



Development
Services Agency



Department of Administrative Services

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Media contact: Marty Berkowitz
Phone: 614-644-8608
Email: marty.berkowitz@das.ohio.gov

State hosting Ohio Business Expo on March 25

COLUMBUS – To support continued efforts to expand access to state contracts for minority-owned, women-owned and small businesses, the State of Ohio is hosting the Ohio Business Expo on Wednesday, March 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Aladdin Shrine Center, 3850 Stelzer Road, Columbus, 43219.

“This free expo will give Ohio business owners an excellent opportunity to meet one-on-one with state procurement professionals to discuss how to work together to provide the goods and services the state requires,” said Robert Blair, director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, which is sponsoring the expo in partnership with the Ohio Development Services Agency.

The event is an excellent networking opportunity for firms certified through the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program or Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) program, as well as those interested in learning more about becoming certified. State entities set aside goods and services for competitive bidding among businesses certified through the MBE program. The EDGE program establishes goals for state agencies in awarding contracts, primarily construction and professional services contracts, for certified businesses owned by those of social and economic disadvantage.

Participants will have the opportunity to talk with representatives from State of Ohio agencies, boards, commissions and universities regarding their purchasing needs.

The expo also will include five free workshops. Topics will cover how to market to state agencies, utilize MBE spending projection plans, respond to state bid requests, access capital and form joint ventures. In addition, attendees can network with diversity procurement representatives from select private companies in the construction and information technology fields and also learn how to navigate the state procurement website.

“We understand small business owners are busy, but this is a chance for entrepreneurs to meet multiple prospective clients in just a few hours, present the goods and services they offer and learn how to grow and develop their businesses,” said Jacqueline Williams, chief of the Minority Business Development Division of the Ohio Development Services Agency.

Admission and parking are free.

Online registration for the expo by Friday, March 20 is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. Registration begins at 8 a.m. To register online or learn more about the expo or the state’s MBE and EDGE programs, visit the Ohio Department of Administrative Services’ website at das.ohio.gov/OBERSVP or call 614-466-8380.