

OSD Link



CONNECTING MINORITY VENDORS WITH GOVERNMENT SPENDERS

Executive Director's Section: 2008-09 recap

Greetings to all Florida certified minority, women and service-disabled veteran business enterprises!



During the past year, the Office of Supplier Diversity continued to increase customer service, communication and created more opportunities for Florida's minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. With the support of a talented staff and various partnerships, operations continue to be more efficient and more opportunities are available to small businesses.

We conducted one of the best annual MatchMaker Conference and Trade Shows to date, hosted five regional matchmaker workshops throughout the State of Florida, partnered with the governor's office to conduct two well-attended and informative Economic Stimulus Seminars, and provided outreach at several sponsored events throughout the state.

Our many accomplishments for the year include these highlights:

- Enacted new legislation to increase the recertification period for minority- and women-owned businesses to two years.
- Added a new certification designation for service-disabled veteran business enterprises.
- Partnered with the NAACP, U.S. Small Business Administration and the Small Business Development Center Network to combine resources to strengthen and expand small business development in Florida.
- Led the efforts to create joint agreements with other certifying organizations to enter into joint agreements that decrease the amount of paperwork that vendors submit for certification.

As we move into the new fiscal year, we continue to keep you informed of events that affect Florida's small, minority, women and service-disabled veteran business enterprises. I appreciate your feedback and encourage you to continue to send your thoughts, suggestions and concerns on how we can better serve you.

Torey L. Alston
Executive Director

Start Planning for the 2010 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau is looking to national, tribal, state and local officials and community leaders to ensure an accurate count during the April 1, 2010, census.

"The participation of community leaders, organizations and local governments can help make the 2010 Census the most accurate census in our nation's history," said Steve Murdock, director of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Preparing early for the 2010 Census is a great way for local leaders to learn the makeup of their communities and what they need from local government. Reasons for business owners to be aware of the upcoming census and to participate are:

- The federal government uses census numbers to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds annually for community programs and services, such as education, housing and community development, health care services for the elderly, job training and more.
- State, local and tribal governments use census information for planning and allocating funds for new school construction, libraries and other public buildings, highway safety and public transportation systems, new roads and bridges, police and fire departments locations, and many other projects.
- Community organizations use census information to develop social service programs, community action projects, senior lunch programs and child-care centers.
- The numbers help businesses identify where to locate factories, shopping centers, movie theaters, banks and offices—activities that often lead to new jobs.
- Census totals determine how many seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, states use the numbers to allocate seats in their state legislatures.

Find information about the 2010 Census at <http://www.census.gov/2010census>.

Two-Year Recertification

The 2009 legislature passed HB 319/SB 1480 extending the period for recertification for Minority and Women Business Enterprises to two years. Sponsored by Senator Lawson and Representative Carroll both bills passed unopposed in the Senate and House. The two-year recertification process begins July 1, 2009, is not retroactive and will only be adapted to vendors recertifying after July 1, 2009.

Certified Vendor Spotlight

Does your business offer a product or service that benefits the State of Florida? Would you like the opportunity to promote your product or service to several state purchasing officials in one setting? If you answered yes to both questions, as a state certified vendor you are eligible to be in Vendor Spotlight. For more information contact Carla.Pierre@dms.MyFlorida.com.

MatchMaker Alert!



Please check the Office of Supplier Diversity's Web site for updates about MatchMaker 2009...coming soon!

Hurricane season starts June 1

Are you registered to provide services or commodities to government buyers before or after a natural disaster? Join the 2009 list of emergency suppliers at http://dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/florida_emergency_network or for more information, please e-mail flemergencynet@dms.MyFlorida.com.



Important Links to Remember

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Provides valuable information for Florida's veterans.
<http://www.floridavets.org>

Florida Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Assistance to all Florida firms during any phase of conducting business with federal, state and local governments, at no charge
<http://www.fptac.org>

Florida Small Business Development Center

Assistance to start, grow and succeed, as a business in Florida.
<http://floridasbdc.org>

Bid Opportunities

Department of Revenue solicits bids to establish a hardware/software maintenance contract for its Kodak i660 Doc Scanners. For more information concerning bid ITB 08/09-18, visit http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu or call Barbie Phillips at (850) 488-2625.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requests bids from qualified vendors for Linen Services for the Rental Cabins at Grayton Beach State Park. For more information about solicitation ITB 2009054C, visit http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu.

Florida International University solicits an Invitation to Bid for a vendor to provide comprehensive background verification services for the hiring of prospective employees. For more information about solicitation ITB89-028, visit http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu.

The Department of Corrections issued an Invitation to Negotiate to provide dialysis services located at Lake Butler. For more information about solicitation 08-DC-8060, visit http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu.

Tips for Success

Want to know what funding Florida will receive from the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan**? Would you like to see if funding is coming to your local municipality and for what projects? To find the answer to your questions, visit www.FlaRecovery.com.

Have you recently moved, changed your telephone number or e-mail address? Please remember to **update your contact information** and commodity codes at <https://Vendor.MyFloridaMarketPlace.com>. For assistance, please contact the MFMP Helpdesk at (866) 352-3776.

Do you need a duplicate copy of your **certification certificate**? Contact the Office of Supplier Diversity at OSDHelp@dms.state.fl.us to request a copy of your certificate and within 24 hours we will e-mail a duplicate certificate to the address listed in MyFloridaMarketPlace.com. For more information, contact the Office of Supplier Diversity at (850) 487-0915.

As a registered state vendor, you can receive **electronic notification** of solicitations and purchasing opportunities in the State of Florida. All you need is a working e-mail address to receive the updates. Please visit: http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/main_menu to register.

Dates to Remember

2009 Governor's Business Diversification Awards Nomination Call

The nomination deadline is July 24 for this annual program that honors businesses for economic diversification achievements. For more information on the nomination process, please visit www.eflorida.com/govawards.