

Capacity Building Mentorship Program

PROGRAM UPDATE | AUGUST 2021



What is the Capacity Building Mentorship Program?

The Capacity Building Mentorship Program is intended to enhance the capabilities and participation of Minority, Small, Veteran, and Women Business Enterprises (MSVWBE), and underserved businesses that can perform work on transportation-related projects.

WSDOT's Capacity Building Mentorship program pairs prime contractors or consultants (mentors) with owners of firms who are certified by the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) or registered as a small or veteran's business (protégés). The program is part of Governor Jay Inslee's diverse business participation goal in Results Washington. This highlights WSDOT's commitment to supporting and building capacity for underrepresented firms.

WSDOT recognizes that MSVWBEs often face challenges in securing public and private contracts compared to their larger counterparts. WSDOT further recognizes the best way to enhance opportunity and equity for MSVWBEs, is to synchronize the efforts of all involved parties to develop, implement, and deliver

a voluntary (or race-neutral) program, such as the mentorship program. The growth potential for firms taking advantage of this program is large and many early adopters have received contracts.

This program has continued to increase its own capacity! WSDOT has paired 68 mentors with 86 protégés since the Capacity Building Mentorship program launched in summer 2017. WSDOT re-launched the program with [Sound Transit](#). The Minority Business Development Agency – Tacoma Business Center is administering the program.

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 loans to program participants. To date, Business Impact NW has administered \$415,000.00 in loans, and has \$750,000 annually to offer. Click [here](#) to apply.

What are we working on?

Despite the current global pandemic, the program remained on track and welcomed Cohort four to the program, which launched in November 2020. In August 2020, WSDOT (along with partnering agencies) completed the application and assessment rounds for the latest active Cohort 4. Assessments were conducted on a one-on-one basis which were followed up by virtual 'Meet and Greets' with WSDOT, Partnering Agency Sound Transit, Mentor, Protégé, and Program Administrator, MBDA – Tacoma.

In January of 2021, WSDOT, Sound Transit, MBDA – Tacoma, and active Mentors and Protégés virtually convened to welcome new members to the voluntary two year program, as well as have an opportunity to ask questions and hear from Executive Leadership with WSDOT and partnering agencies. In May of 2021, the Alumni Member of the program (Cohorts 1 and 2) virtually gathered to do the same. The Capacity Building Mentorship Program is also currently collaborating with the Tribal and Federal Relations team, and local Tribal leaders to encourage membership in the program, which will be starting the application for Cohort 5 in August 2021.

"We are very satisfied with the program which has helped grow our company."

Brian Fujii | Subsurface Construction, LLC

Despite the current global pandemic, the Program is currently on track and just completed the application process for Cohort four, which launched in November 2020. The current active* pairings are shown at right.

*Cohorts one and two are now in Alumni Status for the Program and will join the current active Cohorts in 2021 to share best practices.

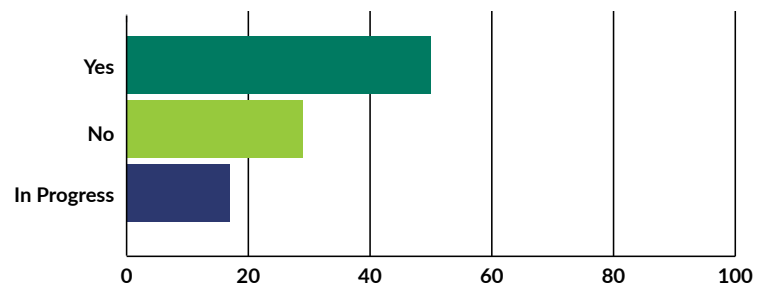
Survey results show success.

Ninety three percent of Mentors & Protégés are satisfied with their pairings & making progress towards their development plan. And despite the global pandemic, 72 percent of the participants met monthly and made progress toward Protégé's development plans.

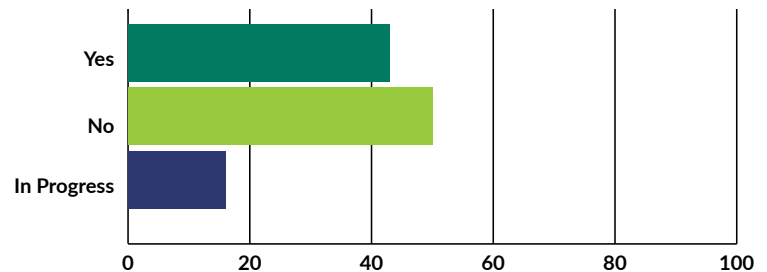
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Awarded Contracts - Protégés Responses

Has your mentor helped you pursue (partner for) and contracts or subcontracts with WSDOT, Sound Transit, Federal, Municipality, and/or another Private Entity?



Have you been awarded a new contract this survey quarter?

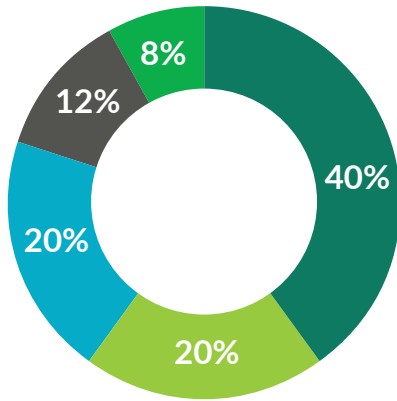


Protégés	Certification	Cohort #	Paired Mentors
1 Adept Mechanical Services, Inc.	DBE, MWBE	C3	McKinstry
2 Advanced Government Services, Inc.	DBE, MWBE	C4	Guy F. Atkinson
3 Ahora Construction LLC	DBE, MBE	C3	Hensel Phelps
4 American Abatement and Demo, LLC	DBE, MWBE	C4	Hensel Phelps
5 Ato Apiafi Architects LLC	DBE, MBE	C3	BCRA Design
6 Avalon Contracting Inc.	SBE	C3	Granite Construction Company
7 Blue Trident, LLC	DBE, MBE	C1	WSP USA, Inc.
8 Communication Energy Technology Solutions, Inc.	DBE	C4	Vigor Industrial LLC
9 CR Construction, Inc.	DBE, MBE	C4	Granite Construction Company
10 Ergosynch LLC	DBE, MWBE	C3	HDR Engineering
11 Jimale Technical Services, LLC	DBE, MWBE	C3	Hoffman Construction
12 Land Development Consultants, Inc.	DBE, MBE	C3	HNTB Corporation
13 Marwood General Construction, LLC	DBE, MBE	C4	Tucci & Sons, Inc.
14 Northsound Utility and Construction, Inc.	WBE	C3	Mass Electric Construction Co.
15 Quality Development, LLC	DBE, MWBE	C4	Absher Construction Company
16 Revere Marine, LLC	DBE, WBE	C4	Vigor Industrial LLC
17 Reyes Engineering, Inc.	DBE, MBE	C3	McMillen Jacobs Associates
18 RHC Engineering, Inc.	DBE, MWBE	C3	KBA, Inc.
19 RHD Enterprises, Inc.	DBE, MWBE	C3	The Walsh Group
20 Robert Carrillo Enterprises, LLC	DBE, MBE	C4	AA Asphaltting LLC
21 Subsurface Construction, LLC	DBE, MBE	C3	Graham Contracting, Ltd
22 Taylor made Concrete, LLC	SBE	C4	Absher Construction Company
23 Tunista Construction, LLC.	DBE	C3	Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.
24 UrbanTech Systems	DBE, MBE	C3	Parametrix
25 Utility Mapping Services, Inc.	SBE	C4	HNTB Corporation

Number of Mentors	20*
Number of Protégés	25*

*Confirmed by the MBDA-Tacoma Business Center

Ethnicity Breakdown



- African American Protégé Firms
- Caucasian Protégé Firms (Veterans & Women)
- Hispanic Protégé Firms
- Pacific Islander Protégé Firms
- Asian American Protégé Firms



“Thank you! A little challenging for everyone due to Covid-19”

Jimmy Chen | RHC Engineering, Inc.

“I am very passionate of the program and what you and everybody does to support minority owned businesses. When I say it, I mean it that I/Advanced Government Services would not be where we are without the Program and the support you folks provide me.”

Arti O'Brien | Advanced Government Services, Inc.

TO SIGN UP FOR OUR NEXT COHORT, PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) TO APPLY!

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