

## **Minority and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Annual Report 2014**

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) serves as a focal point and ombudsman in state government regarding aspiring and existing minority and disadvantaged businesses and entrepreneurs. Within budget constraints and through a designated staff professional, efforts and activities are engaged to support and benefit such businesses.

On a daily basis, direction and information are provided to assist minority and disadvantaged businesses and owners across the state regarding initial start-up structure filing, as well as in determining the necessary licensing and permitting requirements to operate. In addition, ODOC provides information and referral of such businesses to other state agencies, business development programs and other specific sources of assistance in the state. Included are the start-up and development planning programs such as the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) chapters, the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) and Women's Business Centers (WBC) associated with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA); the special program of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and various local assistance sources such as Oklahoma's network of technology centers and organizations such as minority business chambers of commerce. Referrals for special financial assistance are made to programs and organizations such as Rural Enterprises, Inc., the Tulsa Economic Development Corporation, special federally funded programs, local community development entities and financing programs sponsored by some of the American Indian tribes in the state. Information and referrals are also made regarding manufacturing, engineering and invention types of assistance under the umbrella programs of the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

Regarding contracting and procurement, ODOC specifically describes and refers minority and disadvantaged businesses to the programs and services of the Oklahoma Bid Assistance Network (OBAN) and the Tribal Government Institute (TGI). Both programs receive funding support to assist minority and disadvantaged businesses in pursuing federal and other levels of government contracts and procurements. Regarding contracting and procurement by minority and disadvantaged businesses with Oklahoma state agencies, ODOC describes the role of and refers such businesses to the purchasing divisions of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES).

Also, ODOC refers and assists with information regarding the types of minority and disadvantaged business certifications programs pertaining to Oklahoma that are applicable. Although ODOC does not, itself, actually perform such certifications, it assists such businesses in understanding and selecting the program or programs that might best fit their needs.

In 2014, the agency was involved, directly, with assisting:

- 284 minority and disadvantaged business inquiries regarding start-up, financing and other growth and expansion information
- 72 requests regarding minority and disadvantaged business certifications

Minority and Disadvantaged certification programs applicable to Oklahoma include:

**Southwest Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)**

[www.smsdc.org](http://www.smsdc.org) Tel. 512-659-2160. SMSDC is an affiliate of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)

**U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) programs that involve**

- Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) certification
- 8(a) Business Development certification
- Historical Underutilized Business Zones (HUB zone) certification

[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) Tel. 405-609-8000

**Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)**

- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification

[www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us) Tel. 405-521-6046

**City of Tulsa**

- Building Resources in Developing, Growing Enterprises (BRIDGE) certification

[www.cityoftulsa.org](http://www.cityoftulsa.org) Tel. 918-596-7817

**Council for Tribal Employment Rights**

- Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) certification program

[www.councilfortribalemploymentrights.org](http://www.councilfortribalemploymentrights.org) Tel. 509-722-3729

ODOC also receives inquiries from owners and representatives of both private sector and government related construction and business projects regarding sources or listings from which to solicit the interest of minority and disadvantaged businesses to participate as contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, vendors, etc. Persons making such requests are often referred to the offices and website information of the certification programs described above, as well as to other, related sources. In addition, ODOC is periodically requested by fellow assistance service providers to be involved as presenters and participants with various informational workshops, seminars, conferences and meetings to support and assist minority and disadvantaged businesses.

In 2014, ODOC responded to over 12 inquiries regarding sources of minority and disadvantaged businesses. It also participated with over 20 informational meetings and events.

The designated ODOC staff person has specific background and experience related to this area. The person also constantly pursues informational and development activities to enhance knowledge and effectiveness.