



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mike DeWine, Governor Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D., Director

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To: Division of Finance
Office of Accounting

The Ohio Department of Transportation requests the single source purchase of \$116,947 for the Building Futures Program to the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio. The funding will benefit workforce development efforts and build employment pipelines for the ODOT Brent Spence Bridge Project in Cincinnati.

Vendor: Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio
3458 Reading Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45229
Total Price: \$116,947

This letter confirms that The Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio is the single source provider of the Building Futures Program in Cincinnati. ODOT intends to continue to fund the Building Futures Program connected to the Brent Spence Bridge Project in Cincinnati to introduce underrepresented individuals to trades-based apprenticeship employment. The ODOT Brent Spence Bridge Project has significant economic and workforce impacts in Ohio and nationwide. Specifically, the project is a \$3.6 billion infrastructure investment, providing many opportunities for individuals and businesses.

The Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio has the experience, expertise, and existing framework to continue to support the added funds from ODOT for the Building Futures Program. Due to the Urban League's connection with the local community, traditionally underrepresented individuals will have opportunities to enter union apprenticeships in the heavy highway transportation industry after completing the Building Futures Program. The goal is for participants to be placed into registered Union apprenticeships to work on the Brent Spence Bridge Project. The Building Futures Program is a 12-week "pre-apprenticeship" program that provides participants with skills and trade-specific instruction to enter an apprenticeship and lays the foundation to build a career in the skilled trades. ODOT's goal is to increase the participation of minorities and women on ODOT projects, as well as a federal requirement of the On-the-Job Training Supportive Services Federal Funds.

The requested funding of \$116,947 will be used for staff salaries to plan and conduct a Heavy Highway Transportation Career Day and On-the-Job Observation Day for three cohorts of the existing Building Futures Program in 2025. Approximately 60-90 students will benefit from the Career Day and On-the-Job Observation Day through December 2025. Students will meet with unions and prime contractors at the Career Day and travel to an ODOT job site for observation. Funding will also cover the participants' personal protective equipment (PPE) and transportation to the Career Day and On-the-Job Observation Day. \$116,947 is the available budget from the federal On-the-Job Training Supportive Services Budget (OJTSS). There are no other vendors in Cincinnati with a workforce development program like the Building Futures Program. Specifically, the Building Futures Program has established connections to heavy highway transportation unions, which makes the program unique and beneficial to the Brent Spence Bridge Project. The Building Futures Program curriculum has been pre-developed, and it would be cost-prohibitive to develop another program from scratch. Participating in the program will give the participants a path to economic self-sufficiency and financial empowerment through union employment in the trades.

If you have questions, please contact Mica Flanagan, EEO Contract/Program Manager, at (614) 466-4325. Thank you.

Mica Flanagan