

MBE News Briefs

SBA Announces FY 2017 State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) Awards

The U.S. Small Business Administration earlier this month announced that \$18 million in funding has been awarded to 44 State international trade agencies through SBA's competitive State Trade Expansion Program (STEP), to support export growth among U.S. small businesses. The Oregon Business Development Department received \$562,500 through the program.

STEP is designed to increase both the number of small businesses that begin to export and the value of exports for small businesses currently exporting. Expanding the base of small business exporters and making the process as easy as possible is a key component of the Administration's small business strategy.

The 2017 STEP awards will allow states to assist small businesses with the information and tools they need to succeed in export related activities that are in line with the objectives of the program. These objectives include participation in foreign trade missions, foreign market sales trips, services provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as design of international marketing campaigns, export trade show exhibits, training workshops and more.

STEP awards are managed and provided at the local level by state government organizations. The program is managed at the national level by the

U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of International Trade.

See the full list of STEP awardees for FY 2017 at https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/resources_articles/step-awardees-FY17.pdf.

MBDA and Kauffman Foundation Partnership Providing Greater Access to the U.S. Census Bureau Data on Minority Entrepreneurs

In July the U.S. Department of Commerce's Census Bureau released the 2015 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs and this year's survey data reveals an increase in the number of U.S. minority-owned employer firms, payroll, and the number of people employed.

The survey release is significant because it provides an updated demographic snapshot of the Nation's employer businesses broken down by gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status.

Prior to the Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs, this type of specialized data was only available every five years when the Survey of Business Owners (SBO) was released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs is produced through a multi-year public-private partnership between the U.S. Census Bureau, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the Minority Business Development Agency. This

partnership was key in creating a solution to help the U.S. Census Bureau supplement gaps of data due to the length of time between the release of their SBO reports.

This is the second year in a row that both MBDA and the Kauffman Foundation have participated in the partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau to commission the annual survey. The Kauffman Foundation is a private, nonpartisan foundation based in Kansas City with a focus on entrepreneurship and education. The two organizations share an ongoing relationship dating back several years. Most recently MBDA staff participated in the Foundation's first-ever ESHIP Summit, an event designed to empower entrepreneurs and build entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Findings from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs revealed the following:

- The number of minority-owned employer firms in the United States increased by approximately 4.9 percent in 2015 to 996,248 from 949,318 in 2014.
- More than one-quarter (14) of the 50 most populous metropolitan statistical areas had approximately 15,000 or more minority-owned employer businesses. About one-third of the minority-owned employer firms (34.6 percent) were in the accommo-



modation and food services sector.

While by most indicators, minority-owned employer firms saw slight increases in 2015, the disparity between minority and nonminority firms remains:

- On average, annual receipts for non-minority employer firms are 52% higher than minority-owned firms (\$2.5M vs \$1.2M). Hispanic, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander employer firms increased, but receipts for African American and American Indian employer firms decreased by 5 percent and 2 percent, respectively.
- Average number of employees remained the same for minority-owned firms at 8 employees per firm, while nonminority-owned firms saw the average number of employees grow from 11 to 12 per firm in 2015.

To view the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs visit <https://www.census.gov/> or www.mbda.gov.



Mayor Ted Wheeler with the EQC Home Care Agency team

Prosper Portland and its partners manage a growing portfolio of programs designed for minority and women entrepreneurs to support a wide range of businesses that are vital to the economy of our city, from tech startups to neighborhood businesses like EQC Home Care Agency on NE 42nd Ave.

Find out how we can help your business thrive:
prosperportland.us/inclusive



MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Supporting community empowerment, cultural diversity, and social equity.

Increasing economic opportunities for State of Oregon Certified Firms (minority-owned, women-owned, emerging small business, service disabled veteran, disadvantaged business enterprise)

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