



# What Is an 8(a) Certification?



The 8(a) certification program is an **ownership diversity campaign**. The certification is aimed to assist organizations that are 51 percent owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

The 8(a) Certification's primary goal is to **help disadvantaged small businesses** go on and thrive in a competitive business environment. Receiving an 8(a) Certification will give your business **access to millions of dollars** of set-aside government spending.

At GSE, we have the **tools and know-how to help you accomplish your goals**. We're here to **expedite the 8(a) Certification** process and make it smoother every step of the way. Successfully selling to the U.S. government can be very appealing, but it is **daunting to take on alone**. Let us help you improve your business and bring it the much-needed revenue it seeks.

## Eligibility:

- Be a small business
- Not already have participated in the 8(a) program.
- Be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by U.S. citizens who are economically and socially disadvantaged.
- Be owned by someone whose personal net worth is \$750,000 or less.
- Be owned by someone whose average adjusted gross income for three years is \$350,000 or less.
- Be owned by someone with \$6 million or less in assets.
- Have the owner manage day-to-day operations and also make long-term decisions
- Have all its principals demonstrate good character
- Show potential for success and be able to perform successfully on contracts.

## Benefits:

- Compete for set-aside and sole-source contracts in the program
- Get a Business Opportunity Specialist to help navigate federal contracting.
- Form joint ventures with established businesses through the SBA's mentor-protégé program.
- Receive management and technical assistance, including business training, counseling, marketing assistance, and high-level executive development.
- Your business can compete for contract awards under multiple socio-economic programs.

