Ohio is strongest when as many Ohioans as possible have an opportunity to share in our state’s growing economic strength. One way that state government does this is through the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program. The MBE program seeks to expand options for state purchasing by encouraging MBE-certified businesses, both small and large, to do business with the state. At the same time, state agencies are directed to source a portion of their goods and services from MBE-certified vendors. The state also provides a wide range of business development resources to help businesses grow and compete in the public and private markets.

The State of Ohio did a greater percentage of business with minority-owned businesses, surpassing the state goal for the second year in a row.

In Fiscal Year 2016, agencies, boards and commissions set aside 21.29 percent of their expenditures for minority-owned businesses.

Another 2.34 percent was awarded to minority-owned businesses through open-market competition.

The State of Ohio spent more money with minority-owned businesses than ever before.

$297.8 million spent in Fiscal Year 2016

This is an increase from $228.5 million in Fiscal Year 2015 and from $27 million in Fiscal Year 2008.

316 minority-owned businesses did work for the State of Ohio in Fiscal Year 2016.

202 businesses in Fiscal Year 2011

168 businesses in Fiscal Year 2008

Since 2011, the state has made steady progress in expanding its base of suppliers by identifying minority businesses and encouraging them to work with the state to supply the goods and services it needs.
Minority Business Assistance Centers

There are seven Minority Business Assistance Centers (MBAC) located across the state of Ohio, providing technical assistance, professional consultation, access to capital and assistance obtaining contract opportunities. There are three additional satellite offices including: Lima, Youngstown and Lorain. Companies can meet with business counselors one-on-one at the regionally based centers.

For assistance getting started with the resources offered by the Ohio Development Services Agency, contact your local Minority Business Assistance Center.

**Columbus**
Central Ohio Minority Business Association
(614) 252-8005

**Cincinnati**
African American Chamber – Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky
(513) 751-9900

**Dayton**
City of Dayton c/o Human Relations Council
(937) 333-1002

**Toledo**
University of Toledo
(419) 530-3345

**Cleveland**
Urban League of Greater Cleveland
(216) 622-0999 x210

**Akron**
Akron Urban League
(234) 542-4145

**Warren/Youngstown**
Greater Warren-Youngstown Urban League
(330) 394-4316 x108

Develop and Grow Your Business

[www.minority.ohio.gov](http://www.minority.ohio.gov)

(614) 466-5700

minority@development.ohio.gov