

The Nassau County Department of Public Works (DPW) encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) and Section 3 Participation in the Barnes Ave Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Correction Project. To support participation, a Pre-Proposal Conference and Networking Session was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday September 15, 2015 in the Legislative Chamber in the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building, 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, New York 11501. The conference was followed by an MWBE/Section 3 Networking Session. The following written responses to questions posed during the conference are offered to provide the information to people that were able to attend the September 15, 2015 conference as well as to provide the information to anyone that was unable to attend the September 15, 2015 conference. The questions asked during the conference are shown in bold font and the answers are shown in plain font under each question.

The Pre-Proposal Conference sign-in sheets, any business cards collected during the conference and this Q and A sheet will also be available via Addenda and on the DPW's website at: <http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/3886/NYS-GOSR-Community-Reconstruction-Program>, then click on the link for Barnum Island or the Bay Park/East Rockaway Drainage Improvements projects.

1. Q. How can we obtain a list of primes who solicit as a Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE)?

A. The information will be issued to all attendees via addenda and the County's website. The County encourages networking after this conference.

2. Q. Primes often ask for a waiver if they are unable to locate M/WBEs. Where does monitoring and compliance come into the picture?

A. NYS Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) requires that all prime contractors and their sub-contractors use the Elation Systems for monitoring and compliance. 3PL reviews the waiver requests as part of the Monitoring and Compliance assistance they provide to Nassau County.

Nassau County's Office of Minority Affairs has created a brochure to assist prime contractors and proposing firms with conducting and documenting Good Faith Efforts to contact M/WBEs.

GOSR expects the 30% goal to be achieved and the State and County are available to assist proposers with meeting this goal. MWBEs are encouraged to be prime on these projects.

3. Q. Nassau County and NYS have separate MWBE Certification processes. If an MWBE is only Nassau County-certified, how will that be handled as far as the prime getting credit for these projects?

A. NYS GOSR encourages MWBEs to obtain their certification with NYS to increase their opportunities to expand their business. If an MWBE is chosen for one of the CDBG-DR funded projects and has begun the process of certifying with the state, GOSR will fast-track the processing of their certification application. GOSR also encourages you to obtain your Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification to allow you to apply for MTA projects. All prime contractors, Architectural and Engineering firms must confirm their MWBEs are NYS certified.

4. Q. Is funding other than the grant amounts listed available for these RFPs?

A. The funding amount listed in the RFPs is the only funding source.

5. Q. The RFPs have an evaluation process, these are RFPs not bids, is that correct?

A. Yes, that is correct; these are RFPs and not bids.

6. Q. One of the barriers to M/WBE participation is prompt payment. Is there anything that addresses prompt payment issues with Nassau County and NYS? What is the funding flow?

A. NYS administers the grant funds from Housing and Urban Development. The funds are administered by NYS to Nassau County are from the federal government. GOSR will provide a letter to the comptroller addressing expectation of payments.

7. Q. Will these projects still follow the normal County payment processes?

A. Yes, projects will still flow through the normal County payment processes.

8. Q. Are the companies that prepared the New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Plans restricted from bidding on the RFPs?

A. They are not restricted from responding to the RFPs. The companies that are awarded the RFPs will be restricted from bidding on the construction that will result from the 70% design that will be part of a separate RFP that would be released in 2016. Please note the aggressive time line of 12 months in this RFP; it is critical because NYS must obligate the CDBG-DR funding by September 2017. These dates are in the RFP.

9. Q. Is it possible to have a set-aside for MWBEs so we can be a prime and move forward?

A. These projects have a 30% MWBE participation goal. There are no set-asides within Nassau County for CDBG-DR-funded projects. The County will certainly take this into account for future projects.

10. Q. If MWBEs are the prime or part of a Joint Venture (JV), can they self-fulfill the MWBE goal of 30%?

A. Yes, if an MWBE is the prime or part of a JV, they can self-fulfill the MWBE goal of 30 percent.