



# Chief Procurement Office

## Capital Development Board

October 31, 2024

Ms. Alexandria Wilson  
Acting Executive Director  
Commission on Equity and Inclusion  
100 West Randolph, 14-300  
Chicago, IL 60601-3218

Re: CPO-CDB Report of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business and  
Veteran-Owned Small Business

Dear Director Wilson,

Pursuant to 30 ILCS 500/45-57(b), as Chief Procurement Officer for the Capital Development Board (CPO-CDB), I am providing you with the Fiscal Year 2024 report of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SBVOSB) and Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) (collectively Veteran Business Enterprise or VBE) for the Capital Development Board (CDB).

- According to the CEI Veterans Business Program (VBP) report (as of June 2024), CMS has 233 certified VBE businesses.
- Of the CEI certified VBE firms, 89 are construction or construction-related professional service (architectural/engineering) firms.
- Of the 89 VBE certified construction or construction-related professional firms, 51 of the firms are prequalified or registered with CDB. Contractors must be prequalified to participate as a prime contractor for CDB projects; subcontractors must be registered with CDB.

For FY 2024, VBE goals applied to CDB projects include the following:

| CDB VBE Firms               |       |                                 |                                      |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                             | Total | Prequalified by CDB<br>as Prime | Registered w/CDB<br>as subcontractor |
| Contractors                 | 75    | 75                              | 22                                   |
| Architects and/or Engineers | 74    | 74                              | 5                                    |
| Totals                      | 149   | 149                             | 27                                   |

The scope, location of work, and the number of certified VBE firms in the region impact the ability of CDB to place goals on all projects. CDB set veteran goals on 149 (56%) of 262 contracts that were solicited for construction and construction-related professional services.



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### **Contracts and Subcontracts**

- CDB's contract awards in FY24 totaled \$493,599,112 of which \$12,658,476 was awarded to veteran-owned small businesses. CDB achieved an overall 2.56% goal participation to VBE firms, which is a 0.64% decrease from FY-23 achievement (3.2%).

Please note these numbers represent only "construction" and "construction-related" contracts and do not include "supplies and services".

The Procurement Code requires each Chief Procurement Officer to review the progress of State agencies under their jurisdiction in meeting the 3% goal, with input from statewide veterans' service organizations and from the business community, including businesses owned by qualified veterans, and to make recommendations that are to be included in CMS' report to the General Assembly regarding continuation, increases, or decreases of the percentage goal. CDB continues to attend outreach events hosted by other agencies, governmental entities, and industry groups to promote both minority and veteran certification, prequalification, and participation on CDB projects. By Increasing the number of prequalified and registered VBE firms, CDB will be able to increase the pool of qualified VBE firms who may bid on CDB projects. In addition to the continued outreach efforts the following recommendations are being made by my office:

### **Recommendations**

- A high concentration of CMS certified VBE firms are in the Chicagoland area. The CPO-CDB continues to recommend identifying projects in the area that would allow for the establishment of goals that exceed the traditional 3%.
- The CPO-CDB recommends that CDB projects that contain VBE goals be identified and promoted to increase visibility regarding these projects.
- Continue outreach efforts to increase the number of certified VBE firms who are also pre-qualified or registered with CDB.

Thank you for consideration of these recommendations and for including them in your report to the General Assembly. Please let me know how the CPO-CDB can be of assistance in promoting the Veteran's Business Program and increasing state construction business opportunities for veteran-owned businesses.

Sincerely,

*Ken Morris*

Ken Morris  
Chief Procurement Officer  
Capital Development Board