

Management Committee

Meeting date: August 25, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 8, 2021

Subject: Commitment to Reducing Barriers and Increasing Opportunities for Small Targeted Group Businesses and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

District(s), Member(s): All Districts; All Members

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ 473.142, 16C.16

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jody Jacoby, Procurement Director, 651-602-1144

Division/Department: Regional Administration/Procurement

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached resolution (Resolution No. 2021-28) expressing the Metropolitan Council's commitment to reducing barriers and increasing opportunities for small targeted group businesses and veteran-owned small businesses participating in the Metropolitan Council's Underutilized Business (MCUB) Program by directing staff to utilize the tools and best practices available to them, including implementation of up to a 6 percent preference in the amount bid for specified goods and services as permitted by statute.

Background

The Council establishes Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals for federally funded projects. The Council's MCUB Program helps traditionally underutilized small businesses participate in Council contracting opportunities that are not federally funded.

Minnesota Statutes section 473.142(a) authorizes the Council to award up to a six percent preference in the amount bid for specified goods or services to small targeted group businesses and veteran-owned small businesses. Small targeted group businesses are businesses that are majority owned and operated by women, persons with a substantial physical disability, or specific minorities as targeted group businesses within purchasing categories. In order to participate in this program a small targeted group business must qualify as an MCUB. A veteran-owned business means a business that is certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The Council has not previously implemented this section of 473.142.

Rationale

This Resolution is intended to acknowledge the Council's commitment to reducing barriers and increasing opportunities for these businesses by utilizing the tools and best practices available, including the six percent preference.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The focus on utilizing existing tools available to promote MCUB participation is consistent with the Council's *Thrive* Equity Outcome and will promote equity by using the Council's influence and investments to build a more equitable region.

Funding

No funding is tied to the proposed action. Funding for individual procurements are covered in the Council's budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-28

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO REDUCING BARRIERS AND INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES PARTICIPATING IN THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL'S UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Council is committed to reducing barriers and increasing opportunities for small targeted group businesses and veteran-owned small businesses participating in the Metropolitan Council's Underutilized Business (MCUB) Program; and

WHEREAS the Council's procurement policies and procedures do not currently utilize the statutory authorization of Minnesota Statutes section 473.142(a), to award up to a six percent preference in the amount bid for specified goods or services to small targeted group businesses and veteran-owned small businesses participating in the MCUB Program; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires that staff utilize this and other tools available to it under state law to more actively promote inclusive contract outcomes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Metropolitan Council directs staff to utilize the statutory tools and best practices available to them to reduce barriers and increase opportunities for small targeted group businesses and veteran-owned small businesses participating in the MCUB Program, including implementation of up to a 6 percent preference in the amount bid for specified goods and services as permitted by statute.

Adopted this ___ day of September, 2021.

Charles A. Zelle

Liz Sund, Recording Secretary