OCP Eligibility

The program is open to all Louisiana small businesses that meet the following eligibility requirements for both the business and the owner. Certification is effective for up to 10 years or until the firm no longer meets the eligibility requirements for the program.

Small and Emerging Business Person
For the purposes of the program, a person who meets all criteria in this section is defined as a Small and Emerging Business Person.

- **Citizenship** – The person is a U.S. citizen or legal resident
- **Louisiana Residency** – The person has been a Louisiana resident for at least one year
- **Net Worth** – At least 51 percent of the business is owned and controlled by persons who individually have a net worth of less than $400,000, excluding personal residence, business assets and retirement accounts
- **Full-Time Employment** – Managing owners who claim Small and Emerging Business Person status must be full-time employees of the applicant firm (20 or more hours per week)

Small and Emerging Business
For the purposes of the program, a business that meets all criteria in this section is defined as a Small and Emerging Business.

- **Ownership and Control** – At least 51 percent of the company is owned and controlled by one or more Small and Emerging Business Persons
- **Principal Place of Business** – The firm’s principal place of business is Louisiana
- **Lawful Function** – The company has been organized for profit to perform a lawful, commercially useful function
- **Business Net Worth** – The business’ net worth does not exceed $1.5 million
- **Job Creation** – An applicant firm anticipates creating new full-time jobs

Program Statutes & Rules: