



MINORITY, WOMEN AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE 2020 REPORT

Prepared by the Department of Equity and Inclusion



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 2021

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to present you with the 2020 Annual MWDBE Report. While MWDBE is now a part of the Department of Equity and Inclusion, one of its primary functions continues to be ensuring that everyone has access to, and information about, opportunities that exist for those interested in doing business with Allegheny County.

We could have never imagined that this past year would have looked like it has. We continue to battle a global pandemic and although the fact that we now have vaccines available has tempered the frustration and anxiety over the coronavirus, we are all still working and running our businesses in new and different ways. That includes those businesses certified as MWDBEs and it also means the department itself. Like many others, we quickly moved to virtual platforms to continue providing the services and assistance that so many in our community rely on. When in-person sessions were no longer possible, the department staff still carried out 115 certification counseling sessions virtually. With 40 new firms in that count, we have seen an increase in certified firms since 2019. Under the leadership of Lisa Edmonds, the new Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer, the staff also held an online Annual Open House to ensure that no one missed any potential business or funding opportunities during this unusual time.

The department as well as its Advisory Board members have been a significant force in advocating for access and opportunity for local minority entrepreneurs and businesses. That has never been more important than now. In addition to maximizing opportunities through our MWDBE program, we continue to ensure that our workforce, boards and commissions, and leadership at the county and its various departments look like our community. We still have work to do to achieve economic parity for all those living in our community. With your help and partnership, we will continue to grow and thrive while attracting, retaining and elevating a diversity of talent here.

Sincerely,

Rich Fitzgerald

Rich Fitzgerald

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Friends:

The Allegheny County Department of Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is pleased to present this Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDBE) Report that reflects the services we provided and the work we performed during 2020. Though our department name has changed, we remain focused on our efforts to ensure that minority, women and disadvantaged business enterprises (MWDBEs) are aware of the resources and opportunities available to assist with business development and growth.

This year will be captured in history textbooks due to events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the continued fight for racial equity and the political climate that have affected operational processes for many. Our office remained open and we were able to continue with contract compliance, disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) certification and outreach. Although from a virtual platform, we were able to have our Annual Open House and continue offering one-on-one certification counseling sessions.

The year began with me as Acting Director and ended with an offer to serve as the newly named Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, which I gratefully accepted.

Our team looks forward to continuing our work with MWDBEs and expanding our footprint.

Sincerely,

Lisa L. Edmonds

Lisa L. Edmonds, MCA
Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer

LISA L. EDMONDS, CHIEF EQUITY AND INCLUSION OFFICER
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DEPARTMENT OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

ABOUT US

In 1981, the Allegheny County Commissioners established a county-wide Minority Business Enterprise Program to provide for greater participation of minority and women business enterprises (MBEs and WBEs) in county contracts. The goal of the program was to remove impediments that prevented those businesses from achieving greater participation. That program evolved into the Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDBE) Department. To deepen diversity, equity, and inclusion in policies and procedures, the department was rechristened Department of Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in 2020.

The mission of the department is to support the minority, women and disadvantaged business communities in the region and work to build the capacity of certified MWDBEs, monitor contracts to ensure compliance with Allegheny County goals, and provide outreach and technical assistance to the business community. The department is also charged with supporting an environment that is inclusive and equitable within the county and its external-facing services, to promote shared prosperity through community development and other opportunities to create an environment that promotes meaningful business opportunities, showcases viable MWDBE firm capabilities, builds productive partnerships and exercises effective program management targeted towards successful integration of those firms within the business structure of Allegheny County and surrounding areas.

The department's objective is to ensure that MWDBE firms are given the maximum opportunity to obtain and perform on county contracts. In order to accomplish and monitor this effort, goals have been established for contracts and other business-related activities entered into by Allegheny County having overall goals of 13% for MBEs and 2% for WBEs. These goals remain in effect throughout the life of each contract.

MISSION

The mission of the Department of Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is to build the capacity of MWDBE certified businesses, monitor contracts to ensure compliance with Allegheny County goals, and provide outreach and technical assistance to the business community.

To accomplish this objective, the department provides services in the following areas:

Certification: Allegheny County is a certifying participant of the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program (PA UCP). The purpose of the PA UCP is to provide “one-stop shopping” for firms seeking certification as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26. The Department has a portfolio of approximately 595 companies that are certified through this program.

Contract Participation: DEI oversees the effort made by firms bidding contracts with Allegheny County to ensure that a “good faith effort” has been made to include MWDBEs on these offerings. DEI works to increase the number of certified MWDBE companies participating in contracting opportunities in Allegheny County. The department also serves as the repository for all information on MWDBE contract participation County-wide.

During 2020, DEI collaborated with Allegheny County videography staff to develop a video that provides instruction on completing the MWDBE paperwork that prime vendors must submit during the contract vetting process. Once finalized, this video will be available on the county's electronic procurement system, Bonfire.

Outreach and Technical Assistance: DEI communicates with the public by hosting and participating in workshops, trainings, tradeshow and speaking engagements. Due to the pandemic, DEI conducted one-on-one virtual certification counseling sessions. Normally the department hosts an annual Open House that is open to the public. The Open House provides a networking opportunity as well as a forum for technical business assistance. In 2020, the Open House was held virtually for the first time. Attendance was high, and the event was a success.

The Department of Equity and Inclusion's objective is to ensure that MWDBE firms are given the maximum opportunity to obtain and perform on county contracts.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION STAFF

The Department of Equity and Inclusion had a total staff count of six during 2020. In addition to Acting Director/Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Lisa L. Edmonds, the balance of the staff consisted of a Contract/Certification Generalist, Contract Compliance Specialist, Senior Certification Analyst, Certification Analyst, Office Manager and Receptionist. The department's 2020 adopted budget totaled \$991,704.

Leadership



*Lisa L. Edmonds
Acting Director/Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer*

Staff



*Deborah Lewis
Contract/Certification
Generalist*



*La'Shelle Denson
Contract Compliance
Specialist*



*De Doyle
Senior Certification
Analyst*



*Robert Beach
Certification Analyst*



*Kristy Kwisnek
Office Manager*



*TaMya McCoy
Receptionist*

The staff works cooperatively to increase the services provided to MWDBE firms, the number of certified firms in markets, and the availability of meaningful business opportunities afforded to MWDBE firms in the county. The staff also ensures effective communication with firms, and the establishment of meaningful partnerships that advance the program.

The department maintains partnerships/memberships with organizations that inform its mission including: the PA UCP, Center for Women's Entrepreneurship at Chatham University, Diversity Business Resource Center, Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council, Pittsburgh Metropolitan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA, NAACP, National Association of Women Business Owners, National Urban League, Southwestern PA Engineering Outreach, MWDBE Governmental Committee, National Council of Negro Women, Mon Yough Chamber of Commerce and American Contract Compliance Association.

CERTIFICATION

PENNSYLVANIA UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Allegheny County Department of Equity and Inclusion is a certifying participant under the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program (PA UCP). Created in response to federal action that revamped the U.S. Department of Transportation's DBE program, the PA UCP was created to provide a one-stop shop for DBEs. The unified program allows businesses to file one application and go through one certification review to achieve certification that is recognized by all recipients of federal funds in the state. DEI is one of five organizations throughout the state that certify DBEs. Participation in the PA UCP ensures mandatory reciprocity, a customer-friendly process and a unified DBE directory for use by prime contractors wishing to participate in the program.

As of December 31, 2020, please see the following certification statistics:

- 595 total certified firms
- 40 newly certified firms
- 16 new applications were denied
- 5 new applicants withdrew
- 455 firms continued their eligibility
- 19 firms were decertified
- 11 NAICS code modifications were approved
- 1 NAICS code modification was denied

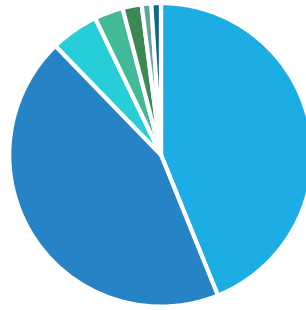
Of the 595 firms certified at the end of 2020, 383 or 64% were located within Allegheny County. Eighty-six (86) firms were from outside the state with the remaining 126 businesses domiciled in other Pennsylvania counties.

County	Number of Firms
Allegheny	383
Beaver	11
Butler	18
Cambria	10
Centre	1
Crawford	2
Cumberland	1
Erie	13
Fayette	3
Greene	1
Huntingdon	1
Indiana	2
Lawrence	1
Luzerne	1
McKean	2
Mercer	4
Montgomery	1
Philadelphia	1
Somerset	1
Venango	2
Washington	21
Westmoreland	28
York	1
Out of state	86
Total Firms	595

Certification is free. Businesses that wish to be DBE certified through the PA UCP can begin their application process online at paucp.dbesystem.com. Information can also be obtained by contacting DEI by phone (412-350-4309) or email (DEICertification@alleghenycounty.us). To start the process, a complete application must be submitted to one of the five certifying participants. Applications must contain an original notarized affidavit and all applicable supporting documents. Once received, the application is reviewed, and the information is verified. Additional information may be requested, and an on-site interview will be conducted prior to a final decision being made.

Once certified, DBEs will be recognized by all recipients of funds from the Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration. Certified DBEs are also listed in the web-based online directory which can be accessed at paucp.dbesystem.com.

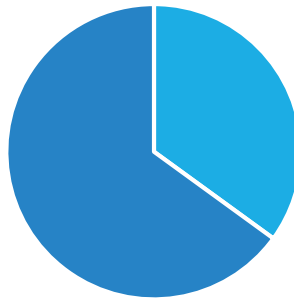
Ethnicity



- Black
- Caucasian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Asian Indian
- Native American
- Asian
- Asian Pacific
- Other

Ethnicity	Number of Certified Firms	Percent of Total
Black	255	43%
Caucasian (Woman)	267	45%
Hispanic/Latino	31	5%
Asian Indian	22	3%
Native American	9	2%
Asian Pacific	10	2%
Other	1	0.4%
Total	595	100%

Gender



- Male
- Female

Gender	Number of Certified Firms	Percent of Total
Male	210	35%
Female	385	65%
Total	595	100%

Benefits of DBE Certification through the PA UCP

- All US DOT recipients in Pennsylvania are members of the PA UCP.
- Mandatory reciprocity is a component of the PA UCP.
- The PA UCP offers a customer-friendly process intended to streamline the DBE certification process.
- Prime contractors will find ease of use with one unified DBE directory to locate DBEs certified by the PA UCP.
- Greater visibility to contractors and consultants looking to utilize DBE firms to meet goals on federally assisted transportation projects.
- Access to free training and consulting services through the DBE Supportive Services Center.
- DBE certification is recognized by many state, regional, and local diverse, minority, and women business programs.

CONTRACT PARTICIPATION

The Department of Equity and Inclusion oversees the effort made by firms bidding contracts with Allegheny County to ensure that a “good faith effort” has been made to include MWDBEs on these offerings.

Article 435 of the Allegheny County Administrative Code requires that prime contractors submit an MWDBE plan with their bids or proposals. At the time a bid or proposal is submitted, the contractor must identify the MWDBEs that will participate in the work. A description of the work that the MWDBE will perform and the dollar value of the services or goods to be provided by the MWDBE are to be included along with a written assurance that the MWDBE plan will be followed.

The Department of Equity and Inclusion reviews the MWDBE participation plans of selected low bidders and proposers prior to award and works with them to ensure that the highest level of MWDBE inclusion is achieved. The county's contract goals are 13% minority business enterprise (MBE) participation and 2% women business enterprise (WBE) participation.

The written assurance must also state that the MWDBE is not prohibited from providing quotes to other prime contractors and make assurances that if the MWDBE is unable to perform successfully that the prime contractors will make every effort to replace that business with another MWDBE.

If a participation plan submitted with the bid documents does not meet participation goals, DEI reviews the plan to ensure that a “good faith effort” has been made to identify and offer business opportunities to MWDBE firms that are available in the marketplace. A thorough “good faith effort” verifies that there are no qualified MWDBE vendors available to participate in that contract area. For that reason, contracts that are granted waivers are not included in the contract total and not compared to contracts where MWDBE vendors are available to participate.

If the department determines that a “good faith effort” (see definition below) has been made, a waiver for the participation gap may be granted.

A “GOOD FAITH EFFORT”

(Using guidance from 49 CFR Part 26, Appendix A)

- Soliciting the interest of certified DBEs who have the capability to perform the work of the contract through all reasonable and available means
- Selecting portions of the work to be performed by DBEs in order to increase the likelihood that the DBE goals will be achieved
- Providing interested DBEs with adequate information about the plans, specifications and requirements of the contract in a timely manner to assist them in responding to a solicitation
- Negotiating in good faith with interested DBEs
- Not rejecting DBEs as being unqualified without sound reasons based on a thorough investigation of their capabilities
- Making efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, or insurance as required by the recipient or contractor
- Effectively using the services of available minority/women community organizations, contractors' groups, business assistance offices and other organizations to provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of DBEs
- Monitoring the performance of other bidders in meeting the contract

In the event that the prime contractor/vendor is an MWDBE firm, this information must still be submitted. In the case of a firm that is owned by a minority woman, at the onset of the contract they must declare the MWDBE designation that they will fulfill and seek participation for the other designation.

Throughout the life of the contract, the prime contractor/vendor is required to report the MWDBE participation through web-based software. The payment progress of these contracts is submitted online. Utilizing this business process, DEI receives contract payment information in regular intervals. If a payment discrepancy surfaces, the department may request canceled check(s) or check images, as well as invoices, from the prime contractor/vendor. Should a firm not report this information as requested, corrective action may be taken. If the problem is still not corrected, the Purchasing Division will be notified in writing of the deficiencies and a recommendation will be made that the contract should be terminated for breach of the reporting responsibilities.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: DIVISION OF PURCHASING AND SUPPLIES

The Department of Administrative Services Division of Purchasing and Supplies procures supplies, equipment and services for Allegheny County. Their mission is to bring value to the procurement process while reducing cost, creating efficiency and providing high quality customer service.

The following numbers represent committed participation on the Requests for Proposal (RFPs) and lowest bid Invitations for Bid (IFBs) during calendar year 2020. Piggyback, sole source, extension and Request for Qualifications (RFQ) contracts are not reviewed by DEI. Additionally, multi-year contracts are reported during the year they are signed.

Purchasing and Supplies*	Amount	Percent
<i>Total Value of New Contracts</i>	\$25,720,669	100%
MBE	\$2,581,949	10%
WBE	\$658,913	3%
Total M/WBE¹	\$3,240,862	13%

Staples**	Amount	Percent
<i>Period Total Sales</i>	\$3,029,136	100%
MBE	\$283,487	9%
WBE	\$2,732	0.09%
MWBE ²	\$327	0.01%
Total M/WBE	\$286,546	9%

*The numbers listed for Purchasing and Supplies represent new contract commitments solicited through RFPs and IFBs.

**The numbers listed for Staples represent actual expenditures.

The county enters into some revenue-based contracts, typically in the county parks. The 2020 MWDBE participation in revenue contracts includes \$53,360 in revenue from MBE firms and \$32,600 in revenue from WBE firms.

¹ M/WBE indicates the sum of MBE and WBE as well as MWBE.

² MWBE indicates minority-women owned business entrepreneurs, and is not included in either MBE or WBE.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works is charged with the provision of the county's infrastructure, maintenance and engineering service. Its mission is to provide those services in an efficient, effective, responsive and responsible manner in order to enhance the quality of life, economic prosperity and mobility of the citizens of Allegheny County.

Department of Public Works	Amount	Percent
<i>Total Value of New County Contracts</i>	\$13,750,945	100%
MBE	\$477,840	3%
WBE	\$1,638,829	12%
Combined Total M/WBE	\$2,116,669	15%

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for providing and administering publicly funded human services to Allegheny County residents. DHS is dedicated to meeting those needs through community partners that hold contracts to service the county's most vulnerable populations. Although the majority of those partners are not certified as MWDBEs, DHS does provide information relative to its service providers that have self-identified as African American, faith-based, or both.

Providers designated as African American were based on the following criteria: foundation mission/purpose, CEO/Board Chair is African American, and neighborhood/consumers are predominantly African American. Likewise, providers designated as faith based were determined by the following criteria: mission/purpose and affiliation with faith-based entity.

DEI serves as the repository for DHS contract participation data.

Department of Human Services	Value	Number of Contractors
African American	\$82,020,593	42
Faith-Based	\$66,606,938	42
African American and Faith-Based	\$14,249,539	22
Total	\$162,877,070	106

ALLEGHENY COUNTY AUTHORITIES

Pursuant to Article 203 of the Allegheny County Administrative Code, each County Authority must develop policies to ensure the participation of minority-owned, women-owned, and disadvantaged business enterprises. The Authorities provide quarterly reports to the Department of Equity and Inclusion on their progress. DEI does not review contract participation on behalf of the Allegheny County Authorities.

Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County

Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) is the lead economic and residential development agency for Allegheny County and coordinates development initiatives across its eight divisions. The department staffs multiple county authorities, including the Redevelopment Authority. The following participation data represents contracts under the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, by programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund (CITF), Gaming Economic Development Fund (GEDF), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration (LHRD) and other miscellaneous programs.

DEI serves as the repository for ACED contract participation data and does not review or certify any contracts on their behalf.

Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County		
	Amount	Percent
<i>CDBG Contracts</i>	\$13,652,237	100%
MBE	\$0	0%
WBE	\$175,117	1%
<i>CITF Contracts</i>	\$5,602,719	100%
MBE	\$127,654	2%
WBE	\$189,688	3%
<i>GEDF Contracts</i>	\$1,410,630	100%
MBE	\$0	0%
WBE	\$0	0%
<i>HOME Contracts</i>	\$631,745	100%
MBE	\$189,990	30%
WBE	\$48,715	8%
<i>LHRD Contracts</i>	\$609,792	100%
MBE	\$30,538	5%
WBE	\$0	0%
<i>Other Contracts</i>	\$977,323	100%
MBE	\$28,755	3%
WBE	\$0	0%
<i>Total - All Contracts</i>	\$22,884,446	100%
Total MBE	\$376,937	1.6%
Total WBE	\$413,520	1.8%
Total M/WBE	\$790,457	3%

Allegheny County Airport Authority

The Allegheny County Airport Authority was created in 1999 to operate the Pittsburgh International and Allegheny County airports. The Authority oversees all aspects of airport operations including new development, environmental issues, airline and tenant management, as well as airfield operations.

Airport Authority	Amount	Percent
<i>Total Value of New Contracts</i>	\$108,952,639	100%
Total MWDBE	\$7,182,507	7%

Allegheny County Housing Authority

The Allegheny County Housing Authority was created to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing for eligible low-income families and senior citizens in Allegheny County. The Housing Authority owns and manages 3,300 units, administers over 5,000 vouchers, has three HOPE VI developments, and 22 mixed-finance properties.

Housing Authority	Amount	Percent
<i>Total Value of New Contracts</i>	\$3,184,478	100%
MBE	\$0	0%
WBE	\$327,900	0%
MWBE	\$0	0%
Total M/WBE	\$327,900	10%

Allegheny County Sanitary Authority

The Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) was formed in 1946 to provide wastewater treatment services to 83 communities within Allegheny County, including the City of Pittsburgh. Its principal treatment plant is along the Ohio River, downstream from Pittsburgh's downtown, and processes up to 250 million gallons of wastewater daily.

ALCOSAN	Amount	Percent
<i>Total Value of New Contracts</i>	\$33,186,922	100%
WBE	\$2,630,443	8%
MBE Male	\$3,008,852	9%
MBE Female	\$58,059	0.2%
Total M/WBE	\$5,697,354	17%

Port Authority of Allegheny County

Formed in 1959 by the Pennsylvania legislature, the Port Authority of Allegheny County began serving the community in March 1964. The agency operates, maintains and supports bus, light rail, incline and paratransit service for approximately 200,000 daily riders. The Port Authority operates on a fiscal year of October through September and reports based on a fiscal, not calendar, year.

Port Authority	Amount	Percent
Total Value of New Contracts	\$0	100%
DBE	\$0	0%
Total DBE	\$0	0%

Note: There were no awards and commitments from October 2019 - September 2020. However, total payments on ongoing contracts during the same period were \$2,510,271, of which \$527,967, or 21%, were payments to DBEs.

Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County

The Sports and Exhibition Authority (SEA) was created in 1954 and charged with the construction and support of sports and exhibition facilities. Facilities include the Lower Hill Redevelopment Site, PPG Paints Arena, PNC Park, Heinz Field, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Convention Center Riverfront Plaza, North Shore Riverfront Park, and the North Shore Garage. SEA also provides administrative and other staff support to the Stadium Authority of the City of Pittsburgh.

Sports and Exhibition Authority	Amount	Percent
Total Value of New Contracts	\$1,026,976	100%
MBE	\$29,925	3%
WBE	\$284,582	28%
Total M/WBE	\$314,507	31%

OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CAPACITY BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

Each year, the Department of Equity and Inclusion offers or partners with others to offer workshops, seminars, tradeshow and other business opportunities. These trainings provide capacity building, business technical assistance, and other support to its certified firms and other small businesses. The DEI website is updated on an ongoing basis to reflect those events in which the department is involved. The current list may be found at allegchenycounty.us/equity-inclusion/events/index.aspx. The department also posts the events on its Facebook page at facebook.com/AlleghenyCountyDEI. These efforts are highlighted in an annual Open House toward the end of the year.

ADVOCACY

Each year, the Department of Equity and Inclusion advocates for MWDBE firms by involvement in the business processes at Allegheny County and by working closely with other agencies, non-profits and corporations in our region.

In 2020, the department:

- Certified 595 Firms
- Attended 15 Construction Status Meetings
- Attended 13 Pre-bid and Pre-proposal Meetings
- Participated in 14 Selection Committees
- Vetted 50 Specifications (a specification can have more than one contract)
- Vetted 74 Contracts
- Participated in 12 Outreach Activities
- Held 115 Certification Counseling Sessions

A construction status meeting is the periodic meeting that brings together the owner and prime contractors. DEI works to prevent any adverse issues from arising so that the MWDBE firms may complete the project and addresses any issues that may arise concerning said firms with regard to the project. Additionally, the department monitors the milestones of the project that involve MWDBE firms.

A pre-bid meeting is held prior to acceptance of bids to clarify what is required by the county in the information a firm submits for consideration as a contractor/vendor. At these meetings the department explains MWDBE goals, how to find such firms and also answers any questions regarding the paperwork that the department will need to review prior to issuing an award recommendation.

A selection committee reviews proposals submitted by firms in the Request for Proposal process. DEI focuses on the inclusion of MWDBE firms in that process.

2020 Selected Events

MWDBE Governmental Committee Conference, Share 2020, The PA Regional Virtual Symposium, DEI Virtual Open House, 8th Annual CEIR Conference, EMSDC: How to Do Business With the Allegheny County Airport Authority, Allegheny Conference Response + Recovery, WBEC East Presents Doing Business with Allegheny County

COMMUNICATION OF OPPORTUNITIES

Allegheny County's Purchasing Division transitioned from Public Purchase to Bonfire in 2020 to house its open bids and proposals. Suppliers utilize this centralized site to have instant access to bid opportunities throughout the region. Because the Purchasing Division accepts electronic bids through this site, vendors can also see the bid results in real time.

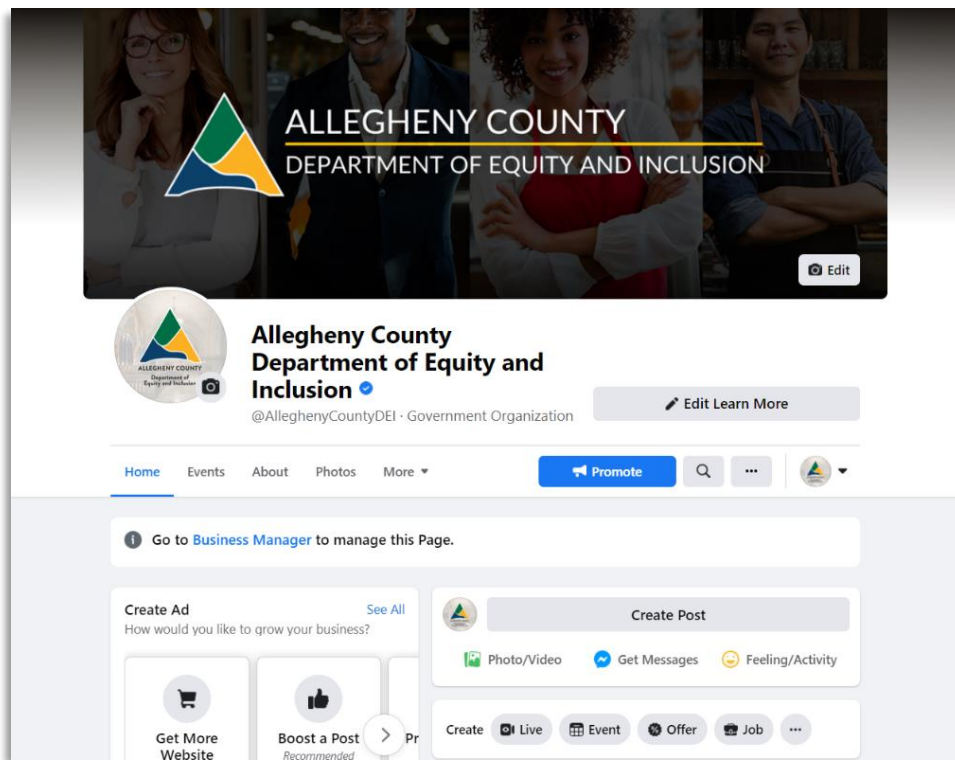
There is no cost to government agencies or to users to utilize this software. The business opportunities are available to view by the public after completing a short registration process on the website. Since the bid process is electronic, all vendors wishing to submit bids or proposals to the county must register. DEI makes vendors, newly certified firms and any other vendors wishing to do business with the county aware of Bonfire.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Department of Equity and Inclusion has extended its usage of social media to make information available to the broadest audience possible. Below are metrics that show the department's reach through its Facebook page.

2020 Facebook Metrics	
Followers	738
Reach	3,439
Engagement	197

DEI also contributes information to the county's LinkedIn page.



MWDBE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Allegheny County Administrative Code §435-3 states that the Chief Executive and County Council will establish an MWDBE Advisory Committee. The purpose of this Committee will be to recommend specific MWDBE goals for various types of procurement of goods or services. The committee will also monitor the county's MWDBE efforts on a quarterly basis.

The role of this Committee is to recommend specific MWDBE goals for:

1. Construction contracts.
2. Supplies.
3. Development.
4. Services, including professional services.
5. Monitoring progress toward these objectives on a quarterly basis, and posting written quarterly progress reports conspicuously on the county's website.
6. Recommending to the Chief Executive and County Council specific activities for improving MWDBE participation.

The 2020 MWDBE Advisory Committee was comprised of the following individuals:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
<i>Brian Burley</i>	Allegheny Conference
<i>Victor Diaz</i>	VideoTek Construction, LLC
<i>Abass Kamara</i>	The Carey Group
<i>Marc Little</i>	MWELA
<i>M. Gayle Moss</i>	MWDBE Advisory Committee Chair
<i>James Overton</i>	Overton Financial Group
<i>Barbara Parees</i>	Office of the Allegheny County Manager
<i>Roxanne Sewell</i>	The LJS Group
<i>Tim Stevens</i>	B-PEP

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Speakers at the Department of Equity and Inclusion's 2020 virtual annual Open House presented important and useful information to attendees on a variety of topics including contracting opportunities, business loans and doing business with Allegheny County.



2020 ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Date: October 22, 2020
Time: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Virtual (via Teams)

Agenda Items

Lisa L. Edmonds, Acting Director	Department of Equity and Inclusion	Greeting/introduction
Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Executive	Office of the Allegheny County Executive	Opening remarks
Vincent Valdes, Executive Director	Southwestern PA Commission	Introduction
Thomas Klevan, Manager, Multimodal Planning	Southwestern PA Commission	CommuterInfo program Contracting opportunities
Steve Meredith, Business Finance Manager	Southwestern PA Commission	Business loan products
Dora Walmsley, Assistant Director, Development	Allegheny County Department of Economic Development	Business programs
Andy De Lancey, Purchasing Agent	Allegheny County Purchasing Division	Doing business with Allegheny County: Bonfire
M. Gayle Moss, Chair	MWDBE Advisory Committee	Closing remarks

HOW DO I...?

- **Become DBE certified with the PA UCP?**
Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program – Get DBE Certified or Manage Your DBE Certification:
paucp.dbesystem.com/
- **Look for certified DBEs?**
Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program – Search for Certified Firms:
paucp.dbesystem.com/
- **Register with Bonfire?**
Allegheny County Purchasing Division – Supplier Registration:
www.alleghenycounty.us/purchasing/supplier-registration.aspx
- **View Allegheny County's open bid/proposal opportunities?**
Allegheny County Procurement Portal:
alleghenycounty.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities
- **View DEI's upcoming events?**
www.alleghenycounty.us/equity-inclusion/events.aspx
- **Find DEI's Facebook page?**
www.facebook.com/AlleghenyCountyDEI
- **Get help with starting my business?**
Diversity Business Resource Center:
www.riversidecenterforinnovation.com/dbrc/home
Duquesne University Small Business Development Center:
www.sbdc.duq.edu/
University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center:
entrepreneur.pitt.edu/centers/small-business-development-center-sbdc/
- **Connect with other professional organizations who work with MWDBEs?**
www.alleghenycounty.us/equity-inclusion/related-links.aspx



Allegheny County Department of Equity and Inclusion

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