



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

The Department of General Services is pleased to announce that beginning in July, 2016, the Bureau of Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities welcomes into the Small Diverse Business community businesses owned by individuals with disabilities (DOBEs) as well as businesses owned by members of the LGBT community (LGBTBEs). This expansion is all part of both the department's commitment to maximizing inclusion and diversity in our state contracting and the Governor's [Executive Order 2015-11](#) on Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities in Commonwealth Procurement and in Pennsylvania's Economy.

In order for a DOBE or LGBTBE to seek opportunities in state contracting, a business will need to meet the [state's eligibility requirements as a "small" business](#), as well as provide certification of their status as a DOBE from the [U.S. Business Leadership Network](#) (USBLN) or LGBTBE from the [National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce](#) (NGLCC), national third-party certifying entities for disability-owned businesses, including businesses owned by service-disabled veterans, and LGBT-owned businesses. These entities join several other [commonwealth-approved third party certification entities](#) currently in place for the certification of minority, woman, veteran, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Bureau of Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities at (717) 783-3119 or [GS-BDISBO@pa.gov](mailto:GS-BDISBO@pa.gov) should you have any questions about this new program opportunity!