



## **Homeownership Development MWESB/SDVBE Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Do we report money spent on project costs that are not eligible for reimbursement with our award?**

Yes, report all project costs whether they are reimbursable with your LIFT loan or Development Subsidy Grant funds.

### **Do I report costs for professional services, such as the appraisal, architectural or engineering services?**

Yes, include these costs in your reporting. Report costs for anyone hired who is part of the project costs.

### **Is MWESB/SDVBE reporting mandatory for all awards?**

MWESB/SDVBE reporting is mandatory for projects awarded in 2021 or later years. Reporting is optional for awards dated 2020 or earlier.

### **There are tasks to complete the MWESB/SDVBE reports in my WorkCenter, but our award was prior to 2021. Do we have to complete these tasks?**

No, you do not have to complete the tasks. The tasks are automatically uploaded to all WorkCenters. If you choose not to report, let your Development Officer know and they will delete those tasks.

### **What are the MWESB/SDVBE goals for rural and urban regions?**

The urban goal is 30% of project costs. The rural goal is 20%. These aspirational goals may change from time to time.



**How do we know if my project is a rural or urban project?**

The aspirational goals and regions are:

Regional Groups	Regions	MWESB Goal
Metro Oregon	1	30%
Rural Oregon	2, 3	20%
Rural Oregon	4, 5	20%

- \* **Regions 2 & 3** include Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill
- \* **Regions 2 & 3** include *Clatsop Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Lincoln, Benton, Linn, Lane, Coos, Douglas, Curry, Josephine, Jackson*
- \* **Regions 4 & 5** include *Wasco, Sherman, Gillam, Jefferson, Wheeler, Crook, Deschutes, Klamath, Lake, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Grant, Baker, Harney and Malheur*

**What happens if we do not meet the goal (20% rural, 30% urban)?**

The goals are aspirational only. We understand it may be difficult to find MWESB/SDVBE contractors in some areas and/or they may be more expensive. There is no penalty for not reaching your region’s aspirational goal, but you still must turn in the reports with all available information filled out. We only ask that you try your best to hire MWESB/SDVBE firms.

**How does OHCS use the data collected from MWESB/SDVBE reports?**

We combine all information and report it to the Housing Stability Council. We also report trends in MWESB/SDVBE use, obstacles to using MWESB/SDVBE firms, and other general non-project specific information. We do not report individual project data, but sometimes we may present information about specific projects that experience positive results with MWESB/SDVBE firms.

**Our project is subject to TERO. How should we report MWESB/SDVBE activity?**

Fill out the MWESB/SDVBE forms with your TERO information. We can count your TERO requirements for MWESB/SDVBE purposes. Remember that these are aspirational goals, and there is no penalty if the TERO requirements are less than the MWESB/SDVBE goals.



**We use firms who are not certified as MWESB/SDVBE but are either eligible for certifications or would be eligible except their revenue/assets are too high. Should we include these in the reports?**

Yes, include these in your reports since we track both certified and non-certified firms. If you know why a firm is not certified, provide that information, though it is not required, and we encourage you to share the Certification Fact Sheet with these firms.

**We use firms who are certified by agencies other than the Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID). Should we include these in the reports?**

Yes, include these and provide the name of the certifying agency. Non-COBID certified firms that fit into an MWESB/SDVBE category count towards MWESB/SDVBE goals.