

"Since being certified as a Section 3 Business Enterprise I received contracts almost right away. I am also blessed with larger contracts. Thank you for all your help."
- Gerri Germany, A Touch Above
The Rest Commercial Cleaning, LLC

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SECTION 3 CERTIFICATION?

1. Section 3 Certified businesses are entitled to a **contracting preference** on HUD-funded development projects with these Section 3 covered agencies in Allegheny County:

- Allegheny County Economic Development
- Allegheny County Housing Authority
- City of McKeesport
- Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
- McKeesport Housing Authority
- Municipality of Penn Hills
- The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh

2. Certified businesses are **listed on an online database** that is used by developers and contractors to find Section 3 businesses

3. Certification is **valid for 3 years**

4. **These services are free!**

Regional Housing Legal Services (RHLS) is a non-profit law firm with unique expertise in affordable, sustainable housing and its related components—community and economic development, utility matters and preservation of home ownership.

RHLS created the Section 3 Business Certification program in order to expand economic opportunities in the communities that we serve.

HOW DO I APPLY?

For more information or to apply for Section 3 certification please visit:

<http://section3.rhls.org>

or talk to our Section 3 Specialist:

Renee Robinson
ReneeL10@hotmail.com
(412) 304-1890

CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR BUSINESS



RHLS SECTION 3 BUSINESS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Support for this innovative initiative was provided primarily by

THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS
HOWARD HEINZ ENDOWMENT • VIRA I. HEINZ ENDOWMENT



WHAT IS RHLS SECTION 3 BUSINESS CERTIFICATION?



The RHLS Section 3 Business Certification Program helps businesses that are owned by low-income people or that hire low-income people in Allegheny County to connect with contracting opportunities on federally-funded projects.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SECTION 3 BUSINESS CERTIFICATION?

Millions of dollars' worth of Section 3 covered contracts are awarded every year by the seven Section 3 recipient agencies in Allegheny County. The Section 3 Business Certification Program is designed to help eligible businesses take advantage of these contracting opportunities. The following is a *partial* list of the kinds of businesses that could benefit from Section 3 certification:

Construction trades • Construction supplies • Accounting/Bookkeeping
Architectural/Engineering Services • Cleaning • Catering • Insurance
Landscaping • Trucking/Hauling • Printing • Security

WHAT IS HUD SECTION 3?

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 is a federal law that requires agencies, developers and contractors that receive funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to **provide training, hiring and contracting opportunities** to low-income residents and businesses of the area where the HUD-funded project is located, "to the greatest extent feasible".



IS MY BUSINESS ELIGIBLE?

Your business is eligible for Section 3 Business Certification if it meets any ONE of the following criteria:

1. 51% or more of the business is owned by individuals whose household income is no greater than 80% of the HUD Area Median Income (AMI).
2. 30% or more of the business' full time, permanent employees had household incomes no greater than 80% of AMI as of the initial date of hire.
3. The business awards 25% or more of the dollar value of the business' contract to business concerns that meet the qualifications set forth in (1) or (2) above.

The 2014 income eligibility limits for the Pittsburgh region are:

Household Size:	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	Each Add'l
Income:	\$36,750	\$42,000	\$47,250	\$52,500	\$56,700	\$4,200

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