



MBEIPP 87th Texas Legislature

Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Public Policy Priorities

Introduction

The Minority Business Enterprise Institute for Public Policy, (MBEIPP) a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, was organized to educate and provide minority businesses and public/private sector buying entities with public policy resources and information on minority business issues and programs that support capacity building and the meaningful and sustainable inclusion of MBEs in contracting and other procurement opportunities funded with public dollars..

The Public Policy priorities or “Asks” as presented below address issues of importance to all HUBs.

Specific priorities for the construction industry ae under development.

| Challenge | Public Policy Priority/“Ask” |
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| Per the annual Fiscal Year HUB Spend Results as published by the Office of the State Comptroller of Texas, the majority of State Agencies, Commissions and Departments have, historically, not met their HUB Spend goals | Legislation, policies, and/or initiatives that include the achievement of HUB Spend goals as an element of State Agencies' Commissioners' and Department's Executive Directors' and compensation criteria. |
| Whether performing in the Prime or Subcontractor/Subconsultant role, cash flow to fund continuing operations for existing contracts are a major challenge, and in some cases a threat, for HUBs and DBEs due to payment cycles of the Owner/Client and/or the Prime as applicable. | Legislation, policies, and/or initiatives that would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. require reasonable contractual prompt payment terms for HUB/DBE Primes (with Owner/Client) or Subs (with Prime). b. the tracking, reporting, and publishing of results of payment cycles. c. corrective action in documented cases where these contractual terms were not met. |
| A combination of factors continues to impact the availability of: A) workers in general; and B) a "Ready Now" Workforce across multiple industry sectors in Texas. These factors include but may not be limited to 1) low unemployment due to continued economic growth; 2) changing/increasing qualifications due to technology; 3) immigration policy. The current funding model with higher education and social services entities have not fully addressed the current and forecasted "Workforce Ready" gaps for the Texas economy. | Legislation, policies, and/or initiatives that would direct the Texas Workforce Commission to partner with nonprofit industry organizations representing HUBs/DBEs with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the vertical industry subject matter expertise; and b. knowledge of the HUBs/DBEs population's supplier base to provide workforce training, development, and/or resources. |
| Criminal Justice policy changes at the federal, state, and lower political subdivision levels are creating the | Legislation, policies, and/or initiatives that would: |



net impact of former inmates being released back into society, which is also known as "Re-entry". The collective Re-entry population includes fathers and mothers, and veterans of both genders. In cases where members of the Re-entry population remain unemployed, the cost burden for public safety and social services is transferred from the penal systems to local governments. The ability to secure "Living Wage" employment for non-violent/non-felony ex-offenders creates the double benefit of reducing public safety and social services costs while growing the tax base by converting tax dollar consumers only to tax base contributors. Nationwide over 150 counties and cities in 25 states have adopted "Ban the Box" policies.

- a. "Ban the Box" for selected job classifications with the state.
- b. enable/encourage Public, Private and Nonprofit sector entities to likewise.

In the 86th Legislature multiple bills were filed in Committee to expand the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) qualifications without increasing the respective State Agency's, Commissions' and Departments' HUB Spend Goals in spite of the historic failure to achieve HUB Spend Goals.

No legislation, policies, and/or initiatives that would expand the current HUB Ethnicity and Gender Codes qualification criteria to include additional populations.