



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Minority-Owned Businesses Continue To Grow in Ohio**

The state of Ohio is committed to finding and certifying minority-owned businesses across the state. When a business gets certified, it becomes eligible for large contracts and opportunities with state agencies and other incentives including bonds and loans to grow the business.

Today, minority-owned businesses in the Dayton area met with Kenyatta Chandler, Interim Chief of the Minority Business Development Division within the Ohio Development Services Agency, Todd McGonigle, EEO Program Manager, Department of Administrative Services, and Donerik Black, Director, Minority Business Assistance Center at the City of Dayton.

For the first time ever, the state recently announced it exceeded its goal of 15 percent by purchasing 19 percent of all goods and services from certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) businesses. The most recent report shows \$228.5 million was spent with minority-owned businesses across the state, up from \$165 million in 2014.

"We are extremely excited about this year's success and we intend to continue the momentum moving forward," said Chandler. "By encouraging minority-owned businesses to do work with the state we ultimately grow a more diverse workforce."

Every state agency has created a spending plan for 2016 and will continue to include minority-owned businesses for contract opportunities. From IT services to medical service providers to food services, the state needs it all and is looking for minority-owned businesses to provide these goods and services.

"The key to the success of the MBE program is having a strong and diverse pool of talented, MBE-certified businesses that are ready, willing and able to help state agencies meet their program needs," said Greg Williams, Deputy Director and State EEO Coordinator, Department of Administrative Services. "To maintain the momentum and continued success of the MBE program, we need to encourage minority-owned businesses to apply for certification."

Minority Business Assistance Centers are strategically placed across the state to help business owners with certification and any other assistance needed to start or grow a business. For a list of centers, [click here](#).

"As opportunities for minority businesses in the Miami Valley region continue to increase, we are more excited than ever to provide assistance to those who are ready to grow," said Black.

