



Minority Preference Policy

Minority Vendor

BPU recognizes Minority Certifications from the National Minority Supplier Council (NMSDA) or any of its state affiliates, or from the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) or any of its state affiliates. If your firm is not certified through the previously named councils, you will not qualify to participate in the BPU Diversity Program.

Select one of the following:

- a. Yes
- b. No

Supplier Diversity Guidelines

| 03-400-012

- 1.01 Purpose:** It is the policy of the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to provide all suppliers with a fair and equal opportunity to conduct business with BPU. BPU recognizes that as a public utility it is our responsibility to seek to purchase goods and services from a diverse base of suppliers.

- 1.02 Scope:** Through our Supplier Diversity Program, we strive to obtain high-quality goods and services from minority and women-owned businesses at competitive prices, while enhancing the opportunities for success for business owners of diverse backgrounds.

- 1.03 Guidelines:** We actively seek to increase the diversity of our supplier base as we believe it enhances our corporate value and our customers satisfaction. The program guidelines are defined as follows:
 - a. Diverse suppliers include small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses and disabled-owned businesses whose owners are disabled under the definitions of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - b. A small business is a firm, including its affiliates, that is independently owned and operated, and that qualifies as a small business under the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) definitions. A minority-owned business must be at least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by an African-American, Hispanic-American, Native American, Asian-Pacific American or Asian-Indian American.

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- c. A woman-owned business must be at least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by one or more women who are U.S. citizens.
- d. A disabled-owned business Includes non-profit agencies or programs that promote the interests of the disabled or agencies that have a work force of 51 percent or more disabled workers.

1.04 Certification Criteria:

BPU recognizes Minority Certifications from the National Minority Supplier Council (NMSDA) or any of its state affiliates, or from the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) or any of its state affiliates. If your firm is not certified through the previously named councils, you will not qualify to participate in BPU’s Diversity Program. For additional information on how to be certified, please contact the following organizations:

National Minority Supplier Development Council

(212) 944-2430

Women’s Business Enterprise National Council

(202) 872-5515

US Small Business Administration

(202) 606-4000

If your firm is classified as a small, woman-owned, or minority business, a copy of your certification is required to be on file with the BPU Purchasing Department.

1.05 Solicitation of Diverse Suppliers:

It is the responsibility of the Director of Purchasing & Supply to ensure that diverse suppliers are solicited on procurements for which such businesses may be suited.

When written quotations are solicited, at least one local and one minority business enterprise or woman-owned business enterprise will be solicited for each bid whenever possible.