



WASHINGTON STATE
OFFICE OF MINORITY & WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Invitation To Veteran Women Business Owners

Are you interested in identifying new markets for your products or services with the State of Washington?

Would you like to learn about small business loan programs or enhancing your business' financial management systems?

OMWBE is extending a special invitation to Veteran Women owned businesses to participate in a one year pilot program designed specifically for YOU. Assistance will be provided to identify the resources necessary to grow your business, as well as access potential Washington state agency and educational institution customers.

Six veteran women entrepreneurs will be selected to participate in this pilot program. Any Washington-based woman veteran-owned business that has a business plan and is interested in doing business with the State of Washington is eligible to apply. Interested persons should submit a letter of interest and their company's business plan to OMWBE by **September 30, 2009**. A panel of business development and financing professionals will review the submittals and announce the firms selected to participate in the pilot program on October 15, 2009.

There will be no cost to participate in the pilot program. We do require a commitment from you to take advantage of the resources OMWBE can identify for your business, and that you allow OMWBE to observe your growth, success and challenges.

The Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprises (OMWBE) was established by in 1983. OMWBE is the State's sole certifying authority for small businesses owned and controlled by women, minorities and disadvantaged persons for the State's Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (M/WBE) program and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Program.

OMWBE is charged with assisting state agencies and higher education institutions achieve their women and minority goals. We serve as a catalyst for M/WBE firms to identify resources with our public and private sector partners that will assist in building capacity and sustained business relationships with their customers.

Certified M/WBE firms are afforded the benefits of having an advocate inside state government, listing in OMWBE's online directory that provides increased visibility to government and private sector buyers, direct connection to opportunities in the public sector, a cabinet level agency with

access to the Governor's Office and directors' of state agencies, and eligibility for the Linked Deposit Program. OMWBE has also established working alliances with the U.S. Small Business Administration, The Northwest Minority Suppliers Council, Tabor 100, *Win With Washington* and other community based-organizations whose goals are designed to promote excellence for entrepreneurs.

If you what to learn more about this pilot program and the submittal process, please contact Cathy Canorro, Agency Support Manager (telephone: 360-704-1187 or email: ccanorro@omwbe.wa.gov).

We look forward to the opportunity to work with you!

Cynthia Cooper

Director