

Sherri Simpson - Ceo
BLUE DIAMOND INDUSTRIES, LLC
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Dear Sherri Simpson:

Welcome to the HUBZone Program!

I am pleased to advise you that effective this date your application for certification as a "qualified HUBZone small business concern" (SBC) has been approved. Your firm is now eligible to receive HUBZone contracting opportunities, and will be included in the listing of qualified HUBZone small business concerns found on the Internet at http://dsbs.sba.gov/dsbs/search/dsp_searchhubzone.cfm. Congratulations! This certification will remain in effect until the HUBZone area that impacts your firm's eligibility, ceases to be designated as such. <http://www.sba.gov/content/hubzone-maps>.

The HUBZone Office now offers assistance via an interactive conference call at 888-858-2144, access code 1875223# (pound symbol), where we can respond to your general questions and concerns in real-time. Please visit our website at <http://www.sba.gov/hubzone>, for additional information regarding HUBZone application assistance office hours and calendar of topics to be discussed.

Your responsibilities as a HUBZone certified concern

As a HUBZone certified concern, the benefits you may receive from the program come with the following important responsibilities:

- **Keep your System for Award Management (SAM) and Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS) records up-to-date:** To apply for HUBZone Program certification, your firm had to be registered in the SAM and DSBS information systems. For your firm to receive benefits from the HUBZone Program (i.e., to be identified by contracting officers as eligible to receive HUBZone contracts and to be paid under any such contracts), it is essential that these records remain up-to-date. We strongly recommend that you validate your information at least annually. If you need assistance in updating your SAM or DSBS information, please go to the SAM Help Desk at <https://www.fsd.gov/app/answers/list>.
- **Inform HUBZone Program of any material changes to your concern:** If there are material changes to your concern (that may affect its continued eligibility) you must notify the HUBZone Program by sending an e-mail to HZMCN@sba.gov. Material changes include a change in size, ownership, business structure, or principal office location, in addition to falling below the 35% HUBZone residency requirement when your firm is not performing on a HUBZone contract. Failure to notify the HUBZone Program of material changes may result in decertification from the program. If at any time you feel your concern no longer qualifies for the HUBZone Program, you can complete the "Voluntary Decertification Agreement" available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/maintaining-hubzone-certification>.

Note the HUBZone Program mails notices regarding program examinations and re-certifications to your firm's most recent address of record. If you were to fail to respond to these notices because you have changed your address without updating your SAM and DSBS profiles and informing the HUBZone Program, SBA would propose your concern for decertification and might subsequently decertify it from the Program. Therefore, it is critical that you notify us of any change in address and keep your SAM and DSBS profiles updated.

- **Remain in compliance at all times and stay updated on Program changes:** It is your responsibility to continually ensure that your firm meets the requirements of the program. This includes, for example, continuously meeting the 35% HUBZone residency requirement, with the sole exception if you are making good faith efforts to "attempt to maintain" (see 13 C.F.R. § 126.103) having 35% of your employees reside in a HUBZone during the performance of a HUBZone contract you have received. This also includes complying with contract performance requirements in connection with any HUBZone contracts awarded to your firm as a qualified HUBZone SBC (e.g., the subcontracting limitations requirements set forth in 13 C.F.R. § 126.700, and/or the non-manufacturer rule set forth in 13 C.F.R. § 126.601(e)).

In addition, you should periodically visit our website (www.sba.gov/hubzone) to look for any important announcements concerning changes to the HUBZone Program. As an example, on May 3, 2010 an important change to the HUBZone regulations went into effect concerning the definition of an employee. The new definition, which can be found at our website, is meant to simplify the determination of whether a person working for a concern is counted as an employee of that concern for the purposes of determining eligibility for the HUBZone Program. The new definition may impact your eligibility for the program and ability to meet the principal office and 35% HUBZone residency requirement. (If you applied prior to May 3, 2010, the previous definition was likely used to determine your eligibility as we typically evaluate a firm's eligibility at the time of application submittal using regulations in effect at that time.) It is your responsibility to understand the new definition and to determine whether it impacts your concern's eligibility status. Contact the HUBZone Help Desk if you require assistance. If you find that your firm is not eligible for the program as a result of the definition change, you should inform the HUBZone Program of this material change to your concern or complete the "Voluntary Decertification Agreement" available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/maintaining-hubzone-certification>.

- **Participate in SBA eligibility monitoring initiatives:** As a result of 2008 and 2009 Government Accountability Office (GAO) audits, which discovered unacceptable levels of fraud and misrepresentation within the HUBZone Program, we have significantly increased our eligibility monitoring efforts to ensure only eligible SBCs receive the program's benefits. As such, you may be subject to any or all of the following initiatives designed to verify the ongoing eligibility of certified concerns:
 - SBA requiring your concern certify in writing under penalty of perjury that it continues to meet all the eligibility criteria of the HUBZone Program, or voluntarily withdraw
 - SBA requiring your concern to submit updated documentation similar to the information and documents you provided to obtain initial certification in order to verify that you remain eligible for the program
 - If you should receive a HUBZone contract, SBA requiring your concern to demonstrate that it was eligible for the program both at the time of its initial offer and award
 - SBA making unannounced site visits to any or all of your concern's locations to verify the accuracy of any information provided to SBA

NOTE THAT ANY SBC FOUND TO MISREPRESENT ITSELF MAY BE SUBJECT TO A RANGE OF CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND/OR SUSPENSION OR DEBARMENT FROM FEDERAL CONTRACTING.

How to get the most out of the Program

Although your status as a certified HUBZone small business concern greatly improves your access to Federal contracts, this certification does not guarantee contract awards. Your ability to research contracting opportunities and competitively bid on them will be the key to your success in this program. I recommend you utilize the following web resources designed to help you maximize the Program's benefits:

- SBA's Government Contracting Classroom website at (<http://www.sba.gov/gclassroom>) provides valuable information on Federal contracting. (Please note that while your concern was approved under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code found in your firm's SAM and DSBS profiles, you may be awarded contracts under other NAICS Codes. You may benefit from researching and identifying potential HUBZone contracting opportunities outside your profile's NAICS code.)
- SBA's Services website (www.sba.gov/services) is a good starting point for accessing a wide range of resources relevant to HUBZone certified firms, including online courses on how to identify, win, and successfully execute Federal Government contracts.
- SBA's Surety Bond Program website (www.sba.gov/osg) provides information on how to apply for an SBA surety bond guarantee.

Thank you for contributing to US economic development

We wish you the best of luck with your HUBZone certified concern - your success will help improve the economic future of the HUBZone(s) in which you operate. If at any time you have any questions about the Program or how the SBA may be able to support your business objectives, please do not hesitate to contact the HUBZone Help Desk at HUBZone@sba.gov.

Sincerely,

Ajoy K. Sinha
Deputy Director
Office of HUBZone Program

HUBZone Certification Number: 51503

Ref: IAF-19L

Office of the HUBZone Program, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416
