

OFFICE OF SUPPLIER DIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

As the Office of Supplier Diversity enters the fourth & final quarter of the year, we are excited to continue fostering growth, connection, and opportunity. As we kick off the month of October, the City of New Orleans' Office of Supplier Diversity has partnered with the University of New Orleans for a three three-part series: **AI Essentials for Small Business Owners**, hosted by the the Henry Bernstein College of Business Administration. *Part 1* **October 1st** and *Part 2* **October 23rd**. In addition, SCORE will lead a **Capability Statement Workshop - October 9th** to help sharpen your competitive edge. Mid-month, our Certification Team will partner with Propeller to host our quarterly **CertiFest - October 16th**.

On **November 5th**, Mark Samuel, with the Southern Region Minority Supplier Development Council (SRMSDC), will present a webinar on "*Enhancing Business Services*." This session is designed to strengthen small business capacity and expand opportunities through corporate partnerships. Then, on **November 13th**, the University of New Orleans presents *Part 3 "AI Essentials for Small Business Owners."* Lastly, we close out the month with our "DBE Bootcamp" on **November 21st**. In partnership with Propeller and the Office of Supplier Diversity, the Bureau of Purchasing will host a hands-on, informational training session on navigating the City's procurement process from start to finish.

Finally, in **December**, we turn the page with excitement as we officially announce the 2026 cohort at our "Meet the Mentor-Protégé" event on **December 4th**. This event will bring together our next cohort of small business mentors and protégés with City Departments, partner agencies, and corporate partners, who will share contracting opportunities and promote strategic collaboration. Following that, we will celebrate the success of our 2025 Mentor-Protégé Cohort at the Year-End Mixer on **December 11th**.

We hope you join us at one or more of our events!

Upcoming Events

Registration Links

Oct. 1st [AI Essentials for Small Businesses](#)

Oct. 9th [Capability Statement Workshop](#)

Oct. 16th [CertiFest](#)

Oct. 23rd [AI Essentials Session 2](#)

Nov. 5th [SRMSDC Webinar](#)

Nov. 13th [AI Essentials Session 3](#)

Nov. 21st [DBE Bootcamp](#)

Dec. 4th Meet the Mentor-Protégé Event Cohort 2026 (Invite Only)

Dec. 11th Mentor-Protégé Year-End Mixer Cohort 2025 (Invite Only)

DBE SPOTLIGHT

The Office of Supplier Diversity congratulates Ms. Debra Gould on her achievement of being listed as one of CityBusiness's **2025 Women of the Year**. Women of the Year recognizes women from the area whose business and contributions to the community have made them movers and shakers in the region.

Debra W. Gould, President of Debra Gould and Associates, Inc (DGA), is a management consultant, international speaker, workshop trainer/facilitator, executive coach, and author with over 29 years of experience. DGA, is a New Orleans-based management consulting firm delivering leadership development, performance management, & workforce engagement services across commercial, educational, healthcare, & government sectors.

She has served as the New Orleans Chapter President of the National Speakers Association (NSA) and a member of the Society for Human Resource Management, the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana.

What advice would you offer to newly certified DBEs? I'd advise newly certified DBEs to understand the SLDBE certification benefits, get visible, maximize their relationships with primes, leverage supportive resources, be strategic about bidding, maintain compliance, and market beyond their certification. The SLDBE certification is a big achievement—it opens doors to contracting opportunities, resources, and partnerships.

Interested in Debra Gould's full response? Please email the Office of Supplier Diversity for more.



A LOOK BACK

August was filled with connections, learning, and celebration for our small business community. At the top of the month, the Office of Supplier Diversity engaged the community by offering information on the Equitable Business Opportunity (EBO) Program during our Rise & Resource event at PJ's Coffee on Read Blvd. An after-hours mixer the following week, co-hosted by Stephanie Chambliss of Crescent City Coffee, created another space to build relationships and exchange resources. Mid-month, our Small Business Panel participants highlighted real-world insights on "How They Won & Delivered," and we closed out August with our Compliance Forms Training to inform businesses about updates to the City's contract compliance forms.

September carried the momentum with a strong lineup to close out the third quarter. On September 8th, the Small Business Focus Group gave business owners a chance to share their experiences and ideas to help shape future programming. On September 17th, our Post-Award Contract Compliance Training guided Primes & Subcontractors on maintaining compliance throughout the life of their City contracts. Later in the month, the Mentor-Protégé Informational Webinar introduced SLDBE firms to a unique opportunity to partner with experienced SLDBE firms for support, guidance, and real-world advice on how to grow their business and succeed in contracting.



Stephanie Chambliss
CEO & Owner
Crescent City Coffee

CONTRACT CONNECTIONS



- New DBE Compliance Forms Now in Effect!**
 - All DBE Compliance submissions must use the new fillable PDF forms. Older versions will no longer be accepted, so please be sure to update your process.
 - The new forms are available now on our City website: nola.gov/ebo-compliance.
 - NOTE:** The DBE Compliance forms must be downloaded and opened in Adobe Reader to display correctly and ensure compliance. Opening the forms in other programs or web browsers will cause errors.
- Below is a link to the list of current events posted in BRASS that are a part of the Small Business Opportunity Program.
[Q4 2025 forecast solicitations](#)

THE OFFICE OF SUPPLIER DIVERSITY IS DEDICATED TO CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT ASSIST UNDERSERVED, UNDER-UTILIZED 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.

OSD ONLINE

Throughout *this past year*, the Office of Supplier Diversity has made a great effort to meet our small business owners where they are to help them succeed.. Please take a look at the digital content we have captured at the link below:

[OSD YouTube Page](#)

EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS

The City of New Orleans mandates 35% DBE participation on all eligible city contracts. However, when we cannot identify a certified DBE to fulfill a specific service, we are forced to waive this goal. We encourage all certified DBEs to consider expanding their business offerings to help meet the needs of the City. By exploring these sectors where there are no certified DBEs, you can play a vital role in increasing participation & ensuring that our community thrives.

Take advantage of these procurement opportunities and help the City fill in the gaps!

[Click Here](#) to view waivers from 2022 – 2025 for no certified DBEs.

STATE AND LOCAL DISADVANTAGE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- The firm must be a "for-profit" enterprise, must be domiciled in the United States of America, and must possess the proper certificates and licensure to conduct business within the State of Louisiana.
- The firm (including its affiliates) must be an existing small business, as defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) standards.
- The firm must be at least 51% owned and controlled by a socially and economically disadvantaged persons who are U.S. Citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents.
- The firm must demonstrate that the business's ability to compete has been restricted due to industry practices, limited access to capital and/or restricted credit opportunities that are beyond its control.

The State and Local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (SLDBE) application is fully online and can be found at www.neworleans.dbesystem.com.