

# Helping Small Businesses Grow

**Small businesses play a major role in high-speed rail. The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is putting small, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses to work in the state of California.**

## SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

The Authority developed the Small Business (SB) Program to provide small businesses with the guidance and tools needed to participate on the high-speed rail project. The SB Program provides oversight which is a hybrid between adhering to statutes (federal and state), and advocacy which equals, outreach, education and supportive services. The Authority is committed to making active participation of small businesses a priority in all contracting phases of the high-speed rail project.

## WHAT IS THE SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION GOAL?

The small business (SB) participation goal is a combined goal of 30 percent for all small businesses inclusive of Micro/Small Businesses (SB), Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE).

### THE 30% SMALL BUSINESS GOAL INCLUDES:

**10%** Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) participation

**3%** Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE) participation

The Authority is not a certifying agency. However, to participate in the High-Speed Rail SB Program, a firm must be certified by one of the certifying agencies referenced below.

### Small/Micro Businesses (SB/MB) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE)

VETERAN OWNED

### California Department of General Services

Small Businesses and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises can learn how to get State certified. For additional information on the SB/MB and DVBE certifications, contact the Office of Small Business & Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Services (OSDS) at [OSDSHelp@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:OSDSHelp@dgs.ca.gov) or 916-375-4940, [www.caleprocure.ca.gov](http://www.caleprocure.ca.gov).

### Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)

MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED

### California Unified Certification Program (CUCP)

Small Disadvantaged Businesses can learn how to get certified to work on federally assisted contracts. For additional information on CUCP and DBE certifying agencies, visit [dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/dbe](http://dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/dbe) or email the DBE certification team at [DBE.Certification@dot.ca.gov](mailto:DBE.Certification@dot.ca.gov).

### US Small Business Administration (US SBA)

#### 8(a) Program

Small Disadvantaged Businesses can learn how to get certified to work on federally assisted contracts. For additional information on the 8a certification program, visit [certify.sba.gov/](http://certify.sba.gov/).



## SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

AS OF JANUARY 2021

**609** Certified Small Businesses working on the high-speed rail program statewide

**192** Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises  
**67** Certified Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**215** Certified Small Businesses

CENTRAL VALLEY:  
**189** Certified Small Businesses

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:  
**188** Certified Small Businesses

OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA:  
**17** Certified Small Businesses



**MELANIE AND UZOMA OKORO**

*Small Business Owners*

Eco-Alpha Engineering and Environmental Services provided detailed facilities operation and maintenance cost estimation analysis for train platforms and heavy maintenance facilities for the California high-speed rail project. The Sacramento small business is owned by Melanie Okoro, Ph.D, a former scientist for the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and her husband, mechanical engineer Uzoma Okoro, the former Director of Engineering for the Golden 1 Center Arena. Melanie said, "Having worked on multiple projects throughout the state, we have an acute knowledge of the engineering staffing and unique technical considerations for implementing a project of this scale and magnitude."

**OUTREACH**

*The Authority hosts pre-bid conferences, industry forums and open houses where small businesses can network and talk to prime contractors about upcoming contracts on the high-speed rail program.*

The Authority issues a quarterly Small Business Newsletter to inform small businesses about the latest contract opportunities. It provides valuable resources for potential bidders to stay current on what is going on at the Authority and who is working on the program.

**THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Authority's Business Advisory Council (BAC) works in conjunction with the Small Business Program to serve as a forum to provide essential input to the Authority regarding practices that impact the small business community. Representation is comprised of statewide construction and professional service business trade associations.

To find out more, visit

[www.hsr.ca.gov/small\\_business/business\\_advisory\\_council.aspx](http://www.hsr.ca.gov/small_business/business_advisory_council.aspx)

**CONNECTHSR**

Interested in doing business with the Authority? ConnectHSR is a free online vendor registry that provides businesses large and small with a quick and easy way to connect with high-speed rail business opportunities.

Visit [ConnectHSR.com](http://ConnectHSR.com) to sign up today.



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