

The Metropolitan Council wants to work with YOU

Small business engagement and development program

The Metropolitan Council is committed to utilizing certified small businesses and businesses owned and controlled by Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, and Asian individuals in our procurement and contracting efforts.

To support that commitment, the Met Council facilitates participation through the following small business development programs through our Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity:

- The **Disadvantaged Business Program (DBE)** for contracts and procurements made with federal money
- The **Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business Program (MCUB)** for contracts and procurements made with local money

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity works to boost competition and provide supportive services to certified small businesses and businesses owned and controlled by Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, and Asian individuals through training, education, one-on-one technical assistance, and other services that help these businesses compete more effectively on Met Council contracts and subcontracts.

Programs and services offered at no cost to you by the Met Council individually or in conjunction with other partner organizations, state agencies, and businesses include:

- Newly certified orientation
- Business development services
- Mentor protégé program
- One-on-one technical assistance
- Meet-and-greet and networking events
- Bid information

If you have any questions regarding the Met Council's small business engagement and development program, please contact the Engagement and Development Unit (EDU) in the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity via email at EDU@metc.state.mn.us or phone at 651-392-5734.

MCUB program opportunities

The Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) program is designed to help Minnesota-based businesses owned and operated by women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities stand out when vying for public contracts.

The Met Council aims to direct at least 10% of its locally funded annual spending on goods and services and 14% on construction services toward MCUB firms. The Met Council has developed three procurement programs to increase opportunities for MCUB firms:

- **MCUB Direct**
Allows for spending up to \$25,000 without a competitive solicitation
- **MCUB Select**
Allows for solicitations up to \$175,000 to only MCUB firms
- **MCUB Preference**
Allows for a 6% price preference to MCUB firms for sealed bids and quotes

To qualify as an MCUB, the business must be based in Minnesota and have an active certification from one of these programs:

- **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)**
- **Targeted Group Business**
- **CERT certified women-owned or minority-owned only**
- **Veteran-owned business**

The Minnesota Department of Administration has created a one-stop-shop certification portal for businesses to apply for these programs. To learn more, visit: sbcp.mn.gov.

To learn more about the MCUB program, visit: metro council.org/mcub.