



Development
Services Agency



Department of Administrative Services

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Media contact: Beth Gianforcaro
Phone: 614-644-8953
Email: beth.gianforcaro@das.ohio.gov

State hosting *Resources to Grow Your Minority-Owned Business* Sept. 24 at King Arts Complex

COLUMBUS – To support the effort to expand access to state contracts for small and minority-owned businesses, the State of Ohio is hosting *Resources to Grow Your Minority-Owned Business*, a regional outreach event, on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free event will be held at the King Arts Complex, located near downtown at 867 Mt. Vernon Ave., Columbus, 43203.

“This great networking opportunity will allow Ohio minority-business owners to meet one-on-one with procurement professionals from state agencies to discuss how to work together to provide the goods and services the state requires,” said Robert Blair, director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, which is sponsoring this event in partnership with the Ohio Development Services Agency.

During Fiscal Year 2014, the State of Ohio spent \$165 million with businesses certified through the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program. This figure includes purchases set aside to be awarded via competitive bid to minority-owned businesses as well as purchases awarded to minority-owned businesses via competitive bid against all other types of businesses.

“Spending with minority-owned businesses was higher than any previous year,” said Jackie Williams, chief of the Minority Business Development Division of the Ohio Development Services Agency. “Our goal is to help minority-owned businesses grow and succeed.”

This outreach event will connect business owners to state agency purchasing professionals seeking to increase the business they conduct with certified MBE companies. Agency representatives will be present to discuss upcoming contracting opportunities, including timelines and points of contact.

In addition to access to purchasing officials, free workshops will be held on the following topics:

- Available Financing Programs;
- How to Use MBE Spending Plans and Work with Agency Contacts; and
- How to Respond to a State Bid Request.

An on-site computer lab will be available for attendees wishing to begin completing applications for MBE and/or EDGE (Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity) certification, recertification and cross certification. Participants will be able to register with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services' Office of Procurement Services' eBid System.

The state is seeking MBE-certified businesses to provide products and services in the following categories:

Agricultural equipment and supplies, ammunition, building maintenance supplies, case management, court reporters, disability determinations, educational equipment, electronic security equipment, equipment leasing, fire/security systems, funeral services, hearing officers, heavy equipment, inmate patient supplies, laboratory chemicals and supplies, laboratory testing, landscaping, media buying/marketing services, medical professional services, medical transcription services, new vehicles, pest control, physicians, printing, police and fire safety supplies, program analysis and evaluation, psychiatrists, psychologists, security guards, small engine repair services, vehicle parts and accessories, vehicle repairs and service, watercraft equipment and supplies, and window washing.

Admission is free. Free parking is available behind the King Arts Complex and across the street at the Columbus Urban League.

Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. To register or learn more about this event or the state's MBE and EDGE programs, visit the Ohio Department of Administrative Services' website at das.ohio.gov/MBERSVP or call 614-466-8380. For information about the Minority Business Assistance Centers operated by the Ohio Development Services Agency, visit minority.ohio.gov or call 614-466-5700.