



Economic and Community Development Institute and Turner Construction Company

Columbus

The Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) and Turner Construction Company are addressing barriers experienced by minority- and women-owned businesses in the construction industry. They are doing so through ECDI's Minority Contractor Resource Center and the Turner School of Construction Management. Development and aligned partnership of these programs help subcontractors at every stage of the business journey access the tools they need to reach the next step and achieve their business goals.

ECDI is a non-profit economic development organization headquartered in Columbus with offices throughout Ohio. ECDI was founded in 2004 to help underserved and underbanked entrepreneurs overcome systemic barriers and access resources and tools to build a successful small business and enter the economic mainstream. Over time, their clients build generational wealth, create jobs in their neighborhoods, and create positive economic change in our communities.

ECDI launched the Minority Contractor Resource Center in 2017 in central Ohio. The goal of the program is to enable minority- and women-owned businesses to grow by providing training, advice, loans, and incubation/acceleration services needed to help subcontractors and small business owners participate in larger commercial construction projects.

In partnership with Turner Construction, ECDI has been able to advance programming to help emerging minority- and women-owned firms.

Turner's Columbus office has served the central Ohio commercial construction market for more than 50 years. Turner has a long history of working with under-represented business enterprises, including firms whose owners/employees are minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, military veterans, and LGBTQ. Turner's mission to grow under-represented businesses dates to 1969 with the founding of the Turner School of Construction Management, a free program available to owners and employees of small minority-, women-, disabled-, and veteran-owned business enterprises whose services/products align with the construction industry.

Collaborative Effort Award

Award criteria: Nominees, which may be any combination of individuals, communities, businesses, or other organizations, must collectively have made significant contributions toward building a sense of unity among Ohio citizens. Nominees must have used Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of nonviolent social change to successfully bring people from diverse backgrounds together to build a better community and advance equity.