



**City of Seattle**  
Office of Mayor Mike McGinn

## News

**For Release: 8:00 a.m.**  
**August 24, 2011**

Contact: Aaron Pickus, Mayor's Office  
Tel: (206) 233-2650

Media materials: [www.seattle.gov/mayor/media](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/media)

### **Mayor McGinn announces new Inclusion Plan for city contracts**

*Offers clarity and transparency to bidders, opportunities for women- and minority businesses*

Mayor Mike McGinn today introduced a new program for city of Seattle public works contracts to ensure that large prime bidders conduct responsive, good-faith efforts to include women and minority firms. The Inclusion Plan offers transparency to bidders, clarity about city measures and expectations, support to prime contractors in their efforts, and an effective tool to measure responsiveness.

"We are committed to ensuring everyone in the community has equal access to jobs and opportunities," said Mayor Mike McGinn. "With this new inclusion plan, we make sure prime contractors understand their responsibility and our expectations. We're also offering strategies to help them succeed in reaching out to women- and minority-owned businesses to get them on their construction teams for large construction projects."

"Construction today has many challenges, including complex schedules, public safety, budgets, and quality. These challenges are best met by building a strong subcontracting team," said Mark Mills, president of MidMountain Contractors. "The best teams will come from a construction community willing to invest in subcontractor firms, by way of mentoring, providing opportunity, and assist in capacity building. Our company, the industry, and the city of Seattle will benefit by developing a competitive, experienced, inclusive, and diverse bench of construction subcontractors."

Effective today, the Inclusion Plan replaces an outreach plan established in 2002.

Prime contractors bidding on city of Seattle projects of more than \$300,000 must submit their plans for including WMBE firms with their bids. The plan must demonstrate good-faith efforts and will be evaluated by the city to assess whether the good-faith efforts meet a responsive standard. This process is carefully described within the Inclusion Plan form. Bids will be rejected if they do not include a completed Inclusion Plan.

In recognition of the fragile recovery from the recession, Mayor McGinn issued an Executive Order in April 2010 requiring city of Seattle departments to increase contracting with, and purchasing from, women and minority-owned businesses by expanding outreach efforts, creating new opportunities, and establishing direct accountability. The intent was simple – to give Seattle's women and minority businesses a fair way to compete for city contracting and purchasing opportunities.

This new program implements Seattle Municipal Code 20.42 and State Law (RCW 35.22.640).

###