



## FACT SHEET

### **What is a Disparity Study?**

A Disparity Study (“Study”) is an evaluation of the procurement and contracting practices of a governmental entity (i.e. school board, city, county, state, etc.), and its prime contractors/professional consultants particularly in their use of minority and women-owned business enterprises. Under *Richmond v. Croson*, the U.S. Supreme Court requires public entities desirous of utilizing race conscious remedies to show, through a factual predicate, that there is a compelling governmental interest to do so. The disparity study is utilized to develop the factual predicate.

### **Who is sponsoring the Study?**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

### **What is the purpose of the Study?**

The purpose of the study is to show whether there is a compelling government interest in utilizing race and gender-conscious remedies and how to narrowly tailor any such remedies to any discrimination found. This determination will be determined through several analysis, including a robust statistical analysis consistent with current legal requirements. The Study will determine if a statistical disparity exists in the award of Miami-Dade County Public Schools contracts to minority and women owned businesses (M/WBEs) compared to M/WBEs who are ready, willing, and able to provide goods and services to the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

### **What guidelines exist to help direct the Study?**

The Study will be guided by the United States Supreme Court’s 1989 decision in *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.*, 488 U.S. 469 (1989), its progeny, and other relevant court cases applicable to the Eleventh Circuit.

### **Why has The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida decided to conduct the Study?**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida has decided to conduct the Study to accomplish the following:

- ✓ Identify best practices that will help the District build business programs to stimulate the economic growth of local businesses; and
- ✓ Increase participation of minority and women-owned business enterprises on the School’s contracts.

### **Who is conducting the Disparity Study?**

Miller<sup>3</sup> Consulting, Inc., a national expert in conducting disparity studies based in Atlanta, Georgia, is conducting the Study. M<sup>3</sup> Consulting is reviewing the District's contract records, identifying market area businesses, interviewing key managers, and collect anecdotal accounts from business owners.

### **How does The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida benefit from a Disparity Study?**

Three benefits to the District are:

1. Identify best practices to improve the District's contracting process;
2. Increase number of M/WBE bidders on the District's contracts; and
3. Lower the District's procurement costs.

### **How will The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida identify available businesses?**

The District's consultant, Miller<sup>3</sup> Consulting, Inc., is conducting a thorough data collection process. The District's contract and payment records, certification lists, business licenses, Dun & Bradstreet data, Census data, will be used to help identify available businesses.

### **What industries are being studied?**

The District is conducting a comprehensive study that will cover:

- Construction, and construction and design-related professional services;
- Other services, including non-technical services;
- Professional and technical services; and,
- Goods and Supplies.

### **What is the time period that will be studied?**

- For Construction, and construction and design-related professional services—FY 2013—FY 2018;
- For Goods and Supplies, Other Services and Professional and technical services—FY 2016—FY 2018.

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

The Districts anticipates the completion of the Disparity Study in July 2019.

### **How can local business owners get involved?**

Local business owners can get involved in several ways.

- ✓ Participate in a one-on-one business owner personal interview conducted either in person or via telephone
- ✓ Participate in scheduled meetings – focus groups or public forum
- ✓ Complete a business owner survey
- ✓ Provide membership lists from local business and trade associations, upon request

**Who should business owners contact to get additional information?**

Miller3 Consulting, Inc., can be contacted by telephone at (404) 827-9019 or by email at [info@miller3group.com](mailto:info@miller3group.com).

Miami Dade County School Board Office of Economic Opportunity can be contacted by telephone at (305) 995-1307 or by email at [oeo@dadeschools.net](mailto:oeo@dadeschools.net).