



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

**Memorandum of Cooperation Agreement Between
Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce (TAAACC)**

and

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

This Memorandum of Cooperation Agreement (Memorandum) covers the timeframe from March 30, 2017 to March 30, 2019, or until (one or) both parties agree not to (continue or) renew the Memorandum by and between the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce (TAAACC), an outreach affiliate and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), for the purpose of creating a relationship that will support TDA in its efforts to increase the agency's supplier diversity goals.

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Agriculture and TAAACC enter into this Memorandum effective March 30, 2017.

NOW THEREFORE, the Texas Department of Agriculture and TAAACC agree to the following:

Outreach Initiatives:

- 1.) TAAACC will solicit its respective member chambers and its vast network of minority-owned businesses to develop a listing of African American businesses that qualify as HUB and MWBE firms but are not currently certified. TAAACC will promote the value of certification to help encourage these businesses to obtain HUB and MWBE certifications. Once these lists are compiled they will be submitted to TDA.
- 2.) TAAACC will compile a list of vendors that have experience and are familiar with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's federal procurement regulations and regulated programs in an effort to increase the number of qualified vendors that are in a position to compete for TDA's food and nutrition procurements. Once the list is compiled they will be submitted to TDA.
- 3.) TDA, through the Comptroller's Office and Supplier Development Councils, will assist TAAACC with identifying, promoting and navigating potential HUBs and MWBEs through the certification process.



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- 4.) TDA will advise TAAACC of existing and upcoming solicitations and small purchase opportunities to maximize HUB and MWBE participation in the bidding process.
- 5.) TAAACC will promote this initiative by providing ongoing advocacy, publicizing success stories and serving as point of contact for their member chambers.
- 6.) TDA will identify representatives/staff to confer with and (if and when appropriate) serve as resources for TAAACC's Economic Development Committee related to ongoing supplier diversity improvements.
- 7.) TDA will participate in chamber-related functions throughout the state in accordance with its strategic plan and budget allocation.
- 8.) TAAACC will assist TDA with increasing its mentor protégé agreements by identifying HUBs that are interested in doing business with the TDA.
- 9.) TDA and TAAACC will seek to identify prime vendors that have made outstanding contributions in the advancement of utilizing businesses owned and operated by minorities, women and service-disabled veterans, as well as small locally owned companies to be nominated for TAAACC's member chambers supplier diversity awards and/or other annual business award events.
- 10.) TDA will develop an annual report, to be distributed, which includes summaries of the activities and accomplishments of this Memorandum.

Convenience of TDA: TDA reserves the right to terminate this Memorandum at any time, in whole or in part, without cost or penalty, by giving at least a thirty (30) days' notice in writing to TAAACC. In the event of such termination, TAAACC shall, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing, cease all work immediately upon the effective date of termination.



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AFFIRMATION:

**TAAACC
Texas Association of African
American Chambers of Commerce**

**Christopher Herring
TAAACC Chairman
Texas Association of African
American Chambers of Commerce**

Texas Department of Agriculture

**Jason Fearneyhough
Deputy Commissioner
Texas Department of Agriculture**

**Charles O'Neal
TAAACC President
Texas Association of African
American Chambers of Commerce**