

# California Public Utilities Commission

## GO 156 – CPUCs Supplier Diversity Program



California Public  
Utilities Commission

# Business & Community Outreach

- Our office leads CPUC's effort to help educate and inform our communities, local government, and businesses to make smart energy and telecommunication choices. We also promote CPUC's policies of diversity and the State's policy of encouraging the involvement of small business in utility and State procurement.
- Our goal is to create and foster sound relationships with our customers to allow two-way communication enabling us to implement the CPUC's policies externally and help shape policy internally.
  - To achieve this goal, our Outreach Officers partner with:
    - Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
      - Local Government
    - Local Business Groups (e.g. Chambers of Commerce)
      - Diverse Organizations

# CPUC Supplier Diversity Program

Public Utilities Code (PU Code) §§ 366.2 (m), 910.3, and 8283:

- Requires utilities and electric service providers to submit annual plans to increase procurement from women, minority, disabled veteran, LGBT, and persons with disabilities business enterprises (diverse suppliers) in all categories; and annual implementation reports.
- Requires community choice aggregators (CCA) to annually submit plans to increase procurement from small, local, and diverse businesses in all categories; and diverse supplier procurement reports.
- Encourages cable television and direct broadcast satellite providers, wholesale power generators, distributed energy resource contractors, and energy storage system companies to adopt plans to increase procurement from diverse suppliers.
- Requires the CPUC to annually report to the legislature on utilities' diverse supplier procurement performance.

# CPUC Supplier Diversity Program

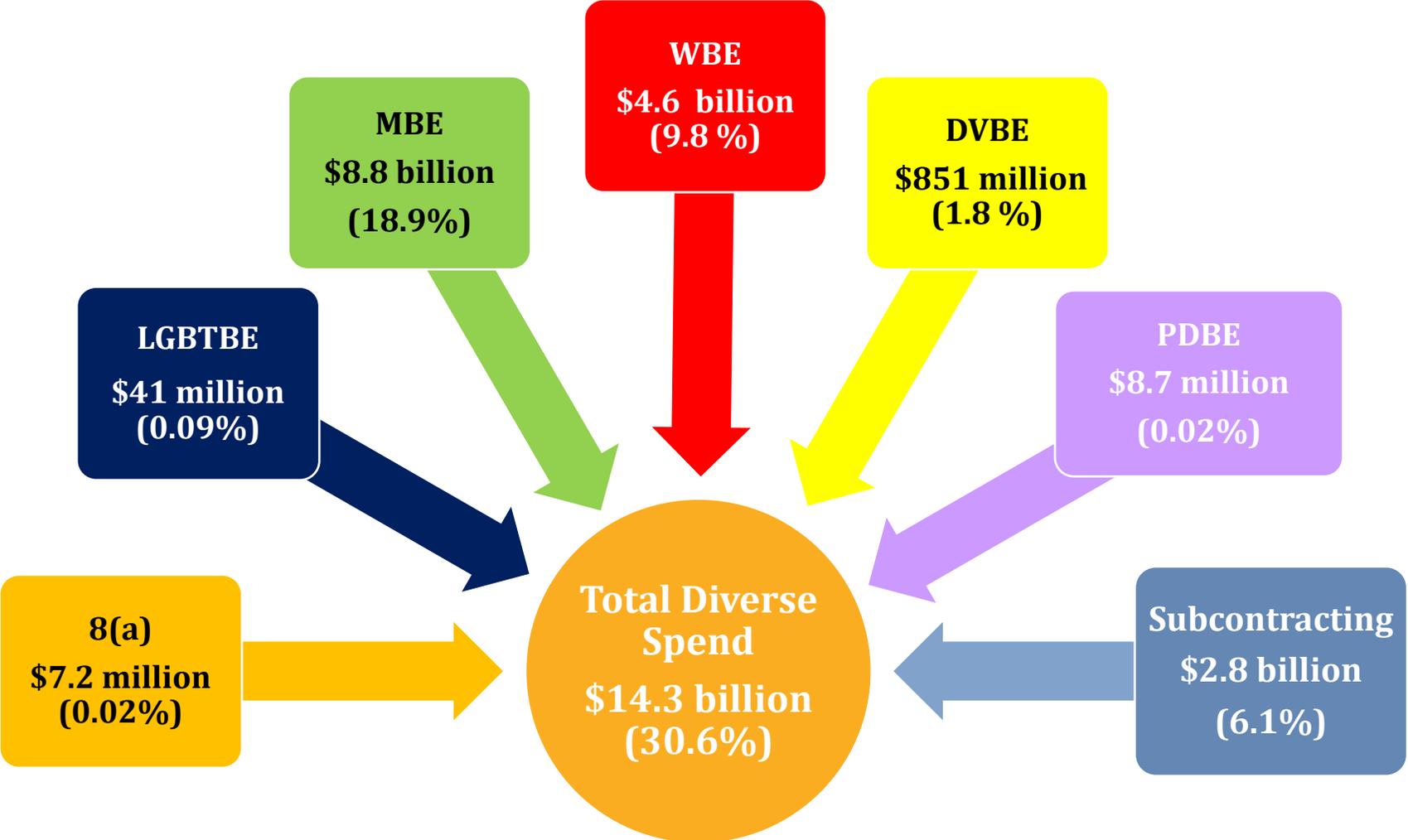
- General Order (GO) 156 provides the framework for the CPUC Supplier Diversity Program.
  - In April 2022, Decision 22-04-035 revised GO 156 to add Senate Bill 255 (Bradford, Stat. 2019, Ch. 407) amendments and requirements; to set a voluntary procurement goal for LGBTBE; to add a new group of business enterprise: Persons with Disabilities Business Enterprise; to adopt workforce and board diversity reporting requirements; and to make other program revisions.
  - The revised GO 156 provides voluntary procurement goals of 15% from minority business enterprises (MBE), 5% from women business enterprises (WBE), 1.5% from disabled veteran business enterprises (DVBE), and from LGBT business enterprises (LGBTBE), 0.5% for 2022, 1.0% for 2023, and 1.5% for 2024 and beyond.

# CPUC Supplier Diversity Program

## Utility Subcontracting Program

- CPUC General Order 156 also governs the Subcontracting Program for all energy, telephone and water company utilities.
- “Each Utility shall establish and maintain a subcontracting program for the purpose of encouraging its prime contractors to utilize Women, Minority, Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (diverse suppliers) Subcontractors. Each Utility shall include in its annual report to the Commission a summary of Prime contractor progress in increasing the participation of WMDVBE subcontractors.”

# 2022 Utilities diverse suppliers Procurement Overview



# CPUC Supplier Diversity Program

## Get Certified

The CPUC encourages businesses owned by women, minorities, disabled veterans, LGBT, and persons with disabilities to get certified. Certification is free and there is no fee to apply or participate in the verification process. Qualified applicants are entered in a supplier database accessed by participating utilities throughout the state. Generally, certification is granted within 30 days of receiving the application and is valid for three years.

# CPUC Supplier Diversity Program

## Why is Certification Important?

- Utilities can only include purchases with CPUC certified diverse suppliers in its annual filings.
- Provides third party verification of ownership/control of businesses and protects both the supplier and the utility
- Most Utilities utilize the CPUC Clearinghouse database when searching for diversity suppliers to include in bid opportunities
- Local, regional and national referrals of minority, women, disabled veteran, LGBT, and person with disabilities owned businesses among utilities.
- Access to utility sponsored educational/business development seminars, workshops, business development training.

# CPUC Supplier Diversity Program

## SUPPLIER CLEARINGHOUSE

- Suppliers need to be certified by the Clearinghouse (CHS) to participate in the Supplier Diversity Program
- Eligibility criteria: At least 51% owned and controlled by diverse business enterprises

For applications and more information contact the clearinghouse at:

**[www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com](http://www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com)**

or

**Call (800) 359-7998**

# Participating Utilities



# Participating Community Choice Aggregators



# Participating Energy Service Providers



**Questions?**





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