

Minority Business Week

Solving Problems, Not Running Programs

BY SENATOR AVEL GORDLY
What Is the Interim Work Group on Economic and Community Development?

The Interim Work Group on Economic and Community Development was chartered by the 1997 Legislature to implement "New Directions" for economic development in Oregon envisioned by the 1995-97 Biennial Report of the Economic Development Commission. The 15 member work group is comprised of legislators, representatives of local governments, the Governor's office, the Economic Development Commission and the private sector. The work group was charged with reviewing the work of community development agencies including the Economic Development Department and recommending how to implement "New Directions" in economic and community development in Oregon. During the past year, the Interim Work Group has brought together an array of interests to provide the framework in which Oregon should approach economic and community development into the next century.

New Directions Focuses the Efforts of the Interim Work Group
Inclusiveness - Support distressed communities and populations that have not shared in the economic boom;
Sustainability - Ensure economic strategies reinforce Oregon's long term prosperity and livability.
Competitiveness - Focus economic assistance on businesses that are starting up or already doing business in Oregon; and Partnerships - Link state investments and initiatives that affect local communities.

Recommendations of the Work

Group Report to Implement "New Directions"

The Interim Work Group reached three basic findings in its report. These are:

1. Principles for Investment of Resources

The visions, goals, and priorities of regions and their communities should drive the planning and investment processes of state agencies. Both local priorities and state or federal interests should be respected in the investment of state, local and federal funds. The principles established by the work group for investment of state resources include:

- a. Flexibility of state structures and processes to meet local needs
- b. Use of partnerships in decision-making
- c. Demonstrated accountability
- d. Efficiency of public investments and assistance for local priorities

2. Need for Regional

Partnerships and Integration
 Establish regionally organized partnerships, supported by a team of regionally located state community solutions, representatives, to more effectively and efficiently integrate local, state, federal and private sector activities, set regional priorities and resolve community and regional issues. Each region will have an opportunity to pilot a partnership model that is determined to be the most effective way for it to address its own problems and key issues. This is intended to establish a way to move from a categorical approach of making regulatory decisions and funding projects to an integrated approach to problem solving and decision making. It is a major shift that applies to all community solutions agencies, but is recommended to be a pervasive transition throughout state agencies as a better way to deliver public services.



Senator Avel Gordly

3. Coordination of Resources and Adequate Funding

Coordinate and allocate financial and other resources based on regional and community-identified priorities and state-wide concerns through the regional partnerships/community solutions process. Though the new system will improve utilization of whatever level of funding is available for economic and community development, the current level of funding is inadequate to address the needs of Oregon communities, to leverage other public and private resources, and gain real commitment by all parties to measurable outcomes. The work group strongly recommends that depleted funds be recapitalized and increased funding be provided to accomplish state priorities for economic and community development.

Senator Avel Gordly (D-Portland) represents District 10 which includes parts of Northeast and Southeast Portland. Sen. Gordly is vice-chair of the Interim Senate Committee on Trade and Economic Development, and is a member of the Work Group that developed this report. The report was presented to the Governor on September 22, 1998.

"I've always felt that our state's minority entrepreneurs have shown the same kind of pioneering spirit that made Oregon famous. They had the courage to take a risk and to follow a dream. As a result, our state's thriving minority-owned businesses play a vital role in our economy, creating jobs and helping keep our strong quality of life. As these enterprises grow and expand, it's important for minority business owners to instill that same pioneering spirit in their community, and to encourage more women and minorities to start new businesses. That will be good for all Oregonians."



Ron Wyden
 Oregon Senator

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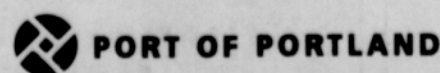
BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Teamwork • Involvement • Commitment

The Port of Portland is working with minority enterprises to develop sources which create opportunities for DBE participation. We're working with the construction industry, the professional services industry, material supply companies, minority agencies, the Small Business Administration, financial/bonding organizations, other public agencies and private enterprises. We want to understand the needs of the DBE community, and meet these needs.

For information about business or contract opportunities, call 503/731-7593.

For employment opportunities with the Port of Portland, call 503/731-7480 or visit the Port's web site at www.portofportlandor.com



Saluting our Emerging and Minority-Owned Businesses

THE PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

is proud of the minority-owned businesses in the OAME Cascade Plaza business incubator. We salute the following North Portland incubator businesses:

MAGNETIC ATTRACTIONS
 Manufacturer of Refrigerator Magnets of All Types
 Marilyn Riggs, Owner

DESIGN-A-WELD*
 Metal Milling and Lathing
 Esau Williams, Owner
 *Minority-owned

BECKER & NADEN
 Manufacturer of the Easeltech hand tool for manicurists
 Cherie Naden, Owner

IPM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
 Insect Control Systems
 Philipp Kirsch, Owner

Each of these businesses has received a small business loan through PDC's Economic Development Department. The business incubator program provides support to budding entrepreneurs until they can get a solid financial start. Another emerging business then takes their place.

If you would like more information on small business loans from the Portland Development Commission, please contact Wally Zwingli at 823-3321.

PDC supports minority-owned businesses because we know that successful small businesses are the backbone of a healthy local economy.

