



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development (CEDD)
COPY: Economic Development Committee
PRESENTER: Frank Boykin, Division Manager, CEDD/ Minority Business Development Agency – Tacoma Business - Center
SUBJECT: Minority Business Development Agency – Tacoma Business Center Background and Performance
DATE: September 12, 2023

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of purpose and parameters of the federally-funded Minority Development Business Agency (MBDA) program and the operations of the Washington MBDA Business Center and its impact on serving the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) community in Tacoma and Washington State. The presentation will highlight the Center's accomplishments in serving MBEs, management of various programs, and its supportive role of Equity in Contracting program within the Community & Economic Development Department.

BACKGROUND:

On December 3, 2015, the city submitted a cooperative agreement application to the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) to serve as the regional MBDA office based in Tacoma. Subsequently, in April, 2016, the city was awarded a \$1.5M grant to run the MBDA-Tacoma Business Center from April 1, 2016, through March 31, 2021. The program served minority business owners regionally with technical assistance by providing a host of strategic business consulting services including, but not limited to, marketing, business expansion, contract acquisition, access to capital, and external program management.

The city secured its consecutive MBDA grant of \$2M to operate as the Washington MBDA Business Center from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026. These funds are utilized for staffing the Center and also for the provision of third party consultants to provide individualized or group training and technical assistance to eligible businesses.

ISSUE:

This is an informational briefing only. No recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an informational briefing only. No recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Positive impact. Since 2016, the program has generated more than \$800,000.00 in program income through contracts with other public agencies and allowing the Tacoma-based Center to expand its staffing and assistance to private, public and nonprofit entities.



RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational briefing only. No recommendation.