

Inclusion

Department of Economic Inclusion

Disparity Study Released

The City of Cincinnati released the findings of a Disparity Study that looked at the City's contracting practices with minority- and women-owned businesses.

The study found significant under-utilization of African-American businesses and Caucasian women-owned businesses in various types of contracts including prime contracts for construction, professional services, and services and supplies, as well as subcontracts for construction and professional services.

According to the Croson Study Cincinnati's population is almost one-half African-American, but only 2.7 percent of city contracts – totaling \$4.9 million -- were awarded to African-American owned companies in the year before Mayor Cranley took office. Just over six percent went to women-owned businesses.

"This study confirms the City can do a much better job in how it spends taxpayer dollars to ensure it reflects the diversity of our community," said Mayor John Cranley. "We need to build a truly inclusive economy that benefits everyone." Mayor Cranley added.

"This is about more than diversifying public contracting," said Thomas Corey, Director of the Department of Economic Inclusion. "We have a chance to build businesses and create jobs in demographic segments of the city that need them.

Read more at <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cityofcincinnati/news/mayor-city-council-unveil-results-of-disparity-study/>.

Sustainability Scholarships

Scholarships are now available for small minority and women-owned businesses interested in completing the SBE Sustainability Education program. The Sustainability Education program aims to increase the number of diverse vendors that are advancing sustainability in Greater Cincinnati.

The Sustainability program is being offered through the Department of Economic Inclusion's Business Training Center.

Participants will learn through seven dynamic online courses how to mitigate environmental risks, conduct a sustainability assessment, operate more efficiently, sharpen their presentation skills, and much more.

75 scholarships are available. Please contact the Department of Economic Inclusion for more information at (513) 352-3144.



DEI Business Training Center Classes Begin

Class Dates

October 14 – Business Smarts

October 28 – Certification

November 10 – How to Do Business with the City

December 1 – Why Aren't You Making More Money

December 15 – Money, Money, Money

The City's Department of Economic Inclusion (DEI) is opening its Business Training Center. The center will be offering classes to help small companies and others interested in growing their base become competitive and sustainable.

"What some of these small minority businesses need is just a little polish or someone to show them how to put together a winning RFP," says DEI Director, Thomas Corey. "Once the business owners go through our classes they should be able to compete for contracts with the City as well as other companies.

The classes will include topics on estimating, business smarts, financing, bidding on city contracts and certification.

Classes will begin October 14 and will run through December. Classes will be held at Two Centennial Plaza, 805 Central Avenue, 2nd floor.



Registration is \$25.00. To register for classes please send an email to Lyndsay Harvey at lyndsay.harvey@cincinnati-oh.gov or Barbara Culbreath at Barbara.culbreath@cincinnati-oh.gov.

For more information go to <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/inclusion/>.

Vendor Registration Fee Cut



The vendor registration fee required for all businesses, including City-certified Small Business Enterprises (SBEs), to register with the City has been eliminated.

The vendor registration fee was \$55.00 annually for SBE's, but , a loophole allowed many non-SBE businesses to avoid the yearly fee.

"Eliminating this fee streamlines our operation," said Patrick Duhaney, Chief Procurement Officer. "My office worked with DEI to make this happen and we'll be doing a lot more collaboration as we all work together to increase opportunities for all SBEs."

