

Capacity Building Mentorship Program

FAQ'S

Q: WHAT IS THE CAPACITY BUILDING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM?

A: The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) created the Capacity Building Mentorship Program, previously called the Mentor Protégé Program, in response to the Governor's [Results Washington](#) Goals diverse business participation goals, as follows:

- Minority Business Enterprise 10%
- Small Businesses 5%
- Veteran Owned Businesses 5%
- Women's Business Enterprise 6%

This program is part of WSDOT's [State Funded Diversity Roadmap](#).

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM?

A: WSDOT's Capacity Building Mentorship Program is transitioning from its partnership with [THOR Construction](#) to the Tacoma [Minority Business Development Agency](#). Additionally, [Sound Transit](#) is partnering with WSDOT to expand the pool of applicants. Another round of applicants will be accepted this spring.

Q: IF I AM CURRENTLY IN THE PROGRAM AND SATISFIED WITH MY MENTOR/PROTÉGÉ, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

A: You may continue with your partnership and monthly reporting.

Q: HOW DO I FIND A MENTOR?

A: WSDOT, Sound Transit and the Minority Business Development Agency are currently planning the next round of pairing. More information will be made available shortly.

Q: CAN A PROTÉGÉ FIRM BE A MENTOR?

A: Yes, a Protégé can also serve as a Mentor. Larger Mentors are able to have more than one Protégé. Due to current demand, Protégés are only able to have one Mentor.

Q: ONCE MY FIRM IS IN AN ESTABLISHED MENTOR PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIP, ARE THERE OTHER REQUIREMENTS THAT MY FIRM MUST FULFILL?

A: Per the program requirements, participating firms must report monthly on the progress made under their Memorandum of Understanding.

Q: HOW LONG DOES IT TYPICALLY TAKE TO GET AN APPLICATION APPROVED?

A: Mentor and Protégé firms must complete the application process. Additionally, Protégé firms must be interviewed and their organization assessed for areas the Mentor and Protégé should focus on.

Q: WHO DO I CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROGRAM?

For more information, please contact Linda Womack, Director of the Minority Business Development Agency – Tacoma Business Center at MBDA@CityofTacoma.org or 253-591-5239.

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