JOINT VENTURE AND SET-ASIDE PROGRAM FOR THE COUNTY OF BERGEN

The Bergen County Board of County Commissioners and the County Executive want to confirm their commitment to economic inclusion and wish to ensure that the County's business practices promote equal opportunities to compete for all willing and able businesses eligible to contract with the County for construction, architecture, engineering, and other professional services as well as for the procurement of other goods and services.

Ordinance No. 18-26 confirms the County of Bergen's commitment to qualified business participation along with Qualified Minority Qualified Business Enterprise (MBE), Qualified Women's Business Enterprise (WBE), Qualified Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE), and Small Business Enterprise (SBE).

If you are not already registered on the Bergen County Purchasing portal, go to www.bergenbids.com, and click on the "Register Now" link to start the registration process. Through this portal, businesses can register to automatically be informed on all business opportunities with Bergen County. Once registered, vendors can download current opportunity specifications, stay up to date with the purchasing process and track past awards. Make sure that the commodities you select accurately represent your company's activities and interests.

Your business will also need to upload a New Jersey Business Registration Certificate and if you are a certified business in one of the four categories, you will also need to upload your documents and identify yourself as a Minority, Woman, Veteran, or Small Business.

Certification Categories that Qualify your Business

1. **Qualified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)** – A business which has its principal place of business in the state of New Jersey, is independently owned and operated, is at least fifty one percent (51%) owned and controlled by minority group members and is qualified pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-25.
2. **Qualified Women's Business Enterprise (WBE)** – A business which has its principal place of business in the state of New Jersey, is independently owned and operated, is at least fifty one percent (51%) owned and controlled by women and is qualified pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-25.
3. **Qualified Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE)** – A business which has its principal place of business in the state of New Jersey, is independently owned

and operated, is at least fifty one percent (51%) owned and controlled by a veteran and is qualified pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-25.

4. **Qualified Small Business Enterprise (SBE)** – A business which has its principal place of business in the state of New Jersey, is independently owned and operated and is qualified pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-25.

Obtaining a Certification

If you hold a certification from any of the entities listed below, you qualify for the Bergen County Set-Aside program. If you are not certified, the following are a list of government agencies that qualify you to participate in the County, State and Federal opportunities:

- State of New Jersey Department of Treasury
- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- NJ Transit
- The United States Small Business Administration
- The United States Department of Veteran Affairs

If you would like to learn more about certifications or hold a certification by an agency not listed above, please contact Glen Gardner at agardner@co.bergen.nj.us or by phone at (201) 336-7112. We can discuss which certification may offer you the most advantages and opportunities for your business or help you begin the certification process. You may also find more information about registration and certification at: https://www.nj.gov/njbusiness/contracting/sbsa/