

LAKE COUNTY

LOCAL / WOMEN-OWNED AND MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Lake County recognizes its responsibility to the communities which it serves and is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination. It is the commitment of the County to promote all procurement opportunities to all Local / Women-Owned and Minority Business Enterprises in the administration of its Local / Women-Owned and Minority Business Enterprise (L/W/MBE) Economic Opportunity Program (EOP). The County will take all necessary and reasonable steps to assure that business enterprises defined as L/W/MBE shall have a fair opportunity to participate in County contracts. As part of its EOP commitment the County will make every effort to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of contracts;
- (b) To create a level playing field on which L/W/MBEs can compete fairly for contracts by providing any necessary training and assistance in bid preparation;
- (c) To ensure that the County's EOP is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- (d) To establish a means for firms identifying themselves as L/W/MBEs to register for procurement opportunities and work cooperatively with contracted firms to report on measures that demonstrates the County's commitment to its EOP; and,
- (e) To help remove barriers to the participation of L/W/MBEs through notification of contract opportunities.

Implementation of the EOP is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the County. All Executives, Directors, Managers and their management staff share in the responsibility for making the County's EOP a success.

Program Overview

The County has adopted a program of economic opportunity for L/W/MBEs with respect to its annual contracting and purchasing and will seek to assure that all of its contractors, subcontractors and vendors abide by the spirit and intent of this policy statement. In addition to normal operations, the County will be embarking on an estimated \$90 million Lake County Courthouse Expansion Project (Project) over the next five (5) years. The County has committed to developing and implementing the EOP to provide economic opportunities for L/W/MBEs. The EOP will consist of the following three components:

1. L/W/MBE Identification
2. L/W/MBE Outreach and Information Programs
3. L/W/MBE Capacity Building Programs
4. Job Training and Workforce Development Programs
5. Tracking and Reporting Procedures