

It is a goal of the City of Bend Affordable Housing Programs to provide minorities and women equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of contracting programs for CDBG and Affordable Housing Fee funded housing projects, including but not limited to, participation in services as well as for contracts relating to construction and repair work.

The City of Bend prohibits discrimination against any person or business in pursuit of these opportunities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion or national origin and to conducts its contracting programs for affordable housing and CDBG programs so as to prevent such discrimination.

The City of Bend, in concert with other local, state and federal agencies, actively seeks to identify qualified minority and women business enterprises to offer them the opportunity to participate as providers of services for CDBG and Affordable Housing Programs.

The purposes of the Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprise Program (M/WBE Program) are to formally state and declare the CDBG and Affordable Housing Programs goals with regard to non-discrimination in the contracting practices of these programs, and to outline the procedures that will be used to ensure that current and future contracting practices provide to the fullest extent possible, consistent with sound management practices, and state and federal laws, opportunities for participation by firms owned and controlled by minorities and women.

The M/WBE Program as it relates to construction contracting is a voluntary goal program. It is neither a set-aside program nor a mandatory quota program. It does not mandate that a contractor offer or achieve any percentage of M/WBE participation as a condition of award. It is a program which encourages contractors to voluntarily offer M/WBE participation; and, when the contractor has made such voluntary offer of M/WBE participation, to require the contractor to provide the same as a term of the contract. For failing to do what the contractor has voluntarily offered and contracted to do a contractor could be prevented from bidding on further CDBG and Affordable Housing projects.

For purposes of the M/WBE Program and as defined by the United States Department of Commerce, Minority Business Enterprise is a business at least 51 percent owned and controlled by minority group members or women. A MBE is bona fide only if the minority group or female ownership interests are real and continuing and not created solely to meet MBE percentage goals. In addition, to fulfill the purpose of participation, the MBE must itself perform work or services or provide supplies under contract and not act as a mere conduit. In short, the contractual relationship must be bona fide.

For purposes of the M/WBE Program, minority group members are Women, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Pacific Rim Asian Americans and American Indians.