



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Supplemental Letter for the FY 2017 Annual HUB Report – Agency 551

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is committed to creating an environment in which Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) and Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (MWBEs) can compete fairly for business opportunities.

TDA receives both state and federal funds. This fiscal year the HUB program worked closely with internal business units to increase HUB (state) and MWBE (federal) expenditures. These efforts have resulted in an increased number of bids submitted to the agency by diverse vendors for procurement opportunities. The agency will continue to foster these business relationships by providing additional technical assistance to HUB and MWBE vendors that are qualified to do business with TDA.

Good faith efforts to expand HUB participation agency-wide:

- Partnered with Trade and Business Development to assist with increasing expenditures with HUB vendors and MWBEs through the agencies Capital for Texas Loan program and the State Trade Expansion Program;
- Worked with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) staff to provide recommendations on how to increase use of economically disadvantaged businesses through CDBG grant funded projects;
- Hosted a webinar as part of “CDBG over coffee” series providing guidance to local governments on the HUB and MWBE certification process and how to use the new MWBE email for sending CDBG procurement opportunities to TDA sent to HUBs and MWBEs.

Good faith effort outreach activities:

- The agency participated at Senator West’s annual Spot Bid Fair spending a total of \$159,118.65 with HUB vendors many of which are also certified as MWBEs, ranking the agency among the top seven (7) spending the most with HUBs. The overall return on investment to TDA through the awards made at the event calculated to be **\$23,498.64**.
- Exhibited at the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce’s annual conference;
- Exhibited at the annual Houston Minority Supplier Development Council’s Expo;
- Exhibited at the Bexar County’s Annual Small, Minority, Women and Veterans Business Owners (SMWVBO) Conference;
- Represented the agency on a panel at the Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce Annual Plan of Work Conference;
- Keynote presenter for the Success in Business monthly networking event hosted in Houston;
- Exhibited and participated in the Buyers Roundtable Breakfast at the Southwest Minority Supplier Development Council’s Premier Face Time Expo;
- Worked with senior leadership to sign on as an official partner with the Texas Association of African American and the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce through the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) agreement effective through March 30, 2019;
- Actively, participated in HUB Discussion Workgroup meetings; and
- Hosted HUB vendor meetings to provide information on TDA’s procurement process and potential contracting opportunities with the agency.

Please address inquiries to April Bacon, at april.bacon@texasagriculture.gov or (512) 463-7493.

Sincerely,



April Hollis Bacon
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