

# Central Certification



# CERT Program

January 18, 2016

## IMPORTANT PROGRAM UPDATES

### **Re: Activation of Extended Term Program and CERT Program Adoption of SBA Size Standards**

1. On June 30, 2015, the Central Certification (CERT) Program announced it would adopt a “Provisional Status” for recently graduated Small Business Enterprises (“SBEs”)<sup>1</sup> effective January 1, 2016. The CERT Program subsequently decided to substitute the term “Extended Term” for “Provisional Status.”

Extended Term Businesses are those that recently graduated from the CERT Program and whose application for an extended term is approved by the CERT Program.

The *Size Standard Review Report*, posted on the CERT Program’s website on June 30, 2015, noted that the size standard changes adopted in early 2014 by the MN Department of Administration posed a detrimental impact to Sector 23 “Construction” businesses. To minimize or avoid such impact, the CERT Executive Board chose to maintain the previous size standards for Sector 23 businesses and develop a method to permit those businesses to preserve their status as an SBE for an additional period of time.

Through the Extended Term Program, a qualifying Sector 23 “Construction” business may apply for an extension of its term as an SBE. To qualify for an extended term, the business must have graduated from the CERT Program after January 2014 and meet other Program criteria. Posting of the finalized application has been delayed. As soon as this is available, for qualifying businesses, we will contact you immediately.

2. Effective immediately, the applicable size standards for the CERT Program are the U.S. Small Business Administration’s size standards for small businesses. All businesses that graduated from the CERT Program since January 2014 may apply to be re-evaluated under the SBA size standards; however, as noted above, only Sector 23 “Construction” businesses are eligible to apply for an extended term. For additional information for how a business may apply for a re-evaluation under the SBA size standards please call 651-266-8900 and ask for CERT Staff.

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<sup>1</sup> SBEs include local small businesses, local small Minority-owned Business Enterprises (“MBEs”) and local small Woman-owned Business Enterprises (“WBEs”).