



DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES  
CITY OF CHICAGO

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**GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT COMPLIANCE FORUM HOSTS 2016 VENDOR FAIR**

*Procurement Event Promotes Continued Transparency, Increased Competition and Participation*

The Government Procurement Compliance (GPC) Forum, a strategic partnership of over 30 government agencies and non-profit assist agencies representing small business, hosted the 2016 Vendor Fair this Wednesday, May 25, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the UIC Forum in Chicago, IL. The City of Chicago Department of Procurement Services (DPS) had hosted this event for the past six years, and this year had expanding to include more information and resources for the vendor community. The GPC Forum was created under the leadership of Mayor Rahm Emanuel in January 2014 to drive bold, cross-agency improvements to make the region a benchmark for procurement, certification, and compliance processes that are streamlined, standardized, equitable and transparent.

“The GPC Forum is an example of the importance of collaboration with other government agencies to make an impact on the regional economy and the City of Chicago,” said Mayor Emanuel, “Creating a world-class procurement process is an important step in our larger goal of supporting our small businesses and creating jobs in all of our communities.”

This year’s Vendor Fair included several new resources for the vendor community. 100 exhibitors were featured, comprising government agency departments sharing upcoming contracting opportunities and non-profit assist agencies providing advocacy, training and resources for business. Additionally, this year’s Vendor Fair featured exhibitors with information about labor and employment issues, resources for veterans, and financial institutions that offer innovative programs, especially for small businesses. At previous events, over 1,000 individuals representing hundreds of companies, suppliers and manufacturers pre-registered for the event, seeking information on hundreds of projects of all sizes and dollar amounts.

“Outreach events like the Vendor Fair ensures continued fairness and transparency of the procurement process by hosting multiple agencies under one roof so attendees can have direct access with staff to ask questions regarding upcoming opportunities,” said Chief Procurement Officer Jamie L. Rhee, “We want every business to have the right tools for success and be empowered to compete for, and earn, City contracts.”

In addition to learning about contracting opportunities with government agencies, attendees had the opportunity to attend curated workshops comprised of a diverse selection of topics such as: Doing Business with City, County, and Chicago Housing Authority, Access to Capital, Insight to Doing Business with Transit & Transportation Agencies, and many more.

To help vendors plan ahead, the City issued a Consolidated Buying Plan. This special edition of the Buying Plan builds on the original City of Chicago Buying Plan and includes the upcoming contracting opportunities for the City as well as 12 additional government purchasing entities including: Chicago Board of Elections,

City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Transit Authority, Public Building Commission, Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, Cook County, Forest Preserves of Cook County, Illinois Tollway, and the State of Illinois. The City has issued 12 editions of the Buying Plan including 3 that are combined with multiple agencies.

Outreach events like the Vendor Fair ensure continued fairness and transparency of the procurement process by having staff available to answer questions regarding upcoming opportunities.

This event is the latest in a series of efforts made by Mayor Emanuel to maintain transparency and increase opportunity for small businesses and MBEs/WBEs. These initiatives include the MBE/WBE Mentorship Program, Diversity Credit Program, the Small Business Initiative, and the Graduation Phase-out Program for MBEs/WBEs.

For more information on all upcoming outreach events and to download the current Buying Plan, visit [www.2016vendorfair.com](http://www.2016vendorfair.com).

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