



**Greater Austin Hispanic  
Chamber of Commerce**

**City of Austin – Minority Participation  
Comparison of MBE/WBE Programs vs. other Cities  
And resulting MBE/WBE spend since the 2015 Disparity  
Study**

**Jan 31st 2021**

# Position on Minority Participation

- Both the US Hispanic Contractor’s Association and the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce have identified “Increasing Minority Participation” for our members as a key initiative for 2019/2020 and will work diligently to advocate on our members behalf ensuring we put forth our best efforts to increase the percentage of contracts awarded to minority/women-owned businesses

<u>Approximate membership</u>				
Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce				600
U.S. Hispanic Contractors Association				1,200
Subtotal				1,800

- Collectively, we support approximately **1,800 local business members in the Greater Austin area, the majority whom are small minority/women-owned businesses.**

# The City of Austin's Aspirational Goals

- The City of Austin has some of the most ambitious goals in the state when it comes to Minority participation....second only to San Antonio.

Minority Participation Goals	Fort		San		
	Dallas	Worth	Houston	Antonio	Austin
Construction	25.0%	25.0%	34.0%	44.0%	41.2%
Professional Services	36.3%	15.0%	24.0%	40.0%	47.4%
Architectural/Engineering	25.7%	15.0%	n/a	31.0%	n/a
Goods/Commodities	18.0%	25.0%	11.0%	42.0%	13.2%
Other Services	23.8%	n/a	n/a	55.0%	43.2%
Highest					
2nd Highest					
Source: City Code 2-9A-19					

- The Question is whether the structural elements of the program allow MBEs/WBEs to succeed vs. these aspirational goals.
- Let's see what the data says.....

# 2015 Disparity Study

# 2015 COA Disparity Study Key Findings

**Before we dive into the data...let's understand what was recommended previously by the previous Disparity studies...**

## **Executive Summary – Section F – Paragraph 1. Minorities and Women**

Chapter III demonstrates that **current M/WBE availability levels in the City of Austin's market area, as measured in Chapter II, are substantially lower in most instances than those that we would expect to observe if commercial markets operated in a race- and gender-neutral manner and that these levels are statistically significant. In other words, minorities and women are substantially and significantly less likely to own their own businesses as the result of discrimination than would be expected based upon their observable characteristics, including age, education, geographic location and industry.** We find that these groups also suffer:

- substantial and significant earnings disadvantages relative to comparable nonminority males,
- whether they work as employees or entrepreneurs.

**The 2015 City of Austin's Disparity Study identified that we have an issue that has existed for a significant period of time that required action and changes in policy.**

# 2015 COA Disparity Study – Key Recommendations

The 3<sup>rd</sup> party (i.e. Consultant) recommendations in the 2015 Disparity study were extensive....these are a few of the key recommendations that we thought as having the potential for significant change if executed properly....

## Race and Gender Neutral Recommendations

- Increase Efforts to Ensure Prompt Payment on City of Austin Contracts

## Race- and Gender-Conscious Remedies

- Adopt a Renewed M/WBE Ordinance and Accompanying Program Regulations
- Tailor the MWBE Ordinance to the Specific Type of Procurement
- Review firm size standards
- Consider reciprocal certification opportunities

## M/WBE Goal Setting

- Adopt annual aspirational M/WBE goals

# Changes since last Disparity Study

- Both of these organizations, and all of the associations supporting these recommendations, **are not aware** of any significant changes, aside from setting aspirational goals, to the MBE/WBE/DBE programs and associated ordinances since the last disparity study.

# **The Results (2015 to 2019) Spending and MBE/WBE**

Because after all – the results should speak for themselves

# A Diverse Community is a strong community

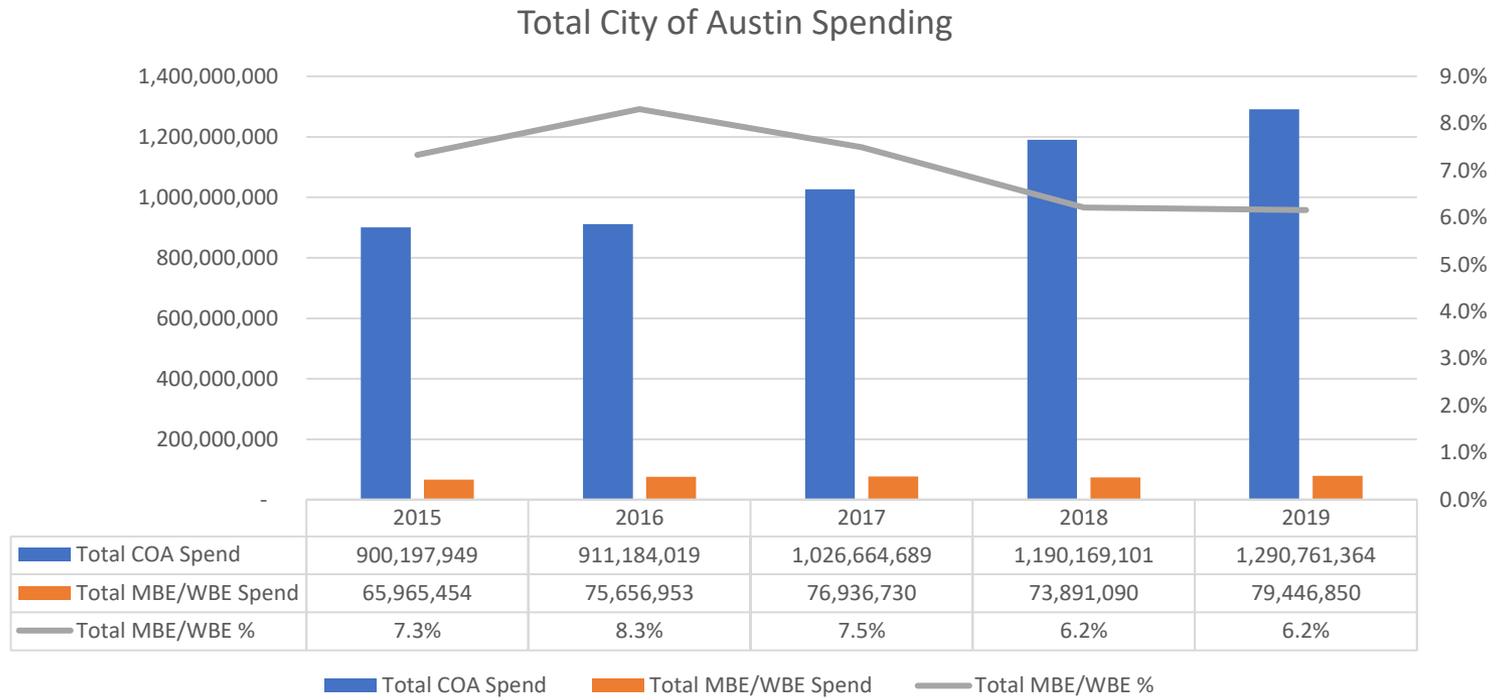
Posted on 11/06/2018 by Beverly Kerr

Vice President, Research at Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce

- Startups account for a larger share of businesses in Austin than in nearly all major U.S. metros in 2016.
- **Women-owned firms represent 22.8% of Austin businesses with paid employees and the number of women-owned firms increased 11.5% in the last year.**
- **Minority entrepreneurs make up 18.2% and veteran entrepreneurs represent 6.6% of Austin area employer firms.**

According to this study women-owned and minority-owned businesses represent **41% of firms** in the Austin metro area.

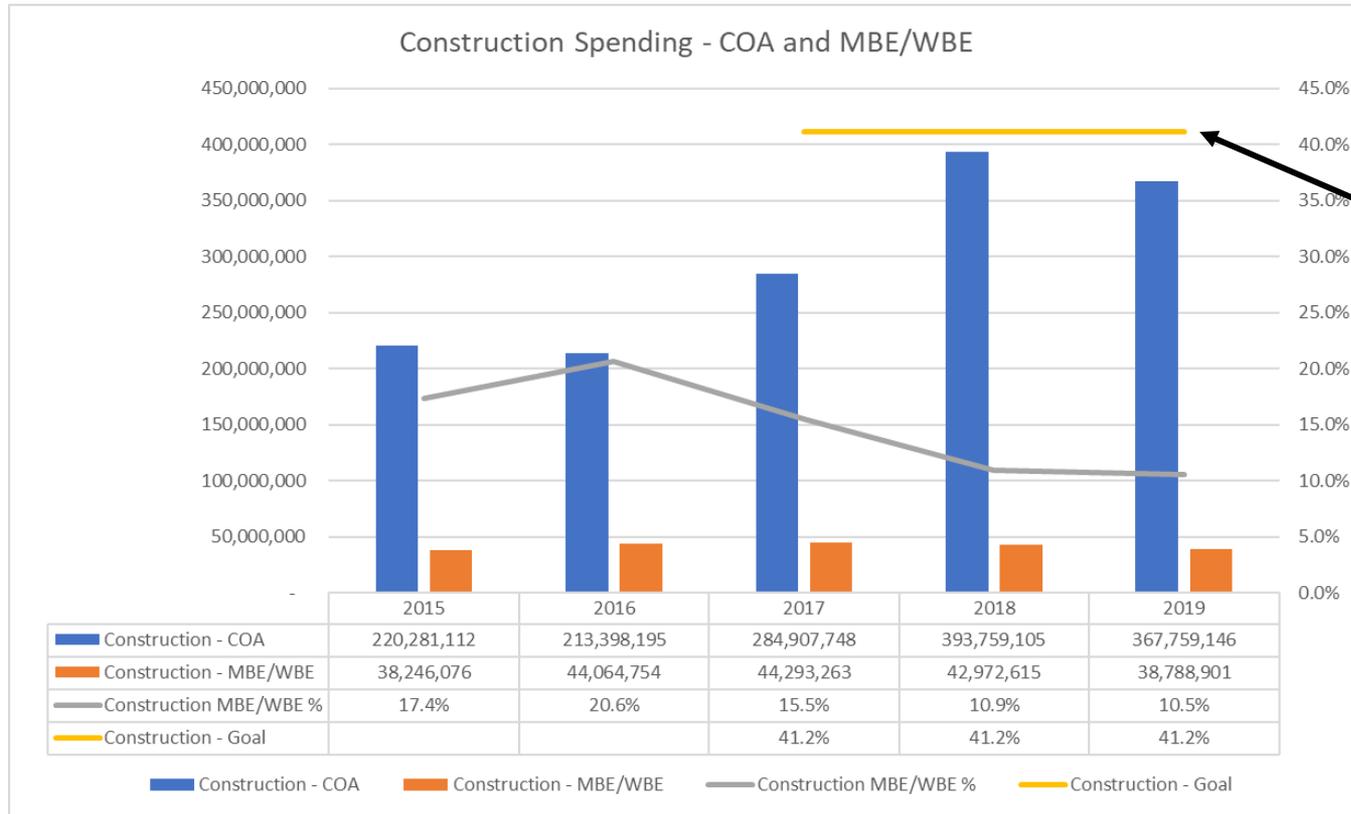
# Total City of Austin Spending Data - Actuals



**Despite highly aspirational goals, MBEs and WBEs continue to get less and less opportunity with the City of Austin with only **6.2%** of City of Austin spend.**

**Since 2015, while City of Austin spend has gone up 43% in total, MBEs/WBE spend has grown by only 20%....**less than half the growth rate****

# Construction Spending Data - Actuals



Orange line is the City of Austin Target

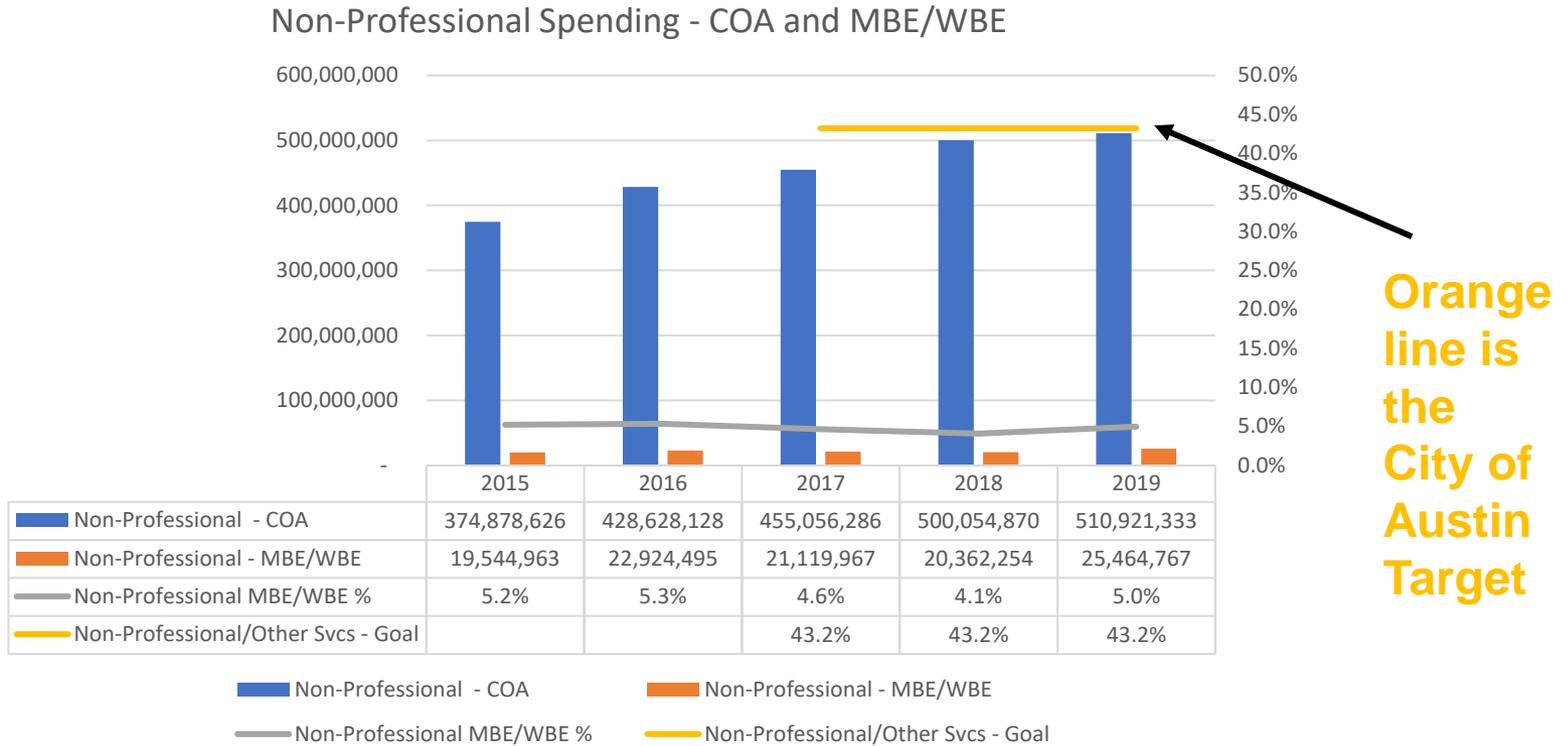
**City of Austin spending in Construction up 67% in 5 years**

**MBE/WBE spending only up 1% in 5 years!**

**Total MBE/WBE spending down from 17.4% to **10.5%****

**The City of Austin goal is 41%. Something is structurally wrong!**

# Non Professional Spending Data - Actuals



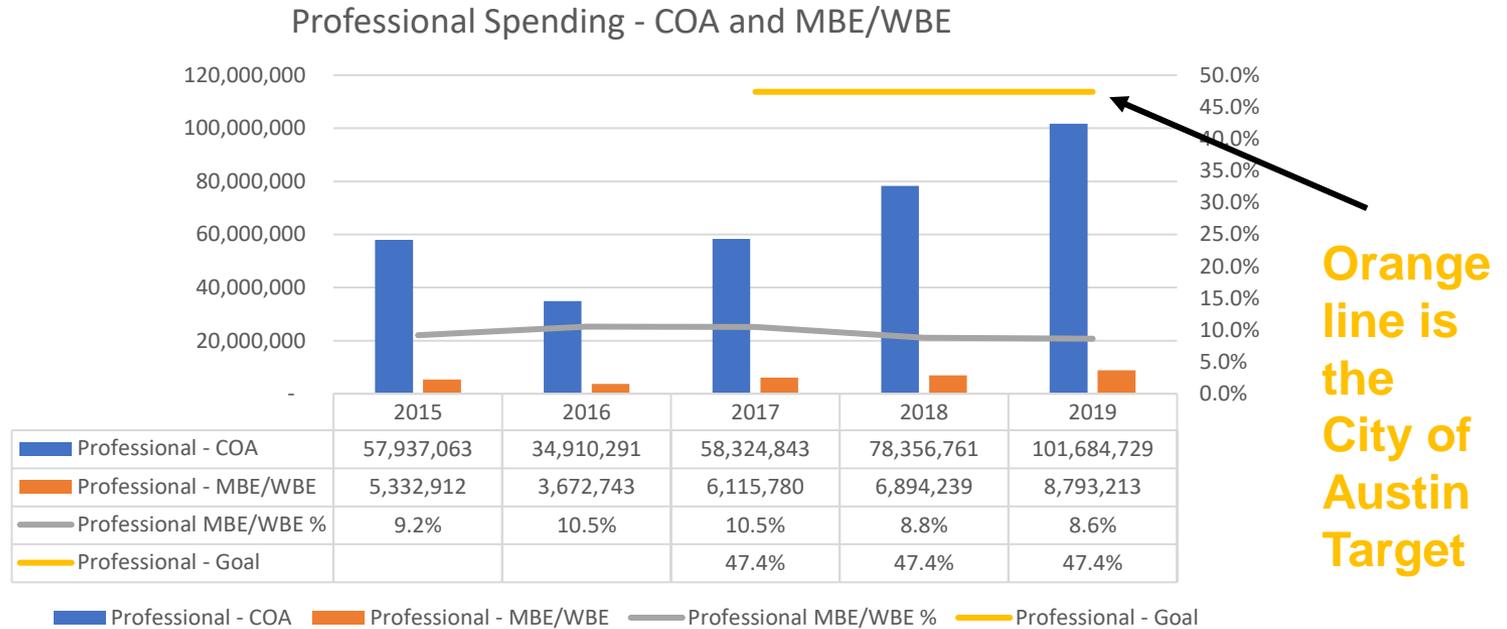
**City of Austin Non Professional spending up 36% in 5 years**

**MBE/WBE spending only up 30% in 5 years!**

**Total MBE/WBE spending down slightly from 5.2% to 5.0%**

**The City of Austin goal is 43%. No progress in this category.**

# Professional Spending Data - Actuals



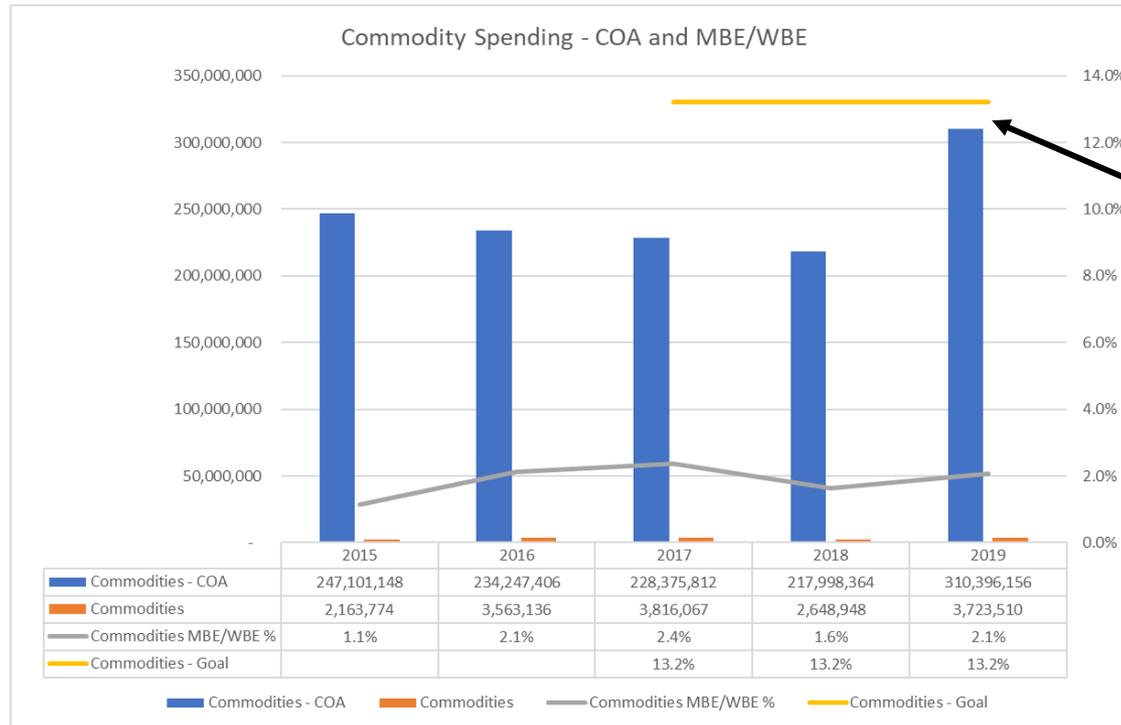
**City of Austin Professional spending up 76% in 5 years**

**MBE/WBE spending up 65% in 5 years.**

**Total MBE/WBE spending down slightly from 9.2% to **8.6%****

**The City of Austin goal is 47%. No progress in this category either.**

# Commodity Spending Data - Actuals



Orange line is the City of Austin Target

**City of Austin Commodity spending up 26% in 5 years**

**MBE/WBE spending up 72% in 5 years. Only category to grow faster.**

**Total MBE/WBE spending increasing from 1.1% to 2.1%.**

**The City of Austin goal is 13%. No significant progress in this category as well.**

# City of Austin Spending Data - Actuals

Source: City of Austin, Texas Purchasing Office (Mark Walsh)						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal
<b>Total Category Spend</b>						
Construction - COA	220,281,112	213,398,195	284,907,748	393,759,105	367,759,146	
Commodities - COA	247,101,148	234,247,406	228,375,812	217,998,364	310,396,156	
Non-Professional - COA	374,878,626	428,628,128	455,056,286	500,054,870	510,921,333	
Professional - COA	57,937,063	34,910,291	58,324,843	78,356,761	101,684,729	
<b>Total COA Spend</b>	<b>900,197,949</b>	<b>911,184,019</b>	<b>1,026,664,689</b>	<b>1,190,169,101</b>	<b>1,290,761,364</b>	
<b>City Certified MBE Spend</b>						
Construction	32,886,051	36,922,607	38,862,604	35,484,100	36,725,468	
Commodities	2,163,774	3,563,136	3,816,067	2,648,948	3,723,510	
Non-Professional	11,893,501	13,742,043	12,722,285	11,490,132	15,199,106	
Professional	2,407,374	1,504,581	3,055,597	2,650,081	3,804,879	
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,350,700</b>	<b>55,772,066</b>	<b>58,456,553</b>	<b>52,273,261</b>	<b>59,452,963</b>	
<b>City Certified WBE Spend</b>						
Construction	5,360,025	7,142,147	5,430,659	7,488,515	2,063,433	
Commodities	677,728	1,392,127	1,591,653	934,032	2,676,459	
Non-Professional	7,651,462	9,182,452	8,397,682	8,872,122	10,265,660	
Professional	2,925,539	2,168,162	3,060,183	4,244,158	4,988,334	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,614,754</b>	<b>19,884,887</b>	<b>18,480,177</b>	<b>21,617,829</b>	<b>19,993,887</b>	
<b>Subtotal MBE/WBE Spend</b>						
Construction - MBE/WBE	38,246,076	44,064,754	44,293,263	42,972,615	38,788,901	
Commodities - MBE/WBE	2,841,502	4,955,263	5,407,720	3,582,980	6,399,969	
Non-Professional - MBE/WBE	19,544,963	22,924,495	21,119,967	20,362,254	25,464,767	
Professional - MBE/WBE	5,332,912	3,672,743	6,115,780	6,894,239	8,793,213	
<b>Total MBE/WBE Spend</b>	<b>65,965,454</b>	<b>75,656,953</b>	<b>76,936,730</b>	<b>73,891,090</b>	<b>79,446,850</b>	
<b>Certified MBE/WBE % of total spend</b>						
Construction MBE/WBE %	17.4%	20.6%	15.5%	10.9%	10.5%	41.2%
Commodities MBE/WBE %	1.1%	2.1%	2.4%	1.6%	2.1%	13.2%
Non-Professional MBE/WBE %	5.2%	5.3%	4.6%	4.1%	5.0%	43.2%
Professional MBE/WBE %	9.2%	10.5%	10.5%	8.8%	8.6%	47.4%
<b>Total MBE/WBE %</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	

# MBE/WBE Comparison – by City

	Dallas	Fort Worth	Houston	San Antonio	Austin
MBE/WBE Certification available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SBE Certification available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b><u>MBE/WBE Constraints</u></b>					
Accepts MBE/WBE certificates from other regional organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
North Texas Regional Certification Agency (NCTRCA)	Yes	Yes	-	-	No
DFW Minority Supplier Business Council	Yes	Yes	-	-	No
Womens Business Council - Southwest	Yes	Yes	-	-	No
SCTRCA - South Central Texas Regional Certifying Agency	-	-	-	Yes	No
HSMDC - Houston Minority Supplier Business Council	-	-	Yes	-	No
Houston Women's Business Enterprise Alliance (WBEA)	-	-	Yes	-	No
SMSDC - Southwest Minority Supplier Development Council (pertinent to City of Austin firms)					No
Limits to MBE/WBE firm size	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
			per industry classification		SBA Guideline
Personal Net Worth Limit for MBE/WBE Owners	No	No	No	No	Yes
					\$1.5M
Personal Net Worth Limit for DBE Owners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	\$1.32M	\$1.32M	\$1.32M	\$1.32M	\$1.32M

- **The city of Austin is the only municipality that does not reciprocate with other regional certification agencies to increase it's minority business pool...especially important for SMSDC and State HUB. Many of our members have their regional MBEs and state HUBs but no COA MBE.**
- **Lastly, the City of Austin limits MBE/WBE firm size**
- **The City of Austin imposes a Personal Net worth Cap that limits the pool of qualified minority businesses unlike every other City in Texas.**

# Why the lack of success?

- **Very few of the recommendations from years of disparity studies have lead to change.** Every single recommendation we now support was actually recommended by the 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultant in the various disparity studies but no visible action was taken since the study was done.
- **The pool of minority businesses registered is too small.** It seems the City of Austin is overlooking many successful minority businesses, that have the resources to handle City of Austin contracts, because they no longer qualify as an M/WBE with the COA due to the city's current W/MBE ordinances. Personal Net Worth Cap eliminates many firms, whether large, medium or small.
- **Lack of reciprocity.** Every other City in state of Texas accepts minority certificates from regional minority certifying agencies, with the exception of Austin. There are many City of Austin businesses that have State HUBs and are registered MBEs with various agencies but unfortunately not with the City of Austin limiting the pool.
- **Additional work needs to be done to continue to improve payment process.** If MBE/WBE firms lack funding, then waiting 3-4 months for payment (sometimes) for work performed does not incent participation.
- With the current W/MBE structure and ordinance constraints, it seems the City of Austin will continue to struggle to attain their W/MBE goals.
- Lastly, the city loses the procurement leverage and expertise from M/WBE firms which compounds affordability issues in the City.

# Recommendation

- **Our minority and women-owned businesses are not asking for handouts. They just want a fair shot at opportunity.**
- **First, we ask that you support eliminating the Personal Net Worth Cap for MBE certified firms and support *immediate* State HUB reciprocity for City of Austin MBE/WBE projects, while firms recertify. Expand the pool immediately, prior to the Disparity study, and then revise the program once the Disparity study is completed.**
- **Secondly, we ask that you support a request of City Council to drive accountability to increase MBE/WBE/DBE participation as part of a COVID-19 economic recovery plan.**
  - **Make the City Manager accountable for achieving MBE/WBE participation goals. *These goals mean nothing if someone is not directly responsible for driving them.***
  - **Create aspirational goals for DBE firms as well as MBE/WBE.**
  - **Create quarterly reporting that is presented to City Council on MBE/WBE/DBE participation to drive accountability and improvement.**
  - **Appoint someone at SMBR to identify DBE Federal projects and recruit DBE firms that would meet project requirements and incorporate MBE/WBE/DBE requirements into any large City of Austin project (e.g. Project Connect). *Add this initiative also to the City Manager's slate of goals.***

## Recommendation (continued)

- Lastly, we would like the City to revisit prompt payment performance on city projects to encourage MBE/WBEs and DBEs to compete and prosper.
  - Create reporting that shows the trend of payment performance to MBE, WBE and DBE firms on City of Austin projects
  - Present this reporting to City Council once per quarter
  - **Challenge the City Manager and his/her staff to streamline payment processes** to drive improvement in payments to disadvantaged firms over time. This may actually result in cost savings to the City of Austin.
- **Once we expand the pool...we can work towards setting real targets for city projects that represent the diversity of our community.**
- **This is not just a Hispanic issue. This is a Minority and a Women's owned business issue.**

# One last note about the Personal Net Worth Cap

- Please realize that we are not asking for the City to change their firm size limits at this time, although we would welcome eliminating all size limits for legitimate Austin-based MBEs/WBEs/DBEs.
  - Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio do not limit firm size and it appears that they in fact are more progressive than the City of Austin
- **The Net worth cap is not tied to any federal regulation.** It is unique to Austin and while it excludes the value of your primary home and the business it requires the **inclusion of commercial property and other personal assets.**
- Many firms are **asset rich and cash poor** and lose their MBE/WBE as a result of the commercial property appreciation in Austin.
- **This request is not designed to pick winners/losers out of MBE/WBE firms. The significant miss in MBE/WBE spend requires structural change to create more opportunity for all.**

# Associations supporting these recommendations

- US Hispanic Contractor's Association
- Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Associated General Contractors – Austin Chapter
- Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce
- Austin Minority and Women Alliance
- Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce
- Hispanic Advocates Business Leaders of Austin
- The Association of Women and Minority Contractors (pending review with their President)



**BACKUP**

# City of Austin Spending Data – Actuals - continued

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>State Certified HUB Spend</b>					
Construction	2,259,007	41,474	162,847	10,834,334	15,825,154
Commodities	16,304,591	10,080,141	7,929,098	27,938,227	56,646,278
Non-Professional	15,230,270	17,578,012	20,114,945	109,669,926	108,876,946
Professional	1,481,215	926,161	1,316,887	2,633,179	2,434,204
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,275,083</b>	<b>28,625,787</b>	<b>29,523,777</b>	<b>151,075,665</b>	<b>183,782,582</b>
<b>State HUB % of total spend</b>					
Construction	1.0%	0.0%	0.1%	2.8%	4.3%
Commodities	6.6%	4.3%	3.5%	12.8%	18.2%
Non-Professional	4.1%	4.1%	4.4%	21.9%	21.3%
Professional	2.6%	2.7%	2.3%	3.4%	2.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
<b>Self Identified MBE/WBE Spend</b>					
Construction	13,124,516	8,942,491	9,455,057	37,336,733	3,053,807
Commodities	34,590,727	24,709,337	19,788,499	18,780,118	26,080,033
Non-Professional	25,500,440	33,289,673	40,248,336	56,872,036	34,262,060
Professional	2,883,739	2,161,799	2,843,307	8,139,623	4,075,762
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,099,422</b>	<b>69,103,299</b>	<b>72,335,198</b>	<b>121,128,510</b>	<b>67,471,663</b>
<b>Self Identified MBE/WBE % of total spend</b>					
Construction	6.0%	4.2%	3.3%	9.5%	0.8%
Commodities	14.0%	10.5%	8.7%	8.6%	8.4%
Non-Professional	6.8%	7.8%	8.8%	11.4%	6.7%
Professional	5.0%	6.2%	4.9%	10.4%	4.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
<b>Total - Certified/State HUB and Self ID - MBE/WBE</b>					
Construction	53,629,600	53,088,417	53,911,167	91,143,682	57,667,862
Commodities	53,736,819	39,744,741	33,125,316	50,301,324	89,126,280
Non-Professional	60,275,673	73,792,179	81,483,248	186,904,216	168,603,772
Professional	9,697,867	6,760,704	10,275,973	17,667,040	15,303,179
<b>Total</b>	<b>177,339,958</b>	<b>173,386,040</b>	<b>178,795,705</b>	<b>345,794,731</b>	<b>330,701,094</b>
<b>Total - Certified/State HUB and Self ID - MBE/WBE</b>					
Construction	24.3%	24.9%	18.9%	23.1%	15.7%
Commodities	21.7%	17.0%	14.5%	23.1%	28.7%
Non-Professional	16.1%	17.2%	17.9%	37.4%	33.0%
Professional	16.7%	19.4%	17.6%	22.5%	15.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>19.0%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>29.1%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>

# MBE/WBE Requirements – Austin, TX

# City of Austin MBE/WBE Qualifications

The City of Austin's Small & Minority Business Resources Department certifies qualified firms as Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE), Women-Owned Business Enterprises (WBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE), and Small Business Enterprises (SBE).

The Certification Division verifies that the minority and/or woman business applicant owns, manages, and controls the day-to-day operations of the for-profit business in compliance with the MBE/WBE Procurement Program Ordinance, Chapter(s) 2-9 (A)(B)(C) and (D) of the City Code.

**In general, the eligibility requirements are:**

At least 51% of the company must be owned, managed, and controlled by a socially and economically disadvantaged individual from one of the presumed groups i.e. Asian-American, African-American, Native American, Hispanic or Women

A small business as defined by the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Size Standard Guidelines

Personal Net Worth (PNW) must not exceed \$1,565,000 for MBE/WBE certification or \$1,320,000 for DBE/ACDBE certification

MBE/WBE applicant must have a facility located within the State of Texas for at least 90 days

Must be a for-profit business

MBE/WBE/DBE Profiles for other Cities in Texas

# City of Houston – MBE Requirements



## OFFICE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Home > Office of Business Opportunity > Certification Overview > Certification Process

### OFFICE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

#### Certification Overview - Certification Process

Before applying for certification, please review the certification requirements (.pdf, updated November 2015). View an illustration of the process (.pdf).

#### Basic Requirements:

- The minority or female business owner must possess at least 51% ownership, management, and control of the business enterprise.
- The minority, female, or small business owner must have the training and expertise to perform the work, and where required, have a license or certificate issued in his or her name.
- The business must be for profit, independent, and currently functioning.
- The business must maintain a significant and local presence in Harris, Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, or Waller County.
- The business must meet the Small Business Administration Size Standard(s) for its industry classification(s).
- Persons with Disabilities Business Enterprise (PDBE) certification require applicants to submit a Disability Affidavit and an accompanying letter from a State of Texas certified medical doctor. The person with a disability will be required to meet the same criteria for certification as MWBE/SBE applicants.
- For Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification, applicant must have a personal net worth of less than \$1,320,000 – excluding value of home and ownership interest in the business. There is no local presence requirement.



#### CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

- Certification Overview • Applications and Forms
- Certification Benefits • Certification Process •
- Certified Firm Directory • DBE Certification •

#### HELPFUL LINKS

- OBO Home Page
- About the Director
- Advisory Board
- B2G Contract Search
- Calendar of Events
- Certification Overview
- Contract Compliance
- Current Contracting Opportunities
- Disparity Study
- Documents and Forms
- Hire Houston First
- Liftoff Houston
- Links
- OBO Leadership and Managerial Team

# City of Houston – Certification Reciprocity

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the City of Houston Office of Business Opportunity website. The browser's address bar shows the URL [https://www.houstontx.gov/obo/benefits\\_of\\_certification.html](https://www.houstontx.gov/obo/benefits_of_certification.html). The website header features a banner image of the Houston skyline with the text "OFFICE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY". Below the banner, the breadcrumb trail reads "Office of Business Opportunity > Certification Overview > Benefits of Certification".

## OFFICE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

### Certification Overview - Benefits Of Certification

There are many benefits to becoming certified with the City of Houston which include: eligibility to participate on goal oriented contracts, resources to educate, connect, and grow certified firms, and a wide variety of networking opportunities and events.

In fiscal year 2012 the City of Houston spent over 1 billion dollars on goods and services (procurements). Over 339 million dollars went to S/MWBE and DBE certified firms. Only firms certified by the City of Houston are eligible to fulfill goal requirements on City contracts.

**Benefits of Certification:**

- Listing in the City's Online Directory of Certified Vendors
- Access to workshops, seminars, and quarterly newsletter *Insights to Opportunity*
- Bidding opportunities on goal oriented City contracts
- Specialized business development

City of Houston Certification is also accepted by the following agencies:

- METRO
- Port of Houston Authority
- Houston Independent School District
- Houston Community College
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Houston Housing Authority
- Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Airport Transportation Agencies Statewide

**Common Certification Agreements**

The City of Houston has "Fast Track" certification agreements with the Houston Minority Supplier Development Council (HMSDC) and the Houston Women's Business Enterprise Alliance (WBEA). In addition, the City of Houston is a participant in the Texas Unified Certification Program, and the State of Texas Historically Underutilized Business Program.

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- Liftoff Houston
- Links
- OBO Leadership and Managerial Team
- Newsletters
- OBO Solutions Center
- Partners with a Purpose
- Pay or Play (POP) Forms

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with the date and time: 10:21 PM, 1/15/2019.

# City of Dallas – MBE Policy



HOME
RESOURCE
CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITIES
PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS
PROJECTS
CITY STORE
STAFF/CONTACTS
CODE OF ETHICS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Business Development & Procurement Services

### Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE)

#### Definition of an M/WBE

An M/WBE is a small business that is at least 51% owned and operated by a socially and economically disadvantaged person or persons.

Socially and Economically Disadvantaged means individuals who are citizens of the United States (or lawfully admitted permanent residents) and who are:

- African Americans
- Hispanic Americans
- Native Americans
- Asian Americans
- Women

Owned and operated means that at least 51% of the business is owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and that the management and daily business operations are controlled by the same socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

#### Goals

The following are the M/WBE Goals for Contract Categories:

- Construction - 25%
- Architectural and Engineering - 25.66%
- Professional Services - 36.30%
- Other Services - 23.80%
- Goods - 18.00%

### CONTACT INFO

Mike Frosch, Director  
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City Hall

# NCTRCA – Certification Details

Home Apply Online FAQs Photo Gallery Events Contact Us



**NCTRCA**  
North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency



**NCTRCA**

- DBE Certification
- MBE Certification
- WBE Certification
- ACDBE Certification
- TUCP-DBE Certification

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- What's Next?
- Apply Online
- Procedures Manual
- Contracts
- Related Sites
- Events
- Member Area
- D/M/WBE Survey
- Contact Us



**The North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency (NCTRCA) has made some changes that will take place. Click here to see more information.**

### Certification

The NCTRCA verifies that firms meet the requirements for certification. A firm applying for certification with the NCTRCA must meet the following criteria to be considered a Disadvantaged, Minority and Woman-Owned Business Enterprise.

Firms applying for **Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprise** or **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise** certification must meet the following qualifying requirements:

- Firm must be at least 51% owned and controlled by a socially and economically disadvantaged individual(s)
- The disadvantaged owners must be an United States Citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident of the United States
- Firm must be a small business that meets the Small Business Administration's size standard and does not exceed \$22.51 million in gross receipts for DBEs and \$56.42 million in gross received for ACDBEs
- Personal Net Worth for all owners claiming disadvantaged status for the DBE and/or ACDBE program must not exceed \$1.32 million.
- Firm must be organized as a for-profit business



Firms applying for **Minority Business Enterprise** or **Woman-Owned Business Enterprise** certification must meet the following qualifying requirements:

- Firm must be at least 51% owned and controlled by a minority or women individual(s)
- The minority or women owner(s) must be an United States Citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident of the United States
- Firm must be organized as a for-profit business

The NCTRCA recognizes members of the following groups for certification purposes:

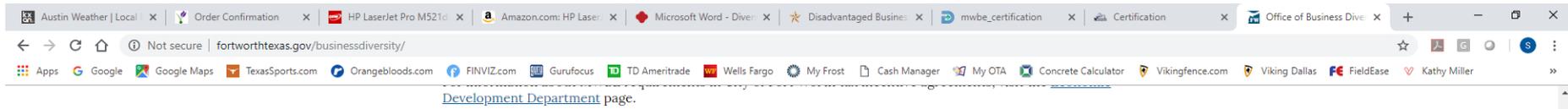
- Women
- Black Americans - persons with origins from any Black racial group of Africa;
- Hispanic Americans - persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central/South Americans, Spanish or Portuguese culture or origins, regardless of race.
- Native Americans - persons who are American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, or Native Hawaiians.
- Asian Pacific Americans - persons with origins from Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Japan, China, Taiwan, Laos, Cambodia, (Kampuchea), Vietnam, Korea, the Philippines, Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Macao, Nauru
- Asian Indian Americans - persons whose origins are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, the Maldives Islands or Nepal.

**All ethnic female owned firms are classified as MBEs. Only firms owned by Caucasian females are classified as WBEs.**

Link to Online Application Training for the Vendor B2GNow hosts free weekly trainings for our vendors to get a better understanding of the online application process. Click the link and when you get to the page look to the right of the login and you will find a link to register for free webinars.

Link to Online Application Training for the Vendor

# City of Fort Worth – MBE Policy



[Development Department](#) page.

## Certifications

### Minority- or Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE)

If your company is at least 51-percent owned and operated by one or more minorities or women or, for a publicly owned business, at least 51-percent ownership of the stock is held, your company qualifies as an M/WBE.

**The City of Fort Worth accepts certifications from the following agencies:**

North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency

Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Supplier Development Council

Women's Business Council – Southwest

### Small Business Enterprise (SBE)

The U.S. Small Business Administration can help small businesses qualify to compete for government contracts as a small business. Check out the size requirements to see if your business qualifies for these opportunities.

Become a certified SBE

### Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

The DBE program was designed to provide M/WBEs a level playing field when contracting on federally funded projects.

- [DBE Program Policy](#)
- [DBA Public Notice: DBE 3-Year FAA Methodology, Fiscal Year 2019-2021](#)

Become a certified DBE

Don't forget the most important requirement

Register as a city vendor



# City of San Antonio – Certification Reciprocity

**SAN ANTONIO**

GET CONNECTED RESIDENTS VISITORS BUSINESS YOUR GOVERNMENT ESPAÑOL

**TRANSPORTATION & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

sa.Gov Home > Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) > Current Vendor Resources > Small, Minority and Women-Owned Businesses > Small Business

## SMALL BUSINESS

- TCI HOME
- ABOUT TCI >
- CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES >
- CURRENT VENDOR RESOURCES >
- FAQ AND RESOURCES >
- FIBER DEPLOYMENT
- NEWS & INFORMATION >
- PROJECTS & MAINTENANCE >
- SERVICES >
- STORM WATER UTILITY FEE
- VISION ZERO INITIATIVE
- SA.GOV RELATED SITES
- 2017 BOND PROGRAM
- 2012 BOND PROGRAM
- 2007 BOND PROGRAM
- DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
- DISABILITY ACCESS OFFICE
- SAN ANTONIO FLOOD EMERGENCY
- OFFICE

Physical Address  
Municipal Plaza Building  
114 W. Commerce, 5th Floor  
San Antonio, TX 78205

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 839966  
San Antonio, TX 78283-3966

Phone  
210.207.8140

**STAFF**

**RAZI HOSSEINI, P.E.**  
Interim Director/City Engineer

**ANTHONY CHUKWUDOLUE, P.E.**  
Deputy Director

The City of San Antonio encourages contracting opportunities and provides assistance to small, minority and women-owned businesses. Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) and the Economic Development Department work closely together to advocate for small businesses in San Antonio. TCI is committed to the success of the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Program, which is administered by the Small Business team for the department.

### DIVISION OBJECTIVES

In an effort to ensure broad participation in City contracts, bid information is distributed to small, minority and women-owned business enterprises (S/M/WBEs), making them aware of contracting opportunities. Information about SBEDA initiatives and requirements is disseminated at pre-bid and post-award conferences, by responding to information requests and by coordinating and participating in outreach efforts.

The City of San Antonio adopted a [Diversity Action Plan](#) (PDF) in early 2013. This Plan is designed to increase the numbers of S/M/WBEs consulting, contracting and subcontracting with the City to mirror the diversity of the business community. Also included as part of the Diversity Action Plan is the [Pilot Loan Program](#) (pdf), which assists S/M/WBEs with obtaining a line of credit.

S/M/WBE participation in all design and construction projects is reviewed, tracked and reported to ensure compliance with the Small Business Program. Project Managers and client departments receive guidance on S/M/WBE inclusion during the goal setting process.

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

- [SBEDA Waiver Documentation](#) (PDF)
- One-on-one assistance with contractors and consultants
- Assistance with S/M/WBE certification
- Guidance on how to register in the City's Central Vendor Registry
- Assistance with National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) Codes
- SBEDA eligibility and compliance guidance
- Assistance with SBEDA Subcontractor/Supplier Utilization Forms



GET REGISTERED GET CERTIFIED RESOURCES

**GET CERTIFIED**

The City of San Antonio recognizes certified S/M/WBEs through the [South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency \(SCTRCA\)](#).

- [SCTRCA Certification Application](#) (PDF)

### DIVISION CONTACT INFORMATION

**SBEDA**  
210.207.5896

Contact [Courtney McClure](#), Diversity Coordinator

# City of Austin – MBE Policies

CPL - Medical Testing Laborator... Sonic Healthcare USA: Online F... ASD: Calendar: 2019-2019V4... Small, Minority and Women-O... Certification Process... mmbc... smdc - Google Search... NEHA COA Disparity DR#41.1... Certification | Small and Minori... Certification

Not secure | www.austintexas.gov/department/certification

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Resident Business Development Government Environment

Department » Small And Minority Business » Divisions » Certification

Department Home  
Certification  
FAQ

**KEEP IT CURRENT**

email address  
phone number  
fax number

**Small and Minority Business Resources**

**CERTIFICATION**

The Small & Minority Business Resources Department's (SMBR) Certification division verifies that the minority or women business applicant owns, manages, and controls the day-to-day operations of the for-profit business in compliance with our Code of Ordinances.

**Please note: Certification with the City of Austin is a free service. SMBR only certifies qualified minority- and/or women-owned business enterprises.**

Types of Certifications offered to qualified small minority and/or women owned businesses.

- Minority- and/or Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE). MBE/WBE certification is used for City of Austin-funded projects. Note: the City of Austin does not accept Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) certification for City-funded projects.
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE). DBE certification can be used for federally-funded aviation, transportation, and highway projects around the State of Texas. Notify SMBR if you wish to use DBE or ACDBE certification outside of Texas.
- Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE). ACDBE certification is awarded to firms who provide support or concessions in or around a federally-funded airport. ACDBE and DBE certification both use the same application.
- Small Business Enterprise (SBE). Our SBE certification is a race and gender neutral program for single scoped City-funded construction projects.

**Minority-Owned/Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) General Eligibility Requirements:**

- Fifty-one percent owned, managed, and controlled by an economically and socially disadvantaged individual
  - Asian-American, African-American, Native American, Hispanic, or a Women
- Small business as defined by Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Personal Net Worth Limits \$1,540,000.
- Must have a facility located in the State of Texas.

**Minority-Owned/Women-Owned Business Enterprise Certification Application (New Applicants)**

- Summary Page
- MBE/WBE Certification Application
- Statement of Ethnicity
- Personal Net Worth (PNW) Statement (Instructions and form)

**Alternative Personal Net Worth (PNW) forms**

- Alternate Personal Net Worth Verification
- Tax Return Submission Statement

**Minority-Owned/Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Update Affidavit (Annual Update for Certified firms)**

- MBE/WBE Annual Update Affidavit
- Copy of current Business Tax Returns

**TOP CONTENT**

- Certification
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
- Certification for Small Business Enterprise (SBE)
- About Small & Minority Business Resources
- Contract Compliance

**CONTACT INFO**

Phone: 512-974-7645  
Fax: 512-974-7908  
Email

**MBE/WBE/DBE Certified Vendor Search**

A listing of SMBR's certified Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE), Women-Owned Business Enterprises (WBE) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)

**SBE Certified Vendors**

A directory of Small Business Enterprises (SBEs) certified by the City of Austin's Small & Minority Business Resources Department (SMBR)

Type here to search

10:57 PM 3/15/2019

**BACKUP – COMPLETE 2015 DISPARITY  
STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS**

# 2015 Disparity Study – complete recommendations (page 32)

K. Recommendations for Revised Contracting Policies and Procedures. Finally, in Chapter IX we present the following suggested recommendations for revised contracting policies and procedures, based upon the Study's results and findings and upon our views on best practices for contracting diversity programs.

## 1. Race- and Gender-Neutral Recommendations

- **Increase Efforts to Ensure Prompt Payment on City of Austin Contracts**
- **Ensure Bidder Non-Discrimination**
- **Review Surety Bonding, Insurance and Experience Requirements**
- **Increase Contract Unbundling**
- **Provide Greater Access to Information for Upcoming Contract Opportunities**
- **Facilitate Increased Access to Capital**
- **Adopt a Mentor-Protégé Program**
- **Continue to Provide Supportive Services for Construction Firms and Expand Supportive Services for Non-Construction Firms**
- **Implement a Small Local Business Enterprise Program**
- **Initiate Recordkeeping for Third Party Contracts**

# 2015 Disparity Study – complete recommendations (page 32) - continued

## 2. Race- and Gender-Conscious Remedies

- **Adopt a Renewed M/WBE Ordinance and Accompanying Program Regulations**
  - Tailor the MWBE Ordinance to the Specific Type of Procurement
  - Revise Certification Eligibility Standards
  - Adopt a social disadvantage test
  - Adopt an economic disadvantage test
  - **Review firm size standards**
  - Review the certification period
  - Certification database and outreach
  - **Consider reciprocal certification opportunities**
  - Contract Award Policies and Procedures
  - Standardize Good Faith Efforts waiver requirements and related policies
  - Standardize M/WBE Program implementation across City departments
  - **Scrutinize Commercially Useful Function and increase contract monitoring**
- 
- M/WBE Goal-Setting
  - Adopt annual aspirational M/WBE goals
  - Revise the method for counting M/WBE prime participation towards meeting

### M/WBE goals

- Count lower tier M/WBE participation towards meeting M/WBE goals
- **Continue to set contract-specific goals**
- Consider the effects of discrimination on current levels of availability when setting M/WBE goals

### Clarify SMBR Authority

- Review Sanctions Policy
- Continue the M/WBE Program Sunset Review Process