



# Some Grants for Minority Business Owners

By Chantal Towles

Minorities are choosing entrepreneurship in leaps and bounds. The pool of minority business owners includes members of the African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American ethnic groups. According to the SBA, this number rose to 14.6 percent in 2012 in part because of the growing Hispanic population in the US.

As with their non-minority counterparts, proper access to funding is crucial for the creation, growth, and sustainability of their businesses. Although minority business ownership is growing, there continue to be great disparities in their access to business funding. In their effort to even the playing field, minority business owners continue to search for various funding resources.

## Federal Grants

As part of their quest for funding, the first choice for minority business owners is to seek out grants. The belief that there are federal grants available for the start up and growth phases for small businesses is

a myth. The federal government does not provide grants to businesses for start up, expansion, to cover operational expenses, or to pay off debts. However, there are federal grants available in the areas of research in the fields of medicine, scientific research, education, and technology development. Below are a few such grants. You may find other federal grants at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

**Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer**—This grant is for the purpose of funding small business projects that are research related. Research areas include the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration. See a full list of program descriptions and research topics allowed on their site: [www.sbir.nih.gov/funding](http://www.sbir.nih.gov/funding)

**USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program**—The purpose of this grant is to finance the development of small and emerging businesses in rural areas. The amount of the award ranges from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Visit [www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants)



## Corporate Grants

We have also included a list of some grants available to black and minority owned businesses.

**FedEx Small Business Grant Contest**—The FedEx Small Business Grant awards ten different

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**Railroad Construction Company, Inc.**  
Contractors - Engineers  
Est. 1926

**NYCTA Mechanical Closure Devices**  
Contract #E-31689

Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is preparing a bid proposal for the NYCTA F11/Mechanical Closure Devices project. The scope of work includes installation of flood proof doors and floor drains, sealing of conduits in manholes, and installation of mechanical closure devices and watertight access hatches at various locations in Manhattan and Queens. Quotes from DBE and non-DBE vendors, suppliers and subcontractors are being sought.

**Bid Date:** July 7, 2016  
**DBE Participation Goal:** 17%

**Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is seeking vendors, suppliers and subcontractors in the following categories:**

- Aggregates
- Concrete and Concrete Work
- Construction Materials
- Contaminated Waste Disposal
- Demolition
- Doors and Hardware
- Electrical
- Engineering
- Environmental Consulting
- Flood Control
- Grating
- Masonry
- Materials Testing and Inspection
- Painting and Coating
- Pest Control
- Photography
- Plumbing
- Rebar
- Restoration
- Sealants /Waterproofing
- Stairs and Ladders
- Structural Steel and Misc. Metals
- Survey
- Traffic Control
- Trucking

For more information please contact  
Dale Errico at 973-413-1832 or Catherine Best at 973-413-1911  
[mwdbe@rcmail.net](mailto:mwdbe@rcmail.net)  
Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is an EEO/ AA Employer

**SKANSKA**  
SKANSKA USA CIVIL

IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM  
NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED DBE SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS  
Design and Construction of Clifton Shop in Staten Island, New York  
MTA New York City Transit Contract No. C-82004  
Bid Date: July 12, 2016

**Description of project:**  
This project consists of the design and construction of a new rail car maintenance shop, approximately 93,300 square feet, to replace the existing multiple building facilities currently in use. The existing buildings comprising the current maintenance shop located at 845 Bay Street are to be demolished in phases under this contract so that maintenance activities can continue throughout the period of construction. The new Clifton Shop facility shall include four maintenance tracks with overhead cranes, wheel truing machine, DC power stringer system, and other maintenance-related equipment. It shall also include auxiliary spaces on the first floor for utility rooms, machine shop, and a carpenter shop; offices on the partial mezzanine floor; administrative offices, area locker rooms, and other support areas on the second floor; a supply room, storage area, and related offices on the partial third floor; and HVAC equipment on the roof.

**Subcontracting opportunities include, but are not limited to:** Demolition, Utilities, Sidewalk, Fencing, Trackwork, Metals, Masonry, Drywall, Acoustical Ceilings, Doors, Roofing, Paint, Signs, Tile, Shop Equipment, Elevators, HVAC, Plumbing, Fire Protection, Electrical Work, Trailers, Photographs, etc.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: [Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com](mailto:Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com)

**Railroad Construction Company, Inc.**  
Contractors - Engineers  
Est. 1926

**NYCTA Above Grade Facility Hardening**  
Contract #E-31683

Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is preparing a bid proposal for the NYCTA Above Grade Facility Hardening project consisting of flood mitigation / hardening measures at five fan plant locations in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. The scope of work includes fortification of existing buildings, installation of new cladding and roofing mitigation systems, selective demolition, construction of new foundations, cast-in-place and precast concrete structures, steel framing and strengthening of existing structural elements. Quotes from DBE and non-DBE vendors, suppliers and subcontractors are being sought.

**Bid Date:** June 30, 2016  
**DBE Participation Goal:** 17%

**Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is seeking vendors, suppliers and subcontractors in the following categories:**

- Aggregates
- Construction Materials
- Contaminated Waste Disposal
- Demolition
- Doors and Hardware
- Drainage
- Electrical
- Engineering
- Environmental Consulting
- Flood Control
- Glass / Glazing / Storefront
- Grouting
- HVAC
- Landscaping
- Louvers and Vents
- Masonry
- Materials Testing and Inspection
- Metal Decking
- Painting and Coating
- Pest Control
- Photography
- Precast Concrete
- Plumbing
- Restoration
- Roofing
- Sealants /Waterproofing
- Structural Concrete and Reinforcement
- Structural Steel and Misc. Metals
- Survey
- Traffic Control
- Trucking
- Utilities

For more information please contact  
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