Capacity Building Mentorship Program

FAQ'S

Q: WHAT IS THE CAPACITY BUILDING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM?
A: The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) created the Capacity Building Mentorship Program, previously called the Mentor Protégé Program, in response to the Governor's Results Washington Goals diverse business participation goals, as follows:
- Minority Business Enterprise 10%
- Small Businesses 5%
- Veteran Owned Businesses 5%
- Women's Business Enterprise 6%

This program is part of WSDOT's State Funded Diversity Roadmap.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM?
A: WSDOT’s Capacity Building Mentorship Program is transitioning from its partnership with THOR Construction to the Tacoma Minority Business Development Agency. Additionally, Sound Transit is partnering with WSDOT to expand the pool of applicants. Another round of applicants will be accepted this spring.

Q: IF I AM CURRENTLY IN THE PROGRAM AND SATISFIED WITH MY MENTOR/PROTÉGÉ, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?
A: You may continue with your partnership and monthly reporting.

Q: HOW DO I FIND A MENTOR?
A: WSDOT, Sound Transit and the Minority Business Development Agency are currently planning the next round of pairing. More information will be made available shortly.

Q: CAN A PROTÉGÉ FIRM BE A MENTOR?
A: Yes, a Protégé can also serve as a Mentor. Larger Mentors are able to have more than one Protégé. Due to current demand, Protégés are only able to have one Mentor.

Q: ONCE MY FIRM IS IN AN ESTABLISHED MENTOR PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIP, ARE THERE OTHER REQUIREMENTS THAT MY FIRM MUST FULFILL?
A: Per the program requirements, participating firms must report monthly on the progress made under their Memorandum of Understanding.

Q: HOW LONG DOES IT TYPICALLY TAKE TO GET AN APPLICATION APPROVED?
A: Mentor and Protégé firms must complete the application process. Additionally, Protégé firms must be interviewed and their organization assessed for areas the Mentor and Protégé should focus on.

Q: WHO DO I CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROGRAM?
For more information, please contact Linda Womack, Director of the Minority Business Development Agency – Tacoma Business Center at MBDA@CityofTacoma.org or 253-591-5239.

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