



Metropolitan Nashville Government Procurement Non-Discrimination Program

“Creating Opportunities”

FAQ'S Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Procurement Non-discrimination Program (PNP)?

A. A procurement based program designed to increase purchases from minorities and women. It was authorized by legislation presented by Mayor Dean, and adopted by the Metro Council in April of 2008. The objectives are to promote equal opportunity, promote accountability, and to ensure that the City doesn't passively participate in private discrimination.

Q. Who will administer and monitor this program?

A. The newly created Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance also referred to as the Business Assistance Office (BAO) will be responsible for administration, monitoring and enforcement of the Program.

Q. How does this program work?

A. Prime contractors are required to reach out to minority and women owned businesses so they can participate on contracts. Primes are also required to demonstrate how they reached out and who they've decided to work with. Metro must determine those efforts to be sufficient in order for a prime to be awarded a contract.

Q. How do MWBE's participate?

A. MWBEs must be registered to do business with the City of Nashville and must be certified as an MWBE by either the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise (GoDBE), the TN Supplier Development Council (TMSDC), have graduated from the SBA 8(a) program, or have a Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification granted under 49CFR26. Metro does not have its own separate certification program.

MWBEs should also pay attention to the Business Opportunities Bulletin (BOB) for purchasing opportunities that they can bid on at the prime or subcontract level.

Q. Are MDHA, the Airport, Metro Transit, Schools and NES included in this program?

A. No, these entities are separate legal entities with different procurement methods and procedures and therefore not included in this program.

Q. What kinds of purchases made by the City does this program apply?

A. Any purchases that the City makes for construction, professional services (those services which require a license or a certificate of competency to perform), and non-professional services are covered by this program. No strict goods or commodities purchases are covered.

Q. Does this program create goals or set-asides?

A. No, this program does not create goals or a set aside program for minority or women owned businesses. It works to level the playing field and to create opportunities for minority and women owned businesses to be better included in the purchasing process.

