



Doing Business with the California Public Utilities Commission

California state government is committed to the success of small and disabled veteran businesses. As a result, all California agencies, including the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), have a goal to conduct 25 percent of their procurement and contracts with small businesses (SB) and 3 percent with disabled veteran business enterprises (DVBE).

Steps to follow to help you in conducting business with the CPUC:



Registration

To pursue business opportunities with the state and the CPUC, it is recommended that you register your business with the state's on-line procurement system Cal eProcure at www.caleprocure.ca.gov. There is no fee to register. This system holds bid and contract information and is used by all state agencies for procurement. Registration allows suppliers to upload bids, track bid progress, learn about pre-bid events, and, obtain contract award and other information.



Certification

Consider becoming certified with the Department of General Services (DGS). For applications and more information visit www.caleprocure.ca.gov or call 916-375-4940. Small Business Certification affords you a percent bid preference on state contracts. DVBE certification can afford you up to a 5 percent incentive in the formal bid process. Other certification benefits include prompt payment, SB/DVBE purchase option, and database marketing. On-line certification is simple and fast.



Research

After you are registered with the Department of General Services and certified, your next step is to do your homework. Understand what the CPUC does and what the CPUC's procurement needs are. You can learn a lot about the CPUC on its website at www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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Self-Assessment and Collaboration

Do you offer a service or product that is needed by the CPUC? Do you have the capacity or resources to bid for the opportunity? If the project's scope requires additional resources, the CPUC strongly encourages SB owners to partner with other SBs or DVBEs to pursue larger contracts. In addition, large firms (primes) may need the services of small firms (subcontractors) to better qualify for contracts. To find SBs and DVBEs, go to www.caleprocure.ca.gov. The Supplier Clearinghouse also maintains a database for disabled veteran, minority, women, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender), and persons with disabilities business enterprises at www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com.



Marketing

Market yourself! Network to build your visibility and awareness. Most state agencies are required to have a SB/DVBE business advocate who coordinates the SB/DVBE procurement process. Introduce yourself to the agency advocate. For the CPUC, contact **Jaime Elder** in the Small Business Program at smallbiz@cpuc.ca.gov or 800-253-0500.

Procurement opportunities with the CPUC generally fall into three categories:

Business Services (all non-IT commodities and services):

- Copy and printing paper
- Copy machines
- Printer cartridges
- Fax machines
- Office supplies (small business/DVBE vendors only)
- Copier and printer repairs
- Locksmith repairs
- Printing and finishing services
- Shredding services
- Movers for office equipment and furniture
- Specialized telecommunications equipment for the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program
- Other essential services and items

Information Technology Goods and Services:

- IT consulting
- IT equipment maintenance
- Wireless devices
- PCS, laptops, monitors
- External hard drives/flash drives, video cards, and other IT-related peripherals
- Computer parts
- Servers
- Printers
- Switches, routers, cables, etc.
- Software (e.g., Microsoft Office, Dragon, Creative Suites, etc.)
- Generally, all IT goods and Services

Contracts:

- Consultants (legal, audits, expert witness, Deaf and Disabled Program, energy efficiency, solar, etc.)
- Architecture and engineering (California Environmental Quality Act)