



The Howard County Local Business Initiative



“The Local Business Initiative promotes the growth and success of local businesses and increases the percentage of County procurement dollars flowing to local businesses.”

Allan H. Kittleman
Howard County Executive

Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman signed an Executive Order on November 4, 2015, creating the Local Business Initiative. The action was to give a “fair chance” to local businesses that want to bid on and participate in government projects. Recognizing that local businesses are a pivotal driver in the Howard County economy, Executive Kittleman wanted to make sure that whenever possible, Howard County Government procurement dollars should be spent to support them.

What is a “local business?”

A local business is defined as an applicant that maintains its principal place of business in Howard County. If your business meets this eligibility criterion, you should certify with Howard County as a local business.

What are the benefits?

- Howard County Departments and agencies are encouraged to select from local businesses when purchasing goods or services that are under \$10,000.
- The Howard County Office of Purchasing will notify certified local businesses of solicitations for goods or services valued at \$10,000 or more, as the Office deems appropriate.
- Recipients of Howard County grants are encouraged to spend those grant funds with certified local businesses when purchasing goods or services.
- Solicitations conducted under the formal competitive sealed proposals procurement method may contain an evaluation factor for a local business, when appropriate, based on the goods or services being procured, as the Office determines.

How do you register your business?

Visit www.howardcountymd.gov/LocalBusinessInitiative.htm to download a brief certification application.

**For more information contact the Howard County
Office of Purchasing by email at Purchasing@howardcountymd.gov**