

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## State to announce new milestones in purchasing from minority-owned businesses

- What:** State officials will unveil new milestones with its Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program at the introduction of a seminar for small businesses looking to become certified with the state's MBE program.
- Who:** Lt. Governor Mary Taylor  
Ohio Minority Business Advisory Council Chair June Taylor  
Members of the Ohio General Assembly  
Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Ohio Development Services Agency officials
- When:** Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015, 1 p.m.
- Where:** Ohio Statehouse  
Governor's Cabinet Room, First Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215
- RSVP:** If you plan to attend, please contact us by phone at 614-466-8380 or email [das.mbe-edge@das.ohio.gov](mailto:das.mbe-edge@das.ohio.gov).
- Details:** Under Gov. John R. Kasich's leadership, the state has made steady progress in expanding its base of suppliers by identifying more qualified minority businesses and encouraging them to work with the state to supply the goods and services it needs to operate.

### **Background**

On Dec. 17, 1980, House Bill 584 established the MBE program, which mandated that state agencies set aside 15 percent of their annual purchases for goods and services for certified minority-owned businesses. The state has never met that goal.

As a member of the General Assembly in 1980, Gov. Kasich voted to support House Bill 584 and after becoming Ohio's governor made its achievement a priority of his administration.

Since 2011, the state has made steady progress in identifying set-aside opportunities, certifying minority-owned businesses and matching them with state contract opportunities. State agencies, boards and commissions now produce annual spending plans that project set-aside contract and procurement opportunities for qualified MBE-certified businesses the aggregate value for which is at least 15 percent.

In addition to MBE set-aside contracts, many minority-owned firms have secured state contracts through the open market, by bidding against non-minority firms.