



DIVISION OF  
CAPITAL ASSET  
MANAGEMENT &  
MAINTENANCE



# FAQs

## 2016 MBE/WBE DISPARITY STUDY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) is conducting a study to evaluate the participation of Minority – and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBEs) in Commonwealth construction and design services contracting and procurement activities. To determine whether this program remains legally defensible and administratively successful, DCAMM has undertaken this Disparity Study to gather and analyze the type of evidence required by federal courts.

### What is a “Disparity Study”?

A Disparity Study gathers evidence to determine whether DCAMM has a strong basis for implementing race- and gender-conscious contracting policies. This includes statistical evidence of disparities between MBE/WBE availability and utilization on DCAMM construction and design related contracts and subcontracts, and within the Massachusetts-area economy as a whole, as well as evidence regarding the factors necessary for business success, such as access to business capital, formal and informal business networks, and suppliers. The Study will also gather qualitative information directly from business owners regarding their experiences with discrimination as well as their everyday challenges and successes doing business in the Massachusetts market area. Additionally, the Study will evaluate DCAMM's current MBE/WBE Program and related policies and make recommendations for future initiatives and enhancements.

### Who is conducting the Disparity Study?

NERA Economic Consulting was awarded the contract for this Study after a competitive process. The NERA team is led by Senior Vice President Dr. Jon Wainwright, a leading national expert on disparity studies. The NERA team is proud to include four MBE/WBE firms—Spotlight Communications, CR Dynamics & Associates Inc., the Law Office of Don T. O'Bannon, and CVV Transcripts; & one non-minority small business—J&D Data Services.

### What if I don't receive a survey or can't attend a business interview session?

We welcome your comments by e-mail at [DisparityStudy@NERA.com](mailto:DisparityStudy@NERA.com). Comments will be accepted throughout the course of the Study.

### Who do I contact if I have questions?

At NERA Economic Consulting: 888-608-6372 (NERA);  
Connect directly with our DCAMM Disparity Study Team at 857-204-1244,  
or via the web at [www.mass.gov/dcam/disparsity](http://www.mass.gov/dcam/disparsity)

## HOW CAN BUSINESS OWNERS GET INVOLVED?

The participation of business owners who provide services in the construction and design market is crucial to the Disparity Study's success. Interested business owners can be part of the process in two ways:

### BUSINESS OWNER INTERVIEWS

NERA will be conducting interviews with business owners in the construction and design services marketplace to gather information on your experiences and insights. Invitations will be sent to all identifiable firms that have done business or expressed interest in doing business with DCAMM. Invites will go out to area business and trade associations as well. Since space is limited, it is important that you RSVP to confirm your attendance when you receive your invitation. The interviews will take place across the Commonwealth in December 2016.

### MAIL/WEB SURVEYS

If you receive a survey, please complete it online or return it by mail. This short survey will be sent out to a cross-section of area businesses. Since the survey period will only be open for a limited time, please complete and return the survey as soon as you receive it. The surveys will be distributed in early 2017.