



# Mentor- Protégé Program (FAQ's) Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What is the purpose of the Mentor-Protégé Program?

The program connects small businesses with experienced mentors to build capacity, strengthen skills, and compete more effectively for Orange County contracting opportunities.

## 2. Who can participate in the program?

Eligible participants include established businesses (Mentors) and certified Small Business Enterprises (Protégés) that are active vendors in good standing with Orange County.

## 3. How do I apply?

Businesses must complete an online application as either a Mentor or Protégé. Applications are reviewed by the Business Development Division.

## 4. How are Mentors and Protégés matched?

Matches are made based on industry, availability and business development goals. The Business Development Division coordinates the matching process.

## 5. How long is the program?

The program lasts 12 months and requires an ongoing commitment from both Mentors and Protégés.

## 6. What are the program requirements?

Participants must meet at least twice per month, follow a mentorship action plan, and complete required program activities, including workshops for Protégés.

## 7. Are there bonus points or preferences in County solicitations?

No. The program does not provide preference or bonus points in County solicitations at this time.

## 8. What are the benefits of participating?

Mentors can strengthen their subcontractor pipeline and build industry relationships, while Protégés gain guidance, business development support and increased readiness to compete for County contracts.

## 9. When can businesses apply?

Applications are accepted year-round.