

Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health Disparity Study Frequently Asked Questions



The Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health (“Central Health”) is conducting a Disparity Study about its utilization of Minority and Women Business Enterprises (“M/WBEs”) and Historically Underutilized Businesses (“HUBs”). This research project will examine whether all firms have equal access to contracting opportunities on Central Health’s prime contracts and associated subcontracts and recommend strategies to ensure full and fair competition in Central Health contracting.

What is a “Disparity Study”?

A disparity study involves compilation of evidence to determine whether Central Health has a strong basis for implementing race- and gender-conscious contracting remedies for its contracts. This includes statistical evidence of disparities, if any, between the availability of M/WBE and HUB firms and their utilization on Central Health contracts and related subcontracts, and throughout the Austin area economy as a whole.

The study will further examine factors necessary for entrepreneurial success, such as access to business capital, bonding, networks, suppliers, etc. The study also will gather anecdotal evidence of any continuing effects of past or present race and sex discrimination. The study will review Central Health’s current policies and activities and make recommendations for future initiatives and enhancements.

Who is conducting the study?

Colette Holt & Associates (CHA), a nationally recognized expert team on disparity studies and M/WBE and HUB programs.

How can business owners and other interested parties be involved?

There are two ways business owners can support the study. First, the study team will contact businesses to confirm information on specific contracts and/or to receive additional contract information that is currently not available to Central Health. The study team will also conduct interviews with business owners to collect information regarding discriminatory barriers and Central Health’s policies.

How will business owner interviews be conducted and how do I participate?

CHA will host small group interviews of business owners.

Interested parties who would like to provide input to the study are encouraged to submit written statements at the study email: centralhealth-study@mwbelaw.com.

When will the study be completed?

The study is anticipated to be completed by early 2022.

Where can I find additional information?

For additional information, visit the study website at centralhealth.disparity-study.com.

Who do I contact with questions?

You may contact the study team via centralhealth-study@mwbelaw.com or you may contact:

Monica Montes
Business Process Consultant
512.978.8082
Monica.Montes@centralhealth.net