

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

FY24 CBE All Things Green Grants



The District of Columbia (DC) Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) is excited to announce that it will be soliciting applications for four independent programs under the **Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) All Things Green Grants** starting on or about January 22, 2024. **Each grant program is discussed below.**

- A. **The CBE Green Contract Services Grants.** These grants are for CBEs to support equitable market access to green energy economy opportunities for other CBEs that are registered with DSLBD as small, resident-owned, or disadvantaged. DSLBD seeks direct marketing with CBEs and back-office direct services and training in topics and areas that would strengthen CBEs' preparedness and competitiveness for green energy-related procurement opportunities.

DSLBD intends to award up to six (6) grants up to \$50,000 each from the \$300,000 in available funding for FY24, providing a mix of marketing and back-office services for at least 30 CBE businesses, each pursuing green energy procurement opportunities.

- B. **The CBE Green Pitch Grant.** This grant is for one CBE to conduct a four-week cohort-based training program for other CBEs that are registered with DSLBD as small, resident-owned, or disadvantaged. The CBE Green Pitch Competition is an opportunity for applicants to participate in courses to enhance their green business model. This business model essentially aids the business in making environmentally conscious decisions and promotes sustainability by minimizing environmental harm. Green businesses typically prioritize non-toxic, eco-friendly products packaged in sustainable, recyclable, or reusable materials.

DSLBD intends to award a grant of \$50,000 to one recipient and award up to ten (10) participants between \$2,000 and \$10,000, from the \$125,000 in total funding for FY24.

- C. **The CBE Green Business Support Lottery Grants.** DSLBD intends to award up to \$10,000 each to approximately five (5) CBEs by way of a lottery for CBEs that are registered with DSLBD as small, resident-owned, or disadvantaged. The grant funds will advance eligible businesses for expenses to maintain business operations and viability needed when pursuing contracts with DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU) and similar entities.
- D. **The CBE Green Event Grant.** With this grant, DSLBD intends to award \$25,000 to one CBE. DSLBD is seeking an event planner to coordinate the CBE Green Industry Rally Day. This event is designed for CBEs interested in learning about green procurement opportunities and connecting with contracting officers.

CBE All Things Green is an initiative within DSLBD to support CBEs in the expanding green and sustainable energy and buildings market. In partnership with the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), DSLBD is supporting CBEs with opportunities to prepare them for DOEE, DCSEU, and more market opportunities. DSLBD will refer CBEs to the CBE Green Contract Services grantees so they can utilize marketing and back-office services offered through the program, and grantees may propose strategies to recruit additional CBEs.

Final Deadline

The deadline to apply is February 16, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, with no exceptions. Applications will only be accepted through the online application system listed in the Request for Applications (RFA) currently available on DSLBD's website.

Who can apply?

Only Certified Business Enterprises registered with DSLBD are eligible to apply for these grants.

Funding Requirements

Applicant businesses are required to demonstrate proof of general liability insurance for any allowable period for which they are requesting to use funds. Applicants are also required to provide a current Certificate of Clean Hands from the District's Office of Tax and Revenue and proof of an active Business License from the District's Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, along with all other eligibility requirements listed in the RFA on DSLBD's website.

How can the funds be used?

The grant funds are to provide direct services and training to CBEs pursuing green and sustainable contracting opportunities and to provide marketing-related services for and by CBEs. Restricted uses of grant funds are further detailed in the RFA available on DSLBD's website.

How will awardees be selected?

DSLBD will select grant recipients through a competitive application process. A review panel may be composed of agency partners, members of the public, and DC government employees. They will review eligible applications received by the submission deadline and score them using appropriate criteria as

DEPARTMENT OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



discussed above as well as past performance, program plans, and resumes. DSLBD will select a mix of different direct services to support CBEs.

The DSLBD program team will review the panel reviewers' recommendations, and the Director of DSLBD will make the final determination of grant awards.

How do I apply?

All instructions for applying are included in the RFA, which is available for download or viewing on DSLBD's website at <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/current-grant-opportunities>. **Applicants are encouraged to read the full RFA before completing the application.**

Questions?

DSLBD will hold virtual information sessions concerning the application process and the grant awards. Details on the date and time of information sessions can be found on DSLBD's Eventbrite page using the following link: <http://bit.ly/DSLBDeventbrite>. **Applicants are highly encouraged to attend an information session.**

All other questions not asked during the information sessions must be submitted in writing to DSLBD at Business.Opportunities@dc.gov.

Reservations

DSLBD reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) or RFA, or to rescind the NOFA or RFA at any time.

DEPARTMENT OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

