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Definition: Just and fair inclusion.

Equity creates a path from hope to change.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE NEW ORLEANS ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER SMALL AND EMERGING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Introduction

The Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority (the “Authority”), the governing board for the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (“MCCNO” or “Convention Center”), is committed to ensuring equity in economic opportunities available at the Convention Center. Through its policies, procedures and the Small and Emerging Business Opportunity Program (the “Program”), the Authority seeks to promote contractor, subcontractor, vendor and supplier opportunities for Hudson-certified Small and Emerging Businesses (“SEB”) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (“DBE”) (collectively, "eligible business enterprises" or “EBEs”).

The Authority recognizes that this opportunity for the participation in our free enterprise system by SEBs and DBEs is essential to achieving social and economic equality and overcoming historical disparities. The Program ensures that the Authority not only contributes to the economic vitality of the communities that we serve, but our organization also benefits directly from a broader selection of competitively priced goods and services.

The Authority employs two separate, but related programmatic tracts, which together comprise the Small and Emerging Business Opportunity Program – *the Set-Aside DBE Program and the SEB/DBE Program*. Both program tracts are designed to create effective processes to increase the purchase of goods and services from small, emerging and disadvantaged businesses.

About the Set-Aside DBE Program

The Set-Aside DBE Program is state-mandated program designed to accomplish the following:

(i) to designate and set aside for awarding to DBEs not less than **thirty percent (30%) of anticipated local procurement of goods and services** (with “local” meaning within the State of Louisiana). This includes contracts for personal and professional services for any expansion project, based upon the total value of such procurement. This Program also encourages all entities associated with the Authority to commit to similar outreach and efforts; and

(ii) to designate and set aside for awarding to DBEs not less than **twenty percent (20%) of the construction contracts** of any expansion project, based upon the total value of such contracts, and to encourage all entities associated with the Authority to commit to similar outreach and



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efforts.

In accordance with *La. R.S. 33:4710.28 and 38:2233.2*, the Authority, each fiscal year, shall designate and set-aside for awarding to DBEs an amount not less than thirty percent (30%) of the value of the Authority's anticipated local procurement of goods and services, and an amount not less than twenty percent (20%) of the Authority's construction contracts of any convention center expansion project.

About the SEB/DBE Program

The SEB/DBE Program is designed to accomplish the following:

(i) to promote equitable and increased opportunities for SEBs certified and participating in the State of Louisiana's Hudson Initiative/Small Entrepreneurship Program in order to facilitate economic development throughout the State of Louisiana, and to encourage all entities associated with the Authority's procurement and contracting opportunities to commit to similar outreach and efforts; and

(ii) to encourage, assist and sustain business development of under-represented populations and to maximize the use of State and City-based labor, local professional and construction-related business enterprises.

If a contract opportunity is not designated as a set-aside DBE contract by the Authority, and that contract is (i) a **goods/supplies contract that exceeds \$30,000**; (ii) a **construction contract that exceeds the contract limit as that term is defined in La. R.S. 38:2212(C) and as shall be adjusted yearly by the Office of Facility Planning and Control within the Louisiana Division of Administration with the 2019 limit being \$157,700** or (iii) a **personal/professional services contract that exceeds \$100,000**, then the Authority shall set a goal for SEB and/or DBE participation on a project/contract specific basis based on the scope of work, goods or services to be provided and the readiness, willingness and availability of SEBs and/or DBEs to participate. Goals for each project are established by a contract review committee appointed by the Authority.

MCCNO's Program is designed to strengthen our organization and our communities by proactively seeking EBEs who represent the communities that MCCNO serves. By providing equitable opportunities for small and diverse suppliers, MCCNO derives multiple benefits. The Program is integrated as part of our management team's daily business activities. Through the Program, our sourcing teams and business units are able to build relationships with EBEs and facilitate access to bid and contract opportunities through a combination of:



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Good Faith Efforts

All Authority vendors and contractors are expected to comply with the requirements of the Program, and to engage in certain minimal “Good Faith Efforts” to meet and maintain the goals set forth in the Program and established by the contract review committee for each contract. The Authority may require submission of compliance forms at the time of submission of a response to a solicitation and during the term of the contract with the Authority.

Certification of DBEs and SEBs

The Authority is not a DBE or SEB certifying agency. Businesses seeking certification may do so through the City of New Orleans, Harrah’s Casino, Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans, the New Orleans Aviation Board, or the Louisiana State Department of Transportation, for DBE designation, or through The State of Louisiana Department of Economic Development as the authorizing agent for SEB designation.

Counting Participation

Under the Program, both Tier 1 (prime or Joint Venture) and Tier 2 (subcontractor or supplier) spend shall count towards meeting and maintaining the goals set forth in the Program and established by the contract review committee for each contract. All participation must be for commercially useful functions. Brokers shall not be counted towards meeting participation goals.

Sanctions

The Authority shall have the ability and power to enforce the provisions of the Program in accordance with the rules and procedures it has promulgated.

Small and Emerging Business Program Director

The Authority’s Small and Emerging Business Program Director (“SEBPD”) will assist in the ongoing development, execution and implementation of the Set-Aside DBE Program and the SEB/DBE Program. Contractors and vendors with questions or concerns about the Program should email us at SmallBusinessProgram@mccno.com.