

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION / MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT			1. Contract Number		Page of Pages		
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2. Amendment/Modification Number 002		3. Effective Date See Box 16C		4. Requisition/Purchase Request No.		5. Solicitation Caption Government of the District of Columbia Disparity Study	
6. Issued by: Code			7. Administered by (If other than line 6)				
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Office of Contracts, Procurement and Grants 1015 Half Street, S.E., Suite 675 Washington, D.C. 20003			Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Interagency Initiatives 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 317 Washington, D.C. 20004				
8. Name and Address of Contractor (No. street, city, county, state and zip code)					9A. Amendment of Solicitation No. DCEB-2021-R-0001		
TO ALL PROSPECTIVE CERTIFIED CBE OFFERORS					X		
					9B. Dated (See Item 11) November 16, 2020		
					10A. Modification of Contractor/Order No.		
Code					10B. Dated (See Item 13)		
Facility							
11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers <input type="checkbox"/> is extended. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not extended. Offers must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by one of the following methods: (a) By completing Items 8 and 15, and returning one (1) copy of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or (c) BY separate letter or fax which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment number. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change an offer already submitted, such may be made by letter or fax, provided each letter or telegram makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.							
12. Accounting and Appropriation Data (If Required)							
13. THIS ITEM APPLIES ONLY TO MODIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTORS/ORDERS , IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14							
A. This change order is issued pursuant to (Specify Authority): 27 DCMR, Chapter 36, Section 3601.2(b) The changes set forth in Item 14 are made in the contract/order no. in item 10A.							
B. The above numbered contract/order is modified to reflect the administrative changes (such as changes in paying office, appropriation data etc.) set forth in item 14, pursuant to the authority of:							
C. This supplemental agreement is entered into pursuant to authority of: 27 DCMR 3601.2 Change Clause, 27 DCMR 2005.6(d) as amended							
D. Other (Specify type of modification and authority) Paragraph 15, Changes, Standard Contract Provisions							
E. IMPORTANT: Contractor <input type="checkbox"/> is not <input type="checkbox"/> is required to sign this document and return one (1) copy to the issuing office.							
14. Description of Amendment/Modification (Organized by UCF Section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible.)							
THE SOLICITATION IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:							
1. Delete: First paragraph, Section B.6 in its entirety. Substitute: "This RFP is designated only for certified business enterprise (CBE) offerors and certified joint ventures under the provisions of the "Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Act of 2014", D.C. Official Code § 2-218.01 et seq., as amended."							
2. Delete: Sections M.5.4, M.5.4.1, and M.5.4.2 in their entirety. Substitute: " M.5.4 Verification of Offeror's Certification as a Certified Business Enterprise or Certified Joint Venture " "M.5.4.1 Any vendor seeking to receive preferences on this solicitation must be certified at the time of submission of its proposal. The CO will verify the offeror's certification with DSLBD, and the offeror should not submit with its proposal any additional documentation regarding its certification as a certified business enterprise or certified joint venture."							
Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document is referenced in Item 9A or 10A remain unchanged and in full force and effect.							
15A. Name and Title of Signer (Type or print)				16A. Name of Contracting Officer Jacque McDonald, DBA, MBA, MST, CPPO, CPPB Director of Contracts, Procurement and Grants			
15B. Name of Contractor		15C. Date Signed	16B. District of Columbia		16C. Date Signed		
(Signature of person authorized to sign)			<i>Dr. Jacque McDonald</i> (Signature of Contracting Officer)		12-15-20		

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"M.5.4.2 Any vendor seeking certification in order to receive preferences under this solicitation should contact the:

Department of Small and Local Business Development
ATTN: CBE Certification Program
441 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 850N
Washington DC 20001
cbe.info@dc.gov "

3. PROSPECTIVE OFFEROR QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION AND THE DISTRICT'S RESPONSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Q1 – Are the contractors who authored the “Disparity Study: Framework and Recommendations”, eligible to respond to this RFP?

R1 – Yes. The contractors who authored the Disparity Report are eligible to respond to this RFP. The solicitation is a set-aside for Certified Business Enterprises (CBEs) or Joint Ventures (JVs) that include a CBE as a partner.

Q2 - Do you anticipate extending the bid due date?

R2 - Please see the 11/25/20 amendment that extends the deadline for submission to January 20, 2021 @ 2:00 PM.

Q3 - What additional details are you willing to provide, if any, beyond what is stated in bid documents concerning how you will identify the winning bid?

R3 - A Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) made up of agency representatives and experts, will be designated to review and rate both the technical and price proposals. The TEP will then make a recommendation to the Contracting Officer for final selection.

Q4 - Was this bid posted to the nationwide free bid notification website at www.mygovwatch.com/free?

R4 - The solicitation was shared via the Office of Contracts and Procurement, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), and the DSLBD websites. The solicitation advertisement was also published in the Washington Times and shared via Mayoral press release on November 17, 2020.

Q5 - Other than your own website, where was this bid posted?

R5 – See response to Q4 above.

Q6 - The RFP states that this solicitation is designated for the small business set-aside market only. Our review indicates that there are no firms certified as a local SBE with the District that have disparity study experience. Is this restriction correct? Does this preclude a firm that is not certified as a local SBE from submitting a proposal?

R6 – The solicitation is a set-aside for CBEs or JVs that include a CBE as a partner. Non-CBE firms may either participate as a subcontractor to a CBE prime offeror or establish a JV with CBE partner(s). See below for more information about JVs.

Q7 - Would a joint venture of a certified local SBE and a non-local firm be considered a local SBE and meet the criteria for this RFP?

R7 – No. A joint venture is not a CBE (or SBE). A DSLBD certified joint venture would meet the criteria for this RFP. More information on JV certification can be found at <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/certify-joint-venture>.

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Q8 - In the RFP it states that the Proposer should have conducted at least two disparity studies, however the District used a task order to award a previous disparity study contract without these criteria. Can you speak to how you will indeed select an experienced consultant?

R8 – The Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) will review and evaluate both the technical and price proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria outlined in Section M of the solicitation. Prospective offerors’ experience conducting disparity studies will factor into the “Past Performance on Similar Projects” section described in Section M.3.1.3.

Q9 - About how many people applied for contracts between FY17 and FY20?

R9 – Please refer to Section C.4 of the solicitation for a list of open data sources regarding the District’s contracting history.

Q10 - Can you speak to why the contractors did not complete the Disparity Study and only completed a Disparity Report in October 2019?

R10 – The contractors made the determination that the District did not have, at the time, the necessary data to complete a comprehensive disparity analysis. Instead, the report outlined a set of recommendations for how the District could improve its data collection process for a future Disparity Study. Following this report, the District created an interagency working group consisting of DMPED, DSLBD, the Office of the City Administrator (OCA), the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) and the Department of General Services (DGS) that addressed the data limitations identified in the report. In the following months, OCTO developed an enhanced dataset using cross-agency payment data sources consisting of approximately 200,000 transactions per year (summary data provided in Section C.4 of the solicitation).

Q11 - Will a list of today's participants be made available?

R11 – All registered participants received a list of fellow registered participants who attended the General Information Session (12/1/20) and/or the Pre-Proposal Conference (12/4/20).

Q12 - Does the District have the race and gender information collected already or is this something that will have to be researched outside of data sets?

R12 – The District collects this information on a voluntary basis from CBEs. However, collecting and confirming race and gender information will be critical in determining the availability and utilization rates of MBEs/WBEs during Phase I. Additional information on the current state of MBEs/WBEs in the District can be found in the “Minority and Women-owned Business Assessment” - Attachment J.12 in the solicitation.

Q13 - If a firm is CBE certified, is there still a requirement to subcontract 50% to another CBE?

R13 – No. CBEs are not required to subcontract 50% of their dollar volume of the contract to another CBE. Should a CBE or certified Joint Venture choose to subcontract a portion of their dollar volume, 50% of the subcontracted amount must go to CBEs.

Q14 - Which phase will involve community input?

R14 – The collection of qualitative information on the experience of firms attempting to do business with the District is anticipated to occur in Phase I (See Section C.5.4). As stated in Section C.5.1 of the solicitation, the prospective offerors must provide the District with a community engagement strategy at the initial kick-off meeting in Phase I.

Q15 - To the phasing question - can missing tasks be added to either phase based on the consultant’s experience?

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R15 – Prospective offerors may include additional tasks to either phase based on disparity study experience so long as the proposal meets the stated requirements in the solicitation.

Q16 - The prime contractor must be a CBE?

R16 – The solicitation is a set-aside for CBEs or DSLBD certified JVs that include a CBE as a partner. If one or more of the businesses associated in a JV is a CBE, the JV may qualify to be certified under the DSLBD CBE program. More information on JV certification can be found at <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/certify-joint-venture>.

Q17 - Is there a preference to use the firms used that created the disparity study framework and recommendations study?

R17 – No. All proposals will be evaluated based on the factors outlined in Section M.3.1 of the solicitation.

Q18 - Will an SBE designation be given additional preference?

R18 – Any prime contractor that is a small business enterprise (SBE) certified by the DSLBD will receive the addition of three points on a 100-point scale added to the overall score. For a full description of solicitation preferences, refer to Section M.5.1 of the solicitation.

Q19 - Are firms that participated in the work leading up to the RFP be allowed to bid?

R19 – Yes. As stated previously, this solicitation is a set-aside for CBEs or JVs that include a CBE as a partner.

Q20 - Can you provide a definition for MBE from the District's perspective?

R20 – As stated in Section C.3 of the solicitation, a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) is a designation for businesses which are at least 51% owned, operated and controlled on a daily basis by one or more (in combination) of the following ethnic minority classifications:

- Asian, Pacific Islander
- African American or Black
- Native American
- Native Hawaiian
- Hispanic or Latino

Q21 - Is it mandated that the prime contractor be local? If so, and given the major disparity study players in the Disparity Study industry are not based in DC, is the goal for a local firm to lead this initiative?

R21 – The solicitation is a set-aside for CBEs or JVs that include a CBE as a partner. A JV is an association of two or more businesses temporarily formed to carry out a single business activity or project for profit in which they combine their property, capital, efforts, skill and knowledge. The association is limited in scope and duration. If one or more of the businesses associated in a JV is a CBE, the JV may qualify to be certified under the DSLBD CBE program. More information on JV certification can be found at <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/certify-joint-venture>.

Q22 - What is the difference between the Dec 11 and the Jan 5 question due dates? What is meant by "PPC Questions"?

R22 – The December 11th deadline was a suggested deadline for sending through written questions from the Pre-Proposal Conference (PPC). Final written questions are due to Lindel Reid, Senior Contract Specialist, on January 5th, 2020 by 4:00 PM. You must submit your question via email at lindel.reid@dc.gov.

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Q23 - There are two prices quoted in the materials, \$300,000 and \$250,000, that impact certain requirements of the contract. Is it anticipated that the budget will exceed those fees?

R23 – Yes. The overall estimated budget for the Disparity Study is between \$750,000 and \$1,100,000.

Q24 - Will the incoming Administration (White House/Congress) receive the report?

R24 - The Disparity Study final report will be made public. For additional details, please refer to Section C.5.15 of the solicitation.

Q25 - Considering the length of time it takes to get a Joint Venture approved, is it acceptable for a Joint Venture to be pending at the time of proposal submission, or must it be approved by the submission deadline?

R25 – Any vendor seeking to receive preferences on this solicitation must be certified at the time of submission of its proposal. The Contracting Officer will verify the offeror’s certification with DSLBD, and the offeror should not submit with its proposal any additional documentation regarding its certification as a certified business enterprise. For additional information on Joint Venture certification, please visit <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/certify-joint-venture>.

Q26 - Will questions be answered as they are asked (12/11/20 - 01/05/2021)?

R26 – The District anticipates answering questions on a rolling basis.

Q27 - Has a budget range been established for this study?

R27 – Please see R23.

Q28 - Will there be specific due dates for the phase 1 report and the final report? If so, would these dates be outlined in the kick-off meeting?

R28 – The District will provide specific deadlines for the Phase I report deliverables as well as the final report following contract award and depending on the methodology, data collection and analysis plan, and community engagement strategies.

Q29 - How long are you expecting Phase I to take?

R29 – Based on our market research, comprehensive disparity studies from comparably-sized jurisdictions take between 12-24 months to complete. We expect the final timeline for Phase I completion to be driven by the qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis processes outlined in Section C.

Q30 - Will Council receive the Phase I report in addition to the Final Report?

R30 – Findings and recommendations from Phase I will be shared with the Council.

Q31 - How much of the work does the CBE have to self-perform? 1a) If so, is there a specific part of the work they must self-perform (Example Data collection, Data Analyzing, Etc.)?

R31 - CBE prime contractors must perform as least 35% of the work; see Section 2-218.46 B 3(b)(1)(a). CBEs that are part of a JV will have to perform at least 50% of the work. There is not a specific part of the work they must self-perform.

Q32 - If there is a joint venture (JV) is there an unlimited number of companies to make up the JV 2a) Again is there a specific part of the work that CBEs most self-perform?

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R32 - There is no restriction on how many businesses can make up a JV. However, the JV must include a CBE member. No, the CBE must perform 50% of the contracting effort with its own organization and resources; the work that the CBE will perform will be detailed in the joint venture agreement and the documents submitted in support of the joint venture package to the Department of Small and Local Business Development. If the joint venture is comprised of multiple CBEs, the minimum 50% CBE work requirement could be met by the combination of all CBE members.

Q33 - Are the companies going to be given a chance to do a presentation before the decision to award the contract?

R33 – No. The District will negotiate with the highest scored offeror.

Q34 - In a JV who decides which company is the lead prime and the name that goes on the study after the completion. 4a) Who are you going to depend on to make the remediation and going to court to legitimate the decision.

R34 - The name of the JV is detailed within the joint venture agreement submitted and determined by the members of the joint venture. The expectation is this name would be the name on the final report as all joint venture members would perform work on this project.

Q35 - Section C.5 of the RFP indicates that the District of Columbia Government (the District) would like the disparity study to be conducted in two phases—Phase I: Data collection, legal review, and market analysis; and Phase II—Disparity study. Would the District consider the following organization of tasks within each phase—or something like it—to better correspond with how disparity studies are typically conducted and to accommodate tasks that continue for most of a disparity study?

Phase I:

- Project initiation, management, and meetings (C.5.1; C.5.8)
- Community engagement
- Review of policies and programs (C.5.2)
- Legal analysis and framework (C.5.2)
- Data assessment and collection (C.5.3)
- Qualitative analysis of anecdotal evidence (C.5.4)
- Determination of product markets and relevant geographic market area (C.5.5)
- Begin availability analysis (C.5.6)
- Begin utilization analysis (C.5.7)
- Phase I report (C.5.9)

Phase II:

- Project management and meetings (C.5.10)
- Community engagement
- Qualitative analysis of anecdotal evidence (C.5.4)
- Complete availability analysis (C.5.6)
- Complete utilization analysis (C.5.7)
- Disparity analysis (C.5.11)
- Marketplace barriers (C.5.12.1)
- Explanations of disparities (C.5.12.2)
- Remedies (C.5.12.3)
- Draft report (C.5.13)
- Revisions and final report (C.5.14)
- Presentations (C.5.15)

R35 – Yes. This would be an acceptable organization of tasks. Prospective offerors may include additional tasks to either phase based on disparity study experience so long as the proposal meets the stated requirements in the solicitation.

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Q36 - Is B.3 Price Schedules the fee form that we will need to submit with the technical proposal?

R36 – The price proposal must be submitted as a separate document from the technical proposal. Schedule B.3 price schedules may be used to record your prices.

Q37 - Can you please explain the difference between B.3.1 Base Year and B.3.2 Option Year One?

R37 – The base year represents the initial one year period of performance and the option year represents the second year period of performance.

Q38 - Is the 3,300 estimated labor hours in B.3.1 and B.3.2. fixed? Can consultants modify the number of hours?

R38 – The solicitation was amended on November 25, 2020 to reflect a shift from a labor hour contract to a firm-fixed price contract. Please see the amended solicitation linked here: <https://dmped.dc.gov/node/838382>.

Q39 - If we decide to enter to a joint venture with a CBE, do we still need to qualify the subcontract goal which is 50%?

R39 – If the joint venture chooses to subcontract, yes. As a joint venture partner, the certified business enterprise must perform at least 50% of the contracting effort with its own organization and resources and, if the joint venture subcontracts, 50% of the subcontracted effort must be with certified business enterprises. The work performed by the joint venture members as a prime is separate from any subcontracting requirements.

Q40 - Section J, RFP listed 11 forms. Do we need to submit all 11 forms with the technical proposal? a. Do we need to submit J.1 as it's a sample of contract? b. We could not find J.2 and J.3 on the given website <http://ocp.dc.gov>, under Quick Links click on "Required Solicitation Documents". Please advise.

R40 – Offerors shall complete and submit with their proposal, Attachments J.3 – EEO Compliance Documents, J.4 – DOES First Source Employment Agreement, J.7 – Tax Certification Affidavit, J.8 – Subcontract Plan, J.9 – First Source Initial Employment Plan, J.10 – Contractor Experience Questionnaire (revised), and J.11 – Past Performance Evaluation Form. Attachment J.2 – DOL Wage Determination is included with the solicitation listing, and J.3 – EEO Compliance Documents are available at <http://ocp.dc.gov>, under Opportunities, click on "Required Solicitation Documents.

Q41 - Section M.5.1 listed the application of preferences. Since we will need to conduct a joint venture with a CBE, can we get the points for the preferences if our CBE qualifies?

R41 – Yes. The preference the joint venture will receive will be determined by the percentage of ownership the CBE maintains within the joint venture. For example, if the CBE is the 50% or more owner of the joint venture, the joint venture will be able to utilize the preference the CBE maintains. Any ownership less than 50% will reduce the amount of preference the joint venture will receive. Please contact the Department of Small and Local Business Development's Certification Division with any additional questions at cbe.info@dc.gov.

Q42 - If a non-certified prime consultant enters into a Joint Venture with a CBE-certified firm, would the Joint Venture still be required to subcontract 50 percent of the total contract to SBEs, or would the Joint Venture (at least 51% of contract dollars to an CBE/SBE) satisfy the special provisions requirement (Section B.7 in the RFP)?

R42 – A DSLBD Certified Joint Venture with a CBE partner requires that the CBE firm perform at least 50% of the work. An additional subcontracting plan is not required if the joint venture will self-perform on the contract. If the joint venture subcontracts, 50% of the subcontracted effort must be with certified business enterprises.

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Q43 - Please provide an estimated time frame when we can expect answers to questions due to the time sensitive nature regarding the establishment of a Joint Venture and finding subconsultants.

R43 –The District anticipates answering questions on a rolling basis. For specific questions related to establishment of a Joint Venture, feel free to contact cbe.info@dc.gov or Melissa Resil at DSLBD. In terms of connecting with interested CBEs, DSLBD maintains a CBE database:

<https://dslbd.secure.force.com/public/>.

Q44 - Does the District maintain prime data for all type of procurements (i.e., construction, professional services, general services and goods and commodities)? If so, is this information available in electronic format?

R44 – Yes. Please see the link in Section C.4 of the solicitation to see District purchase order data. The prime supplier is listed in the purchase order data. Additional information on suppliers will be provided to the awarded firm under a non-disclosure agreement. That will include the EIN and primary address of the prime contractors.

Q45 - Does the District maintain subcontract data for M/WBEs and non-M/WBEs? If so, is this information available in electronic format?

R45 – Historically, the District has not maintained structured data on subcontractors. Minimal, if any, information of this type is available in electronic format.

Q46 - RFP Section L.3.6 (page 42) states that Offerors are to provide the attachments referenced in Section J, excluding attachments J.1, J.2, J.5 and J.6. Please confirm whether attachments J.12, J.13 and J.14 must also be submitted with Offeror's proposals.

R46 – See response to Q40 above for documents that must be submitted with offeror proposal. Attachments J.12, J.13 and J.14 are not required to be submitted with an offeror's proposals.

Q47 - Regarding Attachment J.4 listed on page 37 of the RFP, there appear to be two First Source Employment Agreement documents available on the OCP website for non-construction contracts. Please confirm which agreement Offerors should use.

R47 – Offerors should use: [Revised First Source Employment Plan-Contracts Between \\$300,000 and \\$5 Million-February 2018 | OCP \(dc.gov\)](#).

Q48 - Our studies always include a review of the legal framework, because it benefits our methodology and the recommendations that we provide to the client. Is that still acceptable?

R48 - Yes. Please see Section C.5.2 of the solicitation for additional details.

Q49 - For a Joint Venture between a CBE and non-CBE firm to be certified, should the CBE own a majority interest in the Joint Venture?

R49 - The CBE member can be the majority or the minority owner of the joint venture. The preference that the joint venture will receive is determined by the percentage of ownership the joint venture maintains. The amount of ownership the CBE maintains is negotiated by the members of the joint venture.

Q50 - In a joint venture between a CBE and non-CBE, where the non-CBE has the required disparity study experience, is it acceptable for the non-CBE to be the majority partner or managing partner?

R50 – The majority partner or managing partner would correspond with the percentage of ownership the non-CBE member holds within the joint venture. As the CBE member(s) will need to perform 50% of the work, the experience of the CBE would be considered when evaluated. Any additional questions should be directed to DSLBD's Certification Division at cbe.info@dc.gov.

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Q51 - If the CBE partner in a joint venture will also perform work that would normally be subcontracted, and given the requirement of subcontracting 50% of any subcontracted work to a CBE, how should the CBE partner's participation be calculated?

R51 – The work that the CBE performs as a member of the joint venture (i.e. the work the prime performs) is separate from subcontracting requirements. As a joint venture partner, the certified business enterprise(s) must perform at least 50% of the contracting effort with its own organization and resources and, if the joint venture subcontracts, 50% of the subcontracted effort must be with certified business enterprises.

Q52 - One of the requirements for certification of the joint venture is for the non-CBE partner to submit audited financials. If the firm does not have audited financials, what other financial information is acceptable?

R52 – The non-CBE can provide reviewed financials. Please contact DSLBD's Certification Division at cbe.info@dc.gov with any additional questions.

Q53 - According to the website, it takes 3 weeks for a joint venture to be certified. Is that correct?

R53 – The timeline to certify a JV may take up to three weeks, however this timeline is largely based on the applicant's response times to DSLBD questions. For additional information on Joint Venture certification, please visit <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/certify-joint-venture>.

Q54 - In section B.6 of the RFP, there is the following text (bolding is ours): "This RFP is designated only for certified small business enterprise (SBE) offerors under the provisions of the "Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Act of 2014", D.C. Official Code § 2-218.01 et seq., as amended." Should "(SBE)" be, instead, ""(CBE)"? If not, please explain why it is "SBE" when the sentence refers to "certified business enterprises."

R54 – Yes. This was meant to be "CBEs" and "certified joint ventures". Please see Q16 above.

Q55 - The RFP specifies that the study will consider contracts awarded during 2017-2020 and CBE firms that were active during that period. Will it be possible to have access to data that shows the award history prior to 2017 for firms that were CBE during 2017-2020?

R55 – The District has purchase order data from at least 2013 to present that is publicly available at the following link: <https://opendata.dc.gov/datasets/purchase-orders-from-pass/data?orderBy=FISCALYEAR>. To clarify, the study shall examine whether a disparity exists between the number of available MBE/WBEs in the District's relevant geographic market area and the number of MBE/WBEs being utilized on District contracts. The study would encompass firms that are CBEs and non-CBEs.

Q56 - Does the DC government have a database or files that show some characteristics (data items) of each CBE firm (in business during 2017-2020)—from their initial applications and renewal applications? Could such data be made available to the vendor?

R56 – DSLBD maintains a database of all active (CBEs). The database includes the business profile for all active CBEs including contact information, business services, and NIGP codes. The database is public and can be found, along with instructions for use, at: <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/find-certified-companies>.

Q57 - Can the DC government make available other databases or files that contain information about the CBE firms (in business during 2017-2020)? Files might cover taxes paid, gross annual income, complaints or infractions, legal actions, completion of work on time, etc.

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R57 - Section C.4 of the solicitation identifies several public databases with information on both CBE firms as well as District contracting information more generally. For example, the Purchase Orders dataset includes basic information on supplier, amount of purchase, and NIGP Code. This open data does not include demographic information or Employer Identification Number (EIN) data, but this information would be provided to the awarded team.

Q58 - Do the CBE firms have an identifier, a unique number, such that information about each firm can be linked across files? If so, what is the name of that identifier?

R58 – CBE firms within the DSLBD-maintained database described in Q56 above can be identified by relevant NIGP code(s) or by performing a key word search.

Q59 - Please describe the areas of specialized knowledge that you feel are necessary to carry out this study.

R59 - Sections C (Specifications/Work Statement), F (Period of Performance and Deliverables), L (Instructions, Conditions, Notifications to Offerors), and M (Evaluation Factors) are the best representations of the type of skills and knowledge necessary to conduct a comprehensive disparity study in the District of Columbia. We recognize that disparity studies are complex and multi-faceted endeavors that require qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, community engagement, review of relevant laws and policies, etc. We look forward to proposals that reflect these skillsets and present plans to deliver a successful disparity study to the District.

END