

December 26, 2023



Talia Baker  
CPARB\PRC Program Specialist  
Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES)  
PO Box 41401  
Olympia, WA 98504-1401  
Email: [cparb@des.wa.gov](mailto:cparb@des.wa.gov)

**RE: INQUIRY INTO STATE AND FEDERAL FUND ALLOCATION FOR MINORITY AND DISADVANTAGED ENTERPRISES - CPARB / PRC**

Dear Talia Baker,

We are the National Minority Business Advisory Council (MBAC), a 501(c)(4) headquartered in Washington State, King County, positioned as a unifying voice in Washington State for minority business enterprises (MBEs) on policy and public procurement reform. The mission of MBAC is to engage, inform, and empower MBEs to achieve public contract equity by increasing awareness of public procurement inequities, advancing action that invokes accountability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 for those municipalities that receive Federal funds, and finally, assisting minority business advocacy efforts that promote fair and equal opportunity for our historically disadvantaged communities of color, both regionally and nationally.

We are reaching out on behalf of all small business in Washington State owned and operated by persons of color. MBAC is requesting detailed information regarding the distribution and utilization of state and federal funds. As part of our mission to advance public contract equity, we seek a comprehensive understanding of how the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) and Project Review Committee (PRC), has allocated state and federal funds, as well as funded efforts, that have combined funds of both federal and state funding during the timeline of the past seven state fiscal years.

Our request is specifically focused on the procurement efforts, oversight, and contract information related to CPARB and PRC. It is crucial for our analysis to understand how CPARB and PRC's contracting methods have been utilized and their impact on minority businesses and equitable procurement practices.

Therefore, we officially request:

1. A detailed summary of the state and federal funds received by The Washington State Department of Enterprise Services Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) and Project Review Committee (PRC), broken down by year for the past seven years.
2. An explicit breakdown of these funds in terms of their allocation, especially the percentage and amounts invested in programs or contracts involving minorities, MBEs, and other historically underrepresented state-certified business groups.
3. Copies of any reports, analyses, or impact assessments that illustrate the effectiveness of such investments in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the state's economic and business spheres.
4. Specific data on CPARB and PRC's activities, including a breakdown of contracts awarded through alternative public works contracting methods (Design-Build, GC/CM, and JOC), categorized by the type of contracting for the past seven years. Information on the participation of minority-owned businesses in these contracts and the outcomes related to equitable procurement practices. Any available reports or assessments that evaluate the fairness, openness, and impact of CPARB and PRC's contracting processes on small and minority businesses.

The purpose of this request is to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which mandates non-discrimination in all programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. As per the Title VI Reformation Act

of 1987 and the 2001 U.S. Department of Justice Title VI Legal Manual, it is imperative that all entities receiving federal funds demonstrate a commitment to equity and non-discrimination that would or whose outcome creates "Disparate Impacts".

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request and we are at the ready to comply with any procedural requirements necessary for accessing this information. Your cooperation is paramount to our mission, and we look forward to your comprehensive response.

Thank you for your dedication to these important issues of true economic equity and inclusion for our historically economically disadvantaged communities of color.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Lemos". The signature is stylized with a large initial "F" and a cursive "Lemos".

Frank Lemos, President  
National Minority Business Advisory Council (MBAC)  
1-800-646-4008

CC:

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**(BCC: Project Review Committee Member List, Capital Projects Advisory Review Board, Tabor 100, Black Collective, NAMC, WA State CRC)**

**From:** [Goldes, Harold \(DES\)](#)  
**To:** [Baker, Talia \(DES\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: DES PRR 23 0418 to 0421  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:24:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [MBAC Letter DES CPARB 12262023.pdf](#)

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**From:** Goldes, Harold (DES)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2024 00:00  
**To:** 'correspondence@nmbac.org' <correspondence@nmbac.org>  
**Subject:** RE: DES PRR 23 0418 to 0421

Good evening Mr. Lemos- I am writing to follow up on your recent public records request (which is attached for reference). In this first response I would like to point out that a substantial number of CPARB records you have requested are available on the CPARB website. Notable examples include:

TOPIC/ DETAILS	LINK
Task Force & Committee Archives	<a href="https://des.wa.gov/about/committees-groups/capital-projects-advisory-review-board-cparb/task-force-committee-archiv">https://des.wa.gov/about/committees-groups/capital-projects-advisory-review-board-cparb/task-force-committee-archiv</a>
CPARB Meeting Archives	<a href="https://des.wa.gov/about/committees-groups/capital-projects-advisory-review-board-cparb/capital-projects-advisory-review-board-meeting-archives">https://des.wa.gov/about/committees-groups/capital-projects-advisory-review-board-cparb/capital-projects-advisory-review-board-meeting-archives</a>
Project Review Committee (PRC) / Statistics 2007 to 2023 and Inclusion plans	<a href="https://des.wa.gov/about/committees-groups/project-review-committee-prc">https://des.wa.gov/about/committees-groups/project-review-committee-prc</a>

However you may have interests not covered by these. We intend to provide additional records based on your response and guidance. For now, please take a moment to review these publicly available documents. If these do not address your interest, please contact me at your convenience so that we may focus on any additional topics of interest.

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**From:** Goldes, Harold (DES)  
**Sent:** Friday, December 29, 2023 16:07  
**To:** [correspondence@nmbac.org](mailto:correspondence@nmbac.org)  
**Subject:** DES PRR 23 0418 to 0421

**DES PRR 23 0418**  
**DES PRR 23 0419**  
**DES PRR 23 0420**  
**DES PRR 23 0421**

This is an acknowledgment of your public records request attached for reference and summarized in a table for tracking purposes below.

Our request is specifically focused on the procurement efforts, oversight, and contract information related to CPARB and PRC. It is crucial for our analysis to understand how CPARB and PRC’s contracting methods have been utilized and their impact on minority businesses and equitable procurement practices.	
<b>TRACKING</b>	<b>DETAIL</b>
23- 0418	A detailed summary of the state and federal funds received by The Washington State Department of Enterprise Services Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) and Project Review Committee (PRC), broken down by year for the past seven years.
23- 0419	An explicit breakdown of these funds in terms of their allocation, especially the percentage and amounts invested in programs or contracts involving minorities, MBEs, and other historically underrepresented state certified business groups.
23- 0420	Copies of any reports, analyses, or impact assessments that illustrate the effectiveness of such investments in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the state’s economic and business spheres.
23- 0421	Specific data on CPARB and PRC’s activities, including a breakdown of contracts awarded through alternative public works contracting methods (Design-Build, GC/CM, and JOC), categorized by the type of contracting for the past seven years. Information on the participation of minority-owned businesses in these contracts and the outcomes related to equitable procurement practices. Any available reports or assessments that evaluate the fairness, openness, and impact of CPARB and PRC’s contracting processes on small and minority businesses.

Based on the information in this request, our current estimate is that we will contact you on or before February 2, 2024 to provide either (i) any responsive records DES has located at that time plus applicable charges or (ii) a revised estimate of when responsive records will be available.

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