



Birmingham Construction Industry Authority

A voluntary program for
certification of and assistance to
Minority and Disadvantaged
business enterprises in the
construction industry

Established in 1990



The Birmingham Plan— Construction Industry Program

“The Birmingham Plan” is Birmingham’s cooperative solution to a major challenge facing our community – critical under-utilization of the talents and human resources of over half our population – blacks and women. The major focus of this Plan is to develop programs directed toward expanding the participation of blacks and women in the city’s economic growth.

Birmingham Construction Industry Authority

The purpose of the Birmingham Construction Industry Authority (BCIA) is to increase the contract dollars being awarded to MBE/DBE construction firms located in the Birmingham area, in both the public and private sectors of the construction industry.

The program of the Birmingham Construction Industry Authority is a voluntary program developed to maximize MBE/DBE business participation in the construction industry of the Birmingham area. Owners of construction projects in both the public and private sector participate in the Birmingham Construction Industry Authority’s efforts to increase the participation of Minority/Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MBE/DBE) in their construction projects. MBE/DBE firms are certified as Minority or Disadvantaged business by the BCIA and receive business counseling and technical assistance provided by BCIA staff.

Certification of MBE/DBE Firms

The BCIA administers the City of Birmingham's MBE/DBE certification Program. The basic criteria for certification as an MBE/DBE firm requires that at least 51% of the business be owned by black, women or other minority groups designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce as being disadvantaged. Day-to-day management and financial control of the business must also be the responsibility of those owners claiming either minority or disadvantaged status.

The Certification process requires that an individual wishing to become certified as an owner/operator of a minority or disadvantaged business enterprise, obtain an application for certification from the BCIA. This application should be completed and returned to the BCIA for review. If the applicant is found to meet all requirements for certification, a Certificate of Certification as an MBE or DBE will be issued by the BCIA.

In some instances, a waiver of the certification process will be granted by the BCIA. Inquiries concerning a waiver should be directed to the Executive Director. The BCIA also certifies joint ventures between minority and non-minority businesses.

At periodic intervals, the BCIA publishes a directory containing information on all MBE/DBE businesses certified by the BCIA. This publication is distributed to all General Contractors in the Birmingham area, as well as to governmental agencies, and owners of privately funded construction projects.

Goals For MBE/DBE Participation on Construction Projects

In its effort to increase minority participation in the public and private sectors, the BCIA establishes goals or targets for MBE/DBE participation on an annual MBE/DBE business growth basis, or floating goals on a project by project basis. In establishing goals, consideration is given to several factors relating specifically to the overall capacity of MBE/DBE contractors to perform a stated volume of business based on their financial and technical capability.

MBE/DBE Programs

The BCIA provides training programs designed to strengthen MBE/DBE construction businesses. These programs are in the form of both one-on-one counseling with MBE/DBE contractors and courses taught in a classroom setting. The following are indicative of those business elements for which the BCIA provides training.

- Construction Business Management
- Fundamentals of Construction Law
- Financial Management
- Marketing of the Construction Business
- Bid Preparation & Submittal
- Blue Print Reading
- Estimating
- Scheduling
- Job Site Performance
- Identification of Bid Opportunities
- Computer fundamentals

Signatory Participants of the Birmingham Plan— Construction Industry Program

All entities, public and private, which engage at any time in the purchase of construction services within the metropolitan Birmingham area, are encouraged to become signatories to the Birmingham Plan – Construction Industry Program. Signatory participants agree to participate in the BCIA program to increase MBE/DBE participation in the Birmingham area construction business sector by adopting the BCIA guidelines and pledging to work towards accomplishing the objectives of the BCIA. BCIA guidelines are included in the project specifications on each of the signatory participant projects and apply to General Contractors bidding on those projects with respect to maximizing MBE/DBE participation. BCIA guidelines are available upon request.

For more information, contact:

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