

Announcement

Woman and Minority Business Program – Public Works – City of Seattle

The City of Seattle seeks effective good-faith efforts at outreach to woman and minority (WMBE) firms for City construction contracts. Mayor McGinn has adopted a new WMBE program for public work bids, to assure bidders conduct a responsive, good faith effort. This new program approach offers transparency to bidders, clarity about City measures and expectations, support to primes in their efforts, and an effective tool to measure responsive good-faith efforts. This program implements Seattle Municipal Code 20.42 and State Law (RCW 35.22.640).

For projects advertised on or after August 24, the City of Seattle will institute the new requirements for Woman and Minority Business (WMBE) plans that are a required submittal at time of bid for all projects above \$300,000. The new form, titled Inclusion Plan, will replace the previous Outreach Plan. This new form is a condition of bid responsiveness. Careful attention should be paid to this form.

Bids will be rejected if they do not include an Inclusion Plan which demonstrates good faith efforts. The submitted plan will be evaluated by the City to determine if the Plan is responsive. This process is carefully described within the Inclusion Plan form.

Please note that if the Engineer's Estimate is above \$2,000,000, the bidder is also required to name a qualified expert that will be part of the project team for the Prime. This expert will provide assistance to the Prime for the Inclusion Plan during bid preparation and contract performance. The qualifications and responsibilities are defined on the form. View a list of qualified experts available for a Prime to consider as a WMBE Expert for their team:

<https://www2.ci.seattle.wa.us/ConsultantRoster/RptApprovedConsultant.asp>. If you wish to submit an individual for consideration to become a qualified WMBE expert, contact Mark Wheeler, City Contract Compliance Manager at 206-684-4525 (mark.wheeler@seattle.gov).

The new form is linked, along with a description of the revised program on this page, <http://www.seattle.gov/html/business/construction.htm>

This program will apply to traditional design-bid-build construction bids. A modified version shall be utilized for Alternative Public Works, as appropriate to those processes. Projects with federal funds will utilize these requirements only as approved by the federal fund sources.

For questions, please call the City Contract Compliance Manager, Mark Wheeler at 206-684-4525 or Senior Program Administrator Maura Donoghue at 206-684-0386.