

# King County Disparity Study Frequently Asked Questions



King County is conducting a Disparity Study to ensure that minority- and woman-owned business enterprises (“M/WBEs”) have equal access to County prime and subcontracting opportunities.

## **What is a “Disparity Study”?**

A disparity study involves compilation of evidence to determine whether King County 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/WBEs and their utilization on County contracts and related subcontracts, and throughout the 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 the County’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 programs. CHA has worked on multiple projects for Washington agencies. CHA will partner with local subconsultants Yates Consulting and WindGypsy Consulting on this study.

## **How can business owners and other interested parties be involved?**

The participation of business owners and other interested parties such as trade associations, advocacy groups, community organizations, etc., is critical to the study’s outcomes in two important ways. 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 the County. Second, the study team will conduct interviews with business owners to collect information regarding any discriminatory barriers and County’s contracting and procurement policies.

CHA will host small group interviews of business owners and industry and community partners. Interested parties who are unable to attend the meetings or the interviews but who would like to provide input to the study are encouraged to submit written statements at the study email:

[kingcounty-study@mwbelaw.com](mailto:kingcounty-study@mwbelaw.com)

CHA will also conduct an electronic survey of business owners.

## **When will the study be completed?**

The study is anticipated to be completed by first quarter of 2024.

## **Where can I find additional information?**

For additional information, visit the study website at:

[kingcounty.disparity-study.com](http://kingcounty.disparity-study.com)

## **Who do I contact with questions?**

You may contact the study team via [kingcounty-study@mwbelaw.com](mailto:kingcounty-study@mwbelaw.com) or you may contact:

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[kgarcia@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kgarcia@kingcounty.gov).