The Obama Foundation is working to create an inclusive, diverse construction workforce for generations to come. To date, the Foundation has made tremendous progress in reaching its goals, as this historic project becomes a reality. Here’s how it’s happening:

SETTING A HIGH BAR
The Obama Foundation has set ambitious workforce business diversity goals and is on track to achieve them—building and empowering a diverse pipeline for future generations to come.

- 35% of the workforce hours on the project will come from undeserved S/W Side communities
- 50% of the construction contracts will be awarded to diverse vendors

REDUCING BARRIERS TO ENTRY AND CREATING OPPORTUNITY
As the Center comes to life, the Obama Foundation seeks to have as many people involved in the project as possible. That’s why the Obama Foundation has done things differently, including breaking up bids so smaller and diverse firms could compete; supporting diverse vendors with access to capital, insurance, and other resources; and providing funds, through the Barrier Reduction Fund, for tools, union fees and transportation that will create barriers of entry for South and West Side participants.
INCREASING THE IMPACT & STRENGTHENING THE TALENT PIPELINE

We Can Build It is working to source talent for skilled trade jobs across the city, not just the Obama Presidential Center, helping to strengthen and diversify the pipeline of talent available for all construction jobs.

- 18% Percentage of spend utilized to date
- 52% Percentage of diverse vendors engaged to date
- 160 Number of bids to date
- 46% Percentage of hours performed by city residents
- 32% South & West Side residents hired for OPC Construction
- 158 Number of candidates placed in jobs across the city