



Department Source: Economic Development

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 8, 2020

Re: Professional Services Agreement with Consultant Jim Whitt for Supplier Diversity Program Services.

## Executive Summary

Pursuant to the City Manager's recommendation as outlined in the FY21 Budget document, staff has prepared a Professional Services Agreement for Consultant Jim Whitt to continue his work in developing a comprehensive program to assist disadvantaged business enterprises, including minority and women owned businesses in the mid-Missouri region.

## Discussion

As identified in the FY21 Budget document, City management has proposed moving the Supplier Diversity Program from the City Manager's office to the Economic Development Department. The move to this department will prove very beneficial to the program as it provides great synergy with a team that is dedicated to bringing new businesses to our community, fostering entrepreneurship and growing startups, as well as maintaining a strong business ecosystem.

Supplier Diversity adds the focus on minority and women owned businesses to our business ecosystem, and provides more administrative resources for Supplier Diversity to utilize. The move will also help build closer working relationships with the Missouri Women's Business Center, the regional Small Business Administration office, and the University of Missouri Extension/Procurement Technical Assistance Center – all of which are located at REDI.

As the Consultant, Jim will serve as a resource for business development and employment of socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. He will provide advocacy, oversight and administration of programs to assist, maintain and grow the number of companies listed in the COMO Minority and Women Owned Business Directory, and encourage local businesses to utilize these companies in their procurement practices. Jim will also work with community partners to recommend best practices and develop a more robust program focused on reducing economic disparity for minority and women owned businesses and individuals so they may compete in government and private sector opportunities.

It is extremely important for long-term economic recovery to be inclusive of all segments of our business community. Accordingly, making Supplier Diversity an integral part of our ecosystem is a significant part of that success. The term of the agreement shall be completed by September 30, 2021, unless the Parties agree otherwise, in writing.



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Annual Professional Services Agreement is \$36,000

Long-Term Impact: The term of the agreement is for one (1) year.

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Economy, Tertiary Impact: Operational Excellence

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Economic Development, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

## Legislative History

	None

## Suggested Council Action

Authorize the City Manager to execute the Professional Services Agreement with Consultant Jim Whitt for Supplier Diversity Program Services.