

10TH ANNUAL
GOVERNOR'S
**SMALL BUSINESS
OUTREACH**
SUMMIT

Introducing DoSEM: Your Advocate for Economic Mobility

Mission

To advance social and economic mobility for all Marylanders by removing barriers, investing in inclusive opportunities, and aligning state resources to support historically underserved communities and businesses.

Vision

A Maryland where every resident—regardless of race, geography, or background—can access the tools, networks, and systems needed to thrive and contribute to a more equitable and prosperous state.

<https://economicmobility.maryland.gov>



Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility

Building Opportunity and Mobility
for all Marylanders



Learn
ABOUT **THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY**



Effective October 1, 2025, The Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility was established under House Bill 1253 (2025) to lead, integrate, and elevate efforts across agencies to deliver inclusive economic growth, data-driven accountability, and community-driven solutions.

The Department of Social and Economic Mobility integrates three existing offices:

Office of Minority Business Enterprises

[Search Certified Businesses](#)
[MBE Events Calendar](#)
[Get your MBE / DBE/ ACDBE Certifications](#)

<https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso>

Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs

[Minority Business Enterprise \(MBE\) Program](#)
[Small Business Reserve \(SBR\) Program](#)
[Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise \(VSBE\) Program](#)
[MBE Ombudsman Unit](#)
[Procurement Forecasts](#)

<https://gomdsmallbiz.maryland.gov>

Office of Social Equity

[Programs and Resources](#)
[Events](#)
[Press Releases](#)
[OSE Photo Gallery](#)
[Laws and Regulations](#)
[Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund \(CRRF\)](#)

<https://ose.maryland.gov>

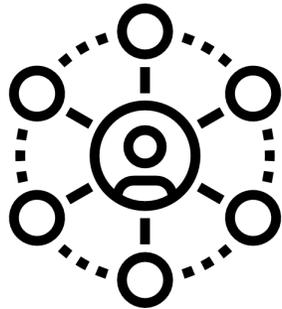
➤ Steps to MBE Certification:



- **Application** – Applicant submits a complete application and supporting documentation to Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) . All applications can be submitted online. Please Note: The Federal DBE/ACDBE program requirements are separate from Maryland’s MBE Program. Applicants are not required to seek both DBE/ACDBE and MBE certifications.
- **Investigation** – An investigator reviews documentation submitted by applicant, conducts an on-site/job-site visit and prepares an investigative report.
- **Evaluation** – The application and supporting documentation is evaluated to determine whether the firm meets the DBE/ACDBE/SBE program requirements. The Certification Review Committee evaluates whether the applicant firm meets Federal Certification program requirements.
- **Determination** – A written determination is issued from OMBE.
[DBE_ACDDBE_SBE_Certification_Overview.pdf](#)
[MBE Only Certification Overview.pdf](#)
- **All Maryland firms or Out of State firms applying for MBE certification must be registered and in Good Standing with the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT).** Use the following link to check a firms **Good Standing** status or register a business [Register Your Business Online](#), or contact SDAT at 888-246-5941.
- Leave all information unredacted.
- All documents must be in **.PDF format**.



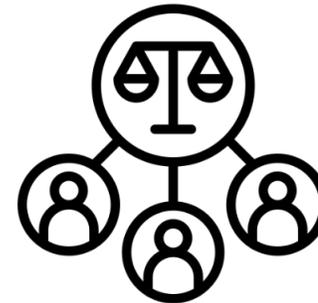
Implement Maryland's 3 socioeconomic procurement programs across 70+ agencies and departments



Connect small, minority, women, & veteran business owners to opportunities in the state contracting arena



Conduct free small business webinars, hosts stakeholder engagement events, and participates in outreach programs statewide



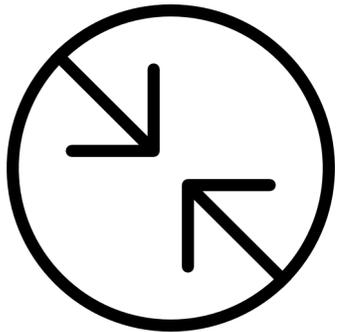
Work with MBEs to address issues that may arise during contract performance through the MBE Ombudsman unit



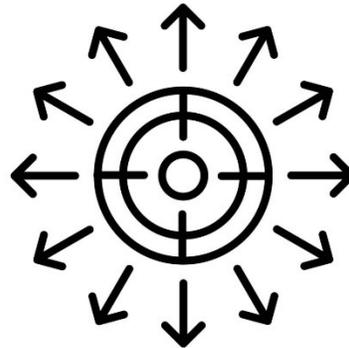
Curate online resources at the federal, state, and local levels for small business growth and development



MBE Ombudsman Unit



Serves as an internal resource across the 70+ agencies and departments engaged in the MBE Program



Serves as an external resource to certified MBEs, prime contractors, legislators, and stakeholder organizations



Enforces compliance during contract performance to maximize implementation of the MBE Program

Maryland's Socioeconomic Procurement Programs



- Prime & subcontracting opportunities
- 70+ participating state agencies & departments
- Race & gender specific
- Application-based certification process with DoSEM - Office of Minority Business Enterprise



- Prime & subcontracting opportunities
- 50+ participating state agencies & departments
- Veteran specific
- Online certification process in eMaryland Marketplace Advantage



- Prime contracting opportunities
- 60+ participating state agencies & departments
- Race and gender neutral
- Online certification process in eMaryland Marketplace Advantage

No cost to obtain or maintain certification. New 3 year renewal requirements apply.

➤ Overview:



The **Office of Social Equity**, an independent executive agency established by the Cannabis Reform Act of 2023, serves to promote economic opportunity and equity in Maryland's adult-use cannabis market.

The responsibilities of the Office include:

- **Implementing** technical assistance programs for qualifying social equity applicants and licensees;
- **Reviewing** regulations and laws through an economic equity and social justice lens; and
- **Supporting** key programs, including the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund and the Cannabis Business Assistance Fund.

Through programs, outreach, and advocacy, the Office of Social Equity is stewarding an inclusive adult-use cannabis market that encourages full participation from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs and create an industry that is reflective of Maryland's diverse population. Together, we're working towards a brighter, more equitable future for all Marylanders.

Social Equity Partnership Grant Program:



The Social Equity Partnership Grant Program is a first of its kind initiative developed by the Maryland Office of Social Equity to support equitable participation in the state's adult-use cannabis industry. Backed by a historic commitment of state resources, SEPP is designed to foster meaningful partnerships between social equity licensees and experienced industry operators, directly addressing barriers to entry and long-term sustainability.

Through a tailored, mentorship-based model, the program promotes collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and operational support — ensuring that social equity licensees receive the tools they need to succeed.

Funding & Grant Structure



SEPP will provide up to \$5 million in grant funding to support cannabis licensees:

Micro Licenses: Up to 10 grants of \$100,000 each (totaling \$1 million)

Standard Licenses: Up to 20 grants of \$200,000 each (totaling \$4 million)

**Additionally, no single grant may exceed the lesser of the conversion fee already paid by the licensee at the time of the SEPP application, or \$200,000 for the 2025-2026 grant award period per qualifying partnership. Grant awards will be distributed across license types, with anticipated allocations as follows:

Micro Licenses



4 Growers

4 Processors

2 Dispensaries

Standard Licenses

8 Growers

7 Processors

5 Dispensaries

Note: Allocations are subject to change based on applicant needs.

Technical Assistance Program



The Office of Social Equity, in partnership with the Maryland Cannabis Administration and Department of Commerce, offers Technical Assistance Grants to support social equity licensees. Each eligible licensee can receive \$14,000 in grant funding to access essential cannabis business training and professional services required for launching and operating their licensed cannabis business in Maryland

For Questions - Email: grants.ose@maryland.gov

For more information:

[Public Guidance](#)

[Application Instructions](#)

At the **Office of Social Equity**, we believe the power of collaboration enhances our commitment to the community by having a diverse set of government agencies and resources easily accessible for those looking to enter the market.

We work very closely with various local government agencies to effectively streamline the licensees process, share vital resources, and work together to create innovative solutions for the adult-use cannabis market. By leveraging the unique strengths of each agency, we are committed to a cannabis market that allows full participation to those who have been disproportionately impacted and excluded by the enforcement of cannabis prohibition.

For more information on our collaborative initiatives, please visit:

[Maryland Cannabis Administration](#) (Cannabis Licensing and Enforcement)

[Comptroller of Maryland](#) (Sales and Use Tax Registration)

[State Department of Assessment and Taxation](#) (Business Registration)

[Department of Commerce](#) (Cannabis Business Assistance Fund)



➤ Socioeconomic Programs

<p>↑ 41% Percent Increase in Certified Vendors</p> <p>\$23M Payments</p> <p>↑ 2% Goal Attainment</p> <p>↑ 104 Vendors Participating</p> <p>\$124M Awards</p>	<p>↑ 29% Percent Increase in Certified Vendors</p> <p>\$483M Payments</p> <p>10% Payment Attainment</p> <p>↑ 2,400 Vendors Participating</p> <p>To be included in FY25 Awards</p>	<p>↑ 5% Percent Increase in Certified Vendors</p> <p>↑ \$1.6B Payments</p> <p>↑ 22% Goal Attainment</p> <p>↑ 1724 Vendors Participating</p> <p>↑ \$2.2B Awards</p>
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➤ Social Equity Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Disproportionately Impacted Area

Social Equity Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Map showing Social Equity Applicant Eligibility Criteria in Maryland. The map displays various locations and regions, including Hagerstown, Martinsburg, Frederick, Annapolis, and Baltimore. A pop-up window indicates 'Qualifying Maryland Education Facilities - Higher Education (Public Four Year)'.

Esri, USGS | County of Anne Arundel, M-NCPPC, VGIN, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS | Office of Social ... Powered by Esri

➤ **The Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility is not a traditional service agency:**

- Catalyst for systemic change
- Designed to identify & dismantle structural barriers
- Focuses on outcomes
- Access to business opportunities
- Wealth-building
- Policy Reforms
- Expand long-term prosperity
- Advise agencies
- Independently assess performance
- Drive better, data-informed results across government

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Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY



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SMALL BUSINESS OUTREACH MANAGER

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Thank You!

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