

(viii) Measures to assure accountability for all funds awarded under this subtitle.

(2) Project priority systems shall be established. Prior to adopting rules and regulations and establishing project priority rankings under this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretaries of Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Business and Economic Development and the Secretary of the Department of Planning.

(D) FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OVER \$500,000 AWARDED UNDER THE FUND, THE APPLICANT SHALL DEMONSTRATE, TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT, THAT STEPS WERE TAKEN TO INCLUDE SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES BY:

(1) PLACING QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES ON SOLICITATION LISTS;

(2) ASSURING THAT SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES ARE SOLICITED WHENEVER THEY ARE POTENTIAL SOURCES;

(3) DIVIDING TOTAL REQUIREMENTS, WHEN ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE, INTO SMALL TASKS OR QUANTITIES TO PERMIT MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION OF SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES;

(4) ESTABLISHING DELIVERY SCHEDULES, WHERE THE REQUIREMENT PERMITS, THAT ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES; AND

(5) USING THE SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF MINORITY AFFAIRS IN IDENTIFYING AND SOLICITING SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

(E) IF THE STEPS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION ARE NOT DEMONSTRATED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WITHHOLD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PROJECT.