

Texas Workforce Commission

A Member of Texas Workforce Solutions

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Commissioner Representing
the Public

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Edward Serna
Executive Director

April 14, 2023

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) submits this supplemental letter for the FY 2023 Semi-Annual Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Report outlining the agency's "good faith efforts" and reaffirms its commitment to improving our HUB utilization.

Participated in Economic Opportunity Forums (EOFs)

- Houston Minority Supplier Development Council (HMSDC) Business Expo and Spot Bid Fair on September 28, 2022, resulting in \$532,245 in contracts awarded to HUB vendors.
- Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC) Leadership Conference on October 25, 2022.
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Marketing for Success 9th Annual HUB Vendor Fair on April 5, 2023.

HUB Outreach and Other Activities

- Provided a supplemental HUB vendor list to the TWC Purchasers, for solicitations with subcontracting opportunities.
- Commenced a requirement that purchasers are to obtain a pricing quote from a HUB vendor, for all spot purchases, which the agency has delegation to award without competition.
- Reviewed solicitation specifications to eliminate requirements that reduce competition and impede HUB vendor participation.
- Conducted virtual meetings with HUB vendors to provide potential vendors an overview of HUB policies and subcontracting compliance.
- Continued to develop strategic partnerships with TWC division management and contracting team leads to provide an overview of the HUB program and offer assistance in locating HUB vendors for all bid opportunities.
- Provided training to current and new hire purchasing staff on how to navigate and locate HUB vendors on Texas Smartbuy (TSB), Department of Information Resources (DIR) website and the Centralized Masters Bidders List (CMBL).
- Attended the HUB Discussion Work Group (HDWG) meetings to continue to gain knowledge on what other government entities are doing to increase their HUB participation, HUB rule updates, and HUB related topics.
- Currently participating in a root cause analysis to gain insight as to why there has been a decrease in purchasing within certain HUB categories and determine what changes need to be made for continuous improvement.

TWC is dedicated to supporting Texas HUB Program goals to increase HUB participation opportunities in all procurement categories. If there are any comments/questions, please contact TWC HUB/Outreach Coordinator, Linda Alphonse at Linda.Alphonse@twc.texas.gov, or TWC Purchasing Director/HUB Coordinator, Sonya Bebley at Sonya.Bebley@twc.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Nicole Oria

Nicole Oria, JD
TWC Director of Procurement and Contract Services

cc: Edward Serna, Executive Director
Randy Townsend, Deputy Executive
Director

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