

What is the Empower to Grow (E2G) program?

The E2G program offers free, customized, hands-on training, executive education, and technical assistance tailored specifically for eligible economically disadvantaged small businesses. E2G helps small businesses level up and get procurement-ready by equipping them with the critical tools needed to compete for federal contracting opportunities.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Businesses must be:

- A small business as defined by SBA size standards;
- Located in an underserved area with high unemployment rates or with a low-income population;
- Owned by economically disadvantaged individuals; and
- Certified as an 8(a) Business Development (BD) Program participant, HUBZone small business, or economically disadvantaged women-owned small business (EDWOSB).

What are the benefits of E2G training and executive education?

E2G was designed to offer what businesses and their owners really need today. It includes customized training, executive education, and one-on-one consulting in a broad range of business disciplines. Importantly:

- Services cater to the needs of economically disadvantaged small businesses and tailored trainings are designed to meet the needs of each participant.
- Multilingual counselors are fluent in Spanish and other languages to ensure content is accessible.
- Trainings help eligible small businesses build capacity to compete for and win federal contracts. They are flexible and self-paced, allowing participants to choose from a suite of on-demand training courses.

Are there time limits when accessing training?

Eligible small businesses may participate in the program for as long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

Is there a cost to participate?

The E2G program is free for eligible small businesses and provides executive education and training to registered participants that fits their budget.

What types of free courses are available for participating businesses?

Through our nationwide network of SBA Resource Partners and technical assistance providers, the SBA offers free, virtual, on-demand business courses and executive education for small businesses in the following areas:

- Business development
- Marketing
- Strategic and operational planning
- Financial analysis
- Compliance
- Cybersecurity
- E-commerce
- Federal contract navigation and expansion
- Business-related software/technology

Who provides the customized training?

Technical assistance providers develop and offer free, customized training and resources for eligible small businesses according to their SBA servicing region. The technical assistance providers range from consulting groups to development councils focused on supporting economically disadvantaged and minority-owned businesses.

For a list of participating technical assistance providers, visit the E2G [website](#). Eligible E2G small businesses can get help from SBA District Offices to learn which trainings and technical assistance providers are the best fit for their needs.

How can businesses learn more about and participate in E2G?

Learn more by going to the SBA's E2G website or by contacting your local [SBA District Office](#). Register to participate in the E2G program by contacting your local [SBA District Office](#). Find resources and local assistance available in your area by visiting the SBA website.