

Good Faith Effort Tips for SBEDA Waivers

- 1. Attend Pre-Submittal Conference:** Respondent should indicate whether they attended the relevant pre-submittal conference.
Tip: To receive credit for attending a pre-submittal conference, the attendee must be a person who will be directly involved with the project (i.e., owner, project manager, estimator, etc.). The Economic Development Department's (EDD) Small Business Office (SBO) will obtain a copy of the sign-in sheet to confirm attendance.
- 2. Subdivide the Work:** Respondent should demonstrate subdivision of the work into commercially useful disciplines or work elements that can be economically performed by certified small, minority and/or women-owned business enterprises (S/M/WBEs), when feasible. It is the respondent's responsibility to demonstrate that sufficient work was made available to S/M/WBEs to meet specified SBEDA requirements.
Tip: The work should be subdivided into categories or disciplines to allow for maximum SBE and M/WBE participation. For example:
Project Name: Annual Contract for Various Departments Lawn Maintenance
Work Elements: Grounds Maintenance – 50%
Landscaping – 20%
Irrigation System Maintenance and Repair – 10%
Litter/Removal Services – 10%
Weed and Vegetation Control – 10%
- 3. Advertise:** Respondent should advertise in general circulation, trade publications, or minority/women's business focused media for S/M/WBE subcontractors at a reasonable time prior to the bid due date. A copy of the advertisement, showing the advertisement date(s), name of publication(s), type of work and amount of work being solicited, must be provided.
Tip: A copy of the advertisement should be submitted, including the date(s) of advertisement and name of publication.
- 4. Use Public Databases and Minority/Women's Business Focused Organizations/Services:** Respondent should provide evidence of using the City's NIGP Search website, the South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency (SCTRCA), and other organizations' vendor directories/listings to solicit S/M/WBE subcontractors.
Tips: a.) Respondents may acquire a list of potential S/M/WBE subcontractors from the COSA Vendor Listing at <http://sanantonio.gov/purchasing/vendorlisting.aspx> through NIGP code search engine ; b.) SCTRCA's online listing of S/M/WBEs is available at <http://sctrca.org/>; c.) Respondents may use the services and assistance of the SBA, local chambers of commerce, S/M/WBE business associations, and other local outreach programs for locating and contacting S/M/WBEs; d.) To confirm if a potential S/M/WBE subcontractor meets the City's SBEDA program eligibility, the respondent may contact EDD's SBO; e) Contact the Small Business Office
- 5. Provide Relevant Information to Small Businesses:** Provide documentation that respondent provided S/M/WBEs with information regarding contract requirements, solicitation timing, and how to obtain plans and specifications, at a reasonable time (7-10 days) prior to the bid due date.
Tip: This documentation can include ad copies, emails, faxes or any other correspondence between respondent and S/M/WBEs indicating outreach efforts.
- 6. Directly Solicit Small Businesses:** Respondent must provide documentation of directly soliciting S/M/WBE subcontractors. Copies of emails and fax notices sent directly to SBEs and M/WBEs should be submitted. A direct solicitation may include the type of work, amount of work, and a brief specific description of the work being solicited.
Tip: Send emails or faxes to S/M/WBEs detailing the specific scope of work determined would lend to a subcontracting opportunity. Follow-up with a call to the S/M/WBEs to make sure they received your email or fax (some emails go directly to spam boxes). Document the S/M/WBE company name, contact person, phone number/email address, certifications, result of contact (left message, no answer, etc.) bid received and reason for rejection.
- 7. Offer Assistance:** Respondent must provide documentation of efforts to assist S/M/WBEs in obtaining bonding, insurance or equipment.
Tip: Submitting the offer to assist with bonding/insurance/equipment included in the ad copy, emails and/or fax correspondences during S/M/WBE outreach efforts satisfies this requirement.
- 8. Document bid and negotiation results:** Respondent should negotiate in good faith with interested S/M/WBEs. The respondent should provide documentation of all the negotiations with S/M/WBEs, unsuccessful and/or bids received but not accepted, and provide the following contact information: company name, telephone number, contact person, price bid (if applicable) and the reasoning for rejecting the bid for each unsuccessful bid.
Tip: If price was the reason for rejecting the bid, the respondent should document the price bid by both the rejected S/M/WBE and the accepted low bidder for that particular scope of work.
- 9. Follow-Up with Vendors:** Respondents must show evidence that they conducted a strong effort to include S/M/WBEs in their response.
Tip: Provide evidence that respondent attempted to reach S/M/WBEs multiple times and provide documentation of response from S/M/WBEs contacted.
- 10. Fill out SBEDA Respondent/Vendor Subcontractor Waiver Request located at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/SBO/Forms.aspx> and attach all Good Faith Effort documentation.**
*Tip: Respondents **must** submit this form with documentation or the waiver request will not be processed by the EDD SBO. As a reminder, respondents **must also** submit the Subcontractor/Supplier Utilization Plan with their response.*