

MBDA National Minority Enterprise Awards Program Requirements –  
Non substantive Change Justification.  
0640-0025

The changes are to the language for the eligibility information – the original language is out of date and not entirely consistent with the MBDA Act, because the MBDA Act was passed after the PRA approval in 2021.

**Eligibility and Nominations**

*Who is eligible for an award?*

- The Minority Firms of the Year Awards are open to minority business enterprises ~~that are owned or controlled by the following persons or group of persons: African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Hispanic, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Asian Indian and Hasidic Jews.~~

The Champions of Minority Business Development Awards eligible nominees include, but are not limited to business owners, business executives, and representatives of local, ~~state~~ and federal governments or nonprofit organizations, universities, colleges and tribal entities.

The Individual Recognition Awards are open to all qualified individuals ~~without regard to ethnicity.~~

*Who may submit nominations for awards?*

- Nominations may be submitted by individuals or organizations in any category applicable and may be submitted for more than one award category. Self-nominations are also permitted. In addition, nominations may be submitted by MBDA staff or by representatives of MBDA Business Centers. However, nominations may not be submitted by members of the headquarters review panels or by MBDA Selecting Officials.

The additional non substantive change is that MBDA is adding an additional award category.

**Norman Y. Mineta Trailblazer Award** – *Presented to an individual who has played an integral role in overcoming adversity by seeking out strategic partnerships to overcome barriers and exemplifying the spirit of collaboration and mentorship to aspiring business leaders and entrepreneurs.*

**Nomination Questions:**

- Tell us about the strategic partnership(s) formed and/or collaborative initiatives created.
- Describe what led to form your strategic partnership(s) and/or collaborative initiatives.
- What changes, if relevant, were made due to the strategic partnership(s) or collaborative initiatives?
- Describe the impact of the strategic partnership(s) on minority business and entrepreneurship community.
- How was the impact measured?