



Mentor Protégé Program

City of New Orleans
September 24, 2024

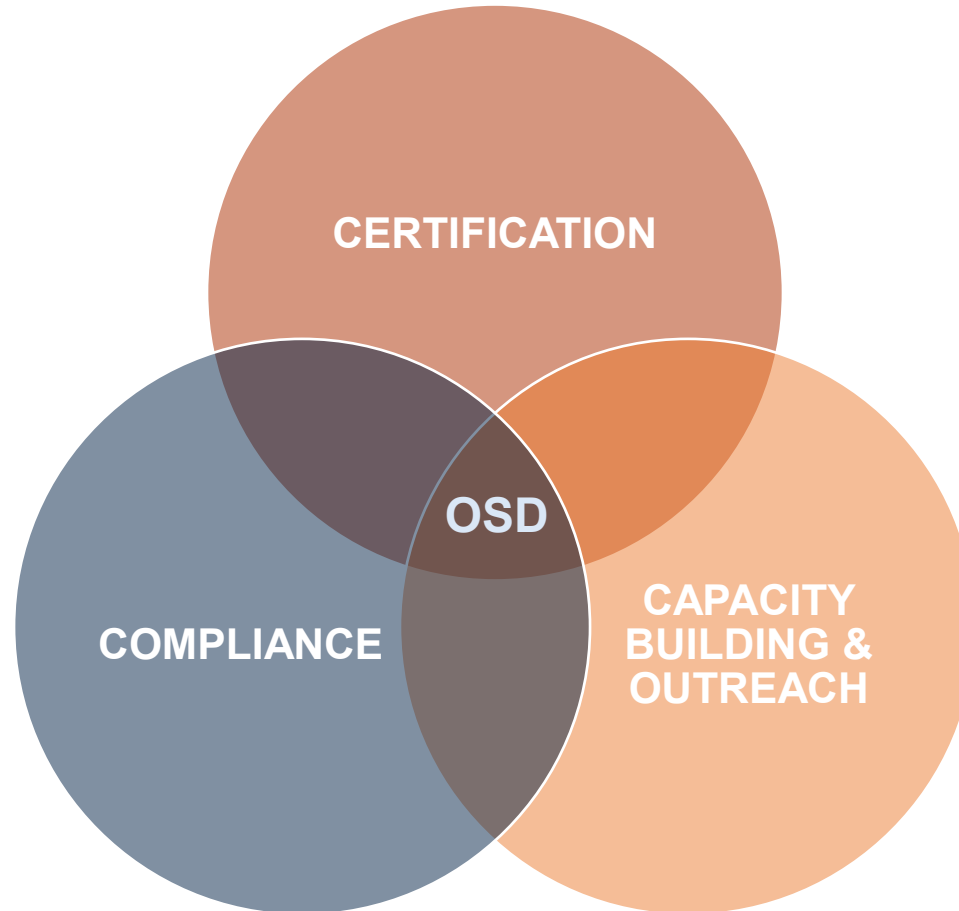
Equitable Business Opportunities (EBO) Program

Administered through the Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD), the Equitable Business Opportunities Program was established to assist underserved, underutilized, and disadvantaged businesses with gaining greater access to procurement opportunities and resources to build competitively viable and sustainable businesses in and for the City of New Orleans.

City of New Orleans Code of Ordinances – Part II, Chapter 70, Art. IV, Div. 2

Office of Supplier Diversity

The Office of Supplier Diversity oversees certification, compliance, outreach, training and capacity building for local, small and disadvantaged businesses in the City of New Orleans.



Capacity Building Measure

Mentor-Protégé Program

The Mentor-Protégé Program was developed to enhance the capacity of state & local disadvantaged business enterprises (SLDBE). Through hands-on training experience, the Program strives to develop working relationships between SLDBE firms and prime contracting firms that have successfully participated in and/or completed municipal contracts.

Mentor-Protégé Program

The Importance of Mentorship

Knowledge Transfer

- Mentors share their experiences, skills, and insights, helping mentees navigate challenges more effectively.

Skill Development

- Mentorship provides tailored guidance, helping mentees develop specific skills needed for their industry or business.

Accountability

- A mentor can hold mentees accountable for their goals and progress, promoting a disciplined approach to business growth.

Strategic Planning

- Experienced mentors can offer perspectives that improve decision-making, reducing the likelihood of costly mistakes.

Enhanced Decision-Making

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Mentor-Protégé Program

Key Program Requirements

Participation

- The Mentor-Protégé Program is voluntary for all firms

Eligibility

- Mentor firms must have graduated from the City's SLDBE program
- Protégés on the other hand must have a current SLDBE certification from the City of New Orleans.

Submission

- Both Mentor & Protégé firms must submit capability statements.
- A written development plan must be completed jointly by both parties and the plan must be approved by the Office of Supplier Diversity.

Reporting

- During the term of the Mentor-Protégé agreement, the Mentor Firm and Protégé Firm must each provide to the Office of Supplier Diversity a quarterly summary of the skill-building and technical assistance opportunities provided to the protégé

Mentor-Protégé Program

Program Duration

Inaugural Cohort - October 2024

Protégé Firms

- Program participation for up to **two (2) thirty-six (36) month terms (total of 72 months)**, provided that the Protege Firm continues to meet the eligibility of the Program, and further provided that it recertifies as a DBE annually as required by the city's EBO Program.

Mentor Firms

- Program participation will automatically be recertified as a DBE under the city's EBO Program for **up to 10 years**, provided that they apply for recertification on an annual basis and provide sufficient evidence of an ongoing Mentor-Protege relationship. Failure to comply with the Mentor-Protege written development plan as approved by the City's Office of Supplier Diversity may result in a Mentor Firm losing its DBE certification.

Mentor-Protégé Program

Program Incentives

Extended SLDBE Eligibility:

- Mentor Firms can qualify for the SLDBE Program for up to 10 additional years.

Enhanced Evaluation Points:

- Participants will receive extra points on the DBE evaluation, improving their competitiveness in contract bidding.

Favorable Payment Terms:

- Participants will benefit from net 15 payment terms, giving them the ability to enhance cash flow and financial stability.

Mentor-Protégé Program

Program Benefits

Creating and Strengthening Relationships

- The program facilitates meaningful connections between established and emerging businesses, paving the way for collaboration and mutual growth.

Expanding Opportunities

- Participants will gain enhanced access to City contracts and projects, increasing visibility and the potential for future work.

Enhancing Capabilities

- Designed to bolster the skills and knowledge of Small and Local Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (SLDBEs), the program equips firms with the tools needed to excel in the business world.

Broadening the Pool of Qualified DBEs

- By joining, businesses will help expand the pool of qualified DBEs available for various types of work on City projects, promoting a more inclusive contracting environment.

Mentor-Protégé Program

Summary

The Mentor Protégé Program is an excellent resource for certified SLDBE firms to take advantage and it's a great opportunity for firms who have graduated from the program to reach back and help to pull up other small businesses by sharing their knowledge & expertise.

Furthermore, the Mentor-Protégé Program encourages DBEs to bid as prime contractors on City contracts, opening additional avenues for business growth. By leveraging these benefits, mentorship significantly enhances the potential for sustainable business growth and success.

The City of New Orleans is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive business ecosystem in New Orleans. The Mentor-Protégé Program will not only empower DBEs but will also strengthen our local economy by building a strong network of skilled contractors.

City of New Orleans Set-Aside

Program Info

The Set-Aside Program is an initiative of Council President Moreno, that allows the City of New Orleans to allocate up to 25% of its contracts for the procurement of goods, services, and construction work to socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs). This initiative ensures that certified DBEs can compete for designated contracts among themselves, rather than against larger or prime contractors. The Set-Aside Program aims to catalyze long-term growth and give new energy to our local businesses by building long-term wealth for minority entrepreneurs and small businesses by leveling the playing field for disadvantaged business enterprises who wish to do business with the City. This is a goal that benefits us all in the city of New Orleans.

To participate in the Set-Aside program, vendors must be certified DBEs, and they must register online through our supplier portal BRASS. This portal allows vendors to receive solicitations, upload invoices, set up direct deposit, and view and print payment info. The City of New Orleans-Bureau of Purchasing helps with registration via phone (504) 658-1550.

For more information



QR Code – Doing Business with the City

DBE?

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise

Get Certified

