



# Mentor-Protégé Program

Empowering Small Businesses.  
Building Stronger Partnerships.

The Business Development Division's Mentor-Protégé Program connects small businesses with experienced mentors to strengthen operations, facilitate knowledge transfer, and help protégés compete more effectively for contracting opportunities.

## What You'll Gain from this Program



- Strengthen operational capacity for day to-day business activities
- Learn best practices and practical business development strategies



- Gain insight into internal business management systems
- Participate in complimentary workshops designed to support business growth



## Why It Matters

- Hands-on guidance from experienced business leaders
- Increased readiness to compete for contracts
- Long-term strategic business relationships
- Recognition as an official Mentor-Protégé Program participant



## Mentor Qualifications

- Established business generating more than \$500,000 in annual revenue
- Active Orange County Government vendor in good standing
- Designate a senior-level representative to participate
- Commit to a 12-month mentorship agreement
- Meet with the assigned protégé at least twice per month

## Protege Qualifications

- Certified Small Business with Orange County Business Development
- Active Orange County Government vendor in good standing
- Designate a senior-level representative to participate
- Commit to a 12-month mentorship agreement
- Meet with the assigned mentor at least twice per month

## How to Participate?

1.

### Apply

Complete the Mentor or Protégé application.

2.

### Match

Be paired based on industry, experience and business goals.

3.

### Attend

Participate in the required program orientation.

4.

### Engage

Take part in the structured mentorship program.

## Who Should Apply?

- Small businesses seeking growth, guidance, and increased readiness for contracting opportunities
- Experienced businesses interested in mentoring, leadership, and strategic partnerships



## Contact Us

407-836-7298

[BusinessDevelopment@ocfl.net](mailto:BusinessDevelopment@ocfl.net)

<https://www.orangecountyfl.net/VendorServices/SmallBusinessVendors.aspx>

\*\*Refer to the application for a complete list of Mentor and Protege qualifications. All matches are subject to availability and program approval. Participation does not guarantee contract award or subcontracting opportunities on Orange County projects.