

City of Houston – Office of Business Opportunity

Public Notice: Temporary Pause on MWSBE & PDBE Applications

As of September 26, 2025, the City of Houston Office of Business Opportunity (OBO) is temporarily pausing the acceptance of new applications for the following certifications:

- Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
- Women Business Enterprise (WBE)
- Small Business Enterprise (SBE)
- Persons with Disabilities Business Enterprise (PDBE)

This pause will remain in effect until December 1, 2025.

What This Means for Businesses

- No new applications for MWSBE or PDBE certifications will be accepted during this period.
- Applications for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) applications will be accepted during this period.

Why This Pause is Necessary

The Office of Business Opportunity is undertaking important upgrades to its certification program, including:

- System improvements to enhance efficiency.
- Policy updates to strengthen accountability.
- Streamlined procedures to reduce application turnaround times.
- Enhanced reporting tools to better serve businesses and City departments.

Support and Contact Information

For questions or additional guidance, please contact the OBO Certification Hotline at (832) 393-0600 (press option 1).

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Office of Business Opportunity