

# 8(a) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ROAD MAP TO THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Eligible small businesses receive:

- ✓ Exclusive access to reserved federal contracting opportunities
- ✓ Training and technical assistance
- ✓ Customized business development services

***The road to 8(a) certification just got easier! The SBA has streamlined the application.***

**If you're eligible, follow this road map for a successful application.**



## STEP 1

### Review application guidance resources.

Visit the [Knowledge Base](#) at [certify.sba.gov](https://certify.sba.gov) to download and preview the application. View the [8\(a\) Guidance](#) and [training videos](#) and download the [Application Checklist](#) to prepare. The tools will help you ensure you've gathered all necessary documentation and information for the application.



## STEP 2

### Meet with your local SBA Resource Partner.

Get one-on-one assistance from our network of local partners or your SBA District Office. You can find both at [SBA.gov/local-assistance](https://SBA.gov/local-assistance).



## STEP 3

### Apply for 8(a) BD Program certification.

Once you've identified your primary [NAICS code\(s\)](#) and registered your business in the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#), you are ready to [apply for 8\(a\) certification](#)!

Use the [Certify Help Desk](#) to submit technical questions as they relate to your 8(a) application. Please include your company name and UEI number in your inquiry.



## STEP 4

### Stand by for notifications from the SBA.

Your application will be screened and processed. The SBA will notify you through [certify.sba.gov](https://certify.sba.gov). You will need to log into Certify to view messages and follow any next steps.

**Once certified, your profile in [SAM.gov](https://SAM.gov) and the [DSBS.SBA.gov](https://DSBS.SBA.gov) will show your 8(a) BD Program approval and exit dates. You will receive the SBA's decision letter from Certify. A local SBA District Office will connect with you to schedule program orientation and provide next steps.**

**For more information about the certification process visit [certify.sba.gov](https://certify.sba.gov).**



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.