



**MINORITY & WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**

**Background:**

In 2002, the Nassau County Legislature adopted Local Law 14-2002 (Title 53 in) order to promote participation by MWBEs in Nassau County contracts. It applies to:

1. All contracts and purchase orders in excess of \$100,000 for the acquisition, construction, demolition, replacement, major repair, or renovation of real property and improvements
2. Other procurement of goods and services in excess of \$25,000
3. All subcontracts provided they fall within category 1 or 2 referenced above

Title 53 also created the Office of Minority Affairs (“OMA”) to set aspirational goals for MWBE participation in County contracts. In order to determine the percentage goals, a disparity study was performed in 2003 that assessed the County’s use of MWBEs on County contracts compared with the availability of all firms to perform such work. The County has not conducted a disparity study since 2003.

Source: Misc. Laws of Nassau County, Title 53, §101-110

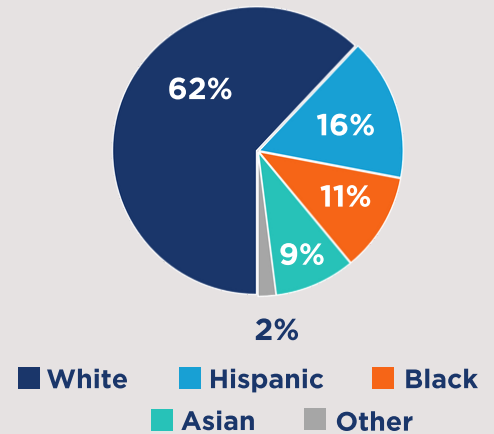
**Increased Diversity:**

As Nassau County continues to become increasingly diverse, there is extraordinary potential to help foster MWBE growth by increasing access to County contracts. The figure to the right illustrates that Nassau County’s minority population has reached almost 40% of the total population. It is projected that Long Island will become minority-majority in the early 2030s.

Although a racial wealth gap remains persistent, the chart below from the Survey of Business Owners illustrates that the County has many minority-owned businesses. There is a significant opportunity to engage the more than 40,000 minority businesses and help them navigate the procurement process.

Source: PolicyLink (2017). An Equity Profile of Long Island.

**2016 Racial Breakdown  
Nassau County, NY**



Source: U.S. Census 2012-16 ACS 5 year Estimates

**Nassau County Minority Business Ownership**

	MINORITY	NON-MINORITY	BLACK	ASIAN	HISPANIC
Number of Companies	44,392	113,966	12,370	15,866	16,700
Total Sales (\$1,000)	8,398,979	76,294,072	902,690	5,860,207	1,703,792
Companies With Employees	7,185	33,089	768	4,447	2,001
Number of Paid Employees	33,492	292,585	5,004	19,334	9,455

Source: 2012 Survey of Business Owners (SBO), US Census Bureau



# Comptroller's MWBE Steering Committee

The Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) Steering Committee is tasked with supporting and improving MWBE participation in County contracts and advising on enforcement of current MWBE compliance with Title 53. The MWBE Steering Committee met throughout 2018 and helped guide research conducted by the Comptroller's Office to address disparities in the contracting process.

## MWBE Program

Nassau County continues to struggle with increasing MWBE participation in procurement opportunities within County government. This is a multi-layered issue that requires research to find innovative solutions to racial and gender disparities in the contracting process.

Nassau County's MWBE program has seen a decline in the number of MWBEs certified with the Office of Minority Affairs (OMA). There are currently only 162 active registrants, down from the 977 MWBEs registered throughout the program's history. OMA's outreach efforts to connect the County with MWBEs should be adequately supported.

Another key finding is that white female business owners have been the largest benefactor of the MWBE program, making up nearly 40% of registrants.

MWBE's should also be encouraged to participate in the online bidding and RFP processes through County agencies. Research indicates that over the last 10 years, there has been low MWBE success in the bidding process. Of the top 20 awarded capital contracts, only two were awarded to MWBEs. However, both were awarded to companies owned by white women.

Source: Nassau County Office of Minority

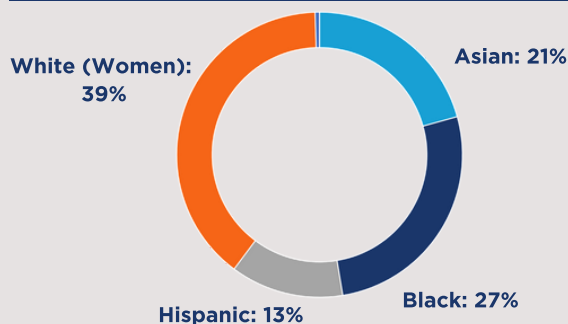
### Office of Minority Affairs MWBE Registrations

977

162

Total in History    Active Registrants

### MWBE Racial Breakdown



## DISPARITY STUDY

Local governments conduct disparity studies to demonstrate statistically significant disparities in contract participation in order to create MWBE aspirational goals to redress potential marketplace discrimination and survive potential challenges under the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment. The County has not conducted a disparity study since 2003. The cost is the main barrier to conducting an up to date disparity study in Nassau County.