



COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

ANNUAL DIVERSITY REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2023

TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT
COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NICOLE N. MANDEVILLE, DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF CONTRACT COMPLIANCE



MISSION

The mission of the Office of Contract Compliance is to increase the pool of qualified diverse vendors who are in position to participate in Cook County contracting opportunities.

In addition, the office monitors and tracks all contracts to ensure compliance with the minority and woman-owned businesses (M/WBE) ordinance by promoting racial parity, contract diversity and continued transparency with industry best practices.



*Message from Toni Preckwinkle
Board President of Cook County*

To the residents of Cook County:

I am pleased to present our annual Cook County Business Diversity Report. Since taking office, I have been committed to removing barriers for minority and women-owned businesses (M/WBEs) to do business in and with Cook County. This report embodies and illustrates our continued work to be open, honest and transparent about our efforts.

This report provides a great deal of important information related to our diversity efforts. Overall, in 2023, Cook County awarded 23% of its contracts to minority and women-owned businesses, while 8% of contract payments were made to minority and women-owned businesses.

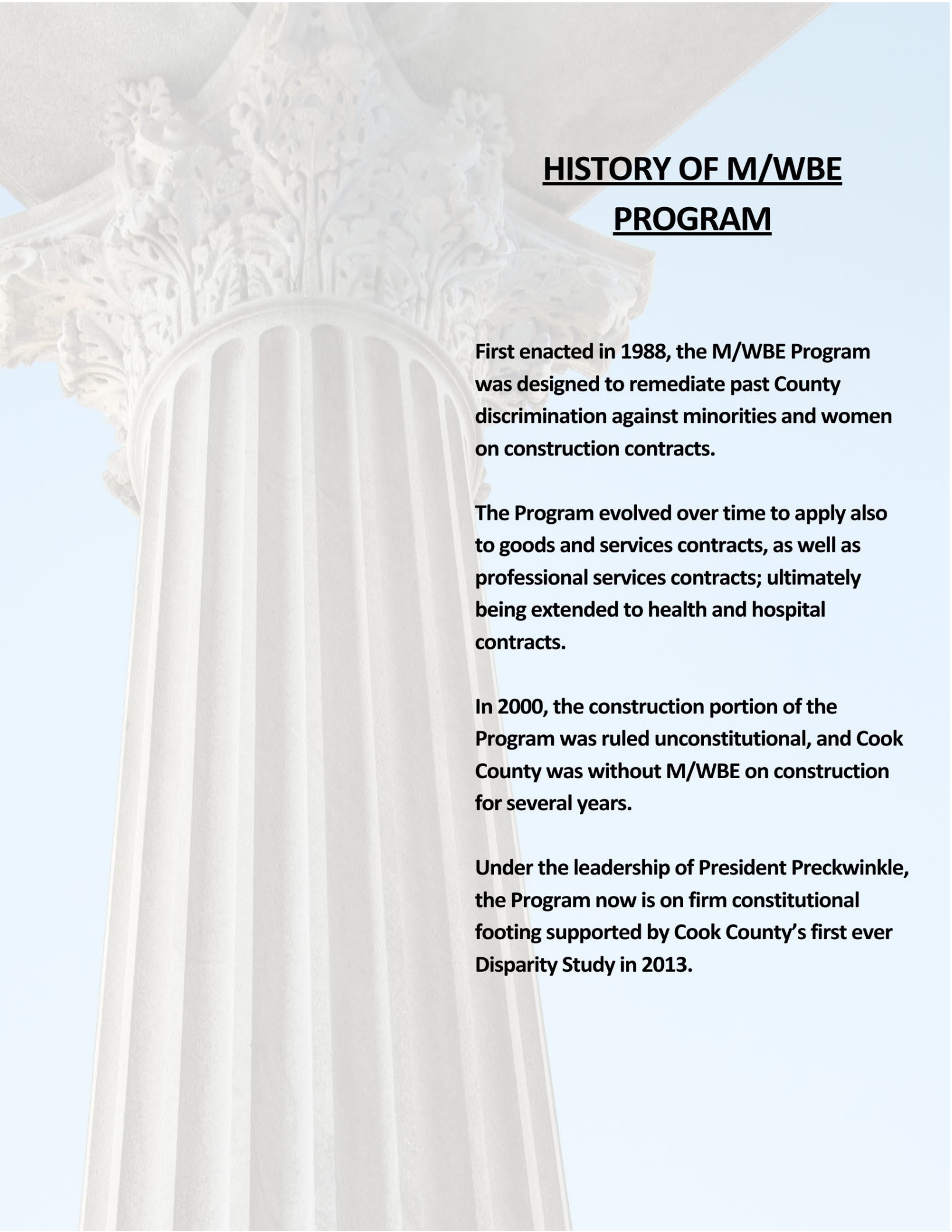
We are continuously seeking ways in which we can enhance and improve our M/WBE Program. We are also committed to investing in the necessary tools to better monitor participation of minority and women-owned businesses on County contracts. We continue to push to modernize our work and are now utilizing a web-based system to capture payment data allowing for a more efficient process to track and monitor actual subcontractor payments.

We will continue pushing to make the County a more effective, attractive business partner for minority and women-owned businesses. We are dedicated to these important efforts and are eager to continue working on behalf of the residents and businesses of Cook County.



Toni Preckwinkle

President, Cook County Board of Commissioners



HISTORY OF M/WBE **PROGRAM**

First enacted in 1988, the M/WBE Program was designed to remediate past County discrimination against minorities and women on construction contracts.

The Program evolved over time to apply also to goods and services contracts, as well as professional services contracts; ultimately being extended to health and hospital contracts.

In 2000, the construction portion of the Program was ruled unconstitutional, and Cook County was without M/WBE on construction for several years.

Under the leadership of President Preckwinkle, the Program now is on firm constitutional footing supported by Cook County's first ever Disparity Study in 2013.

COMMITMENT TO MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle is committed to the inclusion and expansion of opportunities for small, local, minority and woman-owned businesses. Cook County is the economic engine of the State of Illinois and the heart of a dynamic metropolitan region, where it includes more than half of its population, jobs and businesses. President Preckwinkle knows that small businesses are the backbone of the economy whose success depends upon accountable, transparent and responsive government.

Cook County's Office of Contract Compliance is pleased to present its Annual Business Diversity Report covering the period of Fiscal Year 2023. Historically, minority- and woman-owned businesses have been awarded government contracts disproportionately lower than their availability and capacity to perform. Many local governments, including Cook County, were active and passive participants in discriminatory practices that adversely affected the growth and full participation of minority and woman-owned businesses (M/WBEs) in the government marketplace.

To remedy historic inequity and to facilitate greater inclusion, Cook County established goals for the participation of minority and woman-owned businesses in County contracts as set forth under the ordinances included in the Cook County Procurement Code. Cook County Government, including the Cook County Health and Hospitals System, aspires to achieve the following goals:

<i>Contract Type</i>	<i>Goals</i>	
	MBE	WBE
Goods and Services	25%	10%
Construction	24%	10%
Professional Services	35% Overall	

About this Report

Transparency is a key mandate of President Preckwinkle and under her leadership the County began publishing annual diversity reports for the first time to make this information available to the public. This report is the County's tenth annual report to include actual payments to M/WBEs. This report includes both contract dollars awarded and contract payments by Cook County Government as reported by vendors. The second section includes contracts awarded and payments on Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCH) contracts as reported by vendors. This report continues to serve as a benchmarking tool in assessing M/WBE participation and identifying areas for greater inclusion. The Office of Contract Compliance tracks M/WBE participation in the following three categories (1) Goods and Services, (2) Construction and (3) Professional Services.

Legally Defensible Program. President Preckwinkle has made it a top priority of her administration to foster greater participation and meet M/WBE goals to the greatest extent possible. This mandate requires a robust, narrowly tailored program built upon solid constitutional footing. Since taking office, President Preckwinkle has required that all contracts valued at \$25,000+ are to be reviewed by the Office of Contract Compliance for goal inclusion, where goals are set on a contract-by-contract basis. The program is subject to strict scrutiny, the most exacting form of judicial review, which requires that Cook County establish 1) that the County participated in discrimination against minorities and women; and 2) that its program to remedy those past wrongs is narrowly tailored to accomplish its remedial purpose. The program follows the format of the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program which includes caps on

personal net worth and adherence to the Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards. The program is supported by a Disparity Study and includes a sunset date to ensure continuous econometric analysis to justify the program's maintenance.

Diversity Management System. President Preckwinkle has made achieving full M/WBE participation in County procurement a key goal of her administration. The Office of Contract Compliance continues to utilize the web-based Diversity Management System, which was fully implemented in FY2013. As part of its mission and mandate, the Diversity Management System continues to capture, monitor and report contract performance based on actual spends. The key benefits of the Diversity Management System include:

- Transparency and accountability measures for all stakeholders.
- Service improvement to local small businesses.
- Streamlined process – Certification applications including supporting documentation will be submitted electronically.
- Promotes the County/City Collaborative reciprocal certification process.
- Sharing of information with the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois' Central Management Services.

Reciprocal Certification. Cook County and the City of Chicago continue their reciprocal Minority and Women Business Enterprise initiative. This initiative allows M/WBEs to be certified by either the County or City, and have that certification apply to goals set by both governmental bodies. This combined effort by the County and City reduces the time commitment and financial burden to M/WBEs and streamlines the certification process by providing a "one-stop shop" for M/WBEs interested in participating in County and City procurement opportunities.

Phased Graduation. In FY2017, the County Code was amended to allow for firms exceeding the Small Business Administration Size Standard criteria to be able to participate in the M/WBE Program through phased graduation at a lesser level of credit toward the M/WBE goal over the course of three years. This allows a firm to gradually transition from the M/WBE Program and ensure a smoother entry into the general marketplace.

Increasing M/WBE Participation. We continue to seek opportunities to increase participation of Cook County's minority and women-owned businesses on County procurements. In FY2023, these efforts included strategic outreach and engagement as well as developing and offering solicitations that limited the competitive pool to only minority and women-owned businesses. Those efforts have borne fruit as M/WBEs continue to participate in all contract categories as well as on sole-source contracts and as prime vendors.

Narrowly Tailored Program. Cook County amended the County Code in FY2020 to further strengthen and enhance its M/WBE Program by requiring the use of current data to set contract-specific goals. This measure will ensure continued implementation of a narrowly tailored M/WBE Program, that requires:

- Goals are set on a contract-by-contract basis, no blanket goals, or quotas
- Size of the contract, term of the contract, amount of subcontracting opportunity and availability of M/WBEs to provide a commercially useful function on the contract
- Waiver Review Process when good faith efforts to achieve the goals are demonstrated
- Race and gender-neutral measures to remedy past discrimination
- Prompt Payment Provision in Cook County Ordinance
- Outreach Program (OCC, OCPO and User Departments partnering with Commissioners, Assist Agencies, and other units of government)
- Strategic engagement and vendor management to build, maintain and optimize relationships with certified vendors and non-certified firms that support Cook County Contracts.
- Anti-Discrimination Enforcement (Cook County Commission on Human Rights, OIIG, OCC)
- Unbundling large contracts (OCC, OCPO and User Departments)
- Holding pre-bid conferences (OCPO)
- Providing timely information on contracting opportunities and establishing schedules for submitting bids with adequate time (OCC and OCPO)

The Office of Contract Compliance:

What we do:

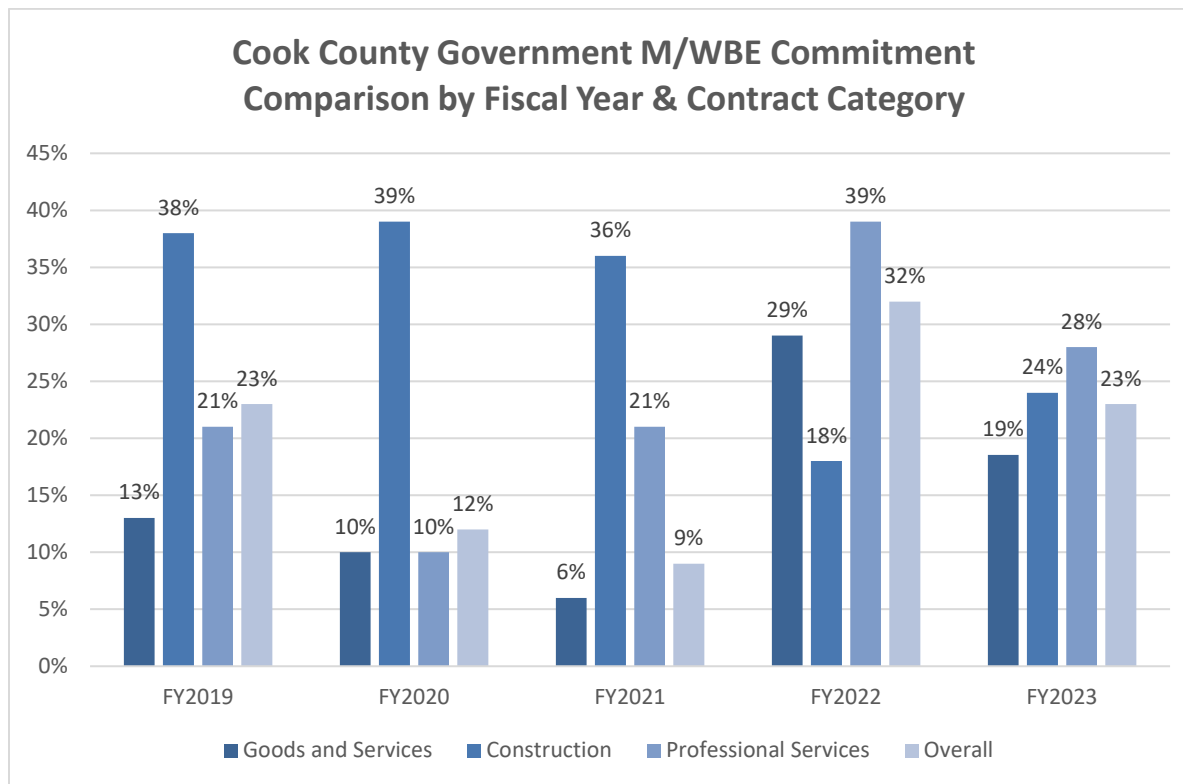
- **Certification:** Certify Minority, Women, Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran and Person with Disability-Owned Business Enterprise
- **Compliance:** Set contract goals; evaluate waiver requests; track and monitor contracts for compliance on the committed level of M/WBE participation
- **Outreach:** Conduct vendor strategic engagement and outreach activities to help firms navigate the certification process, support vendor relationship management and procurement compliance

Program Administration The Office of Contract Compliance administers Cook County's M/WBE Program as set forth in the County Ordinance under Division 8 of Article IV of the Procurement Code. The Ordinance can be found online at www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/contract-compliance. The responsibilities of the Office of Contract Compliance include:

- (1) Formulating, proposing, and implementing rules and regulations for the development, implementation and monitoring of the Program, certification process, recertification process, and no-change affidavits, including time limitations for the submission of documents and information regarding certification applications and contract participation. The Contract Compliance Director ("CCD") is authorized to collect certification and recertification processing fees in the amount of

\$250.00 per Application; the collection of said processing fees shall be transacted by the CCD through the Department of Revenue.

- (2) Providing information and assistance to businesses relating to the Program and serving as a liaison to community, contractor, professional and supplier organizations.
- (3) Establishing contract specific goals based upon the availability of M/WBEs to provide the supplies, materials and equipment or services required by the Contract.
- (4) Monitoring contracts to evaluate compliance with Contract Specific Goals and commitments.
- (5) Cooperating with and aiding user agencies to facilitate participation by M/WBEs in Procurements.
- (6) Reviewing, approving, or rejecting utilization plans for achievement of contract specific goals, and evaluating the extent to which goals were achieved.
- (7) Monitoring contracts to ensure compliance with Section 34-388, Prompt Payment of M/WBEs.
- (8) Evaluating the effectiveness and utility of the program.
- (9) Monitoring the program and the County's progress towards program goals.
- (10) Reporting to the Contract Compliance Committee, at its request, information regarding the administration of the program and its progress toward achieving program goals.



The chart above represents the committed utilization of M/W/DBEs on County contracts awarded over the last five fiscal years. Overall, M/WBE contract commitments represented 23 percent of all contracts awarded in FY2023.

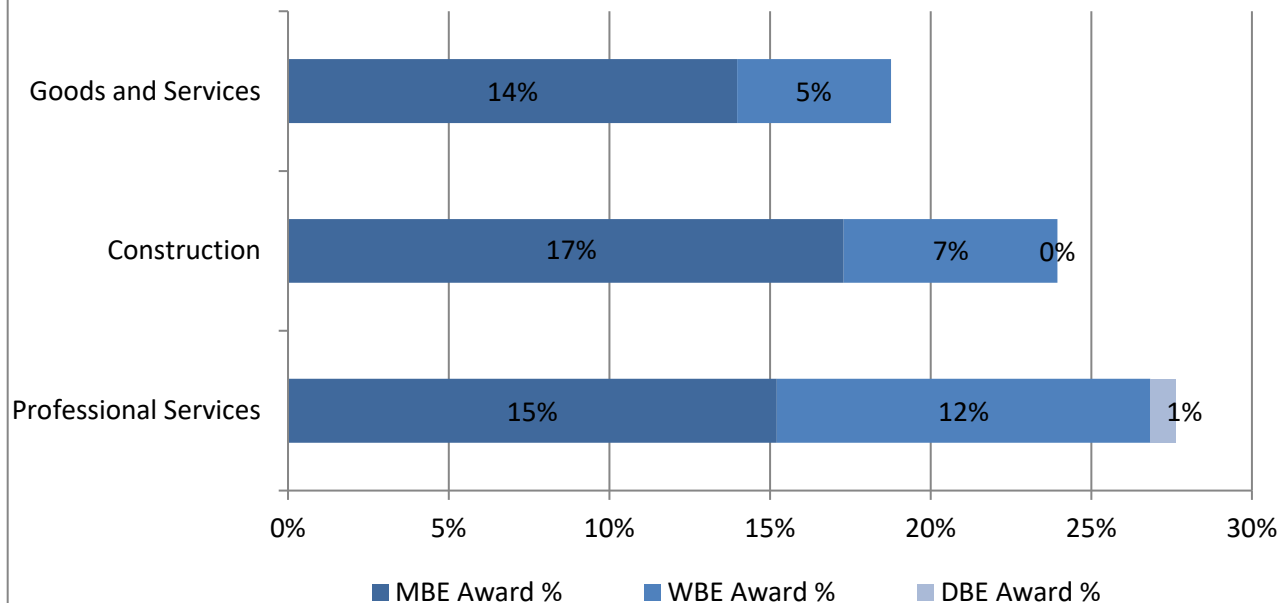
M/W/DBE Participation by Contract Commitments

In FY2023, 23% of
contract
commitments were
made to
M/W/DBE's

Cook County Government FY2023 MBE/WBE/DBE Award (Commitments) Summary*

	<i>MBE Award</i> <i>(millions)</i>	<i>WBE Award</i> <i>(millions)</i>	<i>DBE Award**</i> <i>(millions)</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>MBE/WBE/DBE</i> <i>Award</i> <i>(millions)</i>	<i>Non-M/WBE</i> <i>Award</i> <i>(millions)</i>	<i>Total Award</i> <i>(millions)</i>
Goods and Services	\$23,493,531.20	\$8,037,788.65	\$0.00	\$31,531,319.85	\$136,512,438.46	\$168,043,758.31
Construction	\$12,241,919.26	\$4,707,264.82	\$0.00	\$16,949,184.08	\$53,820,417.22	\$70,769,601.30
Professional Services	\$16,509,188.70	\$12,618,074.78	\$856,723.00	\$29,983,986.48	\$78,546,740.63	\$108,530,727.11
Total	\$52,244,639.16	\$25,363,128.25	\$856,723.00	\$78,464,490.41	\$268,879,596.31	\$347,344,086.72

FY 2023 Participation by Contract Type

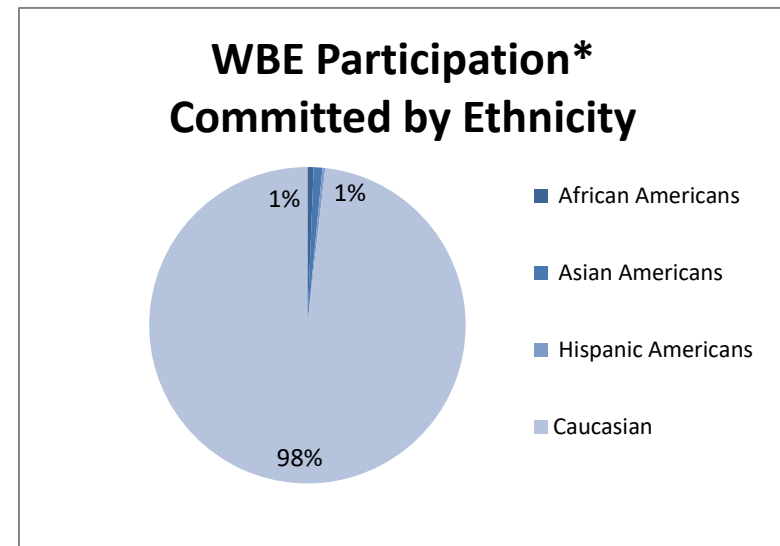
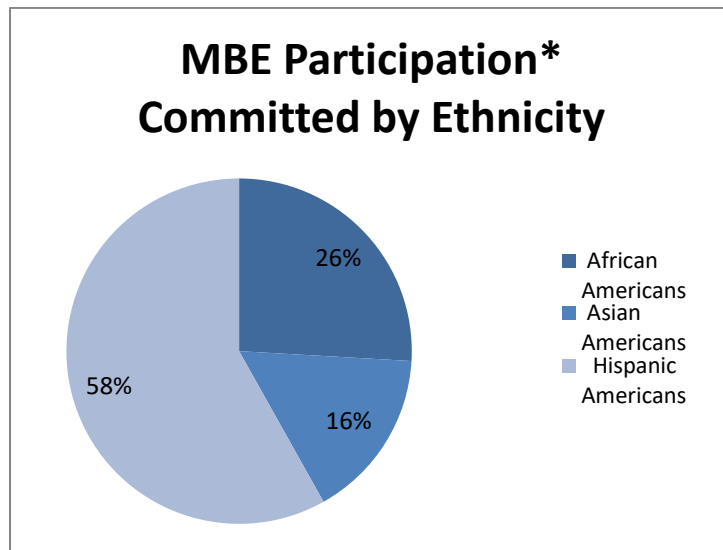


**M/W/DBE
Commitments for
Goods and Services
totaled 19%, totaled
24% for Construction
and 28% for
Professional Services.
Overall, Commitments
totaled 23% for
FY2023.**

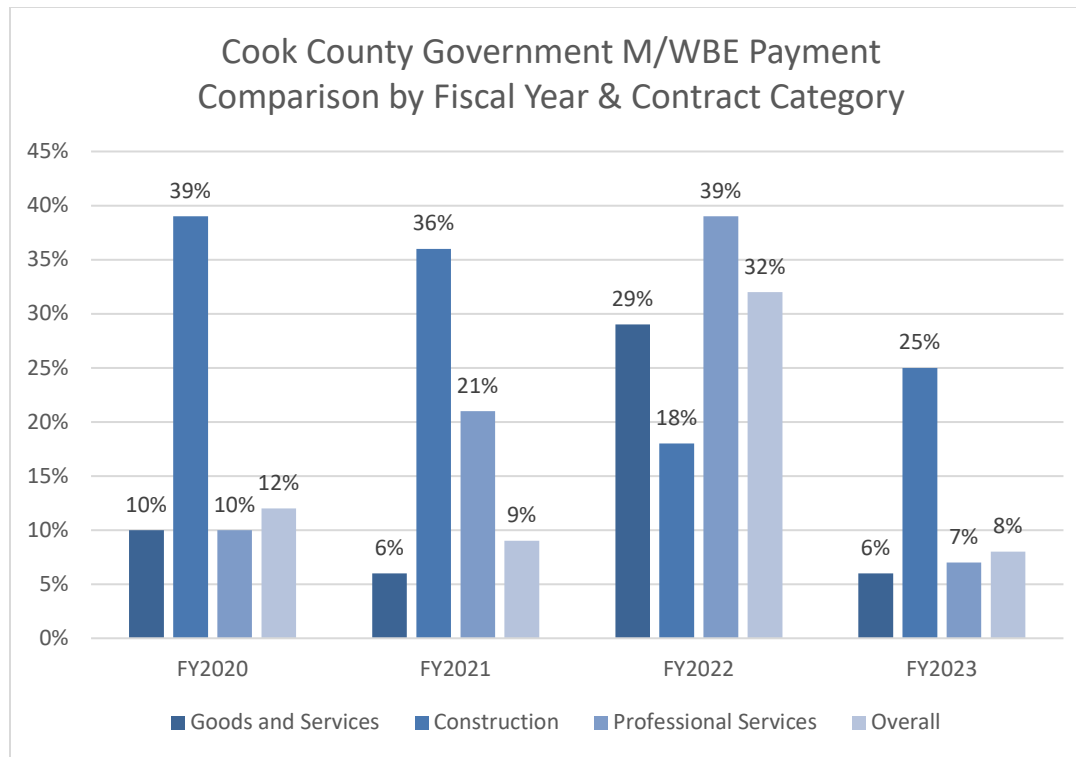
Cook County Government MBE/WBE FY2023 Awards by Ethnicity (Commitments)

	Minority-owned Business Dollars (millions)				Women-owned Business Dollars (millions)				
Contract Type	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Total MBE	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Caucasian	Total WBE
Goods and Services	\$10,386,450.42	\$3,309,813.33	\$9,797,267.45	\$23,493,531.20	\$142,573.15	\$226,583.28	\$69,544.87	\$7,599,087.35	\$8,037,788.65
Construction	\$375,703.31	\$959,311.75	\$10,906,904.20	\$12,241,919.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,707,264.82	\$4,707,264.82
Professional Services	\$2,775,083.73	\$4,067,824.88	\$9,666,280.09	\$16,509,188.70	\$17,820.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,600,254.78	\$12,618,074.78
Total	\$13,537,237.46	\$8,336,949.96	\$30,370,451.74	\$52,244,639.16	\$160,393.15	\$226,583.28	\$69,544.87	\$24,906,606.95	\$25,363,128.25

** Includes sole-source contracts **DBE participation applies to federally funded contracts*



This overview provides data with regard to total awards to minority and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBE) that have performed work for Cook County Government from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023. During this time frame the County awarded \$77,607,767.41 million in commitments.



The chart above represents the percentage of MBE and WBE participation based on contract payments by fiscal year and contract category. Overall, M/WBE participation represented 8 percent of all contracts payments made in FY2023.

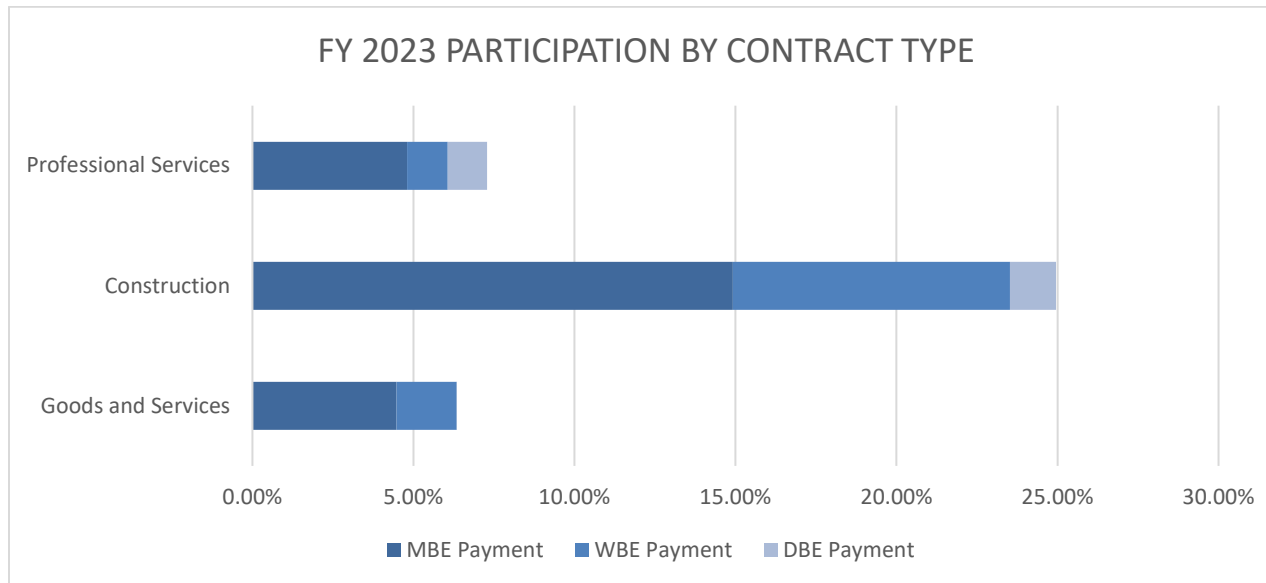
M/WBE Participation by Contract Payment

In FY2023, 8% of contract payments were made to M/WBEs.

Cook County Government MBE/WBE/DBE Payment Summary (Actuals)*

	<i>MBE Payment (millions)</i>	<i>WBE Payment (millions)</i>	<i>DBE Payment (millions)</i>	<i>Total M/W/DBE Payments (millions)</i>	<i>Non-M/W/DBE Payments (millions)</i>	<i>Total Payments (millions)</i>
Goods and Services	\$20,159,871.89	\$8,442,964.65	\$12,141.64	\$28,614,978.18	\$422,132,861.10	\$450,747,839.28
Construction	\$7,929,105.86	\$4,573,061.86	\$756,501.17	\$13,258,668.89	\$39,883,137.90	\$53,141,806.79
Professional Services	\$12,347,641.30	\$3,252,343.17	\$3,140,593.59	\$18,740,578.06	\$238,529,410.83	\$257,269,988.89
Total	\$40,436,619.05	\$16,268,369.68	\$3,909,236.40	\$60,614,225.13	\$700,545,409.83	\$761,159,634.96

**Participation is based on payments reported by vendors (Primes and Subcontractors). Contract payments made in FY2023 include contracts awarded in previous years as well as a portion of those awarded during FY2023. Amounts include Sole Source Contracts.*



In FY2023, payments made on County contracts represented:

6% M/W/DBE participation on Goods and Services

25% M/W/DBE participation on Construction Projects

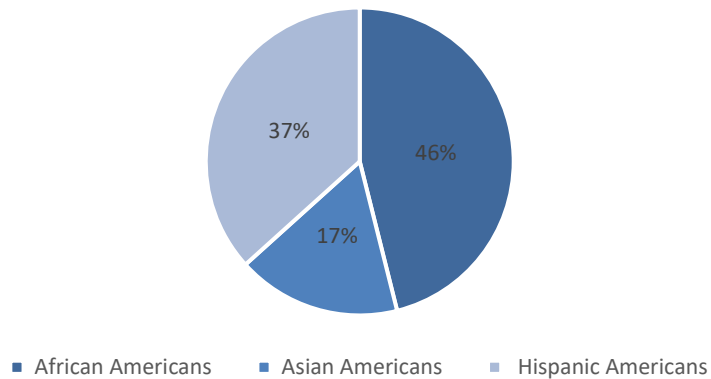
7% M/W/DBE participation on Professional Contracts

Overall, participation of M/W/DBEs represented **8%** of all contract payments.

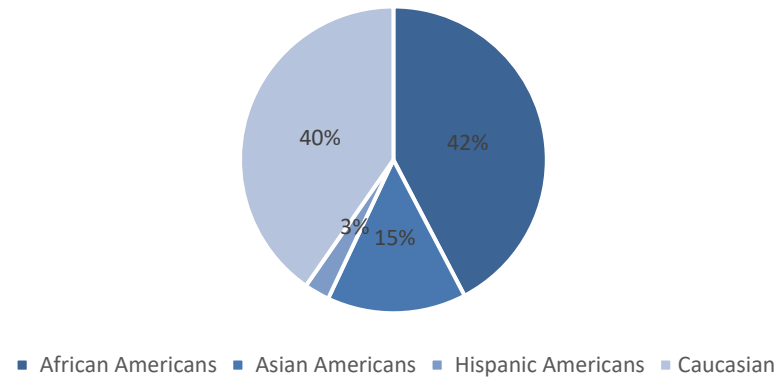
Cook County Government MBE/WBE FY2023 Payments by Ethnicity (Actuals)*

	<i>Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Dollars</i>				<i>Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Dollars</i>				
Contract Type	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Total MBE	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Caucasian	Total WBE
Goods and Services	9,291,993.95	3,473,174.77	7,394,703.17	20,159,871.89	3,573,050.08	1,239,612.91	225,028.00	3,405,273.66	8,442,964.65
Construction	257,466.70	803,601.74	6,868,037.42	7,929,105.86	0.00	157,082.70	433,988.99	3,981,990.17	4,573,061.86
Professional Services	4,494,600.16	6,476,006.47	1,377,034.67	12,347,641.30	76,174.41	32,290.64	0.00	3,143,878.12	3,252,343.17
Total	14,044,060.81	10,752,782.98	15,639,775.26	40,436,619.05	3,649,224.49	1,428,986.25	659,016.99	10,531,141.95	16,268,369.68

MBE Participation by Ethnicity*



WBE Participation by Ethnicity



**Of the \$40,436,619.05 million paid to minority-owned businesses, Cook County Government paid \$9,009,924.90 million or 22 percent to woman-owned business enterprises of which the remaining 78 percent or \$31,426,694.15 million paid to male-owned businesses.*

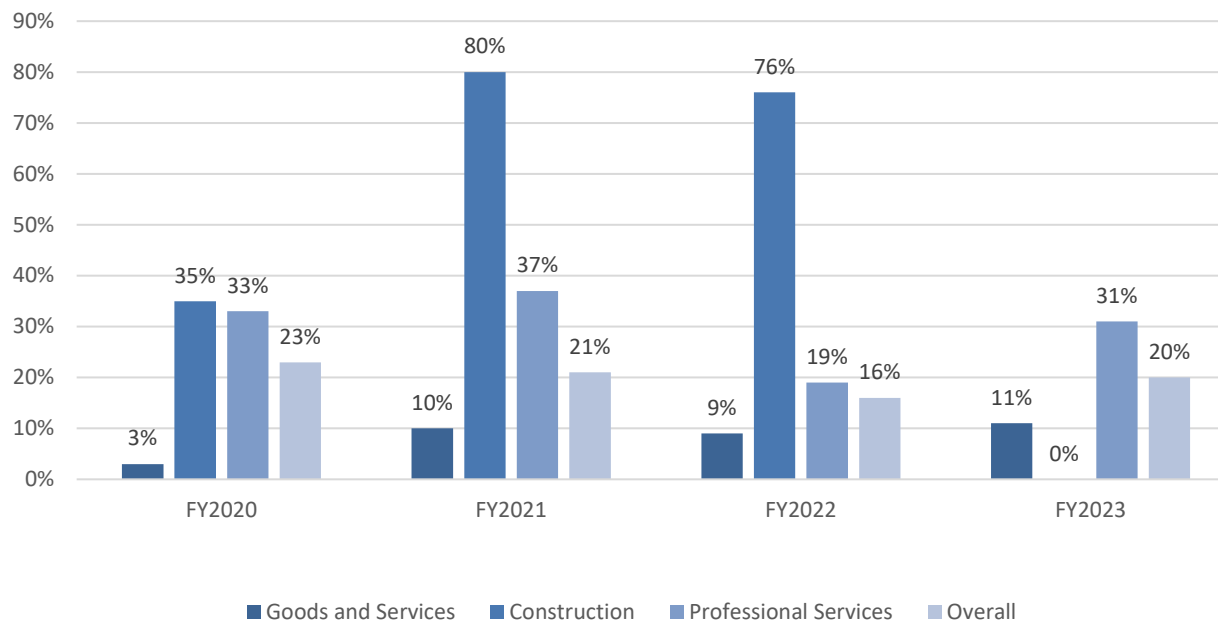


Cook County's Office of Contract Compliance (OCC) also administers the Cook County Health and Hospital System's M/WBE Program. OCC participates in the Hospital's Finance Committee and Board Meetings and works with the Hospital System to achieve MBE/WBE participation goals. OCC works closely with the Hospital's Supply Chain Management Department, which functions as the procurement arm by strategically sourcing goods and services across major spend categories throughout the health system.

This section includes contract awards by the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCH) during FY2023 and actual payments made to minority and women owned businesses. Actual payment amounts are based on data reported by vendors. The Office of Contract Compliance tracks CCH M/WBE participation in the following three categories (1) Goods and Services, (2) Construction and (3) Professional Services.

Overall, in Fiscal Year 2023, the Cook County Health and Hospitals System awarded 20% of contracts to minority- and women-owned businesses. Additionally, in the same fiscal year, 10% of contract payments were made to minority- and women-owned businesses.

Cook County Health M/WBE Commitment Comparison by Fiscal Year & Contract Category



M/WBE Participation by Contract Commitment

In FY2023, 20% of contract commitments were made to M/WBEs.

The chart above represents the committed percentage of MBE and WBE participation on Cook County Health & Hospital Systems' contract awards over the last four fiscal years. Due to the nature of goods and services procured by CCH, M/WBE participation varies. Overall, M/WBE participation commitments represented 20 percent of all contracts awarded in FY2023.

**In FY 2023,
CCH awarded:**

11% M/WBE
participation
on Goods and
Services

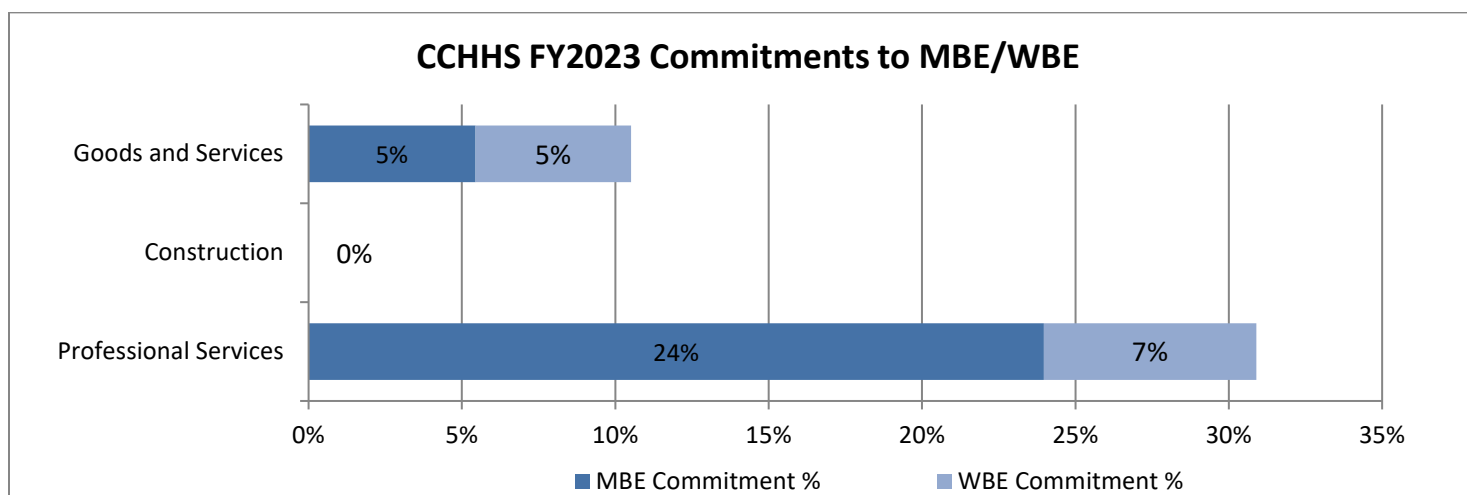
31% M/WBE
participation
on
Professional
Services
Contracts

Overall,
M/WBE
participation
represented
20% of
contracts
awarded

Cook County Health and Hospitals System FY2023 Contract Awards* (Commitments) MBE/WBE Summary					
	<i>MBE Awards</i>	<i>WBE Awards</i>	<i>Total MBE/WBE Awards</i>	<i>Non-M/WBE Awards</i>	<i>Total Awards</i>
Goods and Services	\$13,221,543.94	\$12,308,743.01	\$25,530,286.95	\$217,266,668.39	\$242,796,955.34
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$52,916,288.91	\$15,282,860.98	\$68,199,149.89	\$152,506,228.59	\$220,705,378.48
Total	\$66,137,832.85	\$27,591,603.99	\$93,729,436.84	\$369,772,896.98	\$463,502,333.82

**Amounts awarded above are inclusive of Sole Source Contracts*

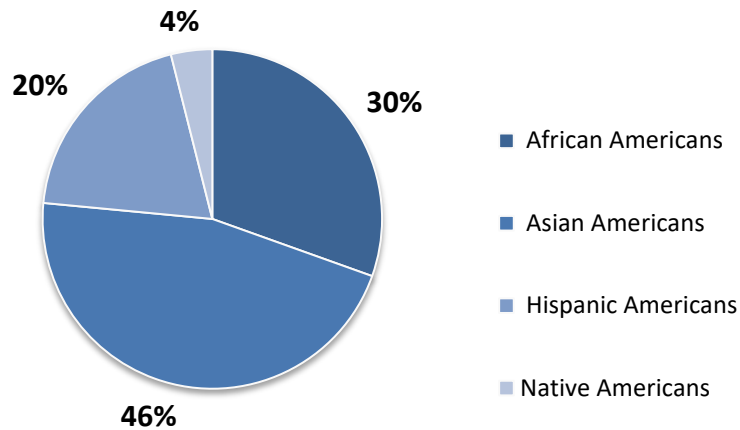
***Office of the Chief Procurement Officer now procures construction contracts for Cook County Health**



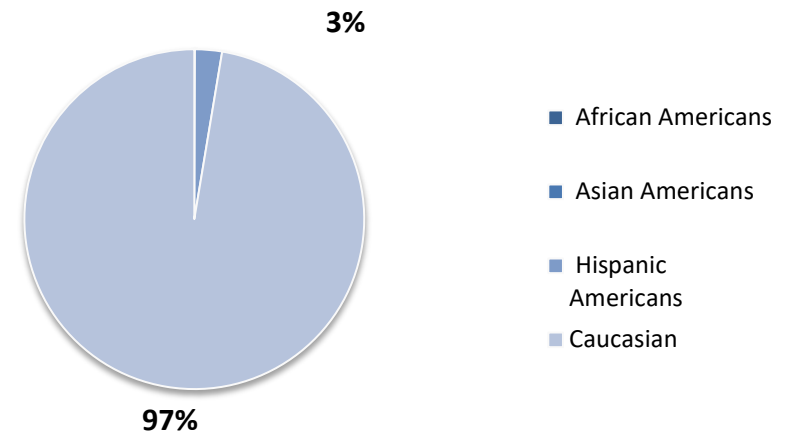
Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCH) MBE/WBE FY2023 Awards (Commitments) by Ethnicity

	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Dollars					Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Dollars				
Contract Type	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Native Americans	Total MBE	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Caucasian	Total WBE
Goods and Services	\$999,322.45	\$3,379,535.68	\$6,243,220.75	\$2,599,465.06	\$13,221,543.94	\$16,166.60	\$0	\$708,905.95	\$11,583,670.45	\$12,308,743.01
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$19,149,692.73	\$27,070,816.18	\$6,695,780.00	\$0	\$52,916,288.91	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,282,860.98	\$15,282,860.98
Total	\$20,149,015.18	\$30,450,351.86	\$12,939,000.75	\$2,599,465.06	\$66,137,832.85	\$16,166.60	\$0	\$708,905.95	\$26,866,531.43	\$27,591,603.99

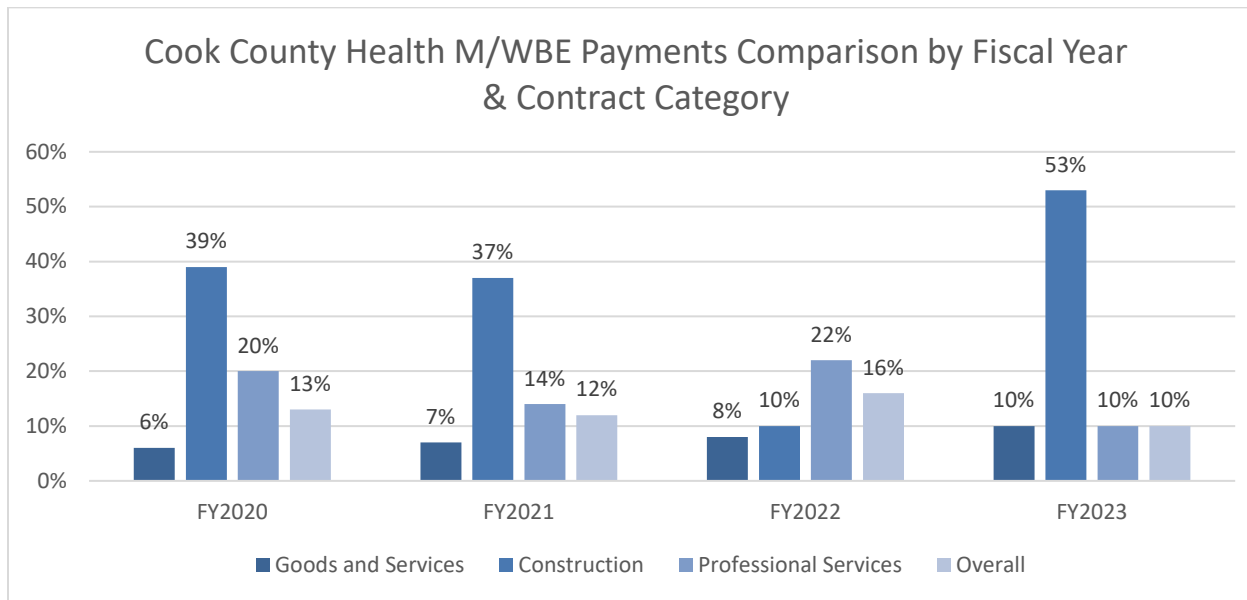
MBE Participation by Ethnicity



WBE Participation by Ethnicity



**Of the \$66,137,832.85 million committed to minority-owned businesses, Cook County Health and Hospitals System committed \$43,490,183.08 million or 66 percent to woman-owned business enterprises of which the remaining 34 percent or \$22,647,649.77 million committed to male-owned businesses.*



The chart above represents the percentage of MBE and WBE participation based on contract payments made over the last four fiscal years. Overall, M/WBE participation represented 10 percent of all contracts payments made in FY2023.

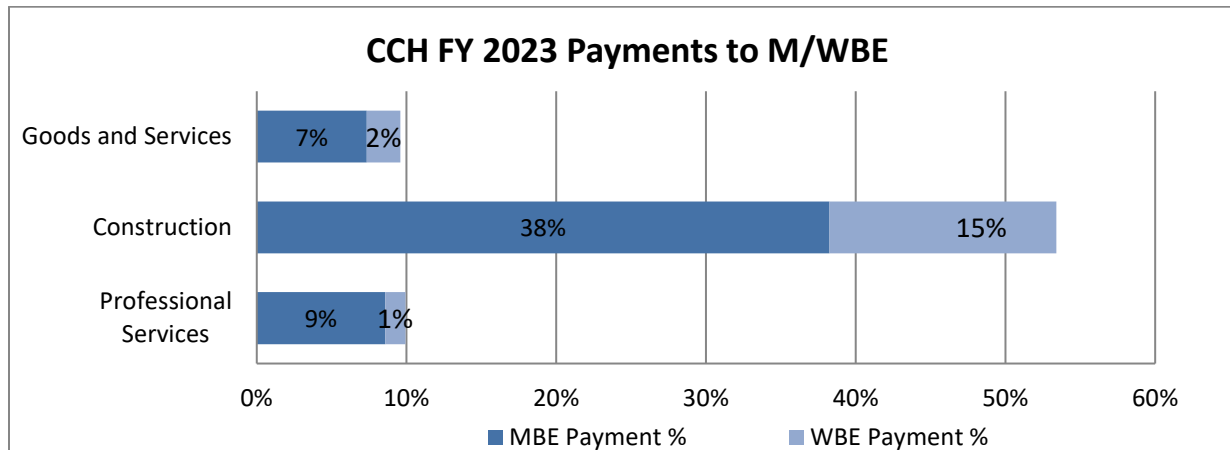
M/WBE Participation by Contract Payment

In FY 2023, M/WBE participation represented 10% of contract payments.

CCH Contract Payment* Summary FY2023

	<i>MBE Payment (millions)</i>	<i>WBE Payment (millions)</i>	<i>Total MBE/WBE Payment (millions)</i>	<i>Non-M/WBE Payments (millions)</i>	<i>Total Payments</i>
Goods and Services	\$18,909,945.99	\$5,739,728.27	\$24,649,674.26	\$232,613,357.42	\$257,263,031.68
Construction	\$63,535.86	\$25,158.22	\$88,694.08	\$77,425.27	\$166,119.35
Professional Services	\$56,948,358.42	\$8,924,596.93	\$65,872,955.35	\$597,630,292.50	\$663,503,247.85
Total	\$75,921,840.27	\$14,689,483.42	\$90,611,323.69	\$830,321,075.19	\$920,932,398.88

**Participation is based on payments reported by vendors (Primes and Subcontractors). Contract payments made in FY2023 include contracts awarded in previous years as well as a portion of those awarded during FY2023. Amounts include Sole Source Contracts.*



FY 2023 payments made on CCH contracts represented:

10% M/WBE participation in Goods and Services

53% M/WBE participation in Construction

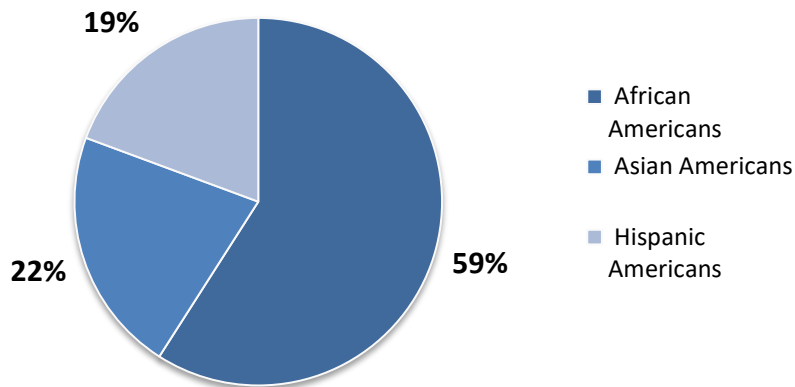
10% M/WBE participation in Professional Services Contracts

Overall, participation of M/WBEs represented **10%** of all contract payments.

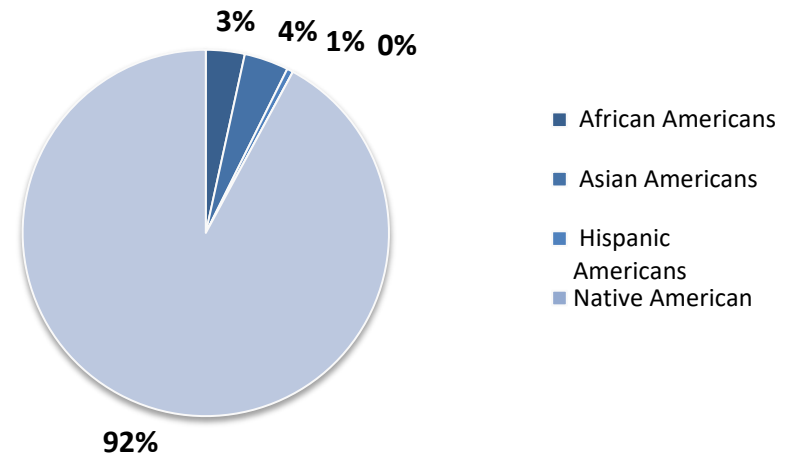
Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHS) MBE/WBE FY2023 Payments (Actuals)* by Ethnicity

	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Dollars (millions)				Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Dollars (millions)					
Contract Type	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Total MBE	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Native Americans	Caucasian	Total WBE
Goods and Services	\$13,282,710.55	\$3,901,226.14	\$1,726,009.30	\$18,909,945.99	\$490,859.17	\$16,606.06	\$80,415.00	\$0	\$5,151,848.04	\$5,739,728.27
Construction	\$0.00	\$11,875.00	\$51,660.86	\$63,535.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$25,158.22	\$25,158.22
Professional Services	\$31,551,614.22	\$12,481,268.01	\$12,915,476.19	\$56,948,358.42	\$12,510.00	\$558,388.70	\$0.00	\$0	\$8,353,698.23	\$8,924,596.93
Total	\$44,834,324.77	\$16,394,369.15	\$14,693,146.35	\$75,921,840.27	\$503,369.17	\$574,994.76	\$80,415.00	\$0	\$13,530,704.49	\$14,689,483.42

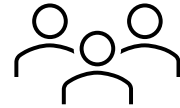
MBE Participation by Ethnicity*



WBE Participation by Ethnicity



**Of the \$75,921,840.27 million paid to minority-owned businesses, Cook County Health and Hospitals System paid \$53,578,016.51 million or 71 percent to woman-owned business enterprises of which the remaining 29 percent or \$22,343,823.76 million paid to male-owned businesses.*



Internal Engagement

Looking Back at FY2023

SBE Work Group Meetings

This internal work group consisted of staff across various Cook County departments. The work group focused on discussing small business initiatives, race and gender-neutral measures and exploring new initiatives that support small businesses looking to work with Cook County government.

Department Engagement

OCC Program staff expanded working relationships within various County departments including Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation and Highways, Cook County Health and Hospitals System, Department of Planning and Policy, Bureau of Technology and the Bureau of Economic Development.

External Engagement

Community Outreach & Strategic Engagement

The Office of Contract Compliance (OCC), through the efforts of its Strategic Initiatives Division, is committed to providing the M/WBE vendor and small business community with opportunities for professional enrichment that contribute to the overall readiness and capacity for successful contract performance. In addition, the OCC fundamentally targets its efforts to increase the vendor pool with qualified and able vendors, while also improving the performance and participation of the current vendor pool.

During FY23, the Office of Contract Compliance actively engaged the M/WBE vendor and small business community through collaborative outreach events, educational programming, training & development, and conferences.

Members of the Strategic Initiatives team served on boards, volunteered with committees, engaged with stakeholders, and collaborated with partner agencies and established business owners to present programming that supports the objectives mentioned above. Some of the collaborations with whom we engaged this year include:

- Allies for Community Business
- American Contract Compliance Association
- B2G Now
- Chicago Food Policy Action Council

- City of Chicago Department of Procurement Services
- Cook County Bureau of Economic Development
- Cook County Forest Preserves
- Cook County Health and Hospitals System
- Cook County Office of the Chief Procurement Officer
- Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
- Cook County Department of Veteran Affairs
- 5/3 Bank
- Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- E-Local Marketplace (Evanston, IL)
- Prairie State College
- Singh + Associates
- State of Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion Business Enterprise Program
- The Chicago Transit Authority
- West Side United
- Women's Business Development Center
- Veteran Business Outreach Center

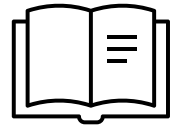
In addition to community and stakeholder engagement, The OCC participated in multiple external outreach events in FY2023.

- *Feb 16- City of Chicago Construction Summit – engaged w/ 50 people.*
- *Apr 11- Procurement Vendor Fair (hosted by City of Chicago)- engaged w/ 75 people.*
- *May 25- Virtual Presentation with IHCC (hosted by Facilities Management)- engaged w/ 25 people.*
- *July 13- Procurement Symposium (hosted by City of Chicago)- engaged w/ 75 people.*
- *Oct 17- Procurement Vendor Fair (hosted by MWRD)- engaged w/ 60 people.*
- *Oct 19- IL Hispanic Business Expo (hosted by IHCC)- engaged w/ 75 people.*
- *Oct 27- Veteran Business Expo (hosted by The OCC & CCDVA)- engaged w/ 50 people.*
- *Nov 1- Create (Get on Board) (hosted by DOTH)- engaged w/ 35 people.*
- *Nov 15- Doing Business w/ CTA (hosted by CTA)- engaged w/ 75 people.*

Increased Visibility (outreach efforts) - The increased visibility through outreach efforts that the Office of Contract Compliance gained by catalyzing opportunities for vendor equity and inclusion was unprecedented. With a 15% increase in outreach participation, we have collaborated on, co-hosted and participated in more outreach events than previously noted within the history of the department. By actively reaching out to and promoting certification and compliance services, the OCC not only amplified its message, but also enhanced and increased the opportunity for the growth and success of our vendor pool - *which increased by more than 75 newly certified vendors this year alone.*

Revitalized Engagement - The OCC has increased engagement between departments, vendor and small business communities, and community partners by improving our communication efforts. By

incorporating monthly newsletters into our strategic outreach plan, we have been able to foster connections while keeping stakeholders informed and involved. On average, we near a 40% open rate on our monthly and bi-weekly newsletter (updates), which has served as a powerful tool to showcase achievements, offer tips, highlight, and market partner events as well as any upcoming events we have approaching, while also developing a sense of trust and transparency with those who depend on our department. As a result of this tiny yet extremely intentional shift, the impact of our communication initiative, through the implementation of monthly newsletters, has extended beyond mere information dissemination, but has also played a key role in building and cultivating strong, enduring connections that contribute to the overall success and vitality of the department.



Education

Educational Initiatives - Enhancing vendor development through educational programming has had a transformative impact on Cook County vendors and the small business community at large. The OCC has invested in creating and implementing educational initiatives to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for sustainable growth and competitiveness. The OCC launched a monthly series entitled “Contract Connections” which offers valuable webinar trainings as well as our official department YouTube channel that serves as a virtual classroom for on-demand learning. This along with our Eventbrite page has acquired close to 200 subscribers. Our live training webinars have averaged 60% of the registrants in attendance, with an additional 20% engaged in on-demand learning. Furthermore, our educational initiative has promoted better positioning within the vendor community, opening doors for a broader range of businesses to thrive through contract readiness.

Certification Activities

Cook County certifies businesses that are at least 51% owned, operated, and controlled by one or more individuals who are socially and economically disadvantaged as set forth in the provisions of the County Code. The Office of Contract Compliance thoroughly examines and periodically reviews all applications to ensure certification eligibility.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 51%+ Owned and Controlled by Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Women/Minorities
- Owners Personal Net Worth capped at \$2 Million + Consumer Price Index (Currently ~\$2.3Million)
- Business cannot exceed US Small Business Administration Size Standards (Based on 7-year average)

Certified Vendor Pool Ethnicity & Gender Summary

Ethnicity	Gender	Number of Firms	Percent of Total
African-American (Black)	Female	109	17.64%
African-American (Black)	Male	133	21.52%
Asian Indian	Female	5	0.81%
Asian Indian	Male	6	0.97%
Asian-Pacific American	Female	24	3.88%
Asian-Pacific American	Male	38	6.15%
Caucasian	Female	160	25.89%
Caucasian	Male	12	1.94%
Hispanic American	Female	40	6.47%
Hispanic American	Male	89	14.40%
Native American	Male	2	0.32%

During Fiscal Year 2023, OCC had 618 unique certified firms which is reflected above by race and gender.



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