



OUR VISION & MISSION

As one of the largest employers in the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools is committed to the expansion and inclusion of a diverse supply chain. The Office of Business Diversity (OBD) is committed to the mission and vision of the District's aspirational goals of 30% Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE) and 7% for Women-Owned Business Enterprises (WBE). Through negotiations, strategic planning with prime vendors, partnerships, data analysis, research, and development of the marketplace; the OBD is the steward to ensure the District's budget has participation of 30% MBE and 7% WBE.

At Chicago Public Schools, the aspirational goal of the Office of Business Diversity is to ensure that MBEs and WBEs have clear, accessible pathways to working with us. This newsletter is here to keep our diverse vendor community up-to-date on key opportunities and initiatives at CPS. Through it, we aim to share valuable insights, upcoming events, and resources that support businesses in navigating CPS contracting and procurement processes.

This newsletter is part of our goal to create a consistent space where vendors can stay connected, informed, and inspired as we work together to foster economic growth in our schools and beyond.

CURRENT BIDS

Click each listing to view more information

CPOR | Sign Language Interpreting Services 5050
Close Date: Jan 3 4:30PM*

CPOR | School Based Therapy Services and Psychological Services
Close Date: Jan 10, 2PM*

CPOR | W2 and Affordable Care Act 1095-C Processing Service 5101
Close Date: Jan 10, 5PM*

RFP | Live Asset Inventory Management System and Related Services
Close Date: Jan 16, 2PM*

RFP | Data Network Upgrades
Close Date: Jan 22, 2PM*

RFQ | Job Order Contracting Services (JOC)
Close Date: Jan 29, 2PM*

**All deadlines are in Central Standard Time (CST)*

For more information and to apply, visit our Bonfire page at:

<https://cps.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

JANUARY 20, 2025 - DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a pivotal figure in the American Civil Rights Movement, advocating for equality and justice for African Americans. His powerful words and nonviolent activism continue to inspire generations worldwide.

Early Life and Education

Born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, Martin Luther King Jr. was the son of a Baptist minister. He grew up in a time of racial segregation and discrimination, which deeply influenced his life's work. King excelled academically, skipping grades in high school and entering Morehouse College at the age of 15. He later pursued theological studies at Crozer Theological Seminary and Boston University, earning a doctorate in systematic theology.

The Rise of a Leader

In 1954, at the age of 25, King became the pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. His leadership in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, sparked by Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a bus, catapulted him into the national spotlight. The boycott, lasting over a year, successfully led to the desegregation of Montgomery's bus system and established King as a prominent leader in the fight for civil rights.

Nonviolent Resistance and Social Change

King's philosophy of nonviolent resistance, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, became the cornerstone of the Civil Rights Movement. He organized and participated in numerous protests, marches, and sit-ins, advocating for an end to racial segregation and discrimination. His powerful speeches, such as the iconic "I Have a Dream" speech delivered during the March on Washington in 1963, resonated with millions and galvanized support for the cause. Chicago Public Schools honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for his extraordinary life. To learn more about Dr. King's legacy, visit [The King Center Website](#)

AWARDED CONTRACTS HIGHLIGHT



Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is excited to announce a new agreement with **International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)** to serve as a **System Integrator** for the district's upcoming Oracle Fusion Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation. Valued at \$60 million over four years, this contract represents a critical investment in modernizing Chicago Public Schools' administrative systems.

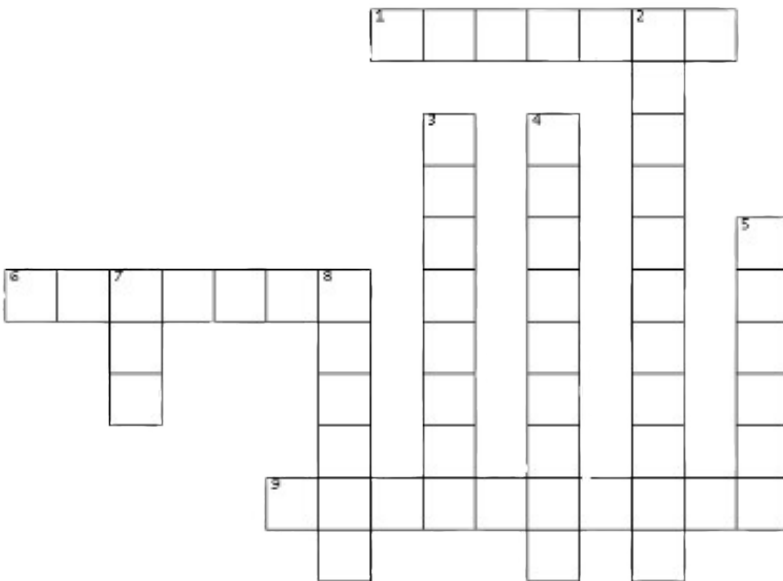
A notable feature of this contract is IBM's strong commitment to supplier innovation, with **30% participation by Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE)** and **10% by Women-Owned Business Enterprises (WBE)**. This aligns with Chicago Public Schools' strategic plan **Success 2029: We Rise Together**.

This initiative will strengthen Chicago Public Schools' effectiveness, productivity, and service capacity, further empowering the District to provide more nimbleness and responsiveness to the needs for the students, staff, and the communities we serve.



Questions?
 Click to access our glossary that fully explains our key words and definitions
 GLOSSARY

NEW YEAR CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1. A large, outdoor fire often built for celebrations (7 letters)
 - 6. Rhythmic movement often seen at parties (7 letters)
 - 9. Fresh starts, like what a new year represents (10 letters)

- DOWN**
- 2. Promises made to yourself for the new year (11 letters)
 - 3. Colorful bits of paper tossed during celebrations (8 letters)
 - 4. Sparkling drink often used for toasts (9 letters)
 - 5. Hopes or desires often expressed on special occasions (6 letters)
 - 7. Opposite of old, often paired with 'Year' (3 letters)
 - 8. Fruit eaten at midnight for good luck in Spain (6 letters)

STARTING FRESH

10 Practical Tips to Help You Make the Most of the New Year

- **Set Specific and Attainable Goals:** Reflect on what you want to achieve this year, both personally and professionally. Write them down to keep yourself accountable.
- **Get Organized:** Declutter your workspace or home and create a plan to stay on top of tasks and responsibilities.
- **Prioritize Your Health:** Commit to small, manageable habits like staying hydrated, exercising regularly, and eating balanced meals
- **Strengthen Relationships:** Reconnect with friends, family, or colleagues. Send a thoughtful message or plan time together.
- **Embrace Learning:** Take a course, read a book, or learn a new skill that aligns with your goals or passions.
- **Plan Your Finances:** Review your budget, save for the future, and track expenses to stay financially secure.
- **Celebrate Small Wins:** Acknowledge and reward yourself for progress, no matter how small.
- **Practice Gratitude:** Start a journal to write down what you're thankful for each day or week.
- **Give Back:** Volunteer or support a cause that resonates with you. Helping others can inspire positivity and purpose.
- **Stay Flexible:** Life can be unpredictable, adapt and adjust your plans as needed while keeping a positive attitude.

DECEMBER OUTREACH RECAP

BUSINESS DIVERSITY CAPITAL & FACILITIES OPERATIONS **CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION SNEAK PEEK 2024**

The Chicago Public Schools 2025 Capital Construction Summit Sneak Peek was a smashing success! With over 300 attendees and a bustling exhibitor hall featuring General Contractors, Architects, Government Agencies, and Assist Agencies. The day was filled with excitement and opportunities to engage with the nearly 50 exhibitors.

Attendees experienced a beautiful holiday performance by the award winning **Kenwood Academy High School Choir** with Choral Director Richard Nunley. Our Chief Executive Officer, **Pedro Martinez**, delivered inspiring opening remarks that underscored Chicago Public Schools' commitment to the operations and facilities for the district's children in every school building.

This was our first in-person event since 2019. The Office of Business Diversity was thrilled to host this event with the Capital Team's Executive Director **Venguanette "Venny" Dye**. We couldn't have asked for such an amazing turnout for the event. In case you missed it, you can watch the presentations [here](#).

We're looking forward to seeing you soon at our events in 2025!



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Mother Josephine Wade

Josephine "Mother" Wade, the heart and soul behind the beloved Josephine's Southern Cooking, has long been celebrated as a trailblazer in Chicago's culinary and cultural scene.

As a successful Chef and Owner, Mother Wade is a devoted community activist, and cherished matriarch, Mother Wade has dedicated her life to nourishing both the bodies and spirits of her community. Her restaurant is a cornerstone of love, resilience, comfort, and soul food culinary excellence. She has received many accolades, including being honored by the Cook County Commissioners, as a "Chicago Icon."

Now we invite you to experience one of her signature dishes, "Hush Puppies". This recipe is featured in the cookbook "Savor Our World." (*)

These golden, crispy treasures capture the essence of her Southern roots and the warmth that has made her a renowned Chicago culinary icon. (*)

(*) This recipe was provided by the Chicago Sun-Times article featuring Mother Josephine Wade.

Ingredients

60 grams	1/2 cup	Flour, all purpose
69 grams	1/2 cup	Cornmeal, fine
12 1/2 grams	1 tbsp	Sugar
4 grams	1 tsp	Baking Powder
6 grams	1 tsp	Kosher Salt
1 1/2 grams	1/2 tsp	Garlic Powder
1 1/2 grams	1/2 tsp	onion Powder
1 gram	1/2 tsp	Paprika
1/2 gram	1/4 tsp	Black Pepper
56 grams	1 each	Egg
169 grams	3/4 cup	Buttermilk
12 grams	3 tbsp	Butter, cold
		Oil for frying

Mother Wade's Hush Puppies

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C).
2. Bake Flour in oven, stirring occasionally until browned.
3. Mix brown flour and oil in a sauce pan and continue to cook for approximately 20 minutes, or until roux is dark brown
4. Excess brown roux can be stored for several weeks in the refrigerator



FUTURE BID SOLICITATIONS



Here is a preview of upcoming solicitations to look out for from January to March in 2025! Click "and more" at the bottom of each category to view the full list of the Chicago Public Schools' Sourcing Plan.

RFPS

- Unit Pricing Construction Management Services
- Data Center Services
- Project Portfolio Mgmt (PPM) Tool
- Student Transportation Services (School Bus Services)

AND MORE

CPORS

- Facilities Absence Management Software
- Policy & Board Rules Translation Services

AND MORE

RFQS

- Construction Material Testing and Inspection
- Various Trade Work
- Fleet Purchasing For C-Suite/Drivers Education Vehicles
- EV Bus Charging Station Infrastructure

AND MORE