

Supplier Engagement Program

Audubon Nature Institute continues to acknowledge the desirability of participation by business enterprises owned by economically or socially disadvantaged individuals; and by small local businesses under the Hudson Incentive in all Audubon projects, whether they involve construction, professional services or commodities. Such participation assists Audubon Nature Institute in its efforts to provide real economic opportunity to those in the community who in the past and now, have not had access to the capital required or to resources needed to acquire or develop ownership interests in the enterprises, firms, or corporations contracting for such projects.

In support of Audubon Nature Institute's Supplier Engagement Policy, the specifications of any contract in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars shall include a bidder's commitment to make good faith efforts to comply with the intention of the Plan which is to extend Sub-contractor bid opportunities and joint venture participation opportunities to local small businesses and historically underutilized business enterprises.

Contractors are encouraged to purchase the materials for the work from one or more small local businesses, economically or socially disadvantaged businesses. Each Contractor shall provide the name and address of any economically or socially disadvantaged business, or local small business involved in a contract along with the description of work performed and/or the product or service supplied, and amounts paid for services or supplies during that time period. Quarterly reports shall be provided to Cecile H. Primeaux, chprimeaux@auduboninstitute.org.

What is a Supplier Engagement Program?

A Supplier Engagement Program provides business opportunities for business enterprises owned by economically or socially disadvantaged individuals; and by small local businesses under the Hudson Incentive that offer quality products and services on a competitive basis.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise: Is a small business concern,

1. Which is at least 51% owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals or in the case of any public-owned business, at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; and
Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

Economically/Socially Disadvantaged Individuals: A person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and who is:

1. Female: which includes any person of the female gender including persons having origins of any of the ethnic groups described below and any person of the Caucasian groups;

2. African-American: which includes persons having origins in any of the black ethnic groups of Africa;
3. Hispanic-American: which includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish or Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race;
4. Native-American: which includes persons who are American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts or native Hawaiians;
5. Asian-Pacific American: which includes persons whose origins are from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, Samoa, Guam, the U. S. Trust Territories of the Pacific, and the Northern Marianas; and
6. Asian-American Indians: which includes persons whose origins are from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.
7. Other individuals may be found to be socially or economically disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis. For example, a disabled Vietnam veteran, an Appalachian white male, a Gay or Lesbian, or another person may claim to be disadvantaged. These owners must demonstrate that their disadvantaged status arose from individual circumstances, rather than by virtue of membership in a group.

How do companies register or certify with Audubon Nature Institute?

Vendors can register online at www.audubonvendorportal.org . Applications are reviewed including certifications by Small Business Administration, Women Business Council, National Supplier Diversity Council, City of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, etc.

We encourage all diverse businesses to seek certification
Resources:

Woman's Enterprise Council - www.wbecsouth.org

[Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - https://www.hccl.biz/](https://www.hccl.biz/)

[Goodwork Network – www.goodworknetwork.org](http://www.goodworknetwork.org)

[National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce https://www.nglcc.org/](https://www.nglcc.org/)

National Supplier Diversity Council - <http://affiliate.nmsdc.org/lamsdc>

Small Business Administration - <https://www.sba.gov/>

State of Louisiana Hudson Initiative - <https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/hudson-initiative>

Federal Government - <https://www.usa.gov/become-government-contractor>

What are the next steps after I submit my registration?

You will receive a notice that your registration has been accepted. This usually occurs within 1- 4 days. If further information is required such as a W9 or Insurance Certificate you will be contacted.

Your Company profile will be listed in Audubon's Supplier Engagement Database. This is a searchable database that is accessible to all Audubon employees.

During review of your registration, the Procurement Department will reach out to departments who may have upcoming opportunities to provide your company contact information.

Does Audubon give preference to business enterprises owned by economically or socially disadvantaged individuals; and by small local businesses under the Hudson Incentive when awarding contracts?

The only preference clause that is allowed under Louisiana Public Bid Law is for Seafood. Audubon Procurement does track the use of diverse suppliers as a means of measuring our goals.

What are the annual Supplier Engagement Goals?

Our goal is to spend a minimum of 25% with diverse suppliers and to utilize an additional fifteen new diverse suppliers each year.

Audubon encourages the use of Tier 2 programs between large corporations and diverse businesses.

Reporting – Diverse business expenditures are provided in a quarterly report to Audubon's Community Relations Department. The report includes total expenditures broke down by category, historical data, and contracts awarded.

Audubon Procurement partners with various local and national organizations to support and promote Supplier Engagement.