

**2023 Environmental Protection Agency
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Utilization Report Summary**

The Metropolitan Council has a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal of 11% for the triennial period of 2021 – 2023.

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) is responsible for reporting annual DBE utilization to the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) in October of each calendar year. PFA then forwards the report to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA reviews the yearly utilization and compares it to the Council’s aspirational triennial goal. In 2019, the EPA did away with Fair Share Goals, but the OEEO still breaks it down by WBE/MBE to better understand the data.

This summary includes the report information for October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023. Utilization percentages are calculated by dividing the amounts paid to DBE firms by the cumulative disbursement amount for the applicable reporting period.

Metropolitan Council achieved **9.42%** (**4.03% MBE / 5.39% WBE**) DBE utilization on ES projects this reporting period.

| | Construction | Supplies | Services | Total | Utilization |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| MBE | \$1,483,696.40 | \$168,464.15 | \$329,291.19 | \$1,981,455.74 | 4.03% |
| WBE | \$1,874,603.84 | \$161,532.46 | \$617,480.34 | \$2,653,616.64 | 5.39% |

\$ 4,635,072.38

Total Disbursement = \$49,194,650.00 9.42%

DBE Payments Breakdown

| | Women | Minority | Total Dollars | # Women firms | # Minority Firms | Total # of Sub-Contracts | % of DBE Total |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Black | \$145.00 | \$25,704.17 | \$25,849.17 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0.56 |
| Hispanic | \$39,117.66 | \$395,693.36 | \$434,811.02 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 9.38 |
| Native American | | \$678,560.69 | \$678,560.69 | | 3 | | 14.64 |
| Asian-Pacific | \$127,113.73 | \$628,765.56 | \$755,879.29 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 16.31 |
| Subcontinental Asian | | \$86,355.57 | \$86,355.57 | | 2 | 8 | 1.86 |
| Caucasian | \$2,653,616.64 | | \$2,653,616.64 | 35 | | 72 | 57.25 |
| Total | \$2,819,993.03 | \$1,815,079.35 | \$4,635,072.38 | 40 | 16 | 109 | 100% |

The payments made in this reporting period reflect projects that are currently in process stemming from as far back as 2013. In fact, the projects include: 1-2013, 4-2015, 4-2016, 1-2017, 9-2018, 3-2019, 4-2020 and 7-2021.

DBE payments in 2023 were nearly \$2.4M less than in 2022. PFA total disbursement in 2023 was roughly \$9M more than in 2022. This resulted in less DBE achievement than in the 2022 report. While overall DBE spend was down, the spend with WBE and MBE firms was much more evenly distributed than in previous years. Historically, WBE spend across all categories has been much higher than MBE spend.

In 2022 DBE supply spend was roughly \$1.4M. However, in 2023 the spend for DBE supplies was significantly less at roughly \$330K. This loss of roughly \$1M in supply spending drastically dropped the overall achievement. Had DBE supply spend been like that in 2022, the overall achievement would have been roughly 11.45%.

In reviewing the firms that are listed as having received payments, OEEO found that of the nearly \$1.5M of construction payments that went to MBE firms, roughly \$1.27M (or 85%) of that was performed by three contractors (Bald Eagle, Castrejohn Inc. and Restoration & Construction Services). In contrast, the roughly \$1.9M of construction payments that went to WBE firms, was spread out among 25 WBE firms.

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity acknowledges a shortfall in meeting the overall Triennial Goal of 11% for this reporting period. Moving forward, the OEEO Small Business Unit, along with the OEEO Engagement and Development Unit, will continue their efforts to develop a more targeted business outreach approach to specifically touch the communities underrepresented in this report. It is critical to create education and awareness that will yield an increase not only in the number of firms participating in Council Environmental Service contracts but also an increase in the total overall spend.

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