



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
**CONSUMER &
BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

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- Procurement Assistance
- Assistance to New Businesses & Startups
- Business Certifications
- Networking & Matchmaking Events
- Workshops on Government Contracting
- L.A. County Small Business Advocate
- Counseling & Resources

Serving Los Angeles County consumers and
businesses since 1976.



OUR MISSION

To promote a fair and vibrant marketplace, we serve consumers, businesses, and communities through education, advocacy, and complaint resolution.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
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Social Enterprise

LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S CONTRACTING CONNECTIONS



CERTIFY. CONNECT. GROW.

What is the Social Enterprise Preference (SEP) Program?

The Social Enterprise Preference Program was designed to increase contracting opportunities for enterprises whose primary purpose is to enhance Los Angeles County through economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

Who is eligible to participate?

Your enterprise may qualify for certification if the principal place of business is located in Los Angeles County, or you have a major office located in Los Angeles County; and meet any one of the following criteria:

- Has been in operation for at least one (1) year providing transitional jobs, including access to supportive services¹ to a transitional workforce² employing at least 51% of a transitional workforce;
- Is certified as a B Corporation by B Labs or is incorporated as a Benefit or Social Purpose Corporation with the State of California; or
- Is certified Green by a city government located within Los Angeles County; or
- A business whose primary purpose is the common good as demonstrated through a published mission statement and whose principal business activity is directly related to accomplishing that stated social mission.

What are the benefits?

Bid Preference:

SEs are eligible to receive a 15% bid price reduction or 'preference'* when bidding on certain goods and services solicitations from Los Angeles County.

Exclusive listing on the County's Online Directory of certified LSBEs and be featured through DCBA's online networks

SEs will be placed on the vendor database of certified SE vendors and may be featured on DCBA's social media accounts.

Direct Access to Opportunity:

Attend networking events with County buyers and procurement staff, receive individualized counseling on how to find contracting opportunities and more

How do I apply?

Step 1: Your business must be certified/registered by any of these organizations:

- B Lab Corporation, which certifies businesses as a B Corporation. For more information on the B Labs process, visit <https://www.bcorporation.net/become-a-b-corp/how-to-become-a-b-corp>
- California Secretary of State, where businesses can register their business entity as a Benefit or Social Purpose Corporation. For more information on the process, visit <http://www.sos.ca.gov/>
- City of Santa Monica, which offers a Green Business Certification. For more information, visit: <http://www.smgbc.org/>
- City of Los Angeles, which offers a Green Business Certification. For more information visit: <http://www.greenbizla.org/sign-up>

Step 2: Register as a vendor with Los Angeles County.

- For more information on the County's vendor registration process, visit: <http://camisvr.co.la.ca.us/webven/>
- During the registration process you will be asked to provide your mission statement, a description of your programs, services, and responses to questions that provide further detail on your social impact.

Purchases not eligible for SE Preference:

- National contracts
- Revolving fund (petty cash) purchases
- Purchase card (credit card) purchases
- Purchases less than \$5,000
- A contract for which federal, state, or local laws may limit or prohibit application of a Social Enterprise Preference

¹ Supportive services include, but are not limited to: counseling services, Individual case management, pre-employment job readiness training, daily on-the-job monitoring of participants, provision of unsubsidized competitive employment opportunities, assistance in applying for, obtaining, and maintaining unsubsidized competitive employment.

² A transitional workforce consists of under-employed or hard to employ persons that may be homeless, formerly incarcerated or those who either have not worked for an extended period of time or face significant barriers to employment

³ The actual preference is calculated on the cost or price component of the lowest most responsible and responsive bid amount. The bid price reduction cannot exceed \$150,000. The 15% preference is used only to determine the lowest bidder or proposal and does not change the amount of contract award.

Note: The criteria to qualify for this preference program may change. For the most up-to-date information on program eligibility, please refer to the DCBA website.