



Supplier Diversity Inclusion Plan • Calendar Year 2021

Agency: Puget Sound Partnership

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2021 Puget Sound Partnership Supplier Diversity Inclusion Plan

Agency's plan to increase participation of certified small minority, women, and veteran owned firms:

The Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) is a small agency of approximately 45-50 staff. The Partnership is responsible for procurement activities for contract services, including direct buys and competitive solicitations. We do not do competitive solicitations for purchased services as we mainly purchase supplies (pens, paper, pencils, etc.).

Our plan to increase participation of small, minority, women and veteran-owned businesses is an on-going effort. The Partnership is committed to encourage procurement opportunities with certified minority and women-owned businesses.

The Partnership use the following strategies to help increase our spending with the Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprise (OMWBE) certified vendors and will continue to monitor our progress and results from the OMWBE website reports.

- The Partnership posts purchasing and contracting opportunities in the Washington Electronic Business Solution (WEBS) program. OMWBE certified firms registered in WEBS, and identified as seeking contracting opportunities, will be notified of our purchasing or contracting needs.
- With the current increase of the direct buy threshold to \$40,000 for OMWBE certified firms, the Partnership actively seeks out OMWBE vendors for direct buy services. Due to the direct buy increase, we are able to provide a more profitable contract with OMWBE firms.
- The Partnership includes OMWBE section in our RFP and/or RFQQ that encourages OMWBE Certified firms and/or consultants to apply as stated below.

MINORITY & WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the legislative findings and policies set forth in Chapter 39.19 RCW, the state of Washington encourages participation in all of its contracts by firms certified by the Office of



Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE). Participation may be either on a direct basis in response to this solicitation or on a subcontractor basis. However, no preference will be included in the evaluation of proposals, no minimum level of MWBE participation shall be required as a condition for receiving an award, and proposals will not be rejected or considered non-responsive on that basis. Bidders may contact OMWBE at toll free (866) 208 – 1064 to obtain information on certified firms.

- The Partnership has posted the OMWBE link onto our external PSP Website to inform interested small firms to apply for certification.

The Partnership would like to explore ways with OMWBE on how best to review for diverse spend and how to make adjustments if needed.