



# DBE Support Services

REGION B - BRIDGE CITY/NEW ORLEANS & HAMMOND

Urban League of Louisiana  
Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

DOTD

## MONTHLY DIGEST

**ISSUE 57 | March 2025**

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

LADOTD Project  
Letting Information

Get LAUCP DBE  
Certified

ULLA Upcoming  
Events and Trainings



Urban League of Louisiana provides business support services to existing and aspiring DBEs that are 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, and access to LADOTD bid opportunities. For more information, please email [dbesupport@urbanleaguela.org](mailto:dbesupport@urbanleaguela.org).

***Special Event***

**Opportunities Outlook Quarterly Convening for DBE Contractors**

**Thursday, March 20 | 9:00am-12:00pm CST | ULLA HQ**



Join the Urban League of Louisiana on **Thursday, March 20, 2025**, 9:00am-12:00pm, for its signature “Opportunities Outlook Quarterly Convening”. These quarterly, in-person meet-ups feature procurement officers and/or prime contractors who will provide DBEs and other diverse businesses with updates on bid opportunities, as well as, required steps and best practices for doing business with their organizations. These events also provide an opportunity for more direct networking between DBEs and procurement officers and/or primes.

The event will take place at the Urban League of Louisiana, 4640 S. Carrollton Avenue, Suite 110. Breakfast will be provided.

This quarter's featured speakers and organizations include:

- **Shawn Charles, Director, Office of Supplier Diversity, Department of Finance, City of New Orleans**

- **James C. Simmons, Jr. MLA PMC LMC, Chief Procurement Officer, Bureau of Purchasing, City of New Orleans**
- **Jeff Williams, Senior Project Manager, New Orleans District Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
- **Andre Lewis, Chief Operating Officer, VPG Enterprise**

There is no cost to attend, however, registration is required. Register today to reserve your spot!

[Click Here to Register](#)

# OPPORTUNITIES OUTLOOK

## QUARTERLY CONVENING

FOR DBE CONTRACTORS

Thursday, March 20, 2025 • 9 AM - 12 PM

Urban League of Louisiana, 4640 S. Carrollton Avenue, Suite 110



**Shawn Charles**  
Director, Office of Supplier Diversity,  
Department of Finance, City of New Orleans





**James C. Simmons, Jr.**  
Chief Procurement Officer, Bureau of  
Purchasing, City of New Orleans





**Jeff Williams**  
Senior Project Manager, New  
Orleans District Office, U.S. Army  
Corps of Engineers





**Andre Lewis**  
Chief Operating Officer, VPG  
Enterprise



Quarterly, in-person meet-ups which feature presentations from procurement officers and/or prime contractors who provide DBEs and other diverse businesses with information and updates on bid opportunities, as well as, required steps and best practices for doing business with their organizations

**This program is FREE!**  
Breakfast Provided. Registration is required. [Register today to save your spot!](#)



**Urban League  
of Louisiana**

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/5e8wy3c4>

**Entrepreneurial Education**

### Digital Marketing Series for Entrepreneurs: Strategies and Tools to Enhance Your Digital Brand

**Thursdays, March 12, 19, 26 | 10:00am-12:00pm CST | Virtual**



Join the Urban League of Louisiana on **Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26, from 10:00am-11:30am**, for our 3-part “**Digital Marketing Series for Entrepreneurs**”, sponsored by Louisiana Economic Development and Mastercard.

In this highly competitive digital age, standing out online is more important than ever for small business owners. For small businesses who want to increase their brand presence, this series will teach participants how having a strong, consistent digital voice can set them apart from the competition. Participants will also learn practical tips to keep visitors engaged and coming back to your website; and how to harness AI to boost their online presence. Sessions include:

- **Session 1: Using Your Digital Voice to Grow A Highly Engaged Audience | March 12**
- **Session 2: The Power of Websites for Entrepreneurs | March 19**
- **Session 3: AI for Digital Marketing and Social Media Management | March 26**

Each session will be facilitated by **Charique L. Richardson, Founder, Digital Innovation Media Group**. If you're aiming to enhance your brand presence and grow a community around your brand online, this series is just for you!



Registration for each session must be completed separately. Register today to reserve your spot!

[Click Here to Register](#)

## **Stay Up to Date**

## **National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program**

### **About the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program**

Louisiana will receive approximately \$73M for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure through President Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) plans to administer the deployment of electric vehicle charging station infrastructure throughout the State. As part of the EV infrastructure deployment plan, the U.S.



Legislature has made National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program funds available for expenditure by state transportation agencies. These funds will cover 80 percent of the EV infrastructure expenses with a minimum 20 percent state match covered by grant recipients. To disburse these funds, LA DOTD is developing a competitive grant program that allows for a phased approach to the buildup of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) over five years that meets federal requirements of DC Fast Chargers within one mile of designated corridors.

Sign up for updates on our EV grant program through MyDOTD by visiting [La DOTD - MyDOTD](#) and selecting the option to "Sign Up Now" to create an account, or sign in to customize your alerts and select "Electric Vehicle Grant Program".

Please send comments and/or inquiries to [DOTD-EVProgram@la.gov](mailto:DOTD-EVProgram@la.gov). You can also take our public survey [here](#).

[Click Here For More Information](#)

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

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