

# Chicago Transit Authority Disparity Study Frequently Asked Questions



The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is conducting a Disparity Study to ensure that disadvantaged business enterprises have equal access to contracting opportunities and that the CTA's current programs remain legally defensible and administratively successful.

## **What is a “Disparity Study”?**

A disparity study involves compilation of evidence to determine whether the CTA has a strong basis for implementing race- and gender-conscious contracting remedies and narrowly tailoring any race- and gender-conscious remedies. This includes statistical evidence of disparities, if any, between the availability of DBEs, and their utilization on federally-funded CTA contracts and related subcontracts and throughout the area economy as a whole.

The study will further examine factors necessary for entrepreneurial success, such as access to business capital, bonding, networks, suppliers, etc. The study also will gather anecdotal evidence of any continuing effects of past or present race and sex discrimination, and the impact of the current DBE program. Finally, the study will review the CTA's current programs and activities and make recommendations for future initiatives and enhancements.

## **Who is conducting the study?**

Colette Holt & Associates (CHA), a nationally recognized expert team on disparity studies and DBE programs, in conjunction with local partner Sandi Llano & Associates, Inc.

## **How can business owners and other interested parties be involved?**

The participation of business owners and other interested stakeholders (trade associations, advocacy groups, community organizations, etc.) is critical to the study's outcomes in two important ways. The study team will contact businesses to confirm information on specific contracts and/or to receive additional contract information that is currently not available to the CTA. The Study team will also host a public meeting and conduct group interviews with business owners to collect information regarding discriminatory barriers and the CTA's DBE programs.

Persons who are unable to attend the meeting or the interviews but who would like to provide input to the Study are encouraged to submit written statements at the study email:

[cta-study@mwbellow.com](mailto:cta-study@mwbellow.com)

## **When will the study be completed?**

The study is anticipated to be completed by November 2018.

## **Where can I find additional information?**

For additional information, please visit the study website at [cta.disparity-study.com](http://cta.disparity-study.com)

## **Who do I contact with questions?**

You may contact the Study team via [cta-study@mwbellow.com](mailto:cta-study@mwbellow.com) or you may contact:

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