



BY CRISTINA TUSER
DEC 17, 2020

CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP'S MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS SUPPORT STORM WATER PROJECTS

The Clean Water Partnership announced the graduation of 16 local, small, and/or minority-firms from its Mentor Protégé and Emerging Landscapers Programs.



The Clean Water Partnership (CWP), the community-based partnership between Prince George's County and Corvias, announced the graduation of 16 local, small, and/or minority-firms from its Mentor Protégé and Emerging Landscapers Programs.

The Mentor Protégé Program (MPP) is in its fourth year and mentors and supports to develop the local capacity of small businesses in storm water management and green infrastructure projects, reported the press release.

The CWP created the Emerging Landscapers Program (ELP) in 2020 to expand the pool of qualified landscaping firms capable of performing aesthetic and functional maintenance on storm water best management practices (BMPs).

The mentorship program started in 2017.

Over 35 firms have completed the Mentor Protégé Program, including 13 firms from the Emerging Landscapers Program this year.

“The Mentor Protégé and Emerging Landscapers Programs help to prepare and empower the cohort participants to be better equipped to bid and win storm water projects that will grow their businesses,” said Keisha Brown, Corvias Partnership Liaison. “In a COVID environment that has impacted so many small businesses, we recognize the fortune and benefit of being categorized as an essential critical infrastructure workforce within the water sector and have been able to continue our operations and construction projects. The Clean Water Partnership is motivated to continue supporting these growing firms as we work together to complete storm water management and green infrastructure projects across Prince George’s County.”

The program provides: coaching, training, access to bid opportunities, capital, bonding, certification, and other supportive services, added the press release.

The Mentor Protégé Program includes contract awards to multiple firms with expertise in construction, landscaping, and maintenance in approximately \$23 million in expenditures.

Read related content about storm water management:

- [Storm Water Solutions Announces 2020 Top Projects](#)
- [Iowa Considers Purchasing More Land for Park for Water Quality Protections](#)
- [South Dakota Students Create Living Laboratory at Downtown Park](#)



New This Week

Clean Water Partnership's Mentorship Programs Support Capacity and Expansion of Local Businesses

LARGO, MD – The [Clean Water Partnership](#) (CWP), the community-based partnership between Prince George's County and Corvias, today announced the graduation of 16 local, small, and/or minority-firms from its Mentor Protégé and Emerging Landscapers Programs.

The Mentor Protégé Program (MPP) now in its fourth year, focuses on mentoring and support to develop the local capacity of small businesses in stormwater management and green infrastructure projects. The program provides coaching, training, access to bid opportunities, capital, bonding, certification, and other supportive services. This year, the CWP created the Emerging Landscapers Program (ELP) to expand the pool of qualified landscaping firms capable of performing aesthetic and functional maintenance on stormwater best management practices (BMPs).

Since the mentorship program's start in 2017, over 35 firms have completed the Mentor Protégé Program, including the 13 firms from the Emerging Landscapers Program this year.

“The Mentor Protégé and Emerging Landscapers Programs help to prepare and empower the cohort participants to be better equipped to bid and win stormwater projects that will grow their businesses,” said **Keisha Brown, Corvias Partnership Liaison**. “In a COVID environment that has impacted so many small businesses, we recognize the fortune and benefit of being categorized as an essential critical infrastructure workforce within the water sector and have been able to continue our operations and construction projects. The Clean Water Partnership is motivated to continue supporting these growing firms as we work together to complete stormwater management and green infrastructure projects across Prince George’s County.”

“We continue to build capacity and increase the competence of firms in green stormwater infrastructure construction. At the same time, we recognize that every project constructed has a 30-year maintenance requirement, which presents an opportunity for landscapers to develop a new line of business,” said **Michael Burke, CWP Director, Business Inclusion and Capacity Development**. “Green Infrastructure maintenance is a great entry point for small business with clear growth path to construction.”

The Mentor Protégé Program’s performance to date includes contract awards to multiple firms with expertise in construction, landscaping, and maintenance in the amount of \$23 million in expenditures. In addition:

- \$154 million of the \$210 million total program expenditures have been produced by target class firms;
- Over 50 percent of all hours worked on the program to date have been performed by County residents; and
- Of the 9,050 total work hours, 5,147 total work hours have been performed and paid to County residents

This year, the Mentor Protégé Program’s graduating firms include:

- C&M Construction Services, Lanham, MD
- Cleckley Development Corp., Upper Marlboro, MD
- CWI Solutions, Washington, D.C.
- Insight Engineering, Upper Marlboro, MD
- Millennium Concepts, Clinton, Md
- Minority Environment Solutions and Services, LLC, Bowie MD
- Sterling Enterprises, Mount Rainier, MD

From the Emerging Landscapers Program, the first cohort of graduating firms include:

- 1st Choice Facilities Maintenance, LaPlata, MD.
- AC Reliable, Mitchellville, MD
- Cavalla Construction, Baltimore, MD
- C&M Construction Services, Lanham, MD
- Daylilly Landscaping, LLC, Washington, D.C.
- Faulkner Lawn Care & Landscaping, Oxon Hill, MD
- Maroon Garden Concepts, Rockville, MD
- Millennium Concepts, Clinton, MD

- Minority Environmental Solutions & Services, Bowie, MD
- Sterling Enterprises, Mount Rainier, MD
- T&G Services, College Park, MD
- TCG Property Care, Inc., Washington, D.C
- The Georgetown Landscaping Company, Georgetown, D.C.

For more information about the Mentor Protégé and Emerging Landscapers Programs, please visit www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com.

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About the Clean Water Partnership

The [Clean Water Partnership \(CWP\)](#) is a 30-year community-based public-private partnership (CBP3) between Prince George's County, Maryland and [Corvias](#) with a turnkey stormwater management program that proved the ability to achieve regulatory compliance requirements, and create greater community buy-in and education along with long-term local economic benefits for residents and local small minority disadvantaged businesses. The CWP has received national recognition from the [White House and EPA](#). The CWP has also been highlighted as a [successful and innovative approach to better infrastructure](#) from the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) and many jurisdictions around the country are looking at the CWP as a model to address their aging stormwater infrastructure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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