



Chicago Transit Authority

Buying Plan

Q2 2025 - Q4 2026

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CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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Dear Potential Vendors:

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the Chicago Transit Authority.

Each year, the CTA issues hundreds of contracts for parts, materials and services. From small, specialized parts for our rail cars to printing maps and informational materials, each of these commodities and services help us offer the best possible service to our customers.

This guide provides a look ahead at contracts the CTA plans to pursue in the coming 18 months and will be updated regularly. The goal of this document is to increase the CTA's vendor pool by making the business community aware of upcoming contracting opportunities. This will allow vendors sufficient time to register as a vendor with CTA, become familiar with the bid process, and prepare to bid on contracts that are of interest to them.

You'll also find information on our Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small Business Programs, along with other helpful resources.

We hope you find this information useful, and that you choose to do business with the CTA.

Sincerely,

Nora Leerhsen,

Acting President



Thank you for viewing the Buying Plan for the CTA. The goal of the document is to inform potential vendors of contracting opportunities.

In this document you will find-

- Projected Contracting Opportunities
- Information on how to Register your firm with CTA
- Frequently Asked Vendor Questions
- Information on our Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Assist Agencies
- Small Business Program Information
- List of Contacts in Procurement
- List of CTA Sister Agencies and Illinois UCP Participants

Thank you,

Ellen McCormack, Vice President
Purchasing & Supply Chain

Projected Contracting Opportunities
for
Q2 2025 - Q4 2026

Primary Using Dept	Contract Type	Contract Description	Projected Contract Amount (Values)	Contract Length (Months)	Advertisement Projected Quarter	Subcontracting Opportunities	Funding Source
Construction	MID-CON General Contractor	Traction Power Upgrades - 95th Substation and Kedvale, Nagle, Frankl & Sacramento - DC Breaker Replacement GC	\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	6	2Q 2025	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD. MID Con Tier 1	Federal
Construction	Construction Manager	All Stations Accessibility Program - Logan Square Line - California Station Construction Manager	\$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	16	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	State and TIF
Construction	MID-CON General Contractor	Lake Street Bridge Replacement - Track Improvements	\$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	8	2Q 2025	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD. MID Con Tier 1	State
Construction	MID-CON General Contractor	Douglas Line - Cicero Avenue - Grade Crossing Renewal	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	7	2Q 2025	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD. MID Con Tier 1	Federal and County
Construction	General Contractor	All Station Accessibility Program - O'Hare Line - Montrose Station and Canopy Replacement	Over \$20,000,001	17	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	State
Construction	GEC Task Order	Dearborn Subway- Franklin and west Bank Pump Rooms	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	6	2Q 2025	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD.	Federal
Construction	GEC Task Order	Skokie Shops - Facilities Improvements	\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	11	2Q 2025	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD.	Federal
Construction	Design Bid-Build Contractor	All Stations Accessibility Program - Logan Square Line - California Station	\$10,000,001 - \$20,000,000	16	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	State and TIF
Construction	CM Task Order	Douglas Line - Cicero Avenue - Grade Crossing Renewal	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	12	2Q 2025	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD. MID Con Tier 1	Federal
Diversity Department	Professional Services	Workforce Pre-Apprenticeship Partner for Three Years With Two Funded One-Year Options	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	36	Q2 2025	No established DBE goal	Non-Federal
Diversity Department	Professional Services	Candidate Placement Workforce Partner for Three Years With Two Funded One-Year Options	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	36	Q2 2025	No established DBE goal	Non-Federal

This document will be periodically updated and is subject to change without notice.
Opportunities in green denote Small Business Enterprise procurements.
Opportunities in red denote Red Line Extension procurements.

Projected Contracting Opportunities
for
Q2 2025 - Q4 2026

Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	Tactile and Braille Signs	\$250,001 - \$500,000	36	2Q 2025	No established DBE goal	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Commodities	ESCALATOR HANDRAIL AND FIELD SPLICING	\$250,001 - \$500,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	Building Automation Services and Maintenance	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	36	2Q 2025	10% DBE Goal	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	Furnish Hot Mix Asphalt And Paving Services	\$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	36	2Q 2025	No established DBE goal	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	REPAIRS TO AND INSTALLATIONS OF NEW FENCING	\$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	60	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Professional Services	Furnish All Labor And Equipment Required To Test, Inspect, Repair & Maintain Cta's Water-Based Fire Prevention Systems At Various Locations System-Wide	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	36	2Q 2025	No established DBE goal	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	Furnish Hot Mix Asphalt and Paving Services Low Complexity	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	36	2Q 2025	SBE Opportunity	NON-FEDERAL
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	Contact Rail Insulator Components	Under \$250,000	36	2Q 2025	No established DBE goal	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Commodities	SUPPLY STRUCTURAL STEEL AND OTHER STEEL PRODUCTS.	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	Non-Revenue Vehicle Maintenance Services	\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	36	2Q 2025	15% DBE Goal	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	FURNISH LABOR, MATERIALS, TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND RELATED ITEMS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE CONCRETE WORK AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AREA	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Commodities	Non-Revenue Vehicle purchases	\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	72	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	FILTER CHANGE-OUT (OR CLEANING) SERVICE AT VARIOUS FACILITIES THROUGHOUT CTA	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	GRADE LEVEL INDUSTRIAL WINDOW CLEANING AT VARIOUS RAPID TRANSIT	\$250,001 - \$500,000	32	2Q 2025	SBE Opportunity	Non-Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	HIGH-REACH AND ELEVATED INDUSTRIAL WINDOW CLEANING AT VARIOUS RAPID TRANSIT STATIONS	\$250,001 - \$500,000	32	2Q 2025	SBE Opportunity	Non-Federal
INFRASTRUCTURE	Work Services	PARTS AND REPAIR FOR VARIOUS COMPRESSORS	Under \$250,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal

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Projected Contracting Opportunities
for
Q2 2025 - Q4 2026

Planning and Innovation	Work Services	Marketing advertising purchase - company to perform all advertising purchases on social media, billboards, and other out of home advertising options for CTA's marketing efforts	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	60	2Q 2025	SBE Opportunity	Local/State
Power and Way	Work Services	CLEAN AGENT FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS INSPECTION, TESTING, AND MAINTENANCE FOR 36 MONTHS WITH TWO FUNDED YEAR OPTIONS	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	36	2Q 2025	No established DBE goal	Non-Federal
Power and Way	Commodities	ALUMINUM SHEETS, PLATES AND SHAPES OF VARIOUS SIZES & THICKNESS	\$250,001 - \$500,000	36	2Q 2025	SBE Opportunity	Non-Federal
Power and Way	Work Services	REFURBISH VARIOUS SWITCH MACHINES.	\$250,001 - \$500,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Power and Way	Work Services	RENTAL AND LAUNDERING OF FLAME RESISTANT WORK CLOTHING	\$250,001 - \$500,000	60	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Power and Way	Commodities	FURNISH & DELIVER VARIOUS TRACTION POWER CABLE	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	60	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Power and Way	Commodities	Railroad Crossing Gate Arms Replacement Parts, Accessories, Hardware	Under \$250,000	60	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Real Estate Services	Work Services	PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES	Over \$20,000,001	60	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Supply Chain	Commodities	FURNISH AND DELIVER 2 Crown Picker - Model SP3570F-30	Under \$250,000	TBD	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Supply Chain	Commodities	FURNISH AND DELIVER 1 Articulated Wheel Loader - Model# Case 621G	Under \$250,000	TBD	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Supply Chain	Commodities	FURNISH AND DELIVER 5 YALE FORK LIFT - MODEL ERC065VG	\$250,001 - \$500,000	TBD	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Transit Operations - Bus	Work Services	New Electric Bus - Base order 20 buses with 80 Option Buses for Total of up to 100 Buses	Over \$20,000,001	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Transit Operations - Bus	Work Services	Overhaul parts kits for 1000 series	Over \$20,000,001		Q2 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Commodities	Standup Forklift	Under \$250,000	12	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Work Services	Calibration Services On Tools And Instruments Used To Repair And Maintain Rapid Transit Cars	Under \$250,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Work Services	FURNISH AND DELIVER NEW AND REBUILT HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS.	Under \$250,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Commodities	Battery Powered, Walk-behind, forklift	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	12	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal

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Projected Contracting Opportunities
for
Q2 2025 - Q4 2026

Transit Operations - Rail	Commodities	Telehandler	Under \$250,000	12	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Work Services	REPAIR OF WEGMANN/DUEWAG RAIL CAR TRUCK FRAMES USED ON CTA'S 2600 AND 3200 SERIES RAIL CARS	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Work Services	INSPECTION OF RAILCAR WHEELS LOCATED IN BOHUMIN, CZECH REPUBLIC	Under \$250,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Work Services	RECONDITIONING OF RAPID TRANSIT CAR TRUCK TIMKEN BEARING JOURNAL ASSEMBLIES	Under \$250,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Commodities	Pressure/Power washer systems	Under \$250,000	12	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Commodities	VPI System Replacement	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	12	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Utility Services	Work Services	HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT RENTALS.	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	36	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Utility Services	Work Services	LEASING OF AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS.	Over \$20,000,001	84	2Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Construction	Design Bid-Build Contractor	RFP for Red Line Extension- 120th Yard/Shop Construction	Over \$20,000,001	60	3Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal/State/TIF
Construction	Design Bid-Build Contractor	RLE Parking Facility Construction	Over \$20,000,001	24	3Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal/State/TIF
Construction	GEC Task Order	ASAP: Congress Line Pulaski Station	\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	10	3Q 2025	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD.	Federal
Diversity Department	Professional Services	Event Planning Services	Under \$250,000	36	Q3 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Planning and Innovation	Work Services	General Planning Consultant - new GPC to enable Planning and Innovation to issue task orders to various consultant firms for planning related projects (e.g Marker Research, Long-range planning, etc.)	Over \$20,000,001	60	Q3 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Planning and Innovation	Technology	Customer Relationship Management Tool - technology tool that will enable CTA to better track customer service complaints, manage workorder created by complaints and communicate with customers (essentially a 311 system for CTA)	\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	60	Q3 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Local/State
Power and Way	Commodities	TRACK HARDWARE COMPONENTS	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	60	3Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Real Estate Services	Work Services	REAL ESTATE SERVICES	\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	84	3Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Work Services	CLEANING AND REPAIR SERVICE FOR RAIL CAR PRE-FILTERS	Under \$250,000	36	3Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Commodities	Saw Dust Collection System	Under \$250,000	12	3Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Commodities	Industrial Carts - Burden Movers	Under \$250,000	12	3Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Construction	GEC Task Order	RLE Parking Facility Design	\$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	36	4Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal/State/TIF
Construction	General Contractor	Dearborn Subway - Franklin and West Bank Pump Rooms	\$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	7	4Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal

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Projected Contracting Opportunities
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Q2 2025 - Q4 2026

Construction	Construction Manager	Dearborn Subway- Franklin and West Bank Pump Rooms	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	7	4Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Construction	Design Bid-Build Contractor	RLE Yard and Shop Area Advance Work	Over \$20,000,001	12	4Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal/State/TIF
Construction	CM Task Order	All Station Accessibility Program - O'Hare Line - Montrose Station and Canopy Replacement	Over \$20,000,001	12	4Q 2025	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD.	Federal
Facilities Maintenance	Work Services	PROVIDE REPAIR PARTS AND SERVICE TO VARIOUS BRANDS OF HOT WATER HIGH PRESSURE WASHER EQUIPMENT	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	60	4Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Power and Way	Commodities	TEE RAIL AND JOINT BARS.	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	60	4Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Transit Operations - Bus	Work Services	Antifreeze Recycling Services	Under \$250,000	36	4Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Transit Operations - Rail	Work Services	DEVELOP DETAILED MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL DRAWINGS THROUGH REVERSE ENGINEERING FOR VARIOUS RAIL & BUS PARTS	Under \$250,000	36	4Q 2025	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Construction	General Contractor	Kedzie Building Demolition and Site Restoration	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	6	1Q 2026	Contract specific goals TBD	State and Federal
Construction	Construction Manager	Lake Street Bridge Replacement- Track Improvements	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	8	1Q 2026	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD. MID Con Tier 0	State
Construction	GEC Task Order	98th, Midway, and Rosemont Yard- Diesel Locomotive Storage Sheds	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	10	1Q 2026	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD.	Non-Federal
Construction	Construction Manager	All Stations Accessibility Program - O'Hare Line - Montrose Station and Canopy Replacement Construction Manager	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	10	1Q 2026	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD.	State
Law Department	Professional Services	Specialized service to furnish copies of sensitive legal and medical records as required by the CTA Law Department	\$250,001 - \$500,000	48	1Q 2026	No established DBE goal	Non-Federal
Planning and Innovation	Technology	Content Management System - tool enabling CTA to manage all digital content on the various digital signage throughout the system (on buses and trains, at rail stations and bus stops)	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	60	Q1 2026	Contract specific goals TBD	Local/State
Power and Way	Work Services	FURNISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN, AND REMOVE TRAFFIC BARRICADES	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	60	1Q 2026	Contract specific goals TBD	Non-Federal
Construction	Construction Manager	59th Junction Dan Ryan Curves Track Rehabilitation	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	17	Q2 2026	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal
Construction	GEC Task Order	103rd Bus Garage- Roof Replacement	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	12	Q2 2026	TASK/WORK ORDER - This work will be awarded to a prime contractor in a previously qualified pool of contractors. Subcontractor DBE goals specified on a Task/Work Order basis. Contract specific goals TBD.	Federal
Construction	Construction Manager	103RD Bus Garage- Roof Replacement	\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	6	Q4 2026	Contract specific goals TBD	Federal

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Register your firm with CTA

Dear Vendor,

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) appreciates the opportunity to conduct business with a variety of vendors and suppliers. Vendors are encouraged to visit [Business Diversity Management System](#) to register with the CTA and/or apply for DBE certification. The Chicago Transit Authority Business Diversity Management System is designed to empower vendors to manage their own vendor record including DBE registration, maintain accurate contact information, and submit contract payment details online. The system is accessible to all firms doing business with the Chicago Transit Authority and includes the following key features:

- Fully automated online vendor registration
- Fully automated online DBE Certification Application process including New and No Change Affidavit Renewal Applications
- Tracking of vendor certification applications from submission to completion
- Automated communication with contractors via email regarding compliance issues
- Prime submission of subcontractor utilization reports with automated tracking of contract goals and participation
- Enhanced online certified directory with keyword search capabilities
- Immediate feedback on accuracy of certified payrolls
- Elimination of paper-based reporting and lengthy payroll validation delays

You may become an approved vendor by following these steps:

- Visit the [CTA Business Diversity Management System](#)
- In the **CTA Vendor Registration (i-Supplier)** section, select the **CTA Vendor Registration** button
- Select the **New iSupplier Registration** link; complete the **Prospective Supplier Registration** information and submit for approval
- Once approved, an email will be sent with a link to reset your password. The email address supplied becomes your username.
- To update your company information, return to the CTA Vendor Registration (i-Supplier) section, select the CTA Vendor Registration button
- Select the **Existing iSupplier Registration** link and logon with your email address.

CTA is notifying registered vendors of new publicly advertised contracting opportunities via e-mail. The e-mail notifications will be sent to CTA registered vendors by commodity.

If you have questions regarding vendor registration, please contact CTA Vendor Management, at ctavendormgmt@transitchicago.com.



Electronic Submission of Bids and Proposals

CTA is pleased to announce it has engaged Bonfire to create a portal through which solicitations will be posted and where bids and proposals will be submitted. CTA is holding virtual bid openings for Invitations for Bids through our online contract platform.

CTA has transitioned to electronic submission through the Bonfire platform. **Hard copy proposals and bids are no longer being accepted.** Because CTA has moved to electronic submission, companies wishing to respond to procurements must register and upload their submissions through the Bonfire portal, available at:

<https://transitchicago.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>.

NOTE: You must register with Bonfire even if you are a current CTA registered vendor or currently do business with CTA. Registration is easy and free. Please be sure to select **NAICS** codes associated with your type of business or organization. Our solicitations will be set up using those codes and will be matched to vendors and contractors with the same codes.

CTA is excited about the changes we have made to streamline our electronic bid process and we look forward to continuing our good relationship with our vendors.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Bid Office via email at ctavendormgmt@transitchicago.com.



Vendor FAQ

Q: What is a bid?

A: A bid is a vendor's response to a solicitation by the CTA requesting offers to provide a specific good or service.

Q: Does a vendor need to be pre-qualified to bid?

A: No, unless otherwise specified in the bid documents.

Q: How does a vendor become pre-qualified to bid, and how often does the vendor need to renew its pre-qualified status?

A: As stated above, a vendor does not necessarily need to be pre-qualified to bid. A specific solicitation may require pre-qualification. Regardless, vendors are encouraged to [register online](#), which allows vendors to be added to CTA's database of vendors. Additionally, Vendors must register through CTA's Bonfire portal at <https://transitchicago.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities> in order to download solicitations and submit responses.

Q: Can I apply to become a CTA vendor online?

A: Yes, you can apply to become a CTA vendor online by accessing CTA's online vendor/DBE registration system at <https://cta.dbesystem.com/>. Additionally, Vendors must register through CTA's Bonfire portal at <https://transitchicago.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities> in order to download solicitations and submit responses.

Q: Does a vendor need to pay for bid specifications?

A: When required, you must provide CTA with cash, a cashier's check, certified check or money order, as specified in the solicitation document.

Q: Can bids be faxed?

A: Bids must be returned to the CTA in accordance with the instructions to bidders in the bid document.

Q: When are bids opened?

A: Bids are opened and read online through designated link provided in Bonfire for each procurement.

Q: What disqualifies a bid?

A: You should read the specification document very carefully and follow all instructions. This is the best way to keep from having your bid disqualified. In general, bids can also be disqualified for being late or missing information and/or signatures. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of reasons for disqualification.

Q: When will the contract be awarded?

A: Contracts are awarded either following consideration and approval by the Board or in accordance with the established process for contract approval and execution for contracts that do not require Board ratification.

Q: Do I need to bid through a DBE?

A: No.

Q: What is a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)?

A: A DBE firm is a firm which has been certified as being owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals pursuant to 49 CFR, Part 26. More information regarding CTA's DBE program can be obtained from the Diversity Programs Department.

Vendor FAQ Continued

Q: Where do I find a DBE firm?

A: The Illinois Unified Certification Program (IL UCP) publishes and maintains a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Directory which lists all certified DBEs in the State of Illinois. A copy of this directory can be [at https://webapps.dot.illinois.gov/UCP/ExternalSearch](https://webapps.dot.illinois.gov/UCP/ExternalSearch), or you may contact the Diversity Programs Department.

Q: Who are approved DBEs?

A: Please visit the IL UCP DBE Directory (<https://webapps.dot.illinois.gov/UCP/ExternalSearch>) or contact the Diversity Programs Department.

Q: Can I apply and/or maintain my DBE certification online?

A: Yes, you can apply for DBE certification, and maintain your certification if you are already certified, online by accessing our online vendor/DBE registration system at <https://cta.dbesystem.com/>.

Q: I'm a certified DBE with the City of Chicago/the Illinois Department of Transportation/Metra/Pace, am I also certified with CTA?

A: CTA is a certifying participant in the Illinois Unified Certification Program (IL UCP). All firms that are certified with the IL UCP through one of the aforementioned agencies are considered DBEs with CTA.

Q: What is the Illinois Unified Certification Program (IL UCP)?

A: The IL UCP is based on the concept of reciprocity among the participants. The certifying participants of the IL UCP are CTA, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the City of Chicago, Metra and Pace. If a firm is approved as a DBE firm, this certification is honored by all IL UCP participants in the State of Illinois.

Q: How do I fill out Schedules C and D?

A: Please follow the directions in the bid document or contact the Diversity Programs Department if you need additional assistance.

Q: If my firm is currently certified as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) or a Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE), do I need to be certified as a DBE?

A: Yes, CTA only recognizes certified DBEs for credit towards a DBE goal on its contracts.

Q: If my firm is currently certified as an MBE or WBE, will it qualify as a DBE?

A: Although some of the qualification criteria are similar, the DBE program is a federal program and the M/WBE programs are local programs. Therefore, you must submit a new application for DBE status.

Q: How do I get my product approved?

A: CTA's Technical Services department typically reviews and approves new products. To be considered, please contact the Bid Office via email at ctavendormgmt@transitchicago.com.

Q: Please explain the difference between purchases over and under \$40,000.00?

A: Purchases in excess of \$40,000.00 are required to be publicly advertised for bid. Purchases that are \$40,000.00 or less do not require public advertisement.

Q: Is everything that CTA purchases posted on the website?

A: No. All competitively bid procurements over \$40,000.00 are posted on the CTA's e-procurement portal at <https://transitchicago.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>.

Q: Are the CTA Projected Contracting Opportunities an exhaustive list of all future contracts?

A: No. This document will be updated periodically and is subject to change without notice. Some contract opportunities may not be included in this plan.



Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

The Chicago Transit Authority's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program demonstrates the Authority's continued commitment to the success of all disadvantaged businesses, including but not limited to minority and women-owned businesses, by promoting contracting opportunities to DBEs within transit.

The Chicago Transit Authority's DBE program is governed by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Regulations, 49 CFR Part 26.

DBE Certification Eligibility

Persons who are Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Subcontinent Asian Americans, Native Americans or Women are presumed to be socially disadvantaged; other persons may be found to be socially disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis. In order to be economically disadvantaged, the majority owner(s) cannot have a personal net worth that exceeds \$1.32 million and the average annual gross receipts of the firm over a 3-year period cannot exceed \$30.40 million and the standard set by the Small Business Administration for the industry in which the firm operates over a 5-year period. In addition to meeting these requirements, you will need to provide documentation of your past experience and expertise in the area(s) of specialization for which your firm is seeking certification and demonstrate ownership and control of the firm.

For more information or questions, please refer to the Regulations at 49 CFR Part 26, or call (312) 681-2600 or email diversity@transitchicago.com.

Illinois Unified Certification Program (IL UCP)

Pursuant to the requirements of the federal regulations, 49 CFR, Part 26, all recipients of federal-aid must implement a "one-stop" certification process for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. As a result of this requirement, the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, Pace, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and City of Chicago have established the Illinois Unified Certification Program (IL UCP).

The IL UCP is based on the concept of certification reciprocity among the agencies. The IL UCP provides "one stop shopping" to applicants for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification, such that an applicant needs only to apply once for DBE certification. This DBE certification will be honored by all participating IL UCP agencies in the State of Illinois.

DBE Certification Application

The DBE application has been developed to determine whether your firm is eligible for the DBE Program and to provide information regarding the certification of your firm in your designated area of expertise. In order to become certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, your firm must meet the eligibility standards established by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Regulation 49 C.F.R., Part 26. Once a firm is certified by CTA as a DBE, it will be honored by all IL UCP participating agencies. We suggest you contact each agency in order to receive additional information pertaining to their respective bidding opportunities.

You may [apply for and maintain your DBE certification on-line](https://cta.dbesystem.com/) via <https://cta.dbesystem.com/>.

If you need assistance, or have questions regarding completion of the application, please contact us at (312) 681-2600 or email diversity@transitchicago.com.



Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Assistance Agencies

The following agencies provide various types of assistance to DBE firms with respect to the certification process to become a DBE, bidding on construction contracts, and bid notifications.

**Arquitectos
Loop Station
Po Box 2587
Chicago IL 60690**

Contact: Jose Espejo
Phone: (773) 716-6042
Email: information@arquitectoschicago.org

Services

Business Development, Mentorship

**Association of Asian American Construction Enterprises (AACE)
712 Root St
Chicago IL, 60609**

Contact: Christine Chung
Phone (312) 595-2010
E-mail: admin@aacechicago.com

Services

Certification, Bidding Assistance, Business Development,

**Austin African American Business Networking Association (AAABNA)
5820 W. Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60651**

Contact: Malcolm Crawford
Phone: (773) 626-4497
Email: aaabna@yahoo.com

Services

Business Development; Technical Assistance

**Black Contractors, Owners, and Executives (BCOE)
7811 S. Stony Island Ave.
Chicago, IL 60649**

Contact: Angela Drexel
Phone: (708) 535-6001 ext. 304
Email: adrexel@livewire-systems.com
Web: www.bcoe-chicago.org

Services

Business Development

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Assistance Agencies - Continued

Black Contractors United (BCU)
12000 S. Marshfield Ave
Calumet Park, IL 60827

Contact: Ed McKinnie
Phone: (708) 389-5730
Fax: (708) 389-5735
E-mail: mckinnie@blackcontractorsunited.com
Web: www.blackcontractorsunited.com

Services

Business Development; Technical Assistance; Bidding Assistance

Chatham Business Association (CBA)
800 East 78th St.
Chicago, IL 60619

Contact: Pattilyn Beals
Phone: (773) 994-5006
Fax: (773) 855-8905
E-mail: pattilynbeals@cbaworks.org
Web: www.cbaworks.org

Services

Business Development; Certification Assistance; Technical Assistance; Bidding Assistance

Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council (CMSDC)
105 W. Adams
Chicago, IL 60603

Contact: Neda Sharp
Phone: (312) 755-2554
Fax: (312) 755-8890
E-mail: nsharp@chicagomsdc.org
Web: www.chicagomsdc.org

Services

Business Development; Certification Assistance; Technical Assistance; Bidding Assistance

Chicago Urban League (CUL)
4510 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653

Contact: Kevin Davenport
Phone: (773) 624-8810
Fax: (773) 451-3549
E-mail: kdavenport@thechicagourbanleague.org
Web: www.thechicagourbanleague.org

Services

Business Development; Certification Assistance; Technical Assistance; Bidding Assistance

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Assistance Agencies - Continued

Contractor Advisors Business Development, Inc.
1507 E. 53rd St. Suite 906
Chicago, IL 60615

Contact: Suzanne F. Stantley
Phone: (312) 436-0301
Email: sfstantley@contractoradvisors.us
Web: www.contractoradvisors.us

Services

Business Development; Bidding Assistance

Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce
1633 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60616

Contact: Rhonda McGowan
Phone: (312) 971-9594
Email: rmcgowan@cosmochamber.org

Services

Business Development; Bidding Assistance

Federation of Women Contractors (FWC)
4210 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, IL 60641

Contact: Jaemie Neely
Phone: (312) 360-1122
Fax: (312) 360-0239
E-mail: jneely@fwcchicago.com
Web: www.fwcchicago.com

Services

Business Development

Greater Englewood Community Development Corporation (GECDC)
815 W. 63rd St.
Chicago, IL 60621

Contact: Rhea Steele
Phone: (773) 651-2400
Email: thughes@gecdc.org
Web: www.gecdc.org

Services

Business Development

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Assistance Agencies - Continued

Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA)
650 W. Lake St., Suite 415
Chicago, IL 60607

Contact: Juan Calahorrano
Phone: (312) 575-0389
Fax: (312) 575-0544
E-mail: jcalahorrano@haciaworks.org
Web: www.haciaworks.org

Services

Business Development; Certification Assistance; Technical Assistance

Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (IHCC)
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 1212
Chicago, IL 60654

Contact: Angie Alonso-Cone
Phone: (312) 425-9500
Fax: (312) 666-5545
Web: www.ihccbbusiness.net

Services

Business Development; Certification Assistance; Technical Assistance

LGBT Chamber of Commerce
3179 N. Clark St. 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60657

Contact: Bill Wald
Phone: (773) 303-0167
Email: bill.wald@lgbtcc.com
Web: www.lgbtcc.com

Services

Business Development; Technical Assistance

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Assistance Agencies - Continued

MBDA Business Center Chicago
105 W. Adams St.
Chicago, IL 60603

Contact: David Thomas
Phone: (312) 755-8880
Email: dthomas@chicagombdacenter.com
Web: www.mbda.gov

Services

Business Development; Certification Assistance

National Association of Minority Contractors Chicago (NAMCC)
4455 S. Martin Luther King Dr.
Chicago, IL 60653

Contact: Curtis Thompson
Phone: (708) 439-4517
Email: Curtis@namccchicago.org

Services

Business Development; Technical Assistance

National Organization of Minority Engineers
33 W. Monroe St. Suite 1540
Chicago, IL 60603

Contact: Diana Hennington
Phone: (312) 960-1239
Email: grandevents1@sbcglobal.net
Web: www.nomeonline.org

Services

Business Development; Technical Assistance

U.S. Minority Contractors Association (USMCA)
1250 S. Grove Ave. Suite 200
Barrington, IL 60010

Contact: Ashley Washington
Phone: (847) 852-5010
E-mail: admin@usminoritycontractors.org
Web: www.usminoritycontractors.org

Services

Business Development; Certification Assistance; Technical Assistance; Bidding Assistance

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Assistance Agencies – Continued

Women's Business Development Center (WBDC)
8 S. Michigan Ave., 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603

Contact: Maura Downs
Phone: (312) 853-3477
Fax: (312) 853-0145
E-mail: mdowns@wbdc.org
Web: www.wbdc.org

Services

Business Development; Certification Assistance; Technical Assistance

Women Construction Owners & Executives (WCOE)
308 Circle Avenue
Forest Park, IL 60130

Contact: Mary Kay Minaghan
Phone: (708) 366-1250
Fax: (708) 366-5418
E-mail: mkm@mkmservices.com
Website: www.wcoeusa.org

Services

Business Development; Certification Assistance; Technical Assistance



Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program

The policy of the CTA is to facilitate competition by small businesses as prime contractors or subcontractors on CTA contracts. The CTA's Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program is part of its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program as set forth in 49 C.F.R. Part 26.39. This program is designed to give certified small businesses an opportunity to bid as primes on CTA contracts. Under this program, selected contracts below \$5,000,000 in value will be set aside for small businesses to bid on as prime contractors.

Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program Eligibility

The following requirements must be met to be eligible to participate in the CTA Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program:

1. The company must meet the size standards for small businesses set forth by the Small Business Administration (SBA) for the industry in which it works over a 5-year average.
2. The company's annual gross receipts cannot exceed \$30.40 Million over a 3-year average
3. Each owner must not exceed personal net worth of \$1.32 Million.

Small Business Verification

The CTA only accepts Small Business Enterprise (SBE) certifications/verifications from CTA, Metra, Pace, and SEPTA. All DBE-certified firms are, by definition, small businesses and do not need to seek additional SBE certification.

The CTA will post on its website any additional entities that perform SBE certification or verification methods that will be accepted by CTA, as they become available.

For information and/or questions about the CTA Small Business Program, please call (312) 681-2600 or e-mail diversity@transitchicago.com.

How to find out about contracting opportunities under the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program

All contracting opportunities are posted on CTA's e-procurement portal at <https://transitchicago.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities> and are also advertised in the classified section of the Chicago Sun-Times newspaper.

Solicitations available for download will include all forms required to submit a complete bid to the CTA, including DBE forms and special conditions regarding the SBE Program.

CTA is notifying registered vendors of new publicly advertised contracting opportunities through e-mail notifications. The e-mail will be sent to CTA registered vendors by commodity. For vendor registration and other information, visit the CTA Vendor Registration and DBE Certification Web site at <https://cta.dbesystem.com/>.

All vendors are encouraged to update their business contact information including their e-mail address and list of commodities as all notifications will be sent via e-mail.

1. For questions regarding vendor registration, contact CTA Vendor Management, at ctavendormgmt@transitchicago.com.
2. For questions about bid notifications, visit the CTA's e-procurement portal at <https://transitchicago.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>.
3. For questions about the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program, contact the Diversity Department at (312) 681-2600.



Procurement Contacts

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Gernell Turner , Coordinator, Workforce Initiatives	GTurner@transitchicago.com



CTA Sister Agencies

[City of Chicago](#)

[Chicago Housing Authority \(CHA\)](#)

[Chicago Park District \(CPD\)](#)

[Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#)

[City Colleges of Chicago \(CCC\)](#)

[Cook County of Illinois](#)

[Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority \(MPEA\)](#)

[Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago \(MWRDGC\)](#)

[Public Building Commission of Chicago \(PBC\)](#)

Illinois UCP Participants

[City of Chicago](#)

[Chicago Transit Authority \(CTA\)](#)

[Illinois Department of Transportation \(IDOT\)](#)

[Metropolitan Rail Corporation \(Chicago Commuter Railroad\) \(Metra\)](#)

[Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority \(Pace\)](#)