

**City Of Milwaukee
Department Of Public Works**

Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Provisions

I. General

- A. In accordance with Chapter 370 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation is required in all contracting activities of the Department of Public Works. The ordinance requires that certified SBEs be utilized for 25% of the total dollars annually expended through prime contracts or subcontracts for Construction and the purchase of Goods and Services. For the purchase of Professional Services the requirement is 18%. To that end, the Commissioner of Public Works, as a contracting officer for the City, requires all bidders to utilize SBEs as subcontractors and material suppliers on all contracts. For this contract, bidders are required to achieve the minimum percent of SBE participation listed in the Acknowledgements page/section and/or the Official Notice document.
- B. The prime contractor shall prepare and submit accurate and timely SBE utilization forms and reports to the Department of Public Works. The reports shall include, but not be limited to, Compliance Plan (Form A), and payment monitoring reports submitted via B2GNow (<https://milwaukee.diversitycompliance.com/>) as directed. Failure to submit the required forms and reports to the Department of Public Works may result in disqualification of future bids, delay of payments, or other appropriate sanctions. Final contract payments will not be made until final SBE subcontractor payments are confirmed with the Department of Public Works.
- C. During the performance of this contract, the Department of Public Works reserves the right to conduct compliance reviews. If the contractor is not in compliance with the specifications, the Commissioner of Public Works will notify the contractor in writing of the corrective action that will bring the contractor into compliance. If the contractor fails or refuses to take corrective action as directed, the Department of Public Works may take one or more of the actions listed below:
 - 1. Terminate or cancel the contract, in whole or in part.
 - 2. Consider possible debarment of the prime contractor from bidding.
 - 3. Withhold payments on the contract.
 - 4. Any other remedy available to the City at law or in equity.

II. Definitions

- A. "SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE" (SBE) means a small business concern that is 51% owned, operated and controlled by one or more individuals who are a minority, woman and/or a small business owner (who is at an "economic disadvantage"). The individuals must have day-to-day operational and managerial control and interest in capital, financial risks and earnings commensurate with the percentage of their ownership.
- B. "OWNED, OPERATED AND CONTROLLED" means a business which is one of the following:
 - 1. A sole proprietorship legitimately owned and operated and controlled by a minority, women or an individual at a disadvantage as defined in Chapter 370.
 - 2. A partnership or joint venture legitimately owned, operated and controlled by individuals who are minorities, women or individuals who are at a disadvantage and who own at least 51% of the beneficial ownership interests in the enterprise and who hold at least 51% of the voting interests of the enterprise eligible as defined in Chapter 370.
 - 3. A corporation legitimately owned, operated and controlled by one or more individuals who are a minority, woman or individual at a disadvantage and who own at least 51% of the outstanding shares and who hold at least 51% of the voting interests of the corporation eligible as defined in Chapter 370.

III. SBE Utilization Requirements

- A. Each prime contractor shall utilize SBE to the minimum percent listed in the Acknowledgements section/page and or Official Notice Document for this contract. Note that the prime contractors shall be required to attain SBE participation on their base bid excluding specified allowances, alternatives, and change orders. SBE commitments relative to contract award shall be based upon the approved SBE Compliance Plan (Form A).
- B. The determination of SBE utilization shall be based on the following criteria:
 - 1. The firms identified as SBE by the prime contractor on the SBE Compliance Plan (Form A) must be certified by the Office of Equity and Inclusion prior to bid opening.
 - 2. The prime contractor shall be credited for the entire expenditure to SBE firms only if all of the identified scope of work is performed directly by the certified SBE firm.
 - 3. The prime contractor shall be credited for the entire expenditure to SBE manufacturer only if the manufacturer produces goods from raw materials or substantially alters them for resale. Only 20% of the SBE goals may be expended for SBE suppliers that do not manufacture products they supply.
 - 4. The prime contractor shall count toward the SBE requirement only those payments to SBEs who perform a commercially-useful function in the actual performance of the contract. While that generally means an SBE should be engaged in direct contract work, a “commercially-useful function” may also include management of a third tier subcontractor. For example, while an SBE trucking subcontractor is always expected to perform some direct work on the project, in some cases it may become necessary to subcontract work out to one or more third tier subcontractors. If a third tier subcontractor is also an SBE, the full amount of the work performed by that third tier SBE can be counted toward SBE participation. However, if the third party subcontractor is not an SBE, the prime contractor may only count 20% of the amount being subcontracted to the third tier non-SBE subcontractor. SBEs are required to notify the Department of Public Works if they subcontract out work so that the Department can determine how much, if any, of the subcontracted work can be counted toward the SBE requirement. The Commissioner of Public Works will make the final determination and evaluation of whether the SBE is performing a commercially-useful function.
- C. The contractor, by signing and submitting a bid, certifies that the contractor understands the provisions of Chapter 370 and knows of and intends to comply with them. The completed SBE Compliance Plan (Form A) must be submitted by the apparent low bid contractor with the bid and is an element of bid responsiveness. Incomplete SBE Compliance Plans (Form A) or inaccurate SBE Compliance Plans will not be accepted and will render the bid unresponsive.
 - 1. Information on Form A shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. The names, addresses, telephone numbers, copy of City of Milwaukee SBE Certification, SBE Certification designation and contact person names for the certified SBE contractors that will participate on the project as subcontractors or suppliers;
 - b. A description of the scope of work to be performed by the SBE on this project; and
 - c. The SBE contractor dollar value(s) and corresponding percentages that the dollar values represent of the total contract amount.
 - 2. Listing an SBE on the Compliance Plan (Form A) shall constitute a representation that the contractor has communicated directly with the SBEs listed. If awarded the contract, the bidder will enter into a subcontract with the firm for the portion of the work listed.

3. SBE participation is an element of bid responsiveness. Failure to meet the specified SBE requirements will render the bid unresponsive. The contract may then be awarded to the next apparent low bidder. Under certain circumstances, failure to meet specified SBE requirements after submission of an apparent low bid may result in surrender of the bidder's bid bond.
4. Only SBEs that have been certified by the Office of Equity and Inclusion may be listed on the SBE Compliance Plan (Form A) and counted towards the percentage requirements on this project. A listing of the currently City certified SBE firms is maintained at:

Department of Compliance and Engagement
200 East Wells Street
City Hall, Room 606
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Phone: (414) 286-5553
FAX: (414) 286-8752
<https://city.milwaukee.gov/DCE>
DCE@milwaukee.gov

- D. After execution of the contract, if for any reason an SBE cannot perform, the prime contractor shall contact the Commissioner of Public Works for approval to substitute another certified SBE firm. The prime contractor must submit a written request for substitution which specifies the reasons for the request. Approval must be obtained prior to making substitutions. Any difference in the cost occasioned by such substitution shall be borne by the prime contractor. If the prime contractor cannot find another certified firm to do the work at a comparable price, a non-SBE firm may be substituted with the approval of the Commissioner of Public Works.
- E. If the prime contractor has a problem in meeting the SBE requirements or if any other problems relative to SBE(s) arise during the completion of this project, the prime contractor shall immediately contact the Commissioner of Public Works.
- F. Certification from programs other than the Office of Equity and Inclusion is neither accepted by the City of Milwaukee nor do they have any bearing whatsoever on the eligibility criteria established by the City of Milwaukee.
- G. Right to Appeal.

All contracts awarded under ss.7-14-2 and 7-22 of the City Charter shall be awarded by the Commissioner of Public Works to the lowest responsible bidder determined in accordance with applicable City ordinances for participation of the Office of Equity and Inclusion. Following the opening of any bid involving a determination under applicable City ordinances for participation of SBE, the Commissioner of Public Works shall make a written recommendation as to the lowest responsible bidder and notify all bidders by publication in an official City newspaper as to the content of the written recommendation. Any bidder who objects to the recommendation on grounds of determinations made under applicable City ordinances for participation of SBE may appeal the recommendation on such grounds by filing a written appeal with the Commissioner of Public Works within five (5) working days of the date of publication. The appeal shall state the specific objection to the recommendation, include supporting documentation and specify an alternative recommendation. The Commissioner of Public Works shall schedule a hearing before an appeals committee consisting of the Chair of the Economic Development Committee or the Chair's designee, a member of the Economic Development Committee selected by the Chair and the Director of the Office of Equity and Inclusion to be held within five (5) days of receipt of the appeal. The Committee shall have authority by majority vote to affirm or set aside the recommendation of the Commissioner of Public Works and its decision in this regard shall be final. In the event a timely appeal, meeting the requirements above is not filed, or the Committee affirms the Commissioner's recommendation following a timely appeal, meeting the requirements above, the Commissioner shall make an award in accordance with the recommendation.

H. **Percentage of Required SBE Participation**

Construction 25%

The Purchase of Goods and Services 25%

The Purchase of Professional Services 18%

Rev. 7-2026

SBE provisions 7-2026