

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

CBE Green Contract Services Grants



The Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) is excited to announce that we will be soliciting applications for the **CBE Green Contract and Marketing Services Grants** starting October 19, 2022.

The grants are for Certified Business Enterprises (CBEs) to support equitable market access to green energy economy opportunities for other CBEs registered as small, resident-owned, or disadvantaged. DSLBD seeks a market opportunities study, direct marketing to and of 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.

CBE Green is an initiative within DSLBD to support CBEs into the expanding green and sustainable energy and buildings market. In partnership with the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), DSLBD is supporting CBEs into additional opportunities to prepare them for DOEE, DCSEU, and more market opportunities. DSLBD will refer CBEs to awarded applications for use of the services, and successful applicants may propose strategies to recruit additional CBEs.

DSLBD intends to award between 4 and 8 grants from the \$250,000 in total available funding for 2023, providing a mix of marketing and back-office services for between 25 and 100 CBE businesses pursuing green energy procurement opportunities.

Final Deadline

The absolute final deadline to apply online is December 2, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 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 this grant.

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 (OTR) and proof of an active Business License from the District's Department of Consumer and

Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), 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 to review eligible applications received by the submission deadline and score them against the above criteria with respective weight. 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 currently 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 Inno.ED@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

