



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Supplemental Letter for the FY 2018 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 further the mission to increase HUB (state) and MWBE (federal) expenditures with the Department. 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:

- The HUB program 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;
- The HUB 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;
- The HUB director worked with CDBG to provide guidance to local governments on the HUB and MWBE certification process and how to properly utilize the newly implemented MWBE email for sending procurement opportunities to TDA for CDBG projects to be sent to HUBs and MWBEs. Once these opportunities are shared with TDA via the MWBE email, they are forwarded to vendors whom have shown an interest in bidding on various goods and services.
- Hosted a webinar with agency departments regarding digital and radio communications as a means to further share opportunities.

Good faith efforts outreach activities:

- The agency participated as an exhibitor at Senator West's annual Spot Bid Fair spending a total of \$272,528.74 with HUB vendors many of which are also certified as MWBEs. Ranking the agency among the top six (6) spending the most with HUBs.
- 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;
- Exhibited at the Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce Expo;
- Exhibited at the Asian American Chamber of Commerce HUB Expo;
- Exhibited at the HEB Supplier Diversity Expo in San Antonio;
- Panelist at the Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum in Houston;
- Exhibited and participated in the Buyers Roundtable Breakfast at the Southwest Minority Supplier Development Council's Premier Face Time Expo;
- The HUB program director 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;
- Presently organizing HUB event in the Valley focusing on increasing HUB/MWBE certifications and providing more information on TDA's needs.

Please address inquiries to the program Director, Yvonne K. Franklin, at (512) 463-8496 or via e-mail at HUB@texasagriculture.gov.

Sincerely,


Yvonne King Franklin
Director, HUB/MWBE Programs