



# **AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program Compliance Guidelines**

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## A. Program Overview

The Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program was established by the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees on August 29, 2016 adopted HUB Policy and Program Guidelines to assist small minority and women-owned business enterprises (HUB/MBE/WBE) equal opportunities in contracting for the District. The Board adopted revised policies (CH & CV – LOCAL) on June 18, 2018 to enhance and expand the Program

The purpose of this document is to ensure that bidders/proposers are compliant with the Austin Independent School District's (the District) Program Policies and Regulations when submitting on District solicitations. It will be the bidder/proposer's responsibility to reference Program Policies and Regulations (CH & CV) located on the District's website at the following location, as they relate to HUB Program compliance:

<https://www.austinisd.org/hub>

The District's HUB Program intent is to provide equal opportunities to all contractors/consultants and to assist in remedying discrimination in contracting with HUB/MBE/WBE firms. The District will accept business enterprises that meet the certification criteria from a State of Texas Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) and the City of Austin Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) Programs.

## B. Solicitation Program Goals

**Goals are located/listed on the HUB Compliance Plan (HCP)/HUB Utilization Report (HUR) form for each solicitation.**

On all solicitations > \$50,000 the HUB Program Department will review to establish/set Goal(s). When Goal(s) have been established/set, it is a requirement that the bidders/proposers must meet the stated Goal(s) or demonstrate documented Good Faith Effort (GFE) performed to meet the Goal(s). *GFE documentation **MUST** be submitted **ONLY** with the proposal, when a certified HUB/MBE/WBE firm 1) was not listed to achieve the Goal(s) on the HCP or 2) Goal(s) were not achieved on the HUR.*

**Important Notice:** The following forms and GFE documentation (when required) must be **SUBMITTED** by the deadline specified in the solicitation.

1. Statement of Responsibility – SOR (when required)
2. HCP/HUR Form
3. HUB Compliance Checklist
4. GFE Documentation (when required)

The bid/proposal may be deemed **NON-RESPONSIVE** and not accepted for compliance review for award consideration.

### C. Good Faith Effort Instructions

**When specified Goal(s) are not met, bidder/proposer must submit documentation where GFE was demonstrated. GFE documentation is required for a minimum of five (5) different firms, when available, for each goal(s) not achieved (ethnic/gender) taken from the HUBATT 2 (Availability List).**

NOTE: GFE documentation is ONLY required for EACH category where goal(s) are NOT met.

The HUB Program Director shall determine whether the bidder/proposer is compliant with the HUB Program's GFE requirements. Bidders/proposers shall submit documentation demonstrating their efforts to meet EACH of the following requirements:

1. Copies of outreach correspondence is required for **a minimum of 5** different certified firms, when available, for goal(s) not achieved (ethnic/gender). Providing notice through 2 or more different and verifiable methods (i.e. email/fax/phone call/letters) sent at least **5 business days** prior to bid opening date (**Reference HUBATT 2 - List of Certified Firms**);
2. Copies of correspondence/advertisement sent to a minimum of 5 total minority/women news media and/or trade organizations sent at least 5 business days prior to bid opening date (**Reference HUBATT 3 & 4 – List of Minority Organizations & Newspapers**);
3. Division of the work into small, economically feasible segments that can be performed by certified firms(**List scopes/work divided**);
4. Copies of correspondence indicating the bidder has taken appropriate steps to follow-up on **any responses** from potential certified firms, and engaged in good faith negotiations with certified firms that have submitted bids;
5. Copies of correspondence to any certified firm whose bid has been rejected, including the reason for rejection (**Provide list of all certified firms not used and reason rejected**);

The following items are additional GFE steps that may be considered as part of the evaluation process:

6. Verifiable attendance at a vendor conference (i.e. pre-proposal/pre-bid meeting) to discuss participation opportunities for certified firms;
7. Verifiable attendance at a District-sponsored outreach event; and/or
8. Encouraging non-certified firms to pursue certification.

**A HUB Compliance Checklist form was/will be provided to assist in ensuring ALL required steps have been taken for compliance when Goal(s) are not met.**

**The District reserves the right to reject the bidder/proposer that is not in compliance with these HUB Program requirements when Goals are not met or exceeded at time of submission.**

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS CONTACT:**

**Austin Independent School District**

**HUB Program email:**

**[HUBprogram@austinisd.org](mailto:HUBprogram@austinisd.org)**

**ALL INQUIRIES/REQUESTS MUST BE SENT TO THIS EMAIL**

A HUB Program Contracts Relations Coordinator (a.k.a. HUB Coordinator) will be assigned to all solicitations. Contact information is provided in the solicitation.