

2017 M/WBE Disparity Study Fact Sheet

What is the M/WBE Study?

The M/WBE Study (Study) is an evaluation of the contracting practices of the City of Columbus, particularly the award of contracts to Minority and Woman Business Enterprises.

Who is sponsoring the Study?

The City of Columbus is the Study sponsor.

What is the purpose of the Study?

The Study will determine if a statistical disparity exists in the award of the City's contracts to ready, willing, and able market area Minority and Woman Business Enterprises.

What guidelines exist to help direct the Study?

The Study will be guided by the United States Supreme Court's 1989 decision in City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co., 488 U.S. 469 (1989) and its progeny.

Why has the City decided to conduct the Study?

The City has decided to conduct the Study to ensure that the M/WBE program is narrowly tailored and in compliance with applicable federal regulations and relevant court rulings.

How will the City benefit from the Study?

Three benefits to the City are to:

- Identify best practices to improve the City's contracting process
- Increase the number of bidders on the City's contracts
- Lower the City's procurement costs

How will the City identify available businesses?

To identify available businesses, Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd., the City's consultant, will conduct a broad-based business outreach program. The City's contract records, certification lists, outreach meetings, and trade and professional association lists will be used to identify available businesses.

Which industries are being studied?

The industries being studied are construction, professional services, and goods and services.

Who is conducting the Study?

Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd., a national expert in conducting disparity studies, will review the City's contract records, identify market area businesses, and collect anecdotal accounts from business owners. The firm is based in Oakland, California.

How can local business owners get involved?

- Local business owners can complete a business survey and attend one of the two business community meetings. The meetings will be held on May 24, 2017, at the following locations:

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Driving Park Recreation Center	1100 Rhoads Ave.
------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Douglas Recreation Center	1250 Windsor Ave.
-----------------------	---------------------------	-------------------

- Participate in a telephone interview to share contracting and bidding experiences
- Provide membership lists from local business associations

Who should business owners contact to get additional information?

Mason Tillman can be contacted by telephone at (614) 559-6699 and by email at ColumbusDisparityStudy@mtaltd.com

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION