

HPD - Developers - Opportunities - M/WBE Initiative

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Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE)

Get M/WBE Certified

The [NYC Online Certification Portal](#) for M/WBEs makes it easier to get certified. For more information about the certification process, visit [NYC Business Solutions](#).

Building Opportunity Initiative

HPD is committed to promoting the participation of Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) in the development and management of affordable housing subsidized under City-sponsored programs. Through the *Building Opportunity* Initiative, HPD seeks to:

- Build the capacity of M/WBE developers through professional development, networking, and mentoring programs;
- Improve access to capital for M/WBE developers with low-cost financing options for site acquisition and predevelopment costs;
- Enhance the ability of M/WBE developers to compete more effectively for HPD support by providing targeted new construction and preservation opportunities and;
- Encourage affordable housing developers to employ M/WBE contractors and professional service firms.

Through these efforts HPD hopes to address demonstrated disparities in M/WBE participation in affordable housing development, strengthen the affordable housing development industry, and further its mission of providing safe and affordable housing to all New Yorkers.

Building Capacity of M/WBE and Non-Profit Developers

HPD has partnered with the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) to offer a capacity building course designed to meet the unique needs of M/WBE and Non-Profit developers. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about best practices in affordable housing development from site selection, to project financing, to construction and property management. The course will also cover strategies for winning and managing New York City government-supported projects and will provide opportunities to network with industry leaders and other developers, contractors, and professional service providers.

Improving Access to Capital

The New York City Acquisition Fund LLC now offers favorable financing terms to qualifying M/WBEs that otherwise may not be eligible for the Acquisition Fund's standard loan products. These financial tools seek to address barriers to accessing capital that many M/WBEs currently face. Learn more about the [New York City Acquisition Fund](#).

Increasing Development and Contracting Opportunities

To address the disparity in M/WBE developer participation, HPD championed state legislation that now permits the agency to take additional steps to encourage M/WBEs' participation in the affordable housing development market. The legislation enabled the creation of a competitive Pre-Qualified List (PQL) of M/WBEs and a pipeline of City-owned sites that will be competitively solicited to that PQL through a Request for Proposals (RFP) that is now available. View the [PQL](#) and the [RFP](#).

To complement the M/WBE pipeline of projects, HPD is coordinating with the New York State Association for Affordable Housing ([NYSFAFH](#)) to match M/WBE developers with experienced, well-established developer mentors. These mentors will offer guidance to the M/WBEs as they sharpen project proposals and navigate the development process.

The M/WBE Leadership Association

Contact any one of the following community organizations that have received funding through the City Council for personalized guidance on government contracting for potential or City-certified M/WBEs, assistance in connecting entrepreneurs to potential customers, aid in the development of bids and proposals, assistance in securing project financing and bonding, and the promotion and marketing of the City's M/WBE Program: