



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911
Phone: 502.540.6000 | LouisvilleMSD.org

MEDIA RELEASE

June 7, 2021

CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder
Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.919.0325

New program to increase opportunities for small local businesses to gain MSD construction contracts

LOUISVILLE, KY – MSD is launching a Small Local Business Enterprise (SBE) Program to assist smaller enterprises in finding construction contract opportunities. The new program, approved May 24 at the MSD board meeting, builds on the utility’s 35-year track record of supporting minority- and woman-owned businesses through its Supplier Diversity Program.

MSD regularly contracts with engineering, construction and other companies for projects that enhance and maintain the community’s wastewater treatment, stormwater management and flood protection systems. The goal of the SBE Program is to develop, promote and foster inclusiveness and economic development by assuring small, local businesses in MSD service areas have equitable access and opportunity to compete for MSD construction contracts.

Companies in Jefferson County or Oldham County, with an average annual revenue over the past three years less than \$5 million, may register with MSD to participate in the program. MSD will designate a number of construction projects, ranging between \$30,000 and \$150,000 in scope, for which SBE-registered companies may bid.

“I am fully committed to MSD’s new SBE Program,” said MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott. “The SBE Program will allow MSD to more effectively target small business participation by creating contracting opportunities and technical assistance relating to MSD’s contracting and procurement.”

The new SBE Program is a two-year pilot program, beginning July 1, 2021. In addition to the program serving as a race- and gender-neutral initiative to increase opportunities for small businesses to work with MSD, it is expected to diversify and expand the companies doing business with MSD – thereby developing new capacity and resources to compete for MSD prime contracts and increasing competition in the contracting community.

The SBE Program is one of several recommendations MSD is implementing following a 2018 study by Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd., that reviewed MSD's procurement and made recommendations for enhancements to deepen community impact and economic development. MSD has already expanded the level of contracting with M/WBEs, in addition to launching a broader Community Benefits Program that enhances employment and education, along with including a community give-back component to MSD's larger construction projects.

For more information about the SBE Program, email supplierdiversity@louisvillemsd.org or call 502.540.6000.

###



About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 670 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Oldham County. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.