What is the Capacity Building Mentorship Program?
The Washington State Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) and Sound Transit’s Business and Labor Compliance Office, with a new program administrator—the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) – Tacoma Business Center—have partnered to continue the initial success of the Capacity Building Mentorship Program (CBMP) as part of its State Funded Diversity Roadmap. The CBMP arose as part of Governor Jay Inslee’s diverse business participation goal in Results Washington.

Under the CBMP, a mentor firm provides its protégé with various forms of business development assistance and helps the protégé improve its ability to compete in the contracts arena. Mentors may provide assistance to protégés with proposal writing, internal management processes and procedures, and technical and skill development, among many other areas.

This program is intended to enhance the capabilities and participation of Minority, Small, Veteran, and Women Business Enterprises, and underserved businesses that are able to perform work on transportation-related projects. The growth potential for firms taking advantage of this program is large and many early adopters have received contracts and became partners in the bidding process.

Members have access to capital!
Business Impact Northwest has combined its efforts with the program team, Verity Credit Union, Harbor Stone Credit and BECU to offer $750,000 in loans to program participants. Click here to apply.

The Program continues to grow!
Since its launch in July of 2018, the Program has been increasing its own capacity! Cohorts 1 and 2 had 55 firms participate and when asked if they wanted to extend their pairings for another year, an overwhelming 87 percent said yes!

Cohort 3 was finalized in August of 2019 and has 17 active pairings. Advertising for Cohort 4 will occur in the spring of 2020. Interested firms should sign up here.

Survey results show success!
Survey results show that the CBMP is in fact building capacity. Over 60 percent of respondents report that since becoming a member of the program, their company has been awarded a new contract/subcontract and over 75 percent of respondents reported an increase in annual revenue.
Has your company been awarded a new contract/subcontract this quarter?

- Kiewit (Mentor) and ST Fabrication (Protégé): Sound Transit Stations and Garages - $15M
- Kiewit (Mentor) and Tunista (Protégé): WSDOT SR 548 California Creek - $8.5M
- Tucci & Sons (Mentor) and Hughes Group (Protégé): WSDOT Asphalt Overlay - $1.3M

Ninety one percent of responding Mentors affirmed the CBMP as a worthwhile use of their time. An average of 96 percent reported Satisfied or Very Satisfied with their Mentor and Protégé pairing.

Are you on track with increasing your annual revenue?

- Do not know
- Decrease
- No
- Yes

How satisfied are you with the Capacity Building Mentorship Program | Mentors and Proteges?

Quarterly Survey Due Dates:

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<th>Quarter</th>
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