
MCDP Spotlight: Construction Plus

Earl Logan, Sr., has been a Mississippi businessman for many years. Today, his company Construction Plus is a successful excavation company, licensed in Mississippi and Alabama. Construction Plus also is a certified DBE in both states. Earl credits the Model Contractor Development Program (MCDP)[®] for being the springboard to his company's growth, and he is one of the program's biggest advocates.

Earl did not start out as a contractor. He has worked in banking and finance and has owned video stores throughout the state. Fourteen years ago, as the video store business began its decline, the businessman looked for another venture. His interest in construction took over, and he formed Construction Plus in Meridian, Mississippi.

Earl began studying and learning as much as he could about the construction industry. He completed engineering classes through Auburn University and started doing small jobs like driveways and house pads. He knew that he wanted to do much more, but he just was not quite sure how to get there. Around 2006, he was fortunate enough to meet Bob

Covington of the Mississippi Development Authority's Minority and Small Business Development Division, and things began to change.



Earl took advantage of all of the agency's programs that he could and had a particular interest in the Bond Guaranty Program because he knew bonding capacity would be a key component in the advancement of his company.

In April and May of 2007, he took part in Mississippi's first MCDP, which was the result of a partnership between the Mississippi Development Authority and the Surety & Fidelity Association of America. Earl credits the nine-week program with teaching him many valuable things, introducing him to bond producers and other professionals involved in the construction industry, and making it very clear what he needed to do in order to take his company to another level. After completing the program, Earl began working with the Cayemite Group, a bond producer that has been involved in several of SFAA's MCDPs, and he eventually was able to get his first bond of \$476,000 for work at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Jackson, as part of Mississippi's Bond Guaranty Program. Since then, Construction Plus has completed a bonded project at the Meridian Regional Airport for \$493,000 and has been approved for a bond line through HCC under the SBA Bond Guarantee Program for over a million dollars.

Due to its work with the MCDP, Earl anticipates that the company will continue to have sufficient bonding capacity to meet its contract needs.