

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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California Action Plan for Reintegration Fact Sheet Veteran Business Ownership/DVBE

Starting a Business

If you need help in starting a business or have business related questions please contact one of the following groups:

- California's Regional Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Programs (<http://www.calbusiness.ca.gov/cedpgybsbdc.asp>) – The SBDC Program facilitate the success of small business through business management counseling and training.
- Sacramento Veterans Business Outreach Center (<http://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 (<http://www.vetbiz.gov/>) – The principal 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 (<http://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 by visiting the [Veterans Affairs Offices by State Listing](#) web page for details. 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.

Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise

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

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disabled veterans.

To become a DVBE, a veteran must have been 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, your 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 your 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

There is no charge for certification and your 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. Please visit <http://www.getcertified.dgs.ca.gov> to certify online.

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 you in completing the necessary documents and ensuring appointments are available in Sacramento for personal assistance. There is no cost involved with applying for certification. Your firm may also qualify for a small business certification, which offers additional contracting benefits. To obtain DVBE certification, a firm must:

- Complete the on line application at www.getcertified.dgs.ca.gov
- 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, you may call the VA at 1-800-827-1000).
- Other required support documents will be determined when completing the online STD Form 812. OSDS will provide assistance in this area.

If you would like more information or are seeking help to certify, please 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

***Note:** CalVet highly recommends that all DVBEs also certify as a Small Business. To see if you are qualified as a small business, please visit <http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus>. When certifying, fill out the small business form first. Upon completion most of that information will be transferred over to the DVBE application.*

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