

# DBE Support Services

REGION B - BRIDGE CITY/NEW ORLEANS & HAMMOND



Urban League of Louisiana  
Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation



## MONTHLY DIGEST

### Issue 35 | January 2023

[www.urbanleaguela.org/cei-dbeservices](http://www.urbanleaguela.org/cei-dbeservices) | [dbesupport@urbanleaguela.org](mailto:dbesupport@urbanleaguela.org)

*Find Projects*

#### LADOTD Project Letting Information

[Link to Construction Letting Information](#)

*Register for Trainings*

#### ULLA Upcoming Events and Workshops

[Link to ULLA's Eventbrite Registration Page](#)

*Become a DBE*

#### Get LAUCP DBE Certified

[Link to Louisiana Unified Certification Program](#)

*Stay Informed*

#### U.S. Department of Transportation - Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

[Link to the USDOT OSDBU](#)

### DBE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES - REGION B



ULLA provides business support services to DBEs interested in doing business with the LADOTD in Region B. Services include:

- One-on-One Business Counseling
- Capacity-building Coaching
- Contractor-specific and General
- Entrepreneurship Trainings
- Certification Assistance
- Funding and Bonding Assistance
- Access to LADOTD Bid Opportunities

EMAIL US TODAY!

[dbesupport@urbanleaguela.org](mailto:dbesupport@urbanleaguela.org)

*DBE Outreach and Education - Webinar*

Get LAUCP DBE Certified!

Wednesday, January 11 | 10:00am - 11:30am | Virtual



Join the Urban League of Louisiana on Wednesday, January 11, 10:00am-11:30am, to learn more about how to get LAUCP DBE certified! If you are planning to bid on upcoming LADOTD Infrastructure projects and are not LAUCP certified, the time is now!

During this session, participants will learn the benefits and the key components of the Louisiana Unified Certification Program's Disadvantage Business Enterprise Certification including eligibility requirements and the application process. This session will include:

- Benefits of the LAUCP DBE certification
- Who should apply including eligibility requirements
- A step-by-step review of the application process

- *Required documents including those that verify ownership and management control*
- *Tips for completing a successful application*

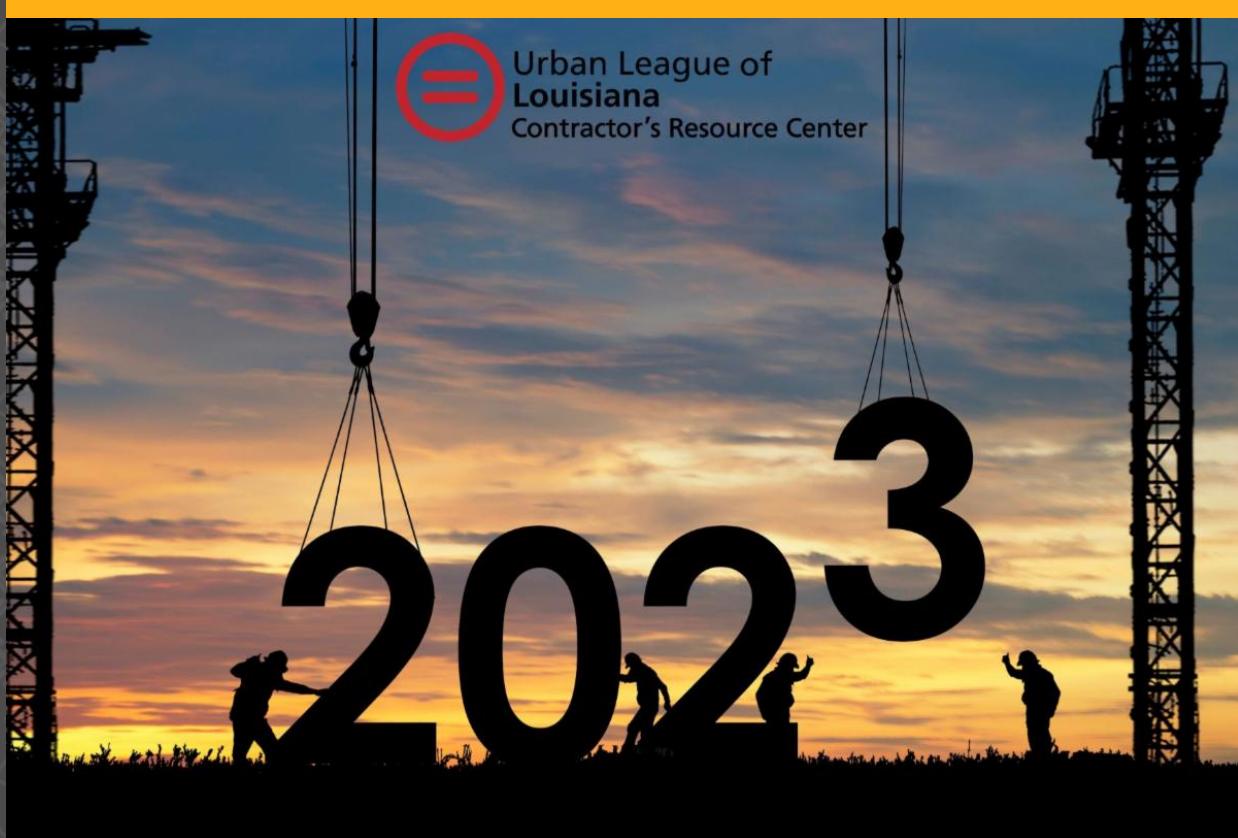
All aspiring DBEs are welcomed to attend. There is no cost to attend; however, registration is required. [Register today to reserve your spot!](#)

[\*\*Click Here to Register for the January 11th Session!\*\*](#)

#### *DBE Outreach Event*

#### **Opportunities Outlook 2023 for DBE Contractors**

Thursday, January 26 | 1:00pm-4:00pm | RTMC New Orleans



*Working on your 2023 business development plan? Join us for Opportunities Outlook 2023 to learn about upcoming procurement opportunities!*

The Urban League of Louisiana's Contractor's Resource Center will host "Opportunities Outlook 2023" for DBE Contractors on **Thursday, January 26, 2023, 1:00pm-4:00pm**, at the Regional Transportation Management Center, 10 Veterans Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124.

This annual event is held to support contractors in preparing for the upcoming year by focusing attention on **new opportunities for strategic growth and competitiveness**. The event will feature updates on current opportunities and upcoming bids from procurement officers and prime contractors. Other programs and resources that support capacity-building and profitability for the contracting community will also be featured.

Seating is limited. There is no cost to attend, however, registration is required. Also, please bring a stack of your capabilities statement to share! [Register today to reserve your seat!](#)

[\*\*Click Here to Register for the January 26th Event!\*\*](#)

#### *Upcoming Funding Opportunity*

#### **State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)**

Sign up for updates on program availability!

SSBCI is a \$10 billion federal program that helps states support small businesses and startups that are creditworthy but unable to access the capital they need to grow or establish their businesses and create jobs.

The first SSBCI was established in 2010. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 reauthorized and expanded SSBCI to increase access to capital and promote entrepreneurship, especially in traditionally underserved communities as they emerge from the pandemic. U.S. Treasury guidelines ensure that Very Small Businesses (VSBS) and small businesses owned by Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDIIs) will receive critical resources to sustainably grow and thrive.

Louisiana received official U.S. Treasury approval for up to \$113 million in SSBCI funds on Dec. 6, 2022. (Read the LED news release [here](#).) Disbursement of the full amount is dependent on hitting federal funding benchmarks for VSBs and SEDIs, whose access to capital may have been limited in the past.

LED, via the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), will work with private equity funds and financial institutions to disburse SSBCI funds via collateral support, equity, micro lending and loan guaranty programs.

A high-level description of each program and access additional detail about eligibility requirements, program rules, application process, participating providers and frequently asked questions about the various programs, can be found [here](#).

Like the first SSBCI, which concluded in 2017, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 authorizes the new initiative for seven years. Approval of Louisiana's allocation is an important but early step. The process of qualifying and opting in as a participating provider will be ongoing over a period of several months; the same is true of application processes, which vary by program, fund and lender, and are likely to evolve over time.

LED will post all of the latest developments about the program – including updated fund and lender names and contact info as new providers opt into SSBCI program – on this website. [\*\*\*Sign-up today for SSBCI updates!\*\*\*](#)

**Click Here for More Information and to Sign Up for SSBCI Updates!**

#### *Growth Strategies*

**Become an Energy Smart or Entergy Solutions Trade Ally!**



Energy Smart (Orleans Parish) and Entergy Solutions (All Other Parishes in LA) are comprehensive energy efficiency programs that incentivize Entergy customers to perform energy saving upgrades in their homes and businesses. Our teams work with residents, business owners, facility managers and trade ally contractors to identify opportunities and provide cash incentives for completing eligible upgrades with measurable/verifiable energy savings.

#### **What is a trade ally?**

Trade allies are approved and trained contractors that influence the energy decisions of customers and facilitate participation in the Energy Smart and Entergy Solutions programs. Trade allies help customers implement energy efficiency upgrades and earn incentives for reducing their energy usage.

#### **What is the benefit of becoming a trade ally?**

Both programs work to connect customers with trade ally contractors to help them select and install energy efficient products that have verifiable energy savings for customers. Trade allies can leverage these cash incentives to gain new customers and maximize existing customer projects that reduce energy use.

#### **How are trade allies supported?**

The program provides technical assistance to trade allies and customers to identify energy efficiency opportunities, develop cost-effective projects and complete required program documentation. Trade allies are invited to participate in various training, development and networking opportunities provided by the program and its partners.

#### **For More Information**

- Orleans Parish: Kevin Fitzwilliam, Training and Workforce Development Specialist, Energy Smart Program - [kevin.fitzwilliam@aptim.com](mailto:kevin.fitzwilliam@aptim.com)
- All Other Parishes: Dillon Teal, Senior Energy Advisor, Entergy Solutions - [dillon.teal@aptim.com](mailto:dillon.teal@aptim.com)

**Learn More about the EnergySmart Trade Ally Program! (Orleans**

Learn More about the Entergy Solutions Trade Ally Program! (All Other Parishes)

---

[Click Here for All Upcoming ULLA Entrepreneurship Trainings](#)

Urban League of Louisiana  
Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation  
[www.urbanleaguela.org/cei](http://www.urbanleaguela.org/cei)  
[dbesupport@urbanleaguela.org](mailto:dbesupport@urbanleaguela.org)

