June 3, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR DHS AGENCY AND OFFICE LEADERS

FROM: Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary

SUBJECT: Small Business Inclusion

Since the inception of our Department, small businesses have served a vital role in our many missions, providing innovative solutions and adapting quickly to complex problems. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, so we are proud that our small business contracting has yielded award-winning results year after year. We must, however, do more to support small business participation, including by encouraging new entrants to federal contracting and providing outreach to businesses in underserved communities.

Maximizing small business participation is critical not only to the Department’s success, but the success of government as a whole. This is a major goal of the President’s Management Agenda, Priority Area 3 - Managing the Business of Government to Build Back Better - which Deputy Secretary Tien is co-leading with the Deputies from the Departments of Commerce and Health and Human Services. Small businesses offer DHS access to accelerated technology, a broader industrial base, a stronger supply chain, and diversity in capability and perspective that encourages innovation, agility, and affordability.

Across DHS, I ask every senior executive whose office or program is involved in the development of requirements, funding, and/or acquisition of products and services to help advance small business inclusion. This includes small businesses owned by women, socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and groups, service-disabled veterans, and firms located in historically underutilized business zones. Promoting these businesses also promotes equity, consistent with the aims of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government.

Through your leadership, we will surpass the DHS Fiscal Year 2022 Small and Disadvantaged Business prime contract goal of 17 percent—a significant increase from prior years. The DHS Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, your Office or Agency small business specialists, and the DHS procurement community stand ready to assist you in meeting and exceeding your FY 2022 Office- or Agency-specific small business goals. I encourage you to leverage the expertise of these professionals as we strive to ensure that diversity and equity are appropriately prioritized in our procurement process.

www.dhs.gov