

LOCAL PROGRAM

The Local Business Preference Program applies to all procurements, excluding contracts for sole-source, federally funded contracts, contracts with other governmental entities and those contracts for which participation in the Program is otherwise prohibited by applicable law or exempted by Port Houston.

To be eligible for the Local Preference Program the vendor/contractor must:

- Register in the BuySpeed system available in the Port Houston website.
- Be a Certified Local Business or City Business through the City of Houston Hire Houston First Program.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

Port Houston may grant preference to a Program-Certified Local Business that falls within:

- 5% of the lowest proposed price if the purchase price is under \$50,000
- 3% of the lowest proposed price for contracts more than \$50,000
- In procuring architectural, engineering or land surveying services under the Professional Services Procurement Act, Tex. Gov't Code §2254.004, the contracting department shall, when appropriate, consider knowledge of local conditions as part of the qualifications determination

Contact Port Houston Small Business Development Program staff for more information.

PORT HOUSTON STAFF

SMALL BUSINESS & EDUCATION OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

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|---|--|
| Gilda Ramirez
Senior Director | 713-670-2590
gramirez@porthouston.com |
| Connie Rodriguez
SBEO Administrator | 713-670-2597
corodrigue@porthouston.com |
| Pedro Garcia
Manager, Outreach | 713-670-2588
pgarcia@porthouston.com |
| Pedro Gonzalez, P.E.
Manager Mentoring Program | 713-670-2673
pgonzalez@porthouston.com |
| Akilah Hicks
Small Business Coordinator | 713-670-2618
ahicks@porthouston.com |
| Jacqueline D. Young
Maritime Education Manager | 713-670-2806
jdyoung@porthouston.com |
| Brenda Ruiz
Small Business Analyst | 713-670-2528
bruiz@porthouston.com |
| Natasha Ainsworth
Certification Specialist | 713-670-2418
nainsworth@porthouston.com |

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

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| Operations
Randy Stiefel
Managing Director, Turning Basin | 713-670-2435
rstiefel@porthouston.com |
| Construction & Project Mgmt.
Roger Hoh, P.E.
Director | 713-670-2612
rhoh@porthouston.com |
| Environmental Affairs
Trae Camble
Director | 713-670-2826
tcamble@porthouston.com |
| Human Resources
Joshua Northcutt
Manager | 713-670-2503
jnorthcutt@porthouston.com |
| Marketing | 713-670-2400 |
| Trade Development
Dominic Sun
Director | 713-670-2431
dsun@porthouston.com |
| Real Estate
David Carrion
Asset Manager | 713-670-2515
dcarrion@porthouston.com |
| Community Relations
Leslie Herbst
Manager | 713-670-2831
lherbst@porthouston.com |
| Central Maintenance
Mike Gignac
Manager, Turning Basin | 713-670-2846
mgignac@porthouston.com |



SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

If you own a small business, the chance to grow your business is always your foremost goal. As one of the nation's busiest ports, the Port of Houston generates nearly \$7 billion in business activity annually.

Becoming a registered small business with Port Houston creates opportunities for your small business to expand.

111 East Loop North Houston, Texas 77029
Phone 713-670-2418 Fax 713-670-2498
smallbusiness@porthouston.com

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

STEP 1

REGISTER AS A VENDOR FOR PORT HOUSTON

GO to the Port Houston website
www.porthouston.com

CLICK on the [Business Opportunities](#) link at the top of the page

CLICK the [Procurement](#) link from the drop down menu . Click [Procurement FAQs](#)

CLICK in the [BuySpeed](#) link under the question “How can my company do Business with Port Houston?”

<https://buyspeed.poha.com/bs/>

STEP 2

COMPLETE THE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM APPLICATION

GO to the Port Houston website
www.porthouston.com

CLICK on the [Business Opportunities](#) link at the top of the page

CLICK on the [Small Business](#) link from the drop down menu to access the application page

<http://porthouston.com/portweb/small-business/application/>

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The Port Houston Small Business Development Program (SBDP or the Program) is designed to help Port Houston contractors make good faith efforts to include small business participation in certain eligible contracts, excluding sole-source items, federally funded contracts, contracts with other governmental entities, and those contracts that are otherwise prohibited by law.

The SBDP’s ultimate goal is to award 35% of all eligible contracts to local small businesses.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The SBDP is a race and gender neutral program. It is open to all certified small businesses which can meet the following minimum requirements:

- Located in greater Houston and the surrounding counties including Harris, Galveston, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Waller, Liberty, Chambers and Brazoria.
- The size of the business must not exceed Code of Federal Regulations 49 CFR §26.67 or 13 CFR § 124 for small business owners. Visit www.sba.gov for size for more information.
- Net worth of the owner must be less than \$1.32 million, excluding the owner’s primary homestead and assets of the business.

CERTIFYING AGENCIES

City of Houston Office of Business Opportunity
Porscha Jackson, External Affairs Admin. Coordinator
porscha.jackson@houston.tx.gov
www.houston.tx.gov
832.393.0935

Houston Minority Supplier Development Council (HMSDC)
Constance Jones, Director Membership Services
constance.jones@hmsdc.org
www.hmsdc.org
713.271.7805

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)
Monique Pettaway, Certification Specialist
monique.pettaway@ridemetro.org
www.ridemetro.org
713.739.6032

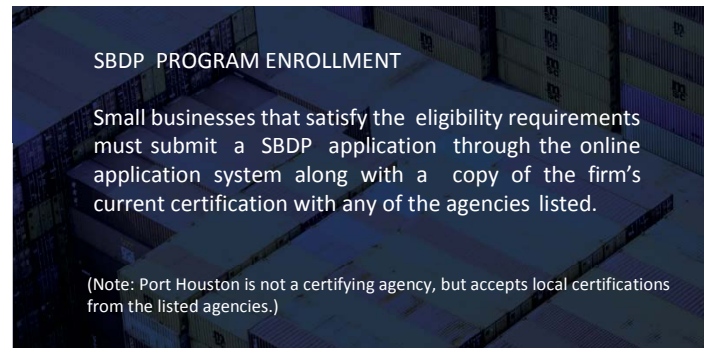
Small Business Administration — SBA 8(a) Certification
Miguel J. Ruiz, Government Contracting Specialist
miguel.ruiz@sba.gov
www.sba.gov
713.773.6518

South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency (SCTRCA)
Karina Pineda, Certification Specialist
kpineda@sctrca.org
www.sctrca.org
210.227.4722

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts — HUB Certification
Laura Cagle-Hinojosa, HUB Program Manager
laura.cagle-hinojosa@cpa.texas.gov
www.texas4hubs.org
512.463.5872

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
Tonia Yarbrough
tonia.yarbrough@txdot.gov
www.txdot.gov/business
512.416.4789

Women’s Business Enterprise Alliance (WBEA)
Lillian Camel, Senior Certification Coordinator
lcamel@wbea-texas.org
www.wbea-texas.org
713.681.9232



SBDP PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Small businesses that satisfy the eligibility requirements must submit a SBDP application through the online application system along with a copy of the firm’s current certification with any of the agencies listed.

(Note: Port Houston is not a certifying agency, but accepts local certifications from the listed agencies.)

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

Akilah Hicks, Small Business Coordinator
ahicks@porthouston.com, 713-670-2618

Brenda Ruiz, Small Business Analyst
bruiz@porthouston.com 713-670-2528

Natasha Ainsworth, Certification Specialist
nainsworth@porthouston.com 713-670-2418

