

Supplier Diversity Program

1. What is a Supplier Diversity Program?

A Supplier Diversity Program provides business opportunities for minorities, women and small business enterprises that offer quality products and services on a competitive basis.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise: Is a small business concern,

1. Which is at least 51% owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals or in the case of any public-owned business, at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; and
2. Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

B. Economically/Socially Disadvantaged Individuals: A person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and who is:

1. Female: which includes any person of the female gender including persons having origins of any of the ethnic groups described below and any person of the Caucasian groups;
2. African-American: which includes persons having origins in any of the black ethnic groups of Africa;
3. Hispanic-American: which includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish or Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race;
4. Native-American: which includes persons who are American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts or native Hawaiians;
5. Asian-Pacific American: which includes persons whose origins are from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, Samoa, Guam, the U. S. Trust Territories of the Pacific, and the Northern Marianas; and
6. Asian-American Indians: which includes persons whose origins are from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

7. Other individuals may be found to be socially or economically disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis. For example, a disabled Vietnam veteran, an Appalachian white male, or another person may claim to be disadvantaged. These owners must demonstrate that their disadvantaged status arose from individual circumstances, rather than by virtue of membership in a group.

2. How do minority and women owned business companies register or certify with Audubon Nature Institute?

Vendors can register online at www.auduboninstitute.org/bid under Vendor Link. Applications are reviewed including certifications by Small Business Administration, Women Business Council, National Supplier Diversity Council, City of New Orleans, etc.

We ask that all minority and women-owned business seek certification. Firms who are certified will be recognized as part of our Supplier Diversity Program. For more information on how to become certified visit:

www.wbecsouth.org

<http://affiliate.nmsdc.org/lamsdc>

3. What is the next step after my classification form is submitted?

Once your Vendor Classification Form is received and reviewed your company profile will be listed in Audubon's Supplier Diversity Database. This is a searchable database that is accessible to all Audubon employees.

The Purchasing Department will contact your company and set up a "meet and greet" with the departments that use the products and services offered. The meeting will consist of Purchasing, Supplier and Audubon Department Supervisor. The meet and greet will be scheduled within 30 days of receiving the classification form. It is required for department heads to attend the meetings and use minority and women-owned business when possible.

4. Does Audubon give preference to minority and women-owned business when awarding contracts?

No, the only preference clause that is allowed under Louisiana Public Bid Law is for Seafood. Audubon Purchasing does track the use of minority and women-owned businesses as a means of measuring of goals.

5. What are the annual Supplier Diversity Goals? Our goal is to spend a minimum of 12% operating funds with diverse suppliers and to utilize an additional fifteen new diverse suppliers each year.

6. Annual % Data (Combined):

2000- 8.4%
2001 - 7.1%
2002- 11.4%
2003- 16.6%
2004- 7.7%
2005- 5.6%
2006-10.2%
2007- 14.3%
2008 - 15.6%
2009- 13%
2010- 12.1%
2011 - 14.6%
2012- 14.9%

7. Audubon Purchasing encourages the uses of Tier 2 programs between large corporations and minority and women-owned businesses.

8. Reporting - Minority and women-owned businesses expenditures are provided in a quarterly report to Audubon's Community Relations Department. The report includes total expenditures broke down by category, historical data, and contracts awarded.

9. Audubon Purchasing attends local LAMSDC, SE LA NIGP, and WBEC Expos as well as hosts an Annual Supplier Diversity EXPO to enhance and add vendors to our Supplier Diversity Program.