

Central Certification



CERT Program

December 15, 2014

To: All CERT Certified Businesses
From: Central Certification (CERT) Program Governance Board

Re: Applicable Small Business Size Standards for CERT Certified Businesses

Historically, the Central Certification (CERT) Program determined CERT eligibility by applying size standards promulgated by the State of Minnesota Department of Administration (the “Department”). Earlier this year, upon learning of changes the Department made to these size standards, the CERT Board declined to adopt the changes. Its declination was based on a concern the new size standards would not advance the CERT Program’s mission of promoting the growth and development of local small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses.

Accordingly, in February, the CERT Board announced the Department’s size standards in effect on August 7, 2012 would continue to apply through December 31, 2014. This continuation of the previous size standards was intended to give the CERT Board a sufficient period of time to analyze industry data and develop options for aligning eligibility standards with the Program’s mission.

Since February, the scope of the CERT Board’s review has been comprehensive. It has sought to gain a greater understanding of the Department’s rationale for adjusting its size standards. It also conducted an assessment of the potential impact to current CERT businesses under a variety of size adjustment scenarios, including one that adopts the size standards for small businesses (per NAICS code) promulgated by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

The CERT Board needs additional time to complete its analysis and develop size standards for CERT eligibility. **Therefore, the August 7, 2012 size standards promulgated by the Department will remain in effect through June 30, 2015.**

Prior to this expiration date, the CERT Board will solicit input on the issue of small business size eligibility from a broad range of interested parties, including professional associations and industry groups. Additionally, when the CERT Board adopts revised size standards for small business eligibility, it will publish them in a *preliminary* form and will solicit comments from interested parties. The CERT Board will not adopt *final* standards until it completes its review of all comments received during the public comment period.

Sincerely,

The Central Certification CERT Program Collaborative Joint Powers Agreement Executive Board