

CITY OF NEW YORK MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (M/WBE) PROGRAM

Annual Report of Fiscal Year 2026

Compliance Report covering July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

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Introduction

New York City recognizes the vital role that Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) play in the city's economy and remains committed to expanding their access to public contracting opportunities. Through the M/WBE Program, the city continues to strengthen participation in its multi-billion-dollar procurement process, promote equitable access to contracting opportunities, and support M/WBEs in building the capacity needed to compete for and successfully perform city contracts. These efforts are central to addressing longstanding disparities in public procurement and advancing inclusive economic growth throughout all five boroughs.

This report, along with the Citywide Indicators Report¹ published by the Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS) summarizes program activity, prime contract, and subcontract utilization data for city-certified M/WBEs, Emerging Business Enterprises (EBEs), and Locally-based Enterprises (LBEs), as well as additional data² specified in Section 6-129(l) of the New York City Administrative Code³. The reporting period covers activity during Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) and is jointly submitted by the Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS), as City Chief Procurement Officer, and by the Commissioner of the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). The city's M/WBE program is administered in partnership with the Chief Business Diversity Officer, the Mayor's Office of M/WBEs (OM/WBE), SBS, and MOCS.

As will be further detailed in this report, M/WBEs were awarded over \$1.8 billion in prime contracts subject to the M/WBE program and just under \$788 million in eligible subcontracts. This brings the total amount awarded to M/WBEs in FY26 to \$2.56 billion, the city's highest total value in the program's history, and culminating in a combined prime and subcontract utilization of 28.5%.

Expanding the Base of Certified Firms

SBS continues to increase the participation of M/WBE firms in city contracting by expanding the base of certified businesses. During the certification process, a company's ownership and management structure is thoroughly reviewed to ensure the applicant performs the key functions of the business. The NYC Online Certification Portal (<https://sbsconnect.nyc.gov/>) allows M/WBE firms to certify and

¹ [Citywide Indicators Report | MOCS](#)

² Related appendices can be found on the [MOCS website](#)

³ Link to the administrative code is [here](#).

recertify online, check the status of applications, and update their business profile to better promote themselves to buyers. During the reporting period, SBS conducted 46 certification workshops attended by 546 businesses. In that time, SBS also certified 1,189 new M/WBEs and recertified 1,279 M/WBEs, bringing the total number of active city-certified companies in the reporting period, as of June 30, 2026, to 11,639.

Partners help extend the reach of SBS certification outreach efforts. In addition to SBS's own Certification Team, businesses can receive assistance in applying for certification from the community-based groups that comprise the New York City Council-funded M/WBE Leadership Associations and the SBS network of Business Solutions Centers located throughout the five boroughs. This helps to ensure higher quality applications, making the submission and the certification review process easier and more streamlined.

Partners also help support the business growth of M/WBEs with marketing workshops, networking events, and business development services. During the reporting period, SBS collaborated with local development corporations, trade associations, industry membership organizations, and local chambers of commerce on 104 events with 3,622 attendees to provide information about the benefits of certification and the range of capacity-building services that are available citywide to help businesses grow.

Emerging Business Enterprise Program

Local Law 12 of 2006 created the Emerging Business Enterprise (EBE) program, directed at expanding procurement opportunities to disadvantaged businesses. Although similar outreach approaches and capacity-building initiatives were, and continue to be, undertaken by SBS to successfully implement the M/WBE and EBE programs (SBS often targets potential M/WBE and EBE groups simultaneously), the outcomes of such measures are quite different. Like the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, eligibility for EBE certification under the city's program requires that applicants satisfy a two-prong test to establish both individual and specific economic and social disadvantages.

As of June 30, 2026, there were 12 certified EBE companies. Unlike the M/WBE program, limited participation in the EBE program has made it difficult for city agencies to set goals on contracts. During the reporting period, 1 EBE was awarded a prime contract in the amount of \$5,200. SBS continues to strive towards increasing participation in the EBE program through a wide range of outreach efforts

regularly conducted with businesses and community partners. Once increased participation in the EBE program is achieved, city agencies will have sufficient availability of certified EBE firms needed to set feasible contract goals.

Locally-based Enterprise Program

Although the Locally-based Enterprises (LBE) program is not referenced in Administrative Code §6-129, LBE is a certification category administered by SBS, and the applicability of the LBE program in city procurement is impacted by the M/WBE program. As set forth in Administrative Code §6-108.1, the LBE program is designed to promote the growth of small construction firms through greater access to contracting opportunities with the city. Generally, the program requires agencies to utilize LBEs as a prime or subcontractor on specific construction contracts. However, the number of contracts subject to the LBE program has substantially decreased in recent years due to other goal-setting programs established by the city, state, and federal governments. Under the LBE program rules, contracts are excluded from the program if they are federally or state-funded and subject to their requisite goal programs. Federally funded construction projects are generally subject to the DBE program, and state-funded contracts are subject to other goals and requirements as well, including Article 15-A of the New York State Executive Law. As many city construction contracts are federally and state-funded and subject to subcontracting goals under those programs, they are not covered by the LBE program. With the creation of the city's M/WBE program, M/WBE subcontracting goals are applied to city-funded construction contracts in lieu of LBE goals. Accordingly, this further limits the applicability of the LBE requirements.

As of June 30, 2026, there were a total of 3 LBE certified firms. Two of the 3 LBEs are also certified M/WBEs and can also be considered for subcontracting opportunities on city construction projects with M/WBE goals. During the reporting period, there were no LBEs awarded a prime contract or a subcontract.

Selling to Government

SBS offers selling to government services that help M/WBEs navigate the city's procurement system. Services are provided through a combination of workshops and one-on-one assistance. To be an effective bidder on city contracts, M/WBEs must understand the city's procurement rules and how to respond to solicitations. M/WBEs must also maintain the most up-to-date information on their profile in

the SBS Online Directory of Certified Businesses (www.nyc.gov/buycertified) and other city procurement systems.

In FY26, SBS held 135 workshops with a total of 5,360 registrants to help M/WBEs build knowledge and understanding of the city's procurement rules, procurement portals, how to effectively respond to solicitations, and inform best practices in contract management. Also, during the reporting period, 996 firms were supported through 1,586 instances of one-on-one technical assistance for submitting the most competitive bids and proposals, navigating government procurement, and successfully performing on contracts with the city.

During the reporting period, SBS hosted the NYC Contracting Summit: A New Era for Small Business at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, NY. The event brought together nearly 1,800 M/WBEs and small business owners, along with more than 130 entities representing city, state, and federal agencies, corporate partners, and business support organizations. Attendees also received over 300 direct service consultations across various service areas including M/WBE vendor services, M/WBE certification support, legal services and financial services. Along with consultations and networking opportunities to speak with partner agencies, attendees were able to participate in eight workshops covering topics such as identifying and pursuing city contracting opportunities, the use of artificial intelligence in business operations, and access to financing resources for small businesses. In May 2026 SBS also hosted the Small Business Month Expo 2026 at the 60 Pine Street venue. Through engagement with city agencies and business support organizations, the Expo helped connect close to 1,500 attendees with resources, technical assistance, and opportunities to strengthen their businesses and compete in the marketplace with over 150 scheduled direct services.

During the reporting period, BE NYC hosted seven events aimed at supporting entrepreneurs through the M/WBE Program with a total of 258 participants. These included the Certified for Success: Unlocking NYC Contracting Opportunities workshop held August 28, 2025, as well as the Breaking Barriers Breakfast Series across multiple boroughs including Staten Island, Brooklyn and Manhattan. Through these events, BE NYC worked to connect M/WBEs and small businesses with the knowledge, resources, and networks needed to pursue and win city contracting opportunities.

SBS also continues to work with the New York City Council through the M/WBE Leadership Associations to provide certified firms with more capacity-building services, such as help applying for

loans and surety bonds, preparing bids and proposals, and marketing to both the public and private sectors. In the reporting period, member organizations sponsored 66 events, provided 1,763 one-on-one assistance sessions, assisted with 103 loan applications, and awarded 36 loans to M/WBEs.

Capacity Building

In addition to the requirement that the city finds vendors responsible, state law also requires that most contracts be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder or the best proposer. SBS has worked aggressively to expand opportunities for minority and women-owned firms by connecting them to a comprehensive range of programs that provide procurement technical assistance and capacity building support, as well as other resources to help them navigate and compete in the public procurement marketplace.

SBS administers a set of capacity-building programs and services for M/WBEs and small businesses that are designed to help firms better bid on, win, and perform on city contracts. Below is a description for each.

Bond Readiness provides certified construction and trade companies with financial and project management skills to help them secure or increase surety bonds necessary to compete on city contracts. The program offers a 12-session cohort conducted over 24 weeks that provides classroom instruction, agency participation, training, and one-on-one assistance, as well as introductions to a network of surety agents. Firms are encouraged to bid on city contract opportunities where appropriate, while applying for pre-approval for bonding during the program. During the reporting period, 36 participants from Cohort 16 representing 29 firms graduated from the program.

Bonding Services provides certified construction and trade companies with access to six-hour QuickBooks for Construction clinics, webinars, and one-hour one-on-one bonding assistance sessions to assist firms with organizing their bookkeeping and accounting practices, preparing applications for bonding, and understanding surety bond application preparation concepts, respectively, to compete for larger city contract opportunities. During the reporting period, there were 8 QuickBooks for Construction clinics with 145 participants, and 58 firms who participated in 127 bonding 1:1 counseling sessions.

[M/WBE Contract Legal Services](#), launched in March 2022, is designed to provide certified firms with education and legal consultation clinics so that they become informed consumers of legal services; enter into commercial contracts with an understanding of terms, conditions, obligations, and rights; equip them with the tools and strategies to negotiate, or re-negotiate, commercial contracts that reflect their best interests and minimize their risk; and understand their obligations, rights, and recourse under existing commercial contracts. During the reporting period, 331 participants attended 10 webinars, and 124 attendees participated in 7 legal consultation clinics.

[M/WBE Mentors Program](#), launched in January 2021, is designed to create spaces for peer mentorship and networking amongst NYC-certified M/WBEs. Through curated, industry-focused events, owners representing a variety of industries and backgrounds serve as mentors to less experienced M/WBEs. By mining their own experiences for advice, these mentors provide the insight their peers need to chart their own path of growth through government contracting. During the reporting period, the Program hosted 12 events with 578 participants.

[NYC Construction Ramp-Up Program](#) launched its first cohort in June 2023 and since then has continued to provide intensive educational, training, and mentorship programming to help certified M/WBE construction firms understand the requirements of the city's pedestrian ramp rehabilitation projects and other concrete related projects in order to successfully compete and qualify for the work and any related M/WBE Pre-Qualified List (PQL). During the reporting period, two cohorts successfully completed the program, including 45 graduates representing 41 unique firms.

[Contract Financing Loan Fund](#) was launched in FY 2017 by the New York City Economic Development Corporation and SBS. The Loan Fund enhances the ability of business owners to access the capital they need to win, take on and perform successfully on NYC contracts, and reduce the cost of capital to a 3% annual interest rate. During the reporting period, 33 loans totaling \$12,715,500 were awarded to certified M/WBEs through the Loan Fund.

Program Compliance

To ensure that all agency staff responsible for purchasing activities are knowledgeable about the M/WBE program and their agency's goals, SBS, MOCS, and OM/WBE conduct agency training sessions. During the reporting period, 562 procurement professionals from 55 agencies attended 18

training sessions. Among the topics covered were implementation of M/WBE policy of the New York City Administrative Code, strategies and best practices used to identify M/WBEs for contract opportunities, M/WBE goal setting, and enhancing M/WBE procedures in all contract areas.

Compliance meetings with agency commissioners and M/WBE officers are regularly held to discuss utilization and agency initiatives to increase M/WBE performance. Since April 2023 and through the reporting period, the city's Chief Business Diversity Officer continues to hold monthly all-agency accountability meetings accompanied by weekly agency focus groups. In addition to these virtual meetings, during the reporting period, the Chief Business Diversity Officer held 3 in-person Compliance Meetings on July 18, 2025, and October 27, 2025, each with 89 attendees representing 43 agencies and May 8, 2026 with 84 attendees representing 37 agencies. Finally, a series of meetings were held separately with agencies' leadership to discuss plans to meet the citywide aspirational 30% goal.

Qualified Joint Venture Agreements

The M/WBE program (Administrative Code 6-129) requires tracking of joint ventures between one or more MBEs, WBEs and/or EBEs. In FY 2026, there were 2 M/WBEs awarded over \$31 million in joint ventures.

Industry	Total Value of Contracts Awarded to JVs with M/WBEs	Ethnicity	# of JV Contracts with M/WBEs	Total Contract Value Awarded to M/WBEs	% of Contract Awarded to M/WBEs
Architecture/Engineering	\$19,696,821.84	Male-Owned MBE - Asian	1	\$7,201,442.70	37%
Construction Services	\$129,884,831.31	Male-Owned MBE - Hispanic	1	\$24,307,343.81	19%
Total	\$149,581,653.15		0	\$31,508,786.51	21%

Expanding Access and Growth

In FY 2026, New York City continued to advance its commitment to expanding equitable access to public procurement for M/WBEs. Under the program, the city awarded a record \$2.5 billion in contracts — a 16% increase over FY25's total of \$2.2 billion. Through the M/WBE Program, the city strengthened opportunities for M/WBEs to compete for city contracts, build their capacity, and establish pathways for sustainable growth. These efforts were supported by continued certification, outreach, technical assistance, and engagement initiatives designed to connect businesses with the resources and information needed to navigate the city's procurement marketplace. The progress reflected throughout this report demonstrates the importance of sustained investment in M/WBEs and small businesses to address disparities in public procurement.