent HUBZone.
2. Use the standard eligibility requirements, including having your principal office located in a HUBZone and having at least 35 percent of your employees living in a HUBZone.



Akicita Consulting LLC, a tribally owned firm based in the Lower Brule reservation in South Dakota, specializes in commodities and was recently awarded a HUBZone set-aside contract by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“Following our HUBZone certification, our goal is to continue growing and expanding our agriculture business. We are committed to extending our efforts in delivering nutritious foods to not only tribal areas but also to underserved and underprivileged communities nationwide. We are thrilled about the opportunity to make a significant impact and look forward to leveraging our HUBZone certification to enhance community well-being.” —Mike Shvenderman and Andrew Young of Akicita Consulting, LLC

To learn more and apply for HUBZone certification, visit sba.gov/HUBZone.



To navigate the HUBZone map showing designated areas, including Indian land, visit maps.certify.sba.gov/hubzone/map.