

SOME PEOPLE NEED HELP BEING FAIR

That's where we step in. At the Bureau of Labor & Industries, we work to protect the rights of Oregonians. We enforce wage and hour laws and promote skilled training through apprenticeship. We are committed to equal opportunity and your right to a discrimination-free workplace.

BUREAU OF LABOR & INDUSTRIES



Mary Wendy Roberts,
Commissioner



Civil Rights Division
Wage and Hour Division

Support Services Division
Apprenticeship & Training Division

1400 SW 5th ♦ Portland, Oregon ♦ 229-5735

The State of Oregon's Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses

The Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (OMWESB), located in the State of Oregon's Executive Department, is responsible for the certification of disadvantaged, women and minority firms and emerging small businesses. These programs are designed to promote economic opportunities to small businesses in the State of Oregon.

A Disadvantaged Business (DBE) is one that meets the criteria set by the U.S. Department of Transportation. A Disadvantaged Business is one that is at least 51% owned by one or more ethnic minorities or women. The disadvantaged person must have the power to make the day-to-day and management decisions for the firm. The contribution of capital or expertise must be real and substantial by the disadvantaged owner. Certification as a DBE enables minority and women small businesses to participate in federally-funded targeted contracting and purchasing programs which ensure fair and equal opportunity.

The Emerging Small Business (ESB) program was established as a result of the January, 1989 Richmond vs. Croso, Supreme Court decision which ruled that set-asides for minority and women-owned businesses as previously established by state and local governments were unconstitutional. Rather than pursuing special studies regarding the effects of discrimination and waiting for the results of those studies, which may or may not have produced the necessary information, the State of Oregon chose instead, to move toward new directions with the specific intent of surfacing other tools and untapped opportunities. The Emerging Small Business Program assists ESBs in overcoming barriers which resulted from the Croson decision and assists small businesses in entrance to the economic mainstream.

The Emerging Small Business (ESB) program provides an affirmative opportunity to all economically disadvantaged firms regardless of race or sex. Many minority-owned businesses qualify under this new criteria.

An Emerging Small Business must meet the following criteria:

- A business with its principal place of business located in the state

- A business with average annual gross receipts over the last three years not exceeding \$2 million for construction firms and \$700,000 for non-construction firms



Lina Garcia-Seabold,
Advocate for Minority,
Women and Emerging Small
Businesses

- A business with less than 20 employees
- An independent business
- A business properly licensed and legally registered in this state

The 1989 legislative body enacted changes in the law which allow public agencies to require bidders to subcontract work to ESBs located in "economically depressed areas" of the state. The geographic boundaries are currently being determined but plan to include such areas as Woodburn and Inner North-Northeast Portland.

The goal is to award a substantial percentage of the products and services purchased by agencies to Emerging Small Businesses in targeted geographic areas or hiring their workforce from those targeted areas to create new job opportunities in those communities and promote economic growth.

In coordination with the Oregon Economic Development Department and the Oregon Department of Transportation a toll-free Hotline to answer questions about setting up and running small businesses has been developed.

The Hotline may be accessed by dialing 1-800-422-U-ASK (8275).

Certified Disadvantaged, Women, Minority and Emerging Small Businesses are listed by OMWESB in a directory which is circulated to over 125 subscribers and carried on-line in the State Library system. The directory is published quarterly and is used by prime contractors and by public jurisdictions in establishing contract goals on specific projects. The directory is a valuable marketing tool for small businesses.

The Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business now serves as a major clearinghouse and referral

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service for information needed by small businesses, including small businesses located in economically depressed areas.

The OMWESB staff actively conduct outreach activities with various organizations including attendance at trade fairs and guest speaking at conferences statewide. Staff appear on television and in newspapers and periodicals to promote economic equity for women and minorities.

The Staff at OMWESB includes: Lina Garcia-Seabold, Advocate for Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (bilingual); Richard Acevedo, Manager; Leslie Hurst, Certification Specialist; Susan Panek, Certification Specialist (bilingual); Jesus Borboa, Certification Specialist (bilingual); Susan Edmonds, Administrative Assistant; Anita Engstrom, Secretary.

The Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business invites your inquiries. Please contact the office by phone, mail or in person at:

Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business Executive Department
155 Cottage St. N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97310
378-5651



THE OFFICE OF
MINORITY, WOMEN
AND EMERGING
SMALL BUSINESS

SUPPORTS MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES IN OREGON

For the convenience of the businesses in the Portland metro area, a satellite office is located at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (236-1190). An OMWESB Staff person is available to personally assist you.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES?

We are pleased to announce that in addition to certification, the Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (OMWESB) now serves as a major clearinghouse and referral service for information needed by small businesses, including small businesses located in certain targeted areas such as North and Northeast Portland.

The Emerging Small Business Program (ESB) provides an affirmative opportunity to all certified firms. ESB contracts will be awarded to certified ESBs located in or drawing their workforce from the local community where the project is located. Additionally, "First Opportunity" for employment opportunities on public contracts will be provided to local residents.

Please contact our office for information regarding:

- *DBE/ESB CERTIFICATION
- *BONDING
- *CONTRACTING/EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- *NETWORKING RESOURCES
- *FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION (VENTURE CAPITAL, LOANS, ETC.)
- *TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

OMWESB, in coordination with the Oregon Economic Development Department and Oregon Department of Transportation, encourages the use of a Toll-free Hotline to answer questions about setting-up and running a small business. The Hotline may be accessed by dialing 1-800-442-8275.

**STATE OF OREGON OFFICE OF
MINORITY, WOMEN AND EMERGING SMALL BUSINESS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
155 COTTAGE STREET NE,
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