



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

M/WBE PROGRAM DISPARITY STUDY

SOLICITATION NO: R-13-026-CM

ADDENDUM #2 | July 16, 2013

Clarifications to the RFP

The questions below were submitted by the RFP deadline, but were inadvertently not included in Addendum No.1, due to technical issues.

End of Clarifications to the RFP

Continued Answers to Questions

26. Q: Slide number 7 of the M/WBE Program Disparity Study Pre-submittal Conference PowerPoint, Data Sample SAWS contract management: contract payment history for subcontractor, appears to present a snapshot of the data maintained in the system. Can this page be provided again as part of the Q&A that will posted to your website?

A: Yes. The M/WBE Program Disparity Study Pre-submittal Conference PowerPoint, in its entirety, has been posted at http://www.saws.org/business_center/ContractSol/Drill.cfm?id=847&View=Yes.

27. Q: Slide number 8, Data Sample SAWS Payment Detail Report – Subcontractors, presents payments made to subcontractors. The sample shows a “For Credit” column where “Yes” has been indicated. Are awards and payments that are not for credit also tracked? Is race, ethnicity, and gender of sub firms that are not counted towards a credit also tracked?

A: Yes. Race, ethnicity, gender, awards and payments to prime contractors/consultants and payments made to subcontractors/consultants are tracked whether those firms are SMWB-certified or not (certified).

28. Q: Page 1, Item A.3 – Data Collection, of the RFP states “Since 2009, SAWS has collected board-award data on its M/WBE contract awards at the prime and subcontractor levels. In 2011, SAWS implemented the B2Gnow software application...date includes total contract amounts and total amounts paid to M/WBEs, recorded by industry, race/ethnicity, and gender”. Please clarify the following:

a. Does B2Gnow maintain transactions contracted/procured by both departments (contracting and procurement)?

A: Yes.

b. Are all major procurement categories (“heavy civil/utility construction, architecture and engineering services, professional services, and potentially construction-related non-professional services and certain commodities”) presented in the RFP maintained in B2Gnow? If not, please identify the categories not maintained, as well as the system used to maintain this data.

A: Yes.

c. For the proposed study period, are all transactions (awards and payments) at the prime level (both M/WBEs and non-M/WBEs) for the major procurement categories captured in B2Gnow?

A: Yes.

d. For the proposed study period, are all awards and payments made to subcontractors (both M/WBE and non-M/WBE) are captured in B2Gnow? For which major procurement categories?

A: Yes, payments made to subcontractors (as reported by prime contractors) are captured in B2Gnow for all industries (“heavy civil/utility construction, architecture and engineering services, professional services, and potentially construction-related non-professional services and certain commodities”).

29. Q: Based on our experience in completing numerous disparity studies, sometimes data needs to go through a recoding process by our data staff. This recoding process is necessary in order to accurately identify and analyze key information, such as business owner’s race, ethnicity, or gender; procurement and contract categories; firm location; and/or the firm’s primary lines of business. Has this key information been tracked (reviewed, verified, and updated, as necessary) by SAWS staff so that minimal, if any, recoding will be needed?

A: Yes.

30. Q: Page 2, Item A.3 – Data Collection, of the RFP states “SAWS also uses the database of the South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency for M/WBE outreach purposes.” Will this database be made available to the awarded contractor for use solely in the purpose of conducting study?

A: Yes. Yes, however, SAWS does not have an outreach module by which all firms in the South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency (SCTRCA) database can be emailed. The SMWB Program Manager uses the SCTRCA database to create market-area lists of subcontractors for prime contractors/consultants who are looking for SMWB-certified subcontractors/subconsultants according to scopes of work and/or NAICS codes. The SCTRCA database is not linked to the SAWS Vendor Registration and Notification (VRN) Service.