



MINORITY/WOMEN Business Enterprise PROGRAM



128 West Main Avenue
Gastonia, NC 28052



Let's Build
Gaston County's
Future Together!

www.dobusinesswithgaston.com



Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE/HUB)

Purpose

The purpose of this Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program (also referenced as Historically Underutilized Business or HUB) is to encourage and increase minority business participation in all construction, renovation, and repair contracts to which North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) § 143-128.2 applies. The program shall also be applicable to the selection process of architectural, engineering, and construction manager-at-risk services.



What is the HUB/MWBE Program?

The Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (HUB/MWBE) Program advocates actions and strategies in order to increase opportunities for historically underutilized businesses and promotes diversity and inclusion in Gaston County contracting. Gaston County has a 10% verifiable goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of work for building projects awarded by Gaston County and costing \$300,000 or more.

Goal of the MWBE Program

To increase minority and women-owned business participation with Gaston County 10 percent or higher, as it relates to construction, renovation, and repair contracts, to include architectural, engineering, and construction manager-at-risk, both formal and informal, projects.



HUB/MWBE Requirements

North Carolina General Statutes § 143-128.2 defines a “minority business” as a business:

- “In which at least 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 51% of the stock is owned by one or more minority persons or socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and 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.” The statute defines the term “minority person” as a person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and who is:

- Black (B);
- Hispanic (H);
- Asian American (A);
- American Indian (I); or
- Female (F)



According to 15 U.S.C. § 637, “[s]ocially disadvantaged individuals are those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities.” “Economically disadvantaged individuals are those socially disadvantaged individuals whose ability to compete in the free enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities as compared to others in the same business area who are not socially disadvantaged.”

How to Participate in HUB/MWBE Program

Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Certification

1. In order to participate, you must first become a HUB-certified minority or women-owned business with the State of North Carolina. Certification is handled through the NC Department of Administration's Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses (NCHUB). Through Vendor Link, the online vendor registration software, businesses may register with the State and verify their status as a HUB vendor. Registration not only certifies you to do business with Gaston County as an HUB/MWBE but also makes you eligible for work with the State of NC.
2. If you would like to become certified, please visit the NC Department of Administration's Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses and complete the online application. The application process takes approximately 6-8 weeks.



Steps to Certification

1. Complete the SWUC Application
2. Gather required documents based on your business structure
3. Complete an online HUB Certification Request by clicking <https://vendor.ncgov.com/vendor/login>. Then click "Vendor Not Registered? Register now"
4. Mail your completed package to the State HUB Office

Application for Statewide Uniform Certification (SWUC)

Please contact a staff member of North Carolina HUB to receive assistance with completing certification process. The direct number is 984-236-0130 and email address is huboffice.doa@doa.nc.gov.

What can MWBE Program participants expect?

Participants in the MWBE program can expect Gaston County to:

- Shape and mold an MWBE/HUB organizational culture through internal quarterly training and expand program visibility and opportunities
- Educate MWBE program participants by conducting monthly internal and external HUB/MWBE training
- Promote the MWBE program and its participants in an effort to increase visibility
- Build and strengthen minority business relationships by creating networking opportunities with architects, engineers, and other stakeholders
- Work with local grassroots organizations to help inspire future entrepreneurs



MWBE



For more information about Gaston County's
MWBE Program, visit www.dobusinesswithgaston.com
or click the QR code.

For inquiries, contact the Office of
Community Affairs at 704-866-3473.



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