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To: Senate Interim Committee on General Government, Consumer and  
Small Business Protection

FROM: Stella Transue, Administrator  
Office of Contracts and Procurement

The Office of Contracts and Procurement (OC&P) a Shared Service of the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA), continues to promote contracting with Oregon-owned, women- and minority-owned, and emerging small businesses through a variety of methods. This is an update on changes in the past year and information on the types of contracts executed with Oregon-owned, women- and minority-owned, and emerging small businesses

OC&P has maintained a presence at the Governor's Marketplace vendor and trade show for many years. Vendor/trade shows provide an opportunity to let others know about contracting opportunities within DHS and OHA and afford the ability to provide contact information for DHS and OHA program staff.

The Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (OMWESB) link is prominent on the OC&P webpage to guide potential vendors to certification information.

DHS uses non-traditional short form contracts for certain Child Welfare services; contracting staff continue to promote certification of these contractors. These services are client-related and are below the required posting threshold; consequently, the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) is not utilized for advertisement.

The general contractor for the Oregon State Hospital Replacement Project, Hoffman Construction, works hard to promote and reach out to Oregon-owned, women- and minority-owned, and emerging small businesses. This outreach resulted in over 80 percent of contracted work awarded to Oregon contractors.

Overall, over 14.4 percent of the combined value was awarded to certified minority-owned, women, and emerging small business contractors.

OC&P has reactivated their strategic initiative to “Collaborate with the Office of Economic and Business Equity.” Both DHS and OHA leadership are actively involved as well as the DHS Office of Equity and Multicultural Services and OHA Office of Equity Inclusion in promoting MWESB contractors. The equity offices and OC&P are developing strategies to encourage currently certified firms and firms that would potentially qualify to enter into contracts with DHS and OHA. Potential strategies contemplated so far include: work shops and focus groups, enhanced reporting requirements with prime contractors, and enhanced partnerships with local governments on other MWESB contracting programs.

In support of the Governor’s Executive Order 12-03, we have been working with Cheryl Myers of the Governor’s Office of Economic and Business Equity to further our discussions on focusing our efforts in order to have the best outcomes from our strategies.

OC&P has discussed the new Oregon preference legislation at staff meetings. The sample Buy Oregon solicitation language developed by the Department of Administrative Services, State Procurement Office has also been provided to staff for discussion with program staff when developing solicitation documents.

Currently 86 percent of active contractors with DHS and OHA have an Oregon address. DHS and OHA primarily contract for client services and the majority of our contractors reside in Oregon.