

2025 City of Indianapolis Disparity Study - Mid Term Progress Updates (as of January 2025)

<p><b>Community engagement</b></p>	<p>The project team's community engagement tasks consist of both informational and engagement efforts. Shortly after project initiation, on June 18, 2024, BBC conducted two public meetings to inform the public of the disparity study, answer questions related to the study, and to collect any verbal testimony attendees wished to provide. The project team also set up a webpage dedicated to the disparity study, which is hosted on the City's website, and contains information about the study and how to participate. BBC also set up an email address dedicated to the study (indydisparity@bbcresearch.com) to allow community members to contact the study team directly with any questions about the study or to send any written testimony about their experiences working in the Indianapolis area. On January 7, 2025, BBC gave an in-person mid-term presentation for the study, which included updates on study progress and an overview of the quantitative analyses of marketplace conditions. Attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions about the study and to provide any testimony they wished to share.</p>
<p><b>Legal framework and analysis</b></p>	<p>BBC and Holland &amp; Knight, the legal consultant for the study, held a meeting with City, municipal corporation (MC)*, and Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) staff and legal counsel on July 24, 2024. The project team has also begun to develop the legal framework and analysis for the study, which will be included in the disparity study report.</p>
<p><b>Review of contracting procedures and program measures</b></p>	<p>BBC reviewed the measures that the City, MCs, and IPS each use to encourage the participation of small businesses, as well as person-of-color-, woman-, veteran-, and disabled-owned businesses in their respective contracting and procurement. BBC reviewed relevant ordinances, purchasing policies, and the Office of Minority and Women Business Development's Business Utilization Plan. A summary review of these materials will be included in the disparity study report.</p>
<p><b>Data assessment and collection</b></p>	<p>Shortly after project initiation, the project team met with the City, as well as each municipal corporation and IPS to discuss the contract and procurement data each agency maintains. Based on that discussion, BBC prepared and delivered comprehensive data requests for contracts and procurements awarded between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2023 (the study period). Since receiving the contract and procurement data for the study, the project team has been assessing that information to understand the geographic market for the study and the product markets related to City, MC, and IPS contracting and procurement. The project team also contacted prime contractors who were awarded contracts and procurements during the study period to request comprehensive subcontractor information for those contracts.</p>
<p><b>Qualitative data collection and analysis</b></p>	<p>The project team is in the process of collecting a variety of qualitative evidence from interviews, focus groups, verbal testimony via public meetings, written testimony, and surveying efforts. The project team is analyzing that information as it is received for inclusion in the qualitative analysis section of the disparity study report.</p>
<p><b>Quantitative analyses of marketplace conditions</b></p>	<p>The project team conducted quantitative analysis of marketplace conditions, to determine whether any barriers or discrimination exists within specific industries in the Indianapolis area. The project team will summarize this information in the disparity study report.</p>
<p><b>Availability analysis</b></p>	<p>The project team analyzed the product markets in which the City, MCs, and IPS award the majority of their dollars. Based on those industries, the project team developed a business listing database of businesses that are located in the Indianapolis area and that work in relevant industries. The project team has completed two rounds of surveying and will conduct the final round of surveys in January and February 2025. After fielding is complete, BBC will compile information from all availability surveys and will create an availability database containing information on each firm that participated in the availability survey process. BBC will use this database to determine which businesses that completed surveys are potentially available – that is, ready, willing, and able, to compete for and perform on City, MC, and IPS contracts and procurements.</p>
<p><b>Utilization analysis</b></p>	<p>The project team is reviewing the line of work, ownership status, and geographic location for businesses that participated on City, MC, and IPS contracts and procurements during the study period. In January and February 2025, the project team will conduct the utilization survey process, during which we will survey those firms that were actually awarded City, MC, and IPS contracts and procurements during the study period to assess their line of work and ownership characteristics.</p>

\* Note: The municipal corporations included in the disparity study were the Capital Improvement Board; the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County; the Indianapolis Airport Authority; the Indianapolis Bond Bank; the Indianapolis-Marion County Building Authority; Indianapolis Public Library; and the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation.