



**CITY OF CHICAGO**  
**Department of Procurement Services**  
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**WORK SERVICES MBE & WBE SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS REGARDING MINORITY OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE FOR WORK SERVICES**

**1. POLICY AND TERMS**

It is the policy of the City of Chicago that Local Businesses certified as Minority Owned Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women Owned Business Enterprises (WBE) in accordance with Section 2-92-420 et seq. of the Municipal Code of Chicago and Regulations Governing Certification of Minority and Women-owned Businesses, and all other Regulations promulgated under the aforementioned sections of the Municipal Code, as well as MBEs and WBEs certified by Cook County, Illinois, will have full and fair opportunities to participate fully in the performance of this contract. Therefore, the Contractor will not discriminate against any person or business on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, military discharge status or source of income and will take affirmative action to ensure that women and minority businesses will have the maximum opportunity to compete for and perform subcontracts for supplies or services.

Pursuant to Section 2-92-430 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Chief Procurement Officer has established a goal of awarding not less than 25% of the annual dollar value of all non-construction contracts to certified MBEs and 5% of the annual dollar value of all non-construction contracts to certified WBEs.

Accordingly, the Contractor commits to make Good Faith Efforts to expend at least the following percentages of the total contract price (inclusive of any and all modifications and amendments), if awarded, for contract participation by MBEs and WBEs:

<b>MBE Percentage</b>	<b>WBE Percentage</b>
25%	5%

This commitment is met by the Contractor's status as a MBE or WBE, or by a joint venture with one or more MBEs or WBEs as prime contractor (to the extent of the MBE or WBE participation in such joint venture), or by subcontracting a portion of the work to one or more MBEs or WBEs, or by the purchase of materials used in the performance of the contract from one or more MBEs or WBEs, or by the indirect participation of MBEs or WBEs in other aspects of the Contractor's business (but no dollar of such indirect MBE or WBE participation will be credited more than once against a Contractor's MBE or WBE commitment with respect to all government Contracts of such Contractor), or by any combination of the foregoing.

**Note: MBE/WBE participation goals are separate and those businesses certified with the City of Chicago as both MBE and WBE may only be listed on a bidder's compliance plan as either a MBE or a WBE, but not both to demonstrate compliance with the Contract Specific Goals.**

As noted above, the Contractor may meet all or part of this commitment by contracting with MBEs or WBEs for the provision of goods or services not directly related to the performance of this Contract. However, in determining the manner of MBE/WBE participation, the Contractor will first consider involvement of MBEs/WBEs as joint venture partners, subcontractors, and suppliers of goods and services directly related to the performance of this Contract. In appropriate cases, the Chief Procurement Officer will require the Contractor to demonstrate the specific efforts undertaken by it to involve MBEs and WBEs directly in the performance of this Contract.

The Contractor also may meet all or part of this commitment through credits received pursuant to Section 2-92-530 of the Municipal Code of Chicago for the voluntary use of MBEs or WBEs in private sector contracts.

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

"Area of Specialty" means the description of an MBE or WBE firm's business which has been determined by the Chief Procurement Officer to be most reflective of the MBE or WBE firm's claimed specialty or expertise. Each MBE/WBE letter of certification contains a description of the firm's Area of Specialty. This information is also contained in the Directory (defined below). Credit toward this Contract's MBE and WBE participation goals shall be limited to the participation of firms performing within their Area of Specialty.

**NOTICE:** The City of Chicago does not make any representation concerning the ability of any MBE/WBE to perform work within their Area of Specialty. It is the responsibility of all contractors to determine the capability and capacity of MBEs/WBEs to satisfactorily perform the work proposed.

"B.E.P.D." means an entity certified as a Business enterprise owned or operated by people with disabilities as defined in MCC Section 2-92-586.

"Bid" means a bid, proposal, or submittal detailing a description of the services or work to be provided by the contractor in response to a bid solicitation, request for proposal, request for qualification of task order request (issued in accordance with the Master Consulting Agreement) that is issued by the City.

"Bidder" means any person or business entity that submits a bid, proposal, qualification or submittal that seeks to enter into a contract with the City, and includes all partners, affiliates and joint ventures of such person or entity.

"Broker" means a person or entity that fills orders by purchasing or receiving supplies from a third party supplier rather than out of its own existing inventory and provides no commercially useful function other than acting as a conduit between his or her supplier and his or her customer.

"Chief Procurement Officer" or "CPO" means the chief procurement officer of the City of Chicago or his or her designee.

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“Commercially Useful Function” means responsibility for the execution of a distinct element of the work of the contract, which is carried out by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved, evidencing the responsibilities and risks of a business owner such as negotiating the terms of (sub)contracts, taking on a financial risk commensurate with the contract or its subcontract, responsibility for acquiring the appropriate lines of credit and/or loans, or fulfilling responsibilities as a joint venture partner as described in the joint venture agreement.

“Contract Specific Goals” means the subcontracting goals for MBE and WBE participation established for a particular contract.

“Contractor” means any person or business entity that has entered into a contract with the City as described herein, and includes all partners, affiliates, and joint ventures of such person or entity.

“Direct Participation” the value of payments made to MBE or WBE firms for work that is done in their Area of Specialty directly related to the performance of the subject matter of the Contract will count as Direct Participation toward the Contract Specific Goals.

“Directory” means the Directory of Certified “Minority Business Enterprises” and “Women Business Enterprises” maintained and published by the City of Chicago. The Directory identifies firms that have been certified as MBEs and WBEs, and includes both the date of their last certification and the area of specialty in which they have been certified. Contractors are responsible for verifying the current certification status of all proposed MBE, and WBE firms.

“Good Faith Efforts” means actions undertaken by a bidder or contractor to achieve a Contract Specific Goal that the CPO or his or her designee has determined, by their scope, intensity, and appropriateness to the objective, can reasonably be expected to fulfill the program’s requirements.

“Indirect Participation” refers to the value of payments made to MBE or WBE firms for work that is done in their Area of Specialty related to other aspects of the Contractor’s business. (Note: no dollar of such indirect MBE or WBE participation shall be credited more than once against a contractor’s MBE or WBE commitment with respect to all government contracts held by that contractor.)

“Joint venture” means an association of a MBE or WBE firm and one or more other firms to carry out a single, for-profit business enterprise, for which each joint venture partner contributes property, capital, efforts, skills and knowledge, and in which the MBE or WBE is responsible for a distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract and whose share in the capital contribution, control, management, risks, and profits of the joint venture are commensurate with its ownership interest.

“Minority Owned Business Enterprise” or “MBE” means a firm awarded certification as a minority owned and controlled business in accordance with City Ordinances and Regulations as well as a firm awarded certification as a minority owned and controlled business by Cook County, Illinois.

“Municipal Code of Chicago” or “MCC” means the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago.

“Supplier” or “Distributor” refers to a company that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse or other establishment in which materials, supplies, articles or equipment are bought, kept in stock and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business. A regular distributor or supplier is a firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials or supplies required for performance of a contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold to the public in the usual course of business. To be a regular distributor the firm must engage in, as its principal business and in its own name, the purchase and sale of the products in question. A regular distributor in such bulk items as steel, cement, gravel, stone, and petroleum products need not keep such products in stock if it owns or operates distribution equipment.

“Women Owned Business Enterprise” or “WBE” means a firm awarded certification as a women owned and controlled business in accordance with City Ordinances and Regulations as well as a firm awarded certification as a women owned business by Cook County, Illinois.

### **3. JOINT VENTURES**

The formation of joint ventures to provide MBEs and WBEs with capacity and experience at the prime contracting level, and thereby meet Contract Specific Goals (in whole or in part) is encouraged. A joint venture may consist of any combination of MBEs, WBEs, and non-certified firms as long as one member is an MBE or WBE.

- a. The joint venture may be eligible for credit towards the Contract Specific Goals only if:
  - i. The MBE or WBE joint venture partner’s share in the capital contribution, control, management, risks and profits of the joint venture is equal to its ownership interest;
  - ii. The MBE or WBE joint venture partner is responsible for a distinct, clearly defined portion of the requirements of the contract for which it is at risk;
  - iii. Each joint venture partner executes the bid to the City; and
  - iv. The joint venture partners have entered into a written agreement specifying the terms and conditions of the relationship between the partners and their relationship and responsibilities to the contract, and all such terms and conditions are in accordance with the conditions set forth in Items i, ii, and iii above in this Paragraph a.
- b. The Chief Procurement Officer shall evaluate the proposed joint venture agreement, the Schedule B submitted on behalf of the proposed joint venture, and all related documents to determine whether these requirements have been satisfied. The Chief Procurement Officer shall also consider the record of the joint venture partners on other City of Chicago contracts. The decision of the Chief Procurement Officer regarding the eligibility of the joint venture for credit towards meeting the Contract Specific Goals, and the portion of those goals met by the joint venture, shall be final.

The joint venture may receive MBE or WBE credit for work performed by the MBE or WBE joint venture partner(s) equal to the value of work performed by the MBE or WBE with its own forces for a distinct, clearly defined portion of the work.

Additionally, if employees of the joint venture entity itself (as opposed to employees of the MBE or WBE partner) perform the work, then the value of the work may be counted toward the Contract Specific Goals at a rate equal to the

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MBE or WBE firm's percentage of participation in the joint venture as described in Schedule B.

The Chief Procurement Officer may also count the dollar value of work subcontracted to other MBEs and WBEs. Work performed by the forces of a non-certified joint venture partner shall not be counted toward the Contract Specific Goals.

### c. Schedule B: MBE/WBE Affidavit of Joint Venture

Where the bidder's Compliance Plan includes the participation of any MBE or WBE as a joint venture partner, the bidder must submit with its bid a Schedule B and the proposed joint venture agreement. These documents must both clearly evidence that the MBE or WBE joint venture partner(s) will be responsible for a clearly defined portion of the work to be performed, and that the MBE's or WBE's responsibilities and risks are proportionate to its ownership percentage. The proposed joint venture agreement must include specific details related to:

- i. The parties' contributions of capital, personnel, and equipment and share of the costs of insurance and bonding;
- ii. Work items to be performed by the MBE's or WBE's own forces and/or work to be performed by employees of the newly formed joint venture entity;
- iii. Work items to be performed under the supervision of the MBE or WBE joint venture partner; and
- iv. The MBE's or WBE's commitment of management, supervisory, and operative personnel to the performance of the contract.

**NOTE:** Vague, general descriptions of the responsibilities of the MBE or WBE joint venture partner do not provide any basis for awarding credit. For example, descriptions such as "participate in the budgeting process," "assist with hiring," or "work with managers to improve customer service" do not identify distinct, clearly defined portions of the work. Roles assigned should require activities that are performed on a regular, recurring basis rather than as needed. The roles must also be pertinent to the nature of the business for which credit is being sought. For instance, if the scope of work required by the City entails the delivery of goods or services to various sites in the City, stating that the MBE or WBE joint venture partner will be responsible for the performance of all routine maintenance and all repairs required to the vehicles used to deliver such goods or services is pertinent to the nature of the business for which credit is being sought.

#### **4. COUNTING MBE/WBE PARTICIPATION TOWARD THE CONTRACT SPECIFIC GOALS**

Refer to this section when preparing the MBE/WBE compliance plan and completing Schedule D-1 for guidance on what value of the participation by MBEs and WBEs will be counted toward the stated Contract Specific Goals. The "Percent Amount of Participation" depends on whether and with whom a MBE or WBE subcontracts out any portion of its work and other factors.

**Firms that are certified as both MBE and WBE may only be listed on a bidder's compliance plan as either a MBE or a WBE to demonstrate compliance with the Contract Specific Goals.** For example, a firm that is certified as both a MBE and a WBE may only be listed on the bidder's compliance plan under one of the categories,

but not both. **Only Payments made to MBE and WBE firms that meet BOTH the Commercially Useful Function and Area of Specialty requirements above will be counted toward the Contract Specific Goals.**

- a. Only expenditures to firms that perform a **Commercially Useful Function** as defined above may count toward the Contract Specific Goals.
  - i. The CPO will determine whether a firm is performing a commercially useful function by evaluating the amount of work subcontracted, whether the amount the firm is to be paid under the contract is commensurate with the work it is actually performing and the credit claimed for its performance of the work, industry practices, and other relevant factors.
  - ii. A MBE or WBE does not perform a commercially useful function if its participation is only required to receive payments in order to obtain the appearance of MBE or WBE participation. The CPO may examine similar commercial transactions, particularly those in which MBEs or WBEs do not participate, to determine whether non MBE and non WBE firms perform the same function in the marketplace to make a determination.
- b. Only the value of the dollars paid to the MBE or WBE firm for work that it performs in its **Area of Specialty** in which it is certified counts toward the Contract Specific Goals.
- c. For Maintenance, installation, repairs or inspection, if the MBE or WBE performs the work itself:
  - i. 100% of the value of work actually performed by the MBE's or WBE's own forces shall be counted toward the Contract Specific Goals, including the cost of supplies and materials purchased or equipment leased by the MBE or WBE from third parties or second tier subcontractors in order to perform its (sub)contract with its own forces (except supplies and equipment the MBE or WBE subcontractor purchases or leases from the prime contractor or its affiliate). **0% of the value of work at the project site that a MBE or WBE subcontracts to a non-certified firm counts toward the Contract Specific Goals.**
- d. If the MBE or WBE is a manufacturer:
  - i. 100% of expenditures to a MBE or WBE manufacturer for items needed for the Contract shall be counted toward the Contract Specific Goals. A manufacturer is a firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces on the premises the materials or supplies obtained by the bidder or contractor.
- e. If the MBE or WBE is a distributor or supplier
  - i. 60% of expenditures for materials and supplies purchased from a MBE or WBE that is certified as a regular dealer or supplier shall be counted toward the Contract Specific Goals.
- f. If the MBE or WBE is a broker:
  - i. 0% of expenditures paid to brokers will be counted toward the Contract Specific Goals.
  - ii. As defined above, Brokers provide no commercially useful function.
- g. If the MBE or WBE is a member of the joint venture contractor/bidder:
  - i. A joint venture may count the portion of the total dollar value of the contract equal to the distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the

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- contract that the MBE or WBE performs with its own forces toward the Contract Specific Goals; or
- ii. If employees of this distinct joint venture entity perform the work then the value of the work may be counted toward the Contract Specific Goals at a rate equal to the MBE or WBE firm's percentage of participation in the joint venture as described in the Schedule B.
  - iii. A joint venture may also count the dollar value of work subcontracted to other MBEs and WBEs.
- h. If the MBE or WBE subcontracts out any of its work:
- i. 100% of the value of the work subcontracted to other MBEs or WBEs performing work in its Area of Specialty may be counted toward the Contract Specific Goals.
  - ii. 0% of the value of work that a MBE or WBE subcontracts to a non-certified firm counts toward the Contract Specific Goals (except as allowed by (c)(i) above).
  - iii. The fees or commissions charged for providing a *bona fide* service, such as professional, technical, consulting or managerial services or for providing bonds or insurance and assistance in the procurement of essential personnel, facilities, equipment, materials or supplies required for performance of the Contract, provided that the fee or commission is determined by the Chief Procurement Officer to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.
  - iv. The fees charged for delivery of materials and supplies required on a job site (but not the cost of the materials and supplies themselves) when the hauler, trucker, or delivery service is not also the manufacturer of or a regular dealer in the materials and supplies, provided that the fee is determined by the Chief Procurement Officer to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.
  - v. The fees or commissions charged for providing any bonds or insurance, but not the cost of the premium itself, specifically required for the performance of the Contract, provided that the fee or commission is determined by the Chief Procurement Officer to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.

### **5. REGULATIONS GOVERNING REDUCTIONS TO OR WAIVER OF MBE/WBE GOALS**

The following Regulations set forth the standards to be used in determining whether or not a reduction or waiver of the MBE/WBE commitment goals of a particular contract is appropriate. If a bidder determines that it is unable to meet the MBE and/or WBE percentage on a City of Chicago contract, a written request for the reduction or waiver of the commitment must be included in the bid or proposal.

The written request for reduction or waiver from the commitment must be in the form of a signed petition for grant of relief from the MBE/WBE percentages submitted on the bidder's letterhead, and must demonstrate that all required efforts as set forth in this document were taken to secure eligible Minority and Women Business Enterprises to meet the commitments. The Chief Procurement Officer or designee shall determine whether the request for the reduction or waiver will be granted.

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All bidders will be considered responsive to the terms and conditions of these Regulations if, at the time of bid, it submits a waiver request and all supporting documentation that adequately addresses the conditions for waiver of MBE/WBE goals, including proof of notification to assist agencies except:

1) Bidders responding to Request for Proposals (RFPs) who have been identified as a sort listed candidate and/or a prospective awardee will be given a designated time allowance, but no more than fourteen (14) calendar days to submit to the Department of Procurement Services complete documentation that adequately addresses the conditions for waiver described herein; and

2) Bidders responding to Request for Information and or Qualifications (RFI/RFQs) deemed by the Chief Procurement Officer or authorized designee to be the most responsive and responsible shall submit documentation that adequately addresses the conditions for waiver described herein during negotiations.

Failure to submit documentation sufficient to support the waiver request will cause the bid/proposal to be found non-responsive by the Chief Procurement Officer, and the bid/proposal will be rejected. In such cases the remedies to be taken by the Chief Procurement Officer, in his or her discretion, may include, but are not limited to, forfeiture of bid deposit; negotiating with the next lowest bidder; or re-advertising the bid/proposal. All bidders must submit all required documents at the time of bid opening to expedite the contract award.

### a. Direct / Indirect Participation

Each of the following elements must be present in order to determine whether or not such a reduction or waiver is appropriate.

- i. The bidder has documented the unsuccessful solicitation for either subcontractors or joint venture partners of at least 50% (or at least five when there are more than eleven certified firms in the commodity area) of the appropriate certified MBE/WBE firms to perform any direct or indirect work identified or related to the advertised bid/proposal. Documentation must include but is not necessarily limited to:
  1. A detailed statement of efforts to identify and select portions of work identified in the bid solicitation for subcontracting to certified MBE/WBE firms;
  2. A listing of all MBE/WBE firms contacted that includes:
    - a. Name, address, telephone number and email of MBE/WBE firms solicited;
    - b. Date and time of contact;
    - c. Method of contact (written, telephone, transmittal of facsimile documents, email, etc.)
  3. Copies of letters or any other evidence of mailing that substantiates outreach to MBE/WBE vendors that includes:
    - a. Project identification and location;
    - b. Classification/commodity of work items for which quotations were sought;
    - c. Date, item and location for acceptance of subcontractor bid proposals;
    - d. Detailed statement which summarizes direct negotiations with appropriate MBE/WBE firms for specific portions of



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- the work and indicates why negotiations were unsuccessful;
- e. Affirmation that Good Faith Efforts have been demonstrated by:
    - i. choosing subcontracting opportunities likely to achieve MBE/WBE goals;
    - ii. not imposing any limiting conditions which were not mandatory for all subcontractors;
    - iii. providing notice of subcontracting opportunities to M/WBE firms and assist agencies at least five (5) business days in advance of the initial bid due date.

### OR

- ii. Subcontractor participation will be deemed excessively costly when the MBE/WBE subcontractor proposal exceeds the average price quoted by more than twenty percent (20%). In order to establish that a subcontractor's quote is excessively costly, the bidder must provide the following information:
  - 1. A detailed statement of the work identified for MBE/WBE participation for which the bidder asserts the MBE/WBE quote(s) were excessively costly (in excess of 20% higher).
  - 2. A listing of all potential subcontractors contacted for a quotation on that work item;
  - 3. Prices quoted for the subcontract in question by all such potential subcontractors for that work item.
- iii. Other documentation which demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Chief Procurement Officer that the MBE/WBE proposals are excessively costly, even though not in excess of 20% higher than the average price quoted. This determination will be based on factors that include, but are not limited to the following:
  - 1. The City's estimate for the work under a specific subcontract;
  - 2. The bidder's own estimate for the work under the subcontract;
  - 3. An average of the bona fide prices quoted for the subcontract;
  - 4. Demonstrated increase in other contract costs as a result of subcontracting to the M/WBE or other firm.

### b. Assist Agency Participation

Every waiver and/or reduction request must include evidence that the bidder has provided timely notice of the need for subcontractors to an appropriate association/assist agency representative of the MBE/WBE business community. This notice must be given at least five (5) business days in advance of the initial bid due date.

The notice requirement of this Section will be satisfied if a bidder contacts at least one of the associations on Attachment A to these Regulations when the prime contractor seeks a waiver or reduction in the utilization goals. Attachment B to these Regulations provides the letter format that a prime contractor may use. Proof of notification prior to bid submittal (e.g. certified mail receipt or facsimile transmittal receipt) will be required to be submitted with the bid for any bid/proposal to be deemed responsive. If deemed

appropriate, the Contract Compliance Officer may contact the assist agency for verification of notification.

c. Impracticability

- i. If the Chief Procurement Officer determines that a lesser MBE and/or WBE percentage standard is appropriate with respect to a particular contract subject to competitive bidding prior to the bid solicitations for such contract, bid specifications shall include a statement of such revised standard.
- ii. The requirements set forth in these Regulations shall not apply where the Chief Procurement Officer determines prior to the bid solicitations that MBE/WBE subcontractor participation is impracticable.

This may occur whenever the Chief Procurement Officer determines that for reasons of time, need, industry practices or standards not previously known by the Chief Procurement Officer, or such other extreme circumstances as may be deemed appropriate, such a Waiver is in the best interests of the City. This determination may be made in connection with a particular contract, whether before the contract is let for bid, during the bid or award process, before or during negotiation of the contract, or during the performance of the contract.

For all notifications required to be made by bidders, in situations where the Chief Procurement Officer has determined that time is of the essence, documented telephone contact may be substituted for letter contact.

**6. PROCEDURE TO DETERMINE BID COMPLIANCE**

A bid may be rejected as non-responsive if it fails to submit one or more of the following with its bid demonstrating its Good Faith Efforts to meet the Contract Specific Goals by reaching out to MBEs and WBEs to perform work on the contract:

- A. An MBE/WBE compliance plan demonstrating how the bidder plans to meet the Contract Specific Goals; and/or
- B. A request for reduction or waiver of the Contract Specific Goals in accordance with Section 2-92-450 of the MCC.

**Only compliance plans utilizing MBE and WBE firms that meet BOTH the Commercially Useful Function and Area of Specialty requirements will be counted toward the Contract Specific Goals.**

The following Schedules and described documents constitute the bidder's MBE/WBE proposal, and must be submitted in accordance with the guidelines stated:

- a. **Schedule C-1: Letter of Intent from MBE/WBE to Perform as Subcontractor, Supplier and/or Consultant.**

Schedule C-1: MBE/WBE Letter of Intent to Perform as a Subcontractor or Supplier

The bidder must submit the appropriate Schedule C-1 with the bid for each MBE and WBE included on the Schedule D-1. Suppliers must submit the Schedule C-1 for Suppliers, first tier subcontractors must submit a Schedule C-1 for Subcontractors to the Prime Contractor and second or lower tier subcontractors must submit a Schedule C-1

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for second tier Subcontractors. The City encourages subcontractors to utilize the electronic fillable format Schedule C-1, which is available at the Department of Procurement Services website, <http://cityofchicago.org/forms>. Each Schedule C-1 must be executed by each MBE and WBE and accurately detail the work to be performed by the MBE or WBE and the agreed upon rates/prices. Each Schedule C must also include a separate sheet as an attachment on which the MBE or WBE fully describes its proposed scope of work, including a description of the commercially useful function being performed by the MBE or WBE in its Area of Specialty. If a facsimile copy of the Schedule C-1 has been submitted with the bid, an executed original Schedule C-1 must be submitted by the bidder for each MBE and WBE included on the Schedule D-1 within five business days after the date of the bid opening.

Failure to submit a completed Schedule C-1 in accordance with this section shall entitle the City to deem the bid/proposal non-responsive and therefore reject the bid/proposal.

**b. Letters of Certification.**

A copy of each proposed MBE/WBE firm's current Letter of Certification from the City of Chicago or Cook County, Illinois must be submitted with the bid/proposal. All Letters of Certification issued by the City of Chicago and Cook County include a statement of the MBE/WBE firm's Area of Specialty. The MBE/WBE firm's scope of work, as detailed by their Schedule C-1, must conform to their stated Area of Specialty.

**c. Joint Venture Agreements.**

If the bidder's MBE/WBE proposal includes the participation of a MBE/WBE as joint venture on any tier (either as the bidder or as a subcontractor), the bidder must provide a copy of the joint venture agreement and a Schedule B along with all other requirements listed in Section 3 above. In order to demonstrate the MBE/WBE partner's share in the ownership, control, management responsibilities, risks and profits of the joint venture, the proposed joint venture agreement must include specific details related to: (1) contributions of capital and equipment; (2) work responsibilities or other performance to be undertaken by the MBE/WBE; and (3) the commitment of management, supervisory and operative personnel employed by the MBE/WBE to be dedicated to the performance of the contract. The joint venture agreement must also clearly define each partner's authority to contractually obligate the joint venture and each partner's authority to expend joint venture funds (e.g., check signing authority).

**d. Required Schedules Regarding MBE/WBE Utilization.**

Bidders must submit, together with the bid, a completed Schedule D-1 committing them to the utilization of each listed MBE/WBE firm. The City encourages bidders to utilize the electronic fillable format Schedule D-1, which is available at the Department of Procurement Services website, <http://cityofchicago.org/forms>. Except in cases where the bidder has submitted a request for a complete waiver of or variance from the MBE/WBE commitment in accordance with Section 5 herein, the bidder must commit to the expenditure of a specific dollar amount of participation by each MBE/WBE firm included on their Schedule D-1. The total dollar commitment to proposed MBEs must at least equal the MBE goal, and the total dollar commitment to proposed WBEs must at least equal the WBE goal. Bidders are responsible for calculating the dollar equivalent of the MBE and WBE goals as percentages of their total base bids or in the case of Term Agreements, depends upon requirements agreements, and blanket agreements, as percentages of the total estimated usage. All commitments made by the bidder's Schedule D-1 must conform to those presented in the submitted Schedule C-1. If Schedule C-1 is submitted after the opening, the bidder may submit a revised Schedule D-1 (executed and notarized to conform with the Schedules C-1). Bidders shall not be permitted to add MBEs or WBEs after bid opening to meet the Contract Specific Goals, however, contractors are encouraged to add additional MBE/WBE vendors to their approved compliance plan during the performance of the contract when additional opportunities for participation are identified. Except in cases where substantial and documented justification is provided, bidders will not be allowed to reduce the dollar commitment made to any MBE or WBE in order to achieve conformity between the Schedules C-1 and D-1.

All commitments for joint venture agreements must be delineated in the Schedule B.

**7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS DURING THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT**

- a. The Contractor will, not later than thirty (30) calendar days from the award of a contract by the City, execute formal contracts or purchase orders with the MBEs and WBEs included in their approved MBE/WBE Utilization Plan. These written agreements will be made available to the Chief Procurement Officer upon request.
- b. The Contractor will be responsible for reporting payments to all subcontractors on a monthly basis in the form of an electronic report. Upon the first payment issued by the City of Chicago to the contractor for services performed, on the first day of each month and every month thereafter, email and or fax audit notifications will be sent out to the Contractor with instructions to report payments that have been made in the prior month to each subcontractor. The reporting of payments to all subcontractors must be entered into the Certification and Compliance Monitoring System (C2), or whatever reporting system is currently in place, on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of each month.
- c. Once the prime Contractor has reported payments made to each subcontractor, including zero dollar amount payments, the subcontractor will receive an email and or fax notification requesting them to log into the system and confirm payments received. All monthly confirmations must be reported on or before the

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20th day of each month. Contractor and subcontractor reporting to the C2 system must be completed by the 25th of each month or payments may be withheld.

- d. All subcontract agreements between the contractor and MBE/WBE firms or any first tier non-certified firm and lower tier MBE/WBE firms must contain language requiring the MBE/WBE to respond to email and/or fax notifications from the City of Chicago requiring them to report payments received for the prime or the non-certified firm.

Access to the Certification and Compliance Monitoring System (C2), which is a web based reporting system, can be found at: <https://chicago.mwdbe.com>

- e. The Chief Procurement Officer or any party designated by the Chief Procurement Officer, shall have access to the contractor's books and records, including without limitation payroll records, tax returns and records and books of account, to determine the contractor's compliance with its commitment to MBE and WBE participation and the status of any MBE or WBE performing any portion of the contract. This provision shall be in addition to, and not a substitute for, any other provision allowing inspection of the contractor's records by any officer or official of the City for any purpose.

- f. The Contractor shall maintain records of all relevant data with respect to the utilization of MBEs and WBEs, retaining these records for a period of at least five years after project closeout. Full access to these records shall be granted to City, federal or state authorities or other authorized persons.

### **8. CHANGES TO COMPLIANCE PLAN**

- a. No changes to the Compliance Plan or contractual MBE and WBE commitments or substitution of MBE or WBE subcontractors may be made without the prior written approval of the Contract Compliance Officer. Unauthorized changes or substitutions, including performing the work designated for a subcontractor with the contractor's own forces, shall be a violation of these Special Conditions and a breach of the contract with the City, and may cause termination of the executed Contract for breach, and/or subject the bidder or contractor to contract remedies or other sanctions. The facts supporting the request for changes must not have been known nor reasonably could have been known by the parties prior to entering into the subcontract. Bid shopping is prohibited. The bidder or contractor must negotiate with the subcontractor to resolve the problem. If requested by either party, the Department of Procurement Services shall facilitate such a meeting. Where there has been a mistake or disagreement about the scope of work, the MBE or WBE can be substituted only where an agreement cannot be reached for a reasonable price for the correct scope of work.
- b. Substitutions of a MBE or WBE subcontractor shall be permitted only on the following basis:
  - i. Unavailability after receipt of reasonable notice to proceed;
  - ii. Failure of performance;
  - iii. Financial incapacity;
  - iv. Refusal by the subcontractor to honor the bid or proposal price or scope;
  - v. Mistake of fact or law about the elements of the scope of work of a solicitation where a reasonable price cannot be agreed;

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- vi. Failure of the subcontractor to meet insurance, licensing or bonding requirements;
  - vii. The subcontractor's withdrawal of its bid or proposal; or
  - viii. De-certification of the subcontractor as a MBE or WBE (graduation from the MBE/WBE program does not constitute de-certification).
- c. If it becomes necessary to substitute a MBE or WBE or otherwise change the Compliance Plan, the procedure will be as follows:
- i. The bidder or contractor must notify the Contract Compliance Officer and Chief Procurement Officer in writing of the request to substitute a MBE or WBE or otherwise change the Compliance Plan. The request must state specific reasons for the substitution or change. A letter from the MBE or WBE to be substituted or affected by the change stating that it cannot perform on the contract or that it agrees with the change in its scope of work must be submitted with the request.
  - ii. The City will approve or deny a request for substitution or other change within 15 business days of receipt of the written request.
  - iii. Where the bidder or contractor has established the basis for the substitution to the satisfaction of the Chief Procurement Officer, it must make Good Faith Efforts to meet the Contract Specific Goal by substituting a MBE or WBE subcontractor. Documentation of a replacement MBE or WBE, or of Good Faith Efforts, must meet the requirements in section 5. If the MBE or WBE Contract Specific Goal cannot be reached and Good Faith Efforts have been made, as determined by the Chief Procurement Officer, the bidder or contractor may substitute with a non-MBE or non-WBE.
  - iv. If a bidder or contractor plans to hire a subcontractor for any scope of work that was not previously disclosed in the Compliance Plan, the bidder or contractor must obtain the approval of the Chief Procurement Officer to modify the Compliance Plan and must make Good Faith Efforts to ensure that MBEs or WBEs have a fair opportunity to bid on the new scope of work.
  - v. A new subcontract must be executed and submitted to the Contract Compliance Officer within five business days of the bidder's or contractor's receipt of City approval for the substitution or other change.
- d. The City shall not be required to approve extra payment for escalated costs incurred by the contractor when a substitution of subcontractors becomes necessary to comply with MBE/WBE contract requirements.

### **9. NON-COMPLIANCE AND DAMAGES**

- a. Without limitation, the following shall constitute a material breach of this contract and entitle the City to declare a default, terminate the contract, and exercise those remedies provided for in the contract, at law or in equity: (1) failure to demonstrate Good Faith Efforts; and (2) disqualification as a MBE or WBE of the contractor or any joint venture partner, subcontractor or supplier if

its status as an MBE or WBE was a factor in the award of the contract and such status was misrepresented by the contractor.

- i. Payments due to the contractor may be withheld until corrective action is taken.
- ii. Remedies or sanctions may include disqualification from contracting or subcontracting on additional City contracts for up to three years, and the amount of the discrepancy between the amount of the commitment in the Compliance Plan, as such amount may be amended through change orders or otherwise over the term of the contract, and the amount paid to MBEs or WBEs. The consequences provided herein shall be in addition to any other criminal or civil liability to which such entities may be subject.
- iii. The contractor shall have the right to protest the final determination of non-compliance and the imposition of any penalty by the Chief Procurement Officer pursuant to 2-92-740 of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago, within 15 business days of the final determination.

#### **10. ARBITRATION**

- a. In the event a contractor has not complied with the contractual MBE/WBE percentages in its Schedule D, underutilization of MBEs/WBEs shall entitle the affected MBE/WBE to recover from the contractor damages suffered by such entity as a result of being underutilized; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to the extent such underutilization occurs pursuant to a waiver or substitution approved by the City. The Ordinance and contracts subject thereto provide that any disputes between the contractor and such affected MBEs/WBEs regarding damages shall be resolved by binding arbitration before an independent arbitrator other than the City, with reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, being recoverable by a prevailing MBE/WBE in accordance with these regulations. This provision is intended for the benefit of any MBE/WBE affected by underutilization and grants such entity specific third party beneficiary rights. Any rights conferred by this regulation are non-waivable and take precedence over any agreement to the contrary, including but not limited to those contained in a subcontract, suborder, or communicated orally between a contractor and a MBE/WBE.
- b. An MBE/WBE desiring to arbitrate shall contact the contractor in writing to initiate the arbitral process. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing by the affected parties subject to the limitation contained in the last sentence of the previous paragraph, within ten (10) calendar days of the contractor receiving notification of the intent to arbitrate from the MBE/WBE the above-described disputes shall be arbitrated in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA), a not-for-profit agency, with an office at 225 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2527, Chicago, Illinois 60601-7601 [Phone: (312) 616-6560; Fax: (312) 819-0404]. All such arbitrations shall be initiated by the MBE/WBE filing a demand for arbitration with the AAA; shall be conducted by the AAA; and held in Chicago, Illinois.
- c. All arbitration fees are to be paid *pro rata* by the parties, however, that the arbitrator is authorized to award reasonable expenses, including attorney's and arbitrator fees, as damages to a prevailing MBE/WBE.

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- d. The MBE/WBE must send the City a copy of the Demand for Arbitration within ten (10) calendar days after it is filed with the AAA. The MBE/WBE also must send the City a copy of the decision of the arbitrator within ten (10) calendar days of receiving such decision. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court of competent jurisdiction.

### **11. Equal Employment Opportunity**

Compliance with MBE and WBE requirements will not diminish or supplant equal employment opportunity and civil rights provisions as required by law related to bidder or contractor and subcontractor obligations.