

1. Tell us about your position and role with Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)?

As the Deputy Vice President of Supplier Diversity at MWAA, my role is to continuously drive economic impact in the communities we all serve by ensuring the maximum inclusion of minority, small, and local businesses in MWAA procurement opportunities. The Department of Supplier Diversity is responsible for strategic outreach, certification, pre- and post- award contract compliance, supplier development, and reporting. The department implements a number of Small Business Programs: MWAA Local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (LDBE), Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE), and Small Business Enterprise (SBE). Additional information can be found at <http://www.mwaa.com/supplierdiversity>.

2. Tell us about the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program and who can take advantage of the program? Is there more than one? Do you set goals, if so, how are they determined?

MWAA administers the LDBE Program, a race and gender-neutral program with a geographical preference, for its non-federally funded contracts. The LDBE Program is a program created specifically, and exclusively, for MWAA's procurement needs. Additionally, MWAA encourages voluntary minority and women -owned business participation for its non-federally funded contracts. As a grant recipient from the Department of Transportation (DOT), MWAA also administers DOT small business programs such as the DBE, ACDBE, and SBE programs.

We set goals on the small business programs in accordance with MWAA LDBE and the DOT guidelines, as applicable, which are generally based on the availability of ready, willing and able certified businesses. More information on the different small business programs can be found at <http://www.mwaa.com/supplierdiversity>.

3. What minority or disadvantage certifications does MWAA accept?

MWAA accepts VA UCP certified firms for federally funded projects. DBEs and ACDBEs located in Home States other than Virginia, must apply for VA UCP Certification before pursuing solicitations within Virginia. SBEs must apply regardless of geographic location. LDBE certifications are accepted for MWAA's non-federally funded solicitations. MWAA does not have reciprocal arrangements with any certifying organizations at this time. However, MWAA signed a joint certification program with the District Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) to streamline the certification process for DC Certified Business Enterprises.

4. How does one get certified or registered with MWAA?

Companies applying for certification for any of the small business programs must submit their applications online. Online applications are accepted on MWAA's Supplier Diversity

Management System; <https://mwaa.diversitycompliance.com/>. MWAA accepts its LDBE, ACDBE, DBE, and SBE applications on this portal.

5. Does MWAA require their vendors to post bid, payment, and performance bonds?

Generally, for construction solicitations equal to or in excess of \$100,000, vendors must post a bid bond when they submit an offer; payment/performance bonds must be submitted before award. For non-construction services, bonds may be required depending on the types of services requested.

6. What are your commercial liability insurance requirements?

MWAA Office of Risk Management determines the insurance requirements depending on the scope of work. Construction services for MWAA's Capital Construction program (CCP) are covered under the MWAA Owner Controlled Insurance Program Manual posted at www.mwaa.com.

7. Do you require security screening and/or identification from vendors and their employees in order to access job sites during MWAA projects? If so, what level?

All individuals having a regular presence at the Airports, and those who have been authorized unescorted access to Security Controlled Areas, must be badged by the ID Office, which involves security screening as determined by the ID office. MWAA contract documents generally include applicable badging requirements for contractors working at the airports. Public Guidance on badging Orders and Instructions is posted on <http://www.mwaa.com/business/reagan-pass-id-office>.

8. What happens when there is a payment dispute between a prime and a sub-contractor? Do you get involved?

The Authority requires its primes to pay its subcontractors for satisfactory work within a specified period of time ranging from 10 to 15 days depending on the nature of the contract. MWAA understands the importance of compliance in ensuring fair treatment and prompt payment to subcontractors.

9. Do you monitor payments to sub-contractors from primes?

Yes, in order to monitor payments to subcontractors, MWAA invested in a web-based compliance system which requires primes to report their subcontractors' payments and subcontractors to validate those payments on a monthly basis. This process allows MWAA to enhance transparency in the compliance process and ensure fair treatment of subcontractors.

10. What current or future opportunities can minority contractors track and prepare for now?

MWAA publishes a Quarterly Acquisition Forecast, which lists upcoming solicitations, facilitates strategic outreach efforts, and provides small and minority businesses the opportunity to proactively plan and compete. This information, along with the list of current opportunities, can be accessed on the MWAA website by clicking www.mwaa.com/contracting. MWAA also publishes a Contracting Opportunities Newsletter to registered businesses which provides updates on near term solicitations. Firms can register by clicking www.mwaa.com/business/project-elert.

11. Since the airports are located in Virginia, does a construction contractor need a Virginia commercial contractor's license to work on your projects? Are there any other local requirements that one must consider?

Yes, all contractors doing construction work for MWAA must hold a Virginia Contractor License. Additional details are available in the MWAA Building Codes Manual, which is available on our website.

12. What makes you proud about your job?

As a child, I always had this dream about being the hope of the hopeless, the voice of the deaf and mute, the advocate of the undeserved, and most importantly a contributor in making the world a better world. As I was growing up, this dream turned into a strong passion, commitment and dedication to using supplier diversity as a vehicle to develop, empower, and elevate minority and small businesses while driving micro and macro-economic impact; and making the world a better one for all. As an organization whose commitment to supplier diversity is second to none and an engine of economic development in the region, MWAA gives me the unique opportunity to realize that dream.