



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 14

**AN ORDER REGARDING DIVERSITY IN STATE CONTRACTING AND
PROCUREMENT**

WHEREAS, building and maintaining a strong, vibrant economy is critical to the future of this great state; and

WHEREAS, securing the economic health and vitality of this state in the 21st century demands that the State of Tennessee expand economic opportunity to all of its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of this state and nation, some minority and other protected groups have suffered grave injustice from the effects of economic discrimination. Even today some groups continue to struggle for an equal opportunity to earn a living and to take full advantage of economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, this Administration is firmly committed to the principle of expanding economic opportunities to all Tennesseans. This commitment is evidenced in part by Executive Order No. 13, signed on October 9, 2003, detailing this state's commitment to equal and fair employment opportunities within state government; and

WHEREAS, another key element of expanding economic opportunities to all Tennesseans lies in providing opportunities for small businesses and businesses owned by minorities and women to grow and succeed. This Administration fully recognizes that it is in a unique position to serve as a role model for all businesses throughout Tennessee in contracting and doing business with small businesses and businesses owned by minorities and women; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee currently attempts to provide a variety of services and resources to assist these businesses both in general growth and development and in specific efforts to secure state contracting and procurement opportunities. While many departments and agencies are working toward this common goal, there is currently no centralized organization to coordinate and focus the work of those departments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, it is clearly in the best interest of this state to ensure that small businesses and businesses owned by minorities and women are given the resources needed to grow into economically sound entities that are afforded the opportunity to compete successfully for the State of Tennessee's expenditures for goods and services.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, do hereby order and direct that:

1. It is the unwavering policy of this state to expand economic opportunities, both inside and outside state government, for small businesses and businesses owned by minorities and women. A primary component of this effort will be to expand opportunities for these businesses to compete successfully for the state's expenditures for goods and services. The success of this endeavor depends upon the unqualified, enthusiastic participation and commitment from every employee of state government. To this end, all Executive Branch departments, agencies, boards and commissions and any other divisions of the Executive Branch of state government shall fully cooperate to accomplish both the general and specific objectives of this Executive Order.
2. There is hereby created the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise. This office is charged with coordinating and directing the Executive Branch's efforts in assisting small businesses and businesses owned by minorities and women to develop into viable, successful businesses. This work shall specifically include assisting these businesses to compete successfully for the State of Tennessee's expenditures for goods and services. In fulfilling its charge, the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise is directed to work with all existing state agencies and offices, specifically including the Office of Business Enterprise within the Department of Economic and Community Development.
3. The Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise is directed to thoroughly review current state laws governing state contracting and procurement opportunities for small businesses and minority and women owned businesses and recommend to the Governor any needed changes to existing laws and any needed additional legislation.
4. All Executive Branch departments, agencies, boards and commissions and any other divisions of the Executive Branch of state government shall fully cooperate with the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise and shall provide staff support and any other assistance as requested. This cooperation specifically includes, but is not limited to, establishing annual departmental or agency level internal goals for small business and minority and women owned business contracting. In establishing these annual goals, each department and agency shall work closely with the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise.
5. The Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise shall be under the direction of the Commissioner of General Services. As Director of the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise, the Commissioner of General Services shall appoint a Diversity Business Program Director. This individual will work closely with the five major procurement entities within state government in order to ensure an optimal level of small business and minority and women owned business contracting. These five major procurement entities include the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Finance and Administration, the Department of General Services, the Department of Transportation and the State Building Commission.
6. The Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise shall be attached to the Department of General Services for administrative purposes.
7. This Executive Order supercedes and rescinds any and all executive orders and implementing directives and memoranda on the same subject.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 8th day of December, 2003.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE