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## Sec. 10A-164.01. Mentor-Protégé Program authorized.

- (a) The Director of Central Services is authorized to establish a program (in this Subtitle, "Mentor-Protégé Program") whereby a contractor (in this Section, "mentor contractor") may be required, as a condition of qualification of a bid or proposal for a procurement authorized under this Subtitle, to participate as a mentor in the Mentor-Protégé Program in accordance with this Section ("Mentor-Protégé Program Requirement"). The Director of Central Services may impose a Mentor-Protégé Program Requirement on a procurement by procurement basis, a broader requirement on multiple procurements, or on procurements by industry area.
- (1) **Mentor Protégé Program Requirement.** A mentor contractor shall comply with all of the following to participate as a mentor in the Mentor-Protégé Program:
- (A) The mentor contractor shall enter into a written mentor-protégé agreement approved by the Director of Central Services (in this Section, "mentor agreement") with specific County-based small businesses or County-based minority business enterprises to develop their capacity in becoming self-sufficient, competitive, and profitable business enterprises through joint venture entities, prime and subcontractor relationships, bonding and financial support, or other partnerships approved by the Director of Central Services;
- (B) The County-based small businesses or County-based minority business enterprises, or combination thereof, that have entered into the mentor agreement as protégés, for a procurement with a Mentor-Protégé Program Requirement, shall self-perform at least twenty (20) percent of the value of the procurement; and
- (C) The mentor contractor shall comply with the terms of the mentor agreement.
- (2) The Director of Central Services shall have power to enter into service and reimbursement agreements with associations of local businesses, local, state and federal small and minority business assistance offices, and other organizations that provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of County-based small businesses or County-based minority business enterprises, pertaining to the provision of training and related assistance to current or prospective County-based small businesses and County-based minority business enterprises. The Director of Central Services shall also have power to enter into cooperative agreements with non-county agencies and entities for the inclusion of additional procurement activities in the Mentor-Protégé Program.
- (3) The Director of Central Services may rescind any procurement award authorized under this Subtitle with a Mentor-Protégé Program Requirement where the Director of Central Services determines that the participating mentor contractor has failed to comply with the terms of the mentor agreement.
- (b) The Director of Central Services is authorized to adopt rules and regulations for the proper administration and enforcement of this Section, including regulations governing mentor agreements, participating contractors, and the related procurements.

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