

PARTICIPATION BY MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES  
AND WOMAN OWNED BUSINESSES

Pursuant to M.G.L. C.7C, § 6, Executive Orders 526,559 and 565, the Commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), as designee of the Secretary of Administration and Finance, has developed the following goals and procedures to encourage full participation by minority business enterprises (MBEs) and women businesses enterprises (WBEs) (collectively MBE/WBEs) on contracts for design services entered into by DCAMM and other public awarding authorities with MBE/WBE Participation Programs.

GOALS

*Subject to the terms of this memorandum*, the following MBE/WBE participation goals shall apply to the total dollar value of all study and design contracts awarded for DCAMM projects:

The Minority Business Enterprise and Women Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) participation goal is a combined goal of 17.9%.

Applicants must utilize a mix of both MBE and WBE firms whose participation, when added together, meets the overall combined goal set for the Contract. The combined goal requires a reasonable representation of both MBE and WBE firm participation. The Combined MBE/WBE goal must be met within the list of requested prime and sub-consultants. All applicants must indicate in the prime firm's application how they or their consultants will meet these goals and will be evaluated on that basis.

Applications from MBE and WBE firms as prime consultant are encouraged. Applicants that are themselves MBE or WBE certified will be required to bring a reasonable amount of participation by a firm(s) that holds the certification which is not held by the applicant to the project. Proposed MBE/WBE participation plans that include solely MBE or solely WBE participation, or have only nominal participation by one or the other to meet the combined goal, will not be considered responsive. Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize multiple disciplines and firms to meet the MBE/WBE goal. Consultants to the prime can team within their disciplines in order to meet the MBE/WBE goal, but must state this relationship on the organizational chart.

If the contracting design firm is not itself an MBE or WBE, then MBE/WBE participation credit will be given for the value of any work under the contract that is actually performed by each MBE or WBE consultant, subcontractor or sub-consultant (hereafter "subcontractors") to the Designer.

Although the contract contains a combined goal, participation by MBE and WBE firms must be reported and tracked separately.

MODIFICATION OF M/WBE PARTICIPATION GOALS FOR PARTICULAR PROJECTS

DCAMM reserves the right to reduce or waive the MBE/WBE participation goals stated above for a particular project prior to the receipt of applications to the Designer Selection Board upon its own initiative or upon the request of any applicant if DCAMM determines that it is not feasible for a non-MBE/WBE design firm to meet the MBE/WBE goal established for the project based upon any or all of the following: (i) actual MBE/WBE availability, (ii) the geographic location of the project to the extent related to MBE/WBE availability, (iii) the contractual scope of work, (iv) the percentage of work available for subcontracting to MBE/WBEs, or (v) other relevant factors as determined by DCAMM.

The MBE/WBE participation goals established for each project are set forth in the Designer Selection Board Project Criteria published for that project.

After a project is advertised, requests from prospective applicants to reduce or waive the MBE/WBE participation goals for that project, with all supporting documentation, must be submitted with the application, with a copy to DCAMM's Compliance Office, One Ashburton Place, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02108. Except as provided below, DCAMM will not consider any request to reduce or waive the MBE/WBE participation goals for a project if the request is received after this deadline.

## DETERMINATION OF MBE/WBE STATUS

A minority owned business shall be considered an MBE only if it has been certified as a minority owned business by the Supplier Diversity Office (“SDO”) (formerly SOMWBA). A woman owned business shall be considered a WBE only if it has been certified as a woman owned business by SDO. Certification as a disadvantaged business enterprise (“DBE”), certification as an MBE/WBE by any agency other than SDO, or submission of an application to SDO for certification as an MBE/WBE shall not confer MBE/WBE status on a firm.

Minority owned businesses and woman owned businesses are strongly encouraged to submit applications for certification as MBE/WBEs to SDO. Information is available from SDO, One Ashburton Place, 13th Floor, Boston, MA 02108 (617) 502-8831 and at [www.mass.gov/sdo](http://www.mass.gov/sdo)

## IDENTIFICATION OF MBE/WBE PARTICIPANTS BY THE SELECTED DESIGNER

**The current SDO Certification Letters showing that the MBE/WBE is certified in the area of work for which it is listed on the application must be submitted for each and every MBE and WBE firm listed on the application, and must be submitted with the application.**

Not later than five (5) working days after the Designer receives notice of selection for the advertised project, (A-5 Letter), the Designer shall submit to DCAMM’s Compliance Office (i) a Letter of Intent for each of the M/WBEs that will perform work under the contract, and (ii) a Schedule of MBE/WBE Participation. The form of Letter of Intent and Schedule of MBE/WBE Participation are included in this application package.

Within five (5) working days after receipt of the Letters of Intent, DCAMM’s Compliance Office shall review and either approve or disapprove the Designer’s submissions. Without limitation, DCAMM reserves the right to reject the Letter of Intent of any MBE/WBE that is to perform work in a category that is not listed in its SDO certification, or if the price to be paid for the MBE/WBE Work as stated in the Letter of Intent does not bear a reasonable relationship to the value of such work as reasonably determined by DCAMM. If the Designer has not submitted an appropriate Schedule of MBE/WBE Participation and appropriate Letters of Intent and SDO certification letters establishing that the MBE/WBE participation goal for the project will be met, the Designer may be considered ineligible for award of the contract and DCAMM may award the contract to the second ranked Designer, subject to that Designer’s compliance with these conditions.

DCAMM reserves the right to reduce or waive the MBE/WBE participation goals for a project prior to the final selection of a designer, provided that no such reduction or waiver shall be granted except under the following circumstances: the Designer must establish and document that it has been unable to obtain commitments from MBE/WBE subcontractors sufficient to meet the MBE/WBE goals for the project after having made a diligent, good faith effort to do so; all such documentation must accompany the Designer’s request to reduce or waive the MBE/WBE participation goal submitted with its application and shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- A list of all items of work under the contract that the Designer made available for subcontracting to MBE/WBEs. The Designer shall identify all items of work that the Designer did not make so available and shall state the reasons for not making such work available for subcontracting to MBE/WBEs. The Designer shall also demonstrate that, where commercially reasonable, tasks were divided into units capable of being performed by MBE/WBEs.
- Evidence that the Designer sent written notices soliciting proposals to perform the items of work made available by the Designer for subcontracting to MBE/WBEs to all MBE/WBEs qualified to perform such work. The Designer shall identify (i) each MBE/WBE solicited, and (ii) each MBE/WBE listed in the SDO directory under the applicable work category who was not solicited and the reasons therefor. The Designer shall also state the dates notices were mailed and provide a copy of the written notice(s) sent.
- Evidence that the Designer made reasonable efforts to follow up the written notices sent to MBE/WBEs with telephone calls or personal visits in order to determine with certainty whether the MBE/WBEs were interested in performing the work. Phone logs or other documentation must be submitted.
- A statement of the response received from each MBE/WBE solicited, including the reason for rejecting any MBE/WBE who submitted a proposal.

- Evidence of efforts made to assist MBE/WBEs that need assistance in obtaining insurance, or lines of credit with suppliers if the inability of MBE/WBEs to obtain, insurance, or lines of credit is a reason given for the Designer's inability to meet the MBE/WBE goals.
- The Designer also shall submit any other information reasonably requested by DCAMM to show that the Designer has taken all actions which could be reasonably expected to achieve the MBE/WBE participation goals.

The Designer may submit any other information supporting its request for a waiver or reduction in the MBE/WBE participation goals, such as evidence that the Designer placed advertisements in appropriate media and trade association publications announcing the Designer's interest in obtaining proposals from MBE/WBEs, and/or sent written notification to MBE/WBE economic development assistance agencies, trade groups and other organizations notifying them of the contract and the work to be subcontracted by the Designer to MBE/WBEs.

Requests by a selected Designer to reduce or waive the M/WBE participation goals for a particular project based upon the Designer's inability to obtain commitments from MBE/WBE subcontractors sufficient to meet the MBE/WBE goals after having made a diligent, good faith effort to do so must be received by DCAMM not later than with that firm's application to the DSB.

The Designer's compliance with these procedures and goals is a prerequisite for award of the contract, provided that DCAMM reserves the right to waive minor defects in documents and extend time limits in its sole discretion.