



The **Access Bonding Program** (a program of Capital Access Project, Inc.) was created to increase the bonding capacity of small, disadvantaged, minority, and women-owned construction firms to give those firms greater access to bid and perform on government and private sector construction projects.



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WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM

In order to participate in the *Access Bonding Program* a contractor must*:

- Hold a Louisiana contractor’s license
- Have a minimum of one (1) year as a licensed contractor
- Have a personal credit score of 640 or above
- Participate in advanced Contractor’s College training in bidding & estimating, project management and green building.
- Sign a contract committing to the terms and conditions of participating in the program.

* Other conditions apply. Exceptions may apply.

ACCESS BONDING PROGRAM PARTNERS

- Capital Access Project, Inc.
- The Collaborative for Enterprise Development
 - Newcorp Business Assistance Center
 - Goodwork Network
- The Cayemitte Group
- Merrill-Lynch/Bank of America

The Access Bonding Program is funded in part through a grant from:



FACTS

In 2008, the value of construction projects put into place in the United States exceeded \$550 billion dollars.

Of the top 130 construction firms in the southern United States, none is minority- or women-owned.

There are over 8,500 construction firms in Louisiana, but fewer than 12% of the firms employ 20 or more workers.

STATEMENT OF NEED

Despite the growth, opportunities, and achievements of small, disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned firms (“DBE firms”) in post-Katrina New Orleans , their growth remains limited by a lack of access to surety bonds.

A lack of access to surety bonding limits the ability of DBE firms to secure large government and private sector construction projects , the segment of the construction industry that provides the best opportunity for long-term growth and sustainability of DBE firms.

SOLUTION

The Access Bonding Program addresses the challenges of securing surety bonding faced by DBE firms through a revolving surety bond fund know as the *Access Bond Fund*.

THE ACCESS BOND FUND

Merrill-Lynch manages the Access Bond Fund. Contractors accepted to participate in the Access Bonding Program will have access to a line of credit from the fund (issued in the form of a Letter of Credit). The Letter of Credit will act as collateral to help the contractor secure surety bonding.