

# Information Item

Management Committee



Meeting Date: May 25, 2022

## Topic

Metropolitan Council Division/Department Diverse Spend Plans

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** OEO 5-1 Inclusion of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBEs) and Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUBs) Policy

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Cyrenthia Jordan, OEEEO Director, 651-602-1085; Ashanti Payne, OEEEO Assistant Director, 651-602-7660

**Division/Department:** Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEEO)

## Background

The Metropolitan Council recognizes its role as public policy makers in enacting policy that serve to eliminate the effects of illegal discrimination. The Council has previously approved several policies that clearly state its commitment to the prohibition of discrimination in employment and the provision of public services. This initiative supports the Council's commitment to create and support programs that result in the inclusion of women-owned, minority-owned, and other small, disadvantaged businesses in its procurement and contracting activities.

To help ensure equity, the Council utilizes certified small businesses in the procurement of goods and services and the award of contracts. The Council establishes inclusion goals on construction contracts, contracts for consultant, professional, or technical services and contracts that provide subcontract opportunities. Where feasible, the Council utilizes a sheltered market solicitation approach, and encourage its grant recipients to engage in efforts to solicit and include certified small businesses and to report to the Council the results of these efforts. The Council sets benchmarks to track and measure its efforts to include certified small businesses across its divisions. This effort will help establish and support the following objectives:

- Make clear to staff, the public and anyone who expects to do business with the Council, that the Council is committed to providing opportunities to certified small business;
- Provide guidance to staff on the solicitation, evaluation and award of contracts, bids, proposals, quotes, or grants to facilitate the inclusion of certified small businesses;
- Implement additional mechanisms to facilitate the inclusion of certified small businesses, such as division-specific inclusion benchmarks;
- Ensure that certified small businesses are not discriminated against or excluded from participating in the award of Council procurements.