

# Toolbox Talk

## Supplier Diversity and Small Business Recognition

**The purpose** of Inclusion in Construction Week is to showcase best practices, provide opportunities to build new business connections, and facilitate resources and trainings. Your engagement is crucial to making the week successful.

Getting certified as a small business in the construction industry takes hard work. Small and diverse businesses must first prove their capabilities and deliver quality results, and certification adds an additional layer of challenges. They must manage employees and payroll, secure new contracts, and run the business—all while keeping up with the additional tracking and compliance requirements for small business inclusion on projects. Our small businesses work hard, and our certified firms are ready to perform. If you see a diverse small business on-site today, take a moment to appreciate their efforts and commitment.

**Action 1:** Ask if there are any certified small businesses on the job site and ask them to briefly discuss their experience with certification

**AGC:** Is sponsoring a supplier diversity certification day. If you are a COBID-qualifying small business in Oregon and Washington, need to renew or gain additional certifications—disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE), emerging small business (ESB), or veteran-owned small business (VOSB)—and want to pre-qualify with large companies such as Hoffman, Skanska, and Fortis, this session will help you get certified.