

The PennDOT Mentor-Protégé Program was initially devised as a remedy to address the disparity identified by the 2018 PennDOT disparity study. In 2018, a study conducted by BBC Research and Consulting found that when all relevant prime contracts and subcontracts that PennDOT awarded during the study period were totaled, there were groups identified to have experienced underutilization. These groups are referred to as “underutilized.” This program aims to close the gap between participation and availability as underutilized groups are under the threshold for what indicates a substantial disparity.



**PENNSYLVANIA MPP
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We provide business development services and support for underutilized DBE firms to acquire the proficiency, experience and expertise necessary to compete for federally-assisted PennDOT contracts and subcontracts.

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Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation

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**PENNSYLVANIA MPP
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Mentor-Protégé Program

Created to increase diversity and participation in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program for contractors and consultants, with a focus on drawing in underserved and underrepresented companies. We provide a seamless process to assist the mentor and protégé in navigating the program.



Purpose

The PennDOT Mentor-Protégé Program, while being open to all DBEs, was developed specifically to help underutilized PennDOT DBEs gain qualifications and project experience. This is a critical concept for all program stakeholders to understand as we set the proper expectations for participation in this program. It's also important to remember that the Mentor-Protégé Program does not replace the DBE program, but your protégé's participation will count toward your DBE goal for the Mentor-Protégé Program project.

Protégé Eligibility

To ensure eligibility, protégés must be a certified DBE with the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program (PAUCP). There are specific areas of concentration that mentors will be looking for, including heavy highway construction and civil engineering disciplines for heavy highway projects. If your company is not seeking a focus in the heavy highway industry, the PennDOT Mentor-Protégé Program may not be appropriate for your needs. It's important for protégés to remember that your Mentor-Protégé Program tier is not necessarily based on your experience. It's based on your PennDOT ECMS status, which may change through the course of your participation in this program.

Mentor Eligibility

For mentors, you should not begin mentoring until you have begun a PennDOT project with Mentor-Protégé Program provisions. Construction cohort mentors can request to add Mentor-Protégé Program work orders to their existing projects.

Statement of Interests (SOI) for PennDOT Professional Services advertisements with Mentor-Protégé Program provisions must include a protégé. Your Protégé contract amount will also be counted towards your DBE goal. In addition, all mentors seeking to participate should be business partner registered and qualified, or pre-qualified to prime projects on ECMS.

Protégé Sign Up

Now, let's discuss how to get signed up for the PennDOT Mentor-Protégé Program. The point of contact for the Protégé firm will visit pennmpp.com/protege-questionnaire to complete the Mentor-Protégé Program questionnaire. Once done, your PRA profile will be automatically created if you are using an email address not already in Pro Rank Academy. Existing PRA users will be added to the PennDOT Mentor-Protégé Program if the questionnaire is completed using the existing PRA email address. You can enter 0 for any numbers or amounts that don't apply when completing the questionnaire. You can use the save and continue later button to save your responses. You will be sent an initial email about what your next steps should be upon completion of the Mentor-Protégé Program questionnaire. Completing your questionnaire gets you signed up as a protégé for the PennDOT Mentor-Protégé Program.



Complete the
Protégé Questionnaire

Mentor Sign Up

The point of contact for the mentor firm will visit pennmpp.com/mpp-prime-mentor-survey. Once you're done with the questionnaire, your PRA profile will be automatically created if you are using an email not already in PRA. Existing PRA users will be added to the PennDOT Mentor-Protégé Program as mentors if using existing PRA emails to complete the questionnaire. In either scenario, you will be sent an initial email about how to access Mentor-Protégé Program projects and protégés once you complete the questionnaire. And that's it, you're all signed up and ready to get started with the PennDOT Mentor-Protégé Program as a potential mentor.

Complete the
Mentor Questionnaire

