CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR BUSINESS PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED MBEs/WBEs/SDVOBs AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS AND WOMEN

Pursuant to New York State Executive Law Article 15-A, BPCA recognizes its obligation under the law to promote opportunities for maximum feasible participation of certified MBE/WBEs and the employment of minority group members and women in the performance of BPCA contracts. Pursuant to New York State Executive Law Article 17-B and 9 NYCRR §252, BPCA recognizes its obligation under the law to promote opportunities for maximum feasible participation of certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (“SDVOB”).

In 2006, the State of New York commissioned a disparity study to evaluate whether minority and women-owned business enterprises had a full and fair opportunity to participate in state contracting. The findings of the study were published on April 29, 2010, under the title “The State of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises: Evidence from New York” (the “Disparity Study”). The report found evidence of statistically significant disparities between the level of participation of minority-and women-owned business enterprises in state procurement contracting versus the number of minority-and women-owned business enterprises that were ready, willing and able to participate in state procurements. As a result of these findings, the Disparity Study made recommendations concerning the implementation and operation of the statewide certified minority- and women-owned business enterprises program. The recommendations from the Disparity Study culminated in the enactment and the implementation of New York State Executive Law Article 15-A, which requires, among other things, that BPCA establish goals for maximum feasible participation of New York State Certified MBEs/WBEs and the employment of minority groups members and women in the performance of New York State contracts.

Business Participation Opportunities for MBE/WBEs

For purposes of this solicitation, BPCA hereby establishes an overall goal of 30% for MBE/WBE participation, 15% for MBE participation and 15% for WBE participation (based on the current availability of qualified MBEs and WBEs). A contractor (“Contractor”) on the Contract must document good faith efforts to provide meaningful participation by MBE/WBEs as subcontractors or suppliers in the performance of the Contract and Contractor agrees that BPCA may withhold payment pending receipt of the required MBE/WBE documentation. The directory of New York State Certified MBE/WBEs can be viewed at: https://ny.newnycontracts.com/FrontEnd/VendorSearchPublic.asp?TN=ny&XID=7562. For guidance on how BPCA will determine a Contractor’s “good faith efforts,” refer to 5 NYCRR §142.8.

In accordance with 5 NYCRR §142.13, Contractor acknowledges that if it is found to have willfully and intentionally failed to comply with the MBE/WBE participation goals set forth in the Contract, such finding constitutes a breach of Contract and BPCA may withhold payment from the Contractor as liquidated damages.

Such liquidated damages shall be calculated as an amount equaling the difference between: (1) all sums identified for payment to MBE/WBEs had the Contractor achieved the contractual MBE/WBE goals; and (2) all sums actually paid to MBEs/WBEs for work performed or materials supplied under the Contract.

By submitting a bid or Proposal, a Proposer agrees to demonstrate its good faith efforts to achieve its goals for the utilization of MBEs/WBEs by submitting evidence thereof through the New York State Contract System (the “NYSCS”), which can be viewed at https://ny.newnycontracts.com, provided, however, that a
Proposer may arrange to provide such evidence via a non-electronic method by contacting BPCA. Please note that the NYSCS is a one stop solution for all of your MBE/WBE and Article 15-A contract requirements. For additional information on the use of the NYSCS to meet the Proposer’s MBE/WBE requirements please see the attached MBE/WBE guidance from the New York State Division of Minority and Women’s Business Development, “Your MWBE Utilization and Reporting Responsibilities Under Article 15-A.”

A. Proposers are required to submit a Utilization Plan with their bid or Proposal as evidence of compliance with the foregoing. Any modifications or changes to the Utilization Plan after the Contract award and during the term of the Contract must be reported on a revised Utilization Plan and submitted to BPCA.

B. BPCA will review the submitted Utilization Plan and advise the Proposer of BPCA’s acceptance or issue a notice of deficiency within 30 days of receipt.

C. If a notice of deficiency is issued, Proposer agrees that it shall respond to the notice of deficiency within seven (7) business days of receipt by submitting to BPCA, at the address specified in this RFP, or by facsimile at 212-417-2279 a written remedy in response to the notice of deficiency. If the written remedy that is submitted is not timely or is found by BPCA to be inadequate, BPCA shall notify the Proposer and direct the Proposer to submit, within five (5) business days, a request for a partial or total waiver of MBE/WBE participation goals. Failure to file the waiver form in a timely manner may be grounds for disqualification of the bid or Proposal.

D. BPCA may disqualify a Proposer as being non-responsive under the following circumstances:

1) If a Proposer fails to submit a Utilization Plan;
2) If a Proposer fails to submit a written remedy to a notice of deficiency;
3) If a Proposer fails to submit a request for waiver; or
4) If BPCA determines that the Proposer has failed to document good faith efforts.

Contractors shall attempt to utilize, in good faith, any MBE/WBE identified within its Utilization Plan, during the performance of the Contract. Requests for a partial or total waiver of established goal requirements made subsequent to the Contract award may be made at any time during the term of the Contract to BPCA, but must be made no later than prior to the submission of a request for final payment on the Contract.

Contractors are required to submit a Contractor’s MBE/WBE Contractor Compliance & Payment Report to BPCA on a monthly basis over the term of the Contract documenting the progress made toward achievement of the MBE/WBE goals of the Contract.

Business Participation Opportunities for SDVOBs

For purposes of this solicitation, BPCA hereby establishes an overall goal of 6% for SDVOB participation. A Contractor must document good faith efforts to provide meaningful participation by SDVOBs as subcontractors or suppliers in the performance of the Contract and Contractor agrees that BPCA may withhold payment pending receipt of the required SDVOB documentation. The directory of New York State Certified SDVOBs can be viewed at: http://www.ogs.ny.gov/Core/docs/CertifiedNYS_SDVOB.pdf. For guidance on how BPCA will determine a Contractor’s “good faith efforts,” refer to 9 NYCRR §252.2(f)(2).

In accordance with 9 NYCRR §252.2(s), Contractor acknowledges that if it is found to have willfully and intentionally failed to comply with the SDVOB participation goals set forth in the Contract, such finding constitutes a breach of Contract and Contractor shall be liable for damages as specified in the Contract.
Such damages shall be calculated based on the actual cost incurred by BPCA related to BPCA’s expenses for personnel, supplies and overhead related to establishing, monitoring and reviewing certified SDVOB programmatic goals.

A. Additionally, a Proposer agrees to submit a Utilization Plan with their bid or Proposal as evidence of compliance with the foregoing. Any modifications or changes to the Utilization Plan after the Contract award and during the term of the Contract must be reported on a revised Utilization Plan and submitted to BPCA.

B. BPCA will review the submitted Utilization Plan and advise the Proposer of BPCA’s acceptance or issue a notice of deficiency within 30 days of receipt.

C. If a notice of deficiency is issued, Proposer agrees that it shall respond to the notice of deficiency within seven (7) business days of receipt by submitting to BPCA, at the address specified in this RFP, or by facsimile at 212-417-2279 a written remedy in response to the notice of deficiency. If the written remedy that is submitted is not timely or is found by BPCA to be inadequate, BPCA shall notify the Proposer and direct the Proposer to submit, within five (5) business days, a request for a partial or total waiver of SDVOB participation goals. Failure to file the waiver form in a timely manner may be grounds for disqualification of the bid or Proposal.

D. BPCA may disqualify a Proposer as being non-responsive under the following circumstances:

1) If a Proposer fails to submit a Utilization Plan;

2) If a Proposer fails to submit a written remedy to a notice of deficiency;

3) If a Proposer fails to submit a request for waiver; or

4) If BPCA determines that the Proposer has failed to document good faith efforts.

Contractors shall attempt to utilize, in good faith, any SDVOB identified within its Utilization Plan, during the performance of the Contract. Requests for a partial or total waiver of established goal requirements made subsequent to the Contract award may be made at any time during the term of the Contract to BPCA, but must be made no later than prior to the submission of a request for final payment on the Contract.

Contractors are required to submit a Contractor’s SDVOB Contractor Compliance & Payment Report to BPCA on a monthly basis over the term of the Contract documenting the progress made toward achievement of the SDVOB goals of the Contract.

Equal Employment Opportunity Requirements

By submission of a bid or Proposal in response to this RFP, the Proposer/Contractor agrees with all of the terms and conditions of the attached M/WBE – Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement. The Contractor is required to ensure that it shall undertake or continue programs to ensure that minority group members and women are afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status. For these purposes, equal opportunity shall apply in the areas of recruitment, employment, job assignment, promotion, upgrading, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, and rates of pay or other forms of compensation. This requirement does not apply to: (i) work, goods, or services unrelated to the Contract or (ii) employment outside New York State.

To ensure compliance with Article 15-A, Proposer further agrees, where applicable, to submit with the Proposal, a staffing plan identifying the anticipated work force to be utilized on the Contract and if awarded
a Contract, will, upon request, submit to BPCA a workforce utilization report identifying the workforce actually utilized on the Contract, if known through the NYSCS; provided, however, that a Proposer may arrange to provide such report via a non-electronic method by contacting BPCA.

Further, pursuant to Article 15 of the Executive Law (the “Human Rights Law”), all other New York State and Federal statutory and constitutional non-discrimination provisions, the Contractor and sub-contractors will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed (religion), color, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, age, disability, predisposing genetic characteristic, marital status or domestic violence victim status, and shall also follow the requirements of the Human Rights Law with regard to non-discrimination on the basis of prior criminal conviction and prior arrest.

Please Note: Failure to comply with the foregoing requirements may result in a finding of non-responsiveness, non-responsibility and/or a breach of the Contract, leading to the withholding of funds, suspension or termination of the Contract or such other actions or enforcement proceedings as are allowed by the Contract.

For questions on MBE/WBE/SDVOB participation, joint ventures and sub-contracting goals ONLY, please contact Mr. Anthony Peterson at 212.417.2337.
Your MBE/WBE Utilization and Reporting Responsibilities
Under Article 15-A

The New York State Contract System ("NYSCS") is your one stop tool for compliance with New York State’s MBE/WBE Program. It is also the platform New York State uses to monitor state contracts and MBE/WBE participation.

GETTING STARTED

To access the system, please login or create a user name and password at https://ny.newnycontracts.com/FrontEnd/VendorSearchPublic.asp?TN=ny&XID=7562. If you are uncertain whether you already have an account set up or still need to register, please send an email to the customer service contact listed on the Contact Us & Support page, or reach out to your contract’s project manager. For verification, in the email, include your business name and contact information.

VENDOR RESPONSIBILITIES

As a vendor conducting business with New York State, you have a responsibility to utilize minority- and/or women-owned businesses in the execution of your contracts, per the MBE/WBE percentage goals stated in your solicitation, incentive proposal or contract documents. NYSCS is the tool that New York State uses to monitor MBE/WBE participation in state contracting. Through the NYSCS you will submit utilization plans, request subcontractors, record payments to subcontractors, and communicate with your project manager throughout the life of your awarded contracts.

There are several reference materials available to assist you in this process, but to access them, you need to first be registered within the NYSCS. Once you log onto the website, click on the Help & Support >> link on the lower left hand corner of the Menu Bar to find recorded trainings and manuals on all features of the NYSCS. You may also click on the Help & Tools icon at the top right of your screen to find videos tailored to primes and subcontractors. There are also opportunities available to join live trainings, read up on the “Knowledge Base” through the Forum link, and submit feedback to help improve future enhancements to the system. Technical assistance is always available through the Contact Us & Support link on the NYSCS website (https://ny.newnycontracts.com/FrontEnd/VendorSearchPublic.asp?TN=ny&XID=7562).

For more information, contact your project manager.
MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES – EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENT

ME/WBE AND EEO POLICY STATEMENT

I, _________________________ (the “Contractor”), agree to adopt the following policies with respect to
the project being developed at, or services rendered to, the Battery Park City Authority (“BPCA”).

**ME/WBE**

This organization will and will cause its contractors and subcontractors to take good faith actions to achieve the MBE/WBE contract participations goals set by the State for that area in which the State-funded project is located, by taking the following steps:

1. Actively and affirmatively soliciting bids for contracts and subcontracts from qualified State certified MBEs or WBEs, including solicitations to MBE/WBE contractor associations.

2. Requesting a list of State-certified MBEs/WBEs from BPCA and soliciting bids from these MBEs/WBEs directly.

3. Ensuring that plans, specifications, request for proposals and other documents used to secure bids will be made available in sufficient time for review by prospective MBEs/WBEs.

4. Where feasible, dividing the work into smaller portions to enhance participations by MBEs/WBEs and encourage the formation of joint venture and other partnerships among MBE/WBE contractors to enhance their participation.

5. Documenting and maintaining records of bid solicitation, including those to MBEs/WBEs and the results thereof. The Contractor will also maintain records of actions that its subcontractors have taken toward meeting MBE/WBE contract participation goals.

6. Ensuring that progress payments to MBEs/WBEs are made on a timely basis so that undue financial hardship is avoided, and that bonding and other credit requirements are waived or appropriate alternatives are developed to encourage MBE/WBE participation.

**EEO**

(a) This organization will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status, will undertake or continue existing diversity programs to ensure that minority group members are afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination, and shall make and document its conscientious and active efforts to employ and utilize minority group members and women in its work force on State contracts.

(b) This organization shall state in all solicitation or advertisements for employees that in the performance of the State contract all qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex disability or marital status.

(c) At the request of BPCA, this organization shall request that each employment agency, labor union, or authorized representative will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status and that such union or representative will affirmatively cooperate in the implementation of this organization’s obligations herein.

(d) The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Human Rights Law, all other State and Federal statutory and constitutional non-discrimination provisions. The Contractor and subcontractors shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed (religion), color, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, age, disability, predisposing genetic characteristic, marital status or domestic violence victim status, and shall also follow the requirements of the Human Rights Law with regard to non-discrimination on the basis of prior criminal conviction and prior arrest.

(e) This organization will include the provisions of sections (a) through (d) of this agreement in every subcontract in such a manner that the requirements of the subdivisions will be binding upon each subcontractor as to work in connection with the State contract.
Agreed to this ______ day of ____________________, 2015

By __________________________________________

Print: _____________________________________ Title: _____________________________

_________________________________is designated as the Contractor’s Minority Business
Enterprise Liaison responsible for administering the Minority and Women-Owned Business
Enterprises - Equal Employment Opportunity (MBE/WBE - EEO) program.

**MBE/WBE Contract Goals**

30% Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise Participation

___% Minority Business Enterprise Participation

___% Women’s Business Enterprise Participation

**EEO Contract Goals** (if applicable)

___% Minority Labor Force Participation

___% Female Labor Force Participation

____________________________________________
(Authorized Representative)

Title: ______________________________________

Date: ______________________________________
Diversity Practices Questionnaire

I, ___________________, as __________________ (title) of _______________ firm or company (hereafter referred to as the company), swear and/or affirm under penalty of perjury that the answers submitted to the following questions are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge:

1. Does your company have a Chief Diversity Officer or other individual who is tasked with supplier diversity initiatives?  Yes or No

If yes, provide the name, title, description of duties, and evidence of initiatives performed by this individual or individuals.

2. What percentage of your company’s gross revenues (from your prior fiscal year) was paid to New York State certified minority and/or women-owned business enterprises as subcontractors, suppliers, joint-venture’s, partners or other similar arrangement for the provision of goods or services to your company’s clients or customers?

3. What percentage of your company’s overhead (i.e. those expenditures that are not directly related to the provision of goods or services to your company’s clients or customers) or non-contract-related expenses (from your prior fiscal year) was paid to New York State certified minority- and women-owned business enterprises as suppliers/contractors?\(^1\)

4. Does your company provide technical training\(^2\) to minority- and women-owned business enterprises? Yes or No

If yes, provide a description of such training which should include, but not be limited to, the date the program was initiated, the names and the number of minority- and women-owned business enterprises participating in such training, the number of years such training has been offered and the number of hours per year for which such training occurs.

5. Is your company participating in a government approved minority- and women-owned business enterprise mentor-protégé program?

If Yes, identify the governmental mentoring program in which your company participates and provide evidence demonstrating the extent of your company’s commitment to the governmental mentoring program.

6. Does your company include specific quantitative goals for the utilization of minority- and women-owned business enterprises in its non-government procurements? Yes or No

If Yes, provide a description of such non-government procurements (including time period, goal, scope and dollar amount) and indicate the percentage of the goals that were attained.

7. Does your company have a formal minority- and women-owned business enterprise supplier diversity program? Yes or No

If Yes, provide documentation of program activities and a copy of policy or program materials.

\(^1\) Do not include onsite project overhead.

\(^2\) Technical training is the process of teaching employees how to more accurately and thoroughly perform the technical components of their jobs. Training can include technology applications, products, sales and service tactics, and more. Technical skills are job-specific as opposed to soft skills, which are transferable.
8. Does your company plan to enter into partnering or subcontracting agreements with New York State certified minority- and women-owned business enterprises if selected as the successful respondent? Yes or No

If Yes, complete the attached Utilization Plan

All information provided in connection with the questionnaire is subject to audit and any fraudulent statements are subject to criminal prosecution and debarment.

Signature of Owner/Official
Printed Name of Signatory
Title
Name of Business
Address
City, State, Zip

STATE OF _______________________________
COUNTY OF                             ) ss:

__________________________
Notary Public