

SUPPLIER DIVERSITY WITH INDYGO

IFB 21-05-385 Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project

DBE Goals for this opportunity are set as the following:

- Package A - 13%
- Package B - 5%
- Package A + B - 11.5%
- It is important to document all DBE utilization to get your bid to the evaluation committee for review. The proposal should show that you met the DBE goal or that you made a “good faiths effort” to reach it.
- Firms must be certified at the time of bid submission. We cannot accept participation from a firm whose certification is uncertain.
- Please document the firms that you intend to utilize in your RFP proposal and include a letter of commitment (LOC) from each confirmed partner. LOC’s must include the following information:
 - Participation percentage
 - Dollar amount committed
 - Types of work to be completed
 - NAICS codes (if applicable)
- Commitment letters from DBE’s are **MANDATORY** to document participation. Copies of email blasts and faxes will not meet the requirement. These commitment letters should be on the company letterhead signed and dated.
- Copies of DBE Certifications **ARE** required in proposal submissions.

“XBE” Participation Goals:

- The City of Indianapolis’ and Indiana Department of Administration’s XBE goals do not apply to this opportunity.
- As Purple Line project is partially funded by federal dollars, IndyGo is prohibited from placing state and/or local participation goals on this opportunity.
- IndyGo will still **accept, count, and track** any XBE participation by firms that are included in a project team. However, unless the XBE firm(s) chosen are also certified as a DBE we will be unable to count them towards the goals stated above.

Compliance with DBE Program Regulations and Policies:

- Counting Participation.
- Substitution/Modifications of DBE firms.
- DBE Compliance Tracking and Reporting.
- Compliance and Enforcement.

Good Faith Efforts:

- How you document the participation **OR** good faith efforts is prescribed in the solicitation. The good faith efforts form **ONLY** needs to be completed if you are not meeting the DBE goal. If meeting the goal, please mark N/A at the top of each GFE form.
- If you are not meeting the DBE goal, the good faith efforts forms must be completed in **FULL**.
- Good faith efforts must be well documented to be considered responsive.
- We do compare the performance of other bidders with respect to the DBE process/commitment.
- What is a good faith effort? Examples can include but are not limited to:

- Phone communication (Allow no less than five business days notification about an opportunity to partner)
- Email communication (Allow no less than five business days notification about an opportunity to partner)
- Site visit to conduct interview
- Post the opportunity on your webpage/social media
- Share with other agencies
- Other

Potential Subcontracting Opportunities /NAICS Identified (not limited to):

• 237110	324121	327999	339999	238320
• 237310	325211	331210	484110	238160
• 238210	327320	335929	541611	424950
• 238910	327332	335999	238120	561990
• 238990	327991	339950	332323	423990

What is a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise? (DBE)

- DBEs are for-profit small business concerns where socially and economically disadvantaged individuals own at least a 51% interest and control management and daily business operations.
- Women, Native Americans, African Americans, Asian-Pacific, and Hispanics are presumed to be economically and socially disadvantaged.
- Personal net worth must not exceed \$1.32 million.
- Firms gross receipts may NOT exceed \$26,290,000.00 average over the last three years.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident

What is a Minority Business? (MBE, WBE, VBE, DOBE)

- “XBE” is a term used to describe MBE, WBE, VBE, and DOBE’s.
- For-profit businesses that are owned, operated, and controlled by a “Minority Group Member.” A minority group member would be classified as socially or economically disadvantaged. (see DBE above)
- Located in the United States.
- Have no economic size requirements.

DBE Program:

- Is governed by federal regulations 49 CFR part 26.
- Are Administered by INDOT. (Indiana Department of Transportation)
- **Program applies to only transportation related contracts that include any amount of federal funds.**
- Goal tailored for each contract to cumulatively achieve annual agency DBE goal.
- **The Purpose of the DBE program is to create a level playing field on which DBE’s can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts. The DBE Program is meant to graduate from.**
- Federal Regulations can be found using the link provided: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/>
- In the search box type in 49 CFR part 26. Click on the first option that states “DBE Regulations / FTA. & then select the first choice of participation by DBEs.
- For more questions on how to become a certified DBE please visit <http://www.in.gov/indot/2748.htm> or call (317) 233-4664.
- You can find all Indiana certified DBE firms here: <https://entapps.indot.in.gov/DBELocator>
 - **PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU CAN SEARCH KEYWORDS ON THE INDIANA CERTIFIED DBE DATABASE.**

Minority Program:

- Program applies to all types of contracts that are **NOT** federally funded.
- Is administered by the State of Indiana – Division of Supplier Diversity and City of Indianapolis – Division of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises & City of Indianapolis Office of Minority and Women Business Development.
- Fixed goals added to contracts based on contract type .
- No personal net worth or gross receipt limits.
- Based on ownership and not how large the firm is.
- Must be headquartered in Indiana.
- For more questions on how to become a certified minority firm please visit <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DMWBD/Pages/Home.aspx> or call (317) 327-5262.
- You can find all Certified XBE’s with the Office of Minority and Women Business Development here: <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DMWBD/MBE-WBE-VBE/Pages/OMWBD-Vendor-Listing.aspx>.
- You can find all certified XBE’s with the Indiana Department of Administration here: [IDO: Division of Supplier Diversity: Certified Business Search](#)

Commonly asked questions:

Q: Can a firm be both a certified Disadvantaged Business and a Minority Business?

A: Yes. Depending on certain criteria a firm can be certified through multiple agencies as both a DBE business and an “XBE” business. Having each certification classifies a firm as dual certified.

Q: Why does Minority (XBE) participation not count on Federally funded projects with IndyGo?

A: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) prohibits IndyGo from including MBE, WBE, VBE, and DOBE goals on federally funded projects. FTA’s perspective is that requiring local certifications restricts competition. The certification requirements for DBE firms are consistent nationwide as they are enumerated in federal regulation. Many firms do maintain a dual certification and any participation from XBE firms regardless of certification type are tracked and recorded. **Although IndyGo cannot include minority goals on federally funded projects it does NOT mean that a firm cannot partner with an “XBE” business(es).**

Q: How do we do business with IndyGo?

A: One of the most important things you can do is to register as a vendor. By registering with IndyGo you will become open to all the endless opportunities that are released to our website. Registering takes less than five minutes and is completed online. Once the form is submitted you will be added to a list that receives email notifications of all new and upcoming future procurements, IndyGo events, and events held by other agencies. Please see the direct link in the Supplier Diversity Commitment Statement section to register.

IndyGo Supplier Diversity Policy and Commitment Statement:

IndyGo, a staunch Supplier Diversity advocate, is dedicated to the stewardship of our financial resources by ensuring that our bidding opportunities are inclusive and transparent. Our Supplier Diversity Program is comprised of both a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, and an “XBE” program. The collective term used for Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE), Woman-Owned Business Enterprises (WBE), Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (VBE) and Disability-Owned Business Enterprises (DOBE).

The mission of our Supplier Diversity Program is to create a level playing field on which DBEs and XBEs can compete fairly for contracts and subcontracts related to construction, procurement, and professional services. In addition, our mission is to build relationships and maximize procurement opportunities for DBEs and XBEs, while strengthening and reflecting the communities we serve.

IndyGo recognizes that a diverse and inclusive supply chain is essential to having a competitive pricing and meeting our strategic operational and procurement objectives. Building and maintaining a community of diverse suppliers increases our opportunity to tap in a source of talent, new ideas, fresh perspectives, and gain access to additional solutions that respond to our organizational needs. Such collaboration helps IndyGo provide quality public transportation services to Marion County residents.

We actively seek to create meaningful partnerships with businesses through our outreach, networking, and targeted communication activities. Procurement opportunities released through IndyGo will have defined participation goals that vendors seeking to do business with us will need to meet and/or exceed or make a Good Faith Effort (GFE) to do so. Very rarely will IndyGo have an opportunity with no goal(s). We encourage both certified and non-certified firms to participate in procurements as prime or subcontractors.

IndyGo is a recipient of federal funding, therefore we must comply with all regulations set forth in Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 49 Part 26.

We encourage vendors to register with us on our website under Procurement to receive notifications of all business opportunities and future networking events. [Vendor Registration - IndyGo](#).

Currently we accept the following certifications for projects:

- The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) – DBE Certification.
- The City of Indianapolis Office of Minority and Women Business Development – “XBE” certifications.
- The Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) – “XBE” Certifications.

Questions and Concerns:

For any questions or concerns related to DBE and XBE participation, how to become certified, or any other information, please contact Chelci Hunter, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Liaison Officer (DBELO) at chunter@indygo.net or Kevin McDuffie, Supplier Diversity Specialist, at kevin.mcduffie@indygo.net. Both Chelci and Kevin can be reached at SupplierDiversity@indygo.net.