

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING DIVISION 3 OF ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF ROCKDALE COUNTY, GEORGIA PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION FOR AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR ROCKDALE COUNTY

WHEREAS, it is the policy of Rockdale County to encourage maximization of contracting opportunities with Historically Underutilized Businesses;

WHEREAS, the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners promulgates this ordinance as the official policy of Rockdale County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Rockdale County, Georgia, and it is, hereby, ordained by the authority of same, as follows:

That Division 3 of Article VI of Chapter 2 of the Code of Rockdale County, Georgia be amended, to create, as follows:

“Section 2-221. Equal Business Opportunity Program”

A. As used in this section:

1. The term “Contracting Authority” means any board, commission, body, or subdivisions of Rockdale County that exercises any authority to award a contract through a formal bidding process.
2. The term “Historically Underutilized Businesses” means a firm that is an independent and continuing enterprise for profit:
 - a. In which at least fifty-one percent (51%) is owned by one or more minority persons or socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, or in the case of a corporation, in which at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the stock is owned by one or more minority persons or socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; and
 - b. Of which the management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the minority persons or socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it.
3. The term “minority person” means a person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and who is:
 - a. Black, that is, a person having origins in any of the black racial groups in Africa;
 - b. Hispanic, that is, a person of Spanish or Portuguese culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America, or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race;

- c. Asian American, that is, a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia and Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands;
 - d. American Indian, that is, a person having origins in any of the original Indian peoples of North America; or
 - e. Female.
 4. The term “socially and economically disadvantaged individual” means a person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and who is:
 - a. A veteran of the armed forces of the United States;
 - b. Physically or mentally disabled in a manner that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of a person; or
 - c. Capable of demonstrating some other form of economic or social disadvantage, as articulated in 13 CFR § 124.104.
 5. The term “Small Business Enterprises” means a firm that is an independent and continuing enterprise for profit for which the gross revenues or number of employees, inclusive of any affiliates as defined by 13 CFR 121.103, does not exceed the size standard for its industry as defined by 13 CFR 121.201 (as further explained in 13 CFR 121.104 through 121.107), and is certified as such.
- B. It is the policy of Rockdale County to encourage maximization of contracting opportunities with Historically Underutilized Businesses.
- C. All Contracting Authorities shall strive to maximize contracting opportunities with Historically Underutilized Businesses. Where feasible, preference should be given to such businesses that are in Rockdale County or that employ a majority of their workforce in Rockdale County.
- D. All Contracting Authorities shall establish prior to solicitation of bids for any project totaling \$100,000 or more, the good faith efforts that it will take to make it feasible for Historically Underutilized Businesses to submit successful bids or proposals for the contract. Each first-tier subcontractor shall comply with the requirements applicable to contractors under this subsection.
- E. Each bidder for a contract from a Contracting Authority shall identify on its bid the Historically Underutilized Businesses that it will use in fulfilling the contract and an affidavit listing the good faith efforts it has made pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and the total dollar value of the bid that will be performed by the Historically Underutilized Businesses. A contractor that performs all the work under a contract with its own workforce may submit an affidavit to that effect in lieu of the affidavit otherwise required under this subsection. The apparent lowest responsible, responsive bidder shall also file the following:

1. Within the time specified in the bid documents, either:
 - a. An affidavit that includes a description of the portion of work to be executed by Historically Underutilized Businesses, expressed as a percentage of the total contract price, which is equal to or more than the applicable goal. An affidavit under this sub-subdivision shall give rise to a presumption that the bidder has made the required good faith or effort; or
 - b. Documentation of its good faith effort to meet the goal. The documentation must include evidence of all good faith efforts that were implemented, including any advertisements, solicitations, and evidence of other specific actions demonstrating recruitment and selection of minority businesses for participation in the contract.
2. Within 30 days after awarding the contract, a list of all identified subcontractors that the contractor will use on the project.

Failure to file a required affidavit or documentation that demonstrates that the contractor made the required good faith effort is grounds for rejection of the bid.

- F. No subcontractor who is identified and listed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section may be replaced with a different subcontractor except:
 1. If the subcontractor's bid is later determined by the contractor to be nonresponsible or nonresponsive, or the listed subcontractor refuses to enter into a contract for the complete performance of the bid work, or
 2. With the approval of the Contracting Authority for good cause.
- G. Before awarding a contract, the Contracting Authority shall do the following:
 1. Develop and implement a Historically Underutilized Business participation outreach plan to identify Historically Underutilized Businesses that can perform necessary services and to implement outreach efforts to encourage Historically Underutilized Business participation in these projects.
 2. At least 10 days prior to the scheduled day of bid opening, notify Historically Underutilized Businesses that have requested notices from the Contracting Authority and Historically Underutilized Businesses that otherwise indicated to the County an interest in the type of work being bid or the potential contracting opportunities listed in the proposal. The notification shall include the following:
 - a. A description of the work for which the bid is being solicited.
 - b. The date, time, and location where bids are to be submitted.

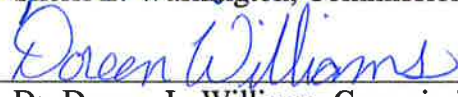
- c. The name of the individual within the public entity who will be available to answer questions about the project.
 - d. Where bid documents may be reviewed.
 - e. Any special requirements that may exist.
3. Utilize other media, as appropriate, likely to inform potential Historically Underutilized Businesses of the bid being sought.
- H. The Contracting Authority may designate certain procurement projects or contracts as available for bid and award only to certified Small Business Enterprises. The small business reserve designation for a particular project is discretionary on the part of the Contracting Authority and should be applied only where there is a reasonable expectation that there will be at least three responsible and responsive bids for certified Small Business Enterprises and that the award will be made at a fair market price/value. To obtain a small business reserve program project, the bidding Small Business Enterprise must self-perform a significant percentage of the contracted work (a minimum of 50 percent).
 - I. All Contracting Authorities shall award contracts without regard to race, religion, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or handicapping condition. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require contractors or awarding authorities to award contracts or subcontracts to or to make purchases of materials or equipment from Historically Underutilized Business who do not submit the lowest responsible, responsive bid or bids.
 - J. Each Contracting Authority shall submit to the Board an annual report demonstrating compliance with this code section.
 - K. Nothing herein shall apply to any contracts solicited or awarded before the passage of this code section.
 - L. For any projects involving the use of federal funds, no term of this ordinance shall apply if it conflicts with the requirements imposed under federal law for that project.
 - M. If any provision or clause of this code section or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this code section which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this code section are declared to be severable.
 - N. The terms of this ordinance shall expire five years from the date of its enactment if not renewed by the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners.

Adopted this 12th day of December, 2023.

Rockdale County, Georgia
Board of Commissioners

By: 
Oz Nesbitt, Sr., Chairman

By: 
Sherri L. Washington, Commissioner Post I

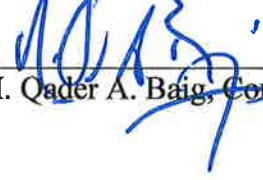
By: 
Dr. Doreen L. Williams, Commissioner Post II

Attest:

By: 
Jennifer Rutledge, County Clerk

First Reading: 12/12/2023
Second Reading: waived

Approved as to form:

By: 
M. Qader A. Baig, County Attorney