



Community Business Development Partners  
**MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

RICK NORRIS, PE • Director, DBE Liaison Officer, ACDBE Liaison Officer

**INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: February 12, 2015

TO: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chair, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor Patricia Jursik, Chair, Economic and Community Development Committee  
Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., Chair, Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee

FROM: Rick Norris, PE, Director, Community Business Development Partners

**SUBJECT: DBE Wavier Annual Report for 2014**

DIRECTIVE

At the request of the Committee on Economic and Community Development, the Community Business Development Partners Department (CBDP) provides a monthly update on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) utilization waivers requested by, and granted to, Milwaukee County departments/divisions.

BACKGROUND

CBDP is responsible for designing, implementing, monitoring and enforcing Milwaukee County's DBE Program in order to maintain compliance with Federal Regulations and Milwaukee County Ordinances. Implementation of the Program includes assignment of participation goals on, both, Federal and County funded contracts, as well as monitoring and enforcing compliance of these contracts. Participation goals may only be established on contracts where opportunities exist for ready, willing and able certified firms to perform commercially useful functions related to the satisfaction of those contracts.

In 1999, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) implemented DBE Program rules with seven (7) key objectives directed at creating a level playing field on which certified firms could compete fairly for USDOT-assisted contracts. This legislation, 49 CFR Parts 23 and 26, requires all recipients of USDOT funds to establish and maintain a DBE program that, not only, complies with the intent and language of the legislation, but that has also been reviewed and approved by USDOT. As a result of public and private stakeholder input, Milwaukee County determined and approved, by action of the County Executive and the full County Board, to establish and maintain a program based upon the Federal DBE Program rules and standards for all of its contracts. This action designed to ensure the same level of commitment and consistency in approach to the facilitation of small business involvement when and where appropriate has been enacted in Chapter 42 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances.

Milwaukee County is required to provide and establish contract opportunities for certified firms on its projects based upon the number of ready, willing and able firms certified to perform within the scope(s) of each of these projects. Only firms certified through Wisconsin's Unified Certification Program (UCP), a consortium of over 24 municipalities and agencies throughout the State, count as ready, willing and able firms for this purpose. Four of the UCP members serve as certifying partners for the consortium, Milwaukee County, WisDOT, Dane County, and the City of Madison. Milwaukee County has the responsibility of verifying and maintaining the certification status of 361 of the 828 currently certified firms throughout the State, while processing all new applications for DBE certification.

WAIVER REQUESTS

When CBDP receives a waiver request from a department/division, staff thoroughly reviews it and available supporting documentation before rendering a determination. The Director may require staff to gather more comprehensive information or to provide more detailed clarification regarding any identified issues prior to issuing a determination.

WAIVER REPORT SUMMARY

The figures below include Professional & Management Service and Capital Improvement/Maintenance contracts awarded during October of 2014. This report does not include contracts awarded by the Procurement Division of the Department of Administrative Services processes under Chapter 32. Please see the attachment for waivers requested as broken out by owner department, contractor/consultant awarded, scope of services rendered, total contract amounts, and reason for approval.

<b>Total Contracted Dollars for Period</b>	<b>\$ 105,178,492</b>
<b>Total Contracted Dollars w/o DBE Participation</b>	<b>\$ 32,225,947</b>
<b>Percentage of Contracts w/o DBE Participation</b>	<b>30.64%</b>
<b>Total Contracted Dollars w/ Waiver Approval</b>	<b>\$18,572,201</b>
<b>Percentage of Contracts w/ Waiver Approval</b>	<b>17.66%</b>
<b>Total Contracted Dollars w/o Waiver Approval</b>	<b>\$592,678</b>
<b>Percentage of Contracts w/o Waiver Approval</b>	<b>0.56%</b>

It is also important to note that the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances exempts various contracts from DBE participation consideration review for services such as those used for the purpose of securing credit rating services related to debt issuance and administration. These exemptions appear as Chapter 56.30(2)(a) and 56.30(10)(a).

<b>Total Contracted Dollars for Period</b>	<b>\$ 105,178,492</b>
<b>Total Exempted Contract Dollars</b>	<b>\$13,061,068</b>
<b>Percentage of Exempted Contracts for Period</b>	<b>12.42%</b>

RECOMMENDATION

CBDP prepared this informational report, and recommends that it be received and filed, as such.

Approved by:



Rick Norris, PE  
Director, CBDP

CC: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive