



USDA offers Rural Business Opportunity Grants

QUICK SUMMARY: Grants may be made to public bodies, nonprofit corporations, Indian tribes on Federal or State reservations and other Federally recognized tribal groups, and cooperatives with members that are primarily rural residents and that conduct activities for the mutual benefit of the members.

The RBOG program promotes sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs through provision of training and technical assistance for business development, entrepreneurs, and economic development officials and to assist with economic development planning.

The limit for this grant is up to \$250,000.

DEADLINE: June 28, 2010

ELIGIBILITY: The RBOG program is primarily a training and technical assistance program. Funds may be provided for development of export markets; feasibility studies; development of long term trade strategies; community economic development planning; business training and business based technical assistance for rural entrepreneurs and business managers; establishment of rural business incubators; and assistance with technology based economic development. The types of projects that may be funded might include identification/ analysis of business opportunities that will utilize local material and human resources; provision of leadership development training to existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers; business support centers; centers for training, technology and export trade; and, economic development planning.

How do I apply for a grant?

To apply for funding for the RBOG program, please contact your Rural Development State Office. You can also review the annual Notice of Funds Available and the [RBOG program regulation](#) for more information.

Page For further grant opportunities visit www.grants.gov

Welcome, Recently
Certified DBEs!

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MDT holds two bid lettings each month.

Della Ehlke
Montana Hydraulics, LLC

Proposed for letting May 2010

UPN/UNIT	PROJECT ID	FINANCIAL DISTRICT	PROJECT DESIGNATION	TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION	LENGTH MILES
6869 000	IM 90-3(103)135	1	BEARMOUTH – E & W	RESURFACING-ASPHALT (THIN LIFT<=60.00MM)(INC SAF IMP.)(PAVE PRES)	15.3
6968 000	IM 94-7(30)244	4	NORTH DAKOTA LINE - WEST(WB)	RESURFACING-ASPHALT (THIN LIFT<=60.00MM) (SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE)	6.5
6796 000	NH 7-1(127)46	1	HAMILTON URBAN	RESURFACING-ASPHALT (THIN LIFT<=60.00MM) (SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE)	1.3
6959 000	NH 8-1(35)27	1,3	MACDONALD PASS – EAST	RESURFACING-SEAL & COVER	7.1
6970 000	NH 23-3(14)108	4	HAMMOND-SE	RESURFACING-ASPHALT(THIN LIST<=60.00MM)(SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE)	11.0
6754 001	NH 61-3(26)41	5	US 87 SLIDE-S GRASS RANGE	RECONSTRUCTION-WITHOUT ADDED CAPACITY	
6936 000	STPP 19-1(46)0	2	JCT I-90/MT-1-ANACONDA(EB)	MINOR REHABILITATION	6.9
6938 000	STPP 19-1(50)0	2	JCT I-90/MT-1-ANACONDA(WB)	MINOR REHABILITATION	6.9
6684 000	HSIP 31(27)	1	SF089 MISSOULA SAFETY IMPRVNTS	SIGNING, PAVEMENT MARKINGS CHEVRONS, ETC.	
1298 001	BH 59-1(24)1	2	Y-STONE RVR-6 M NE LIVINGSTON	MAJOR BRIDGE REHAB WITHOUT ADDED CAPACITY	0.1
2038 011	MT 15(93)	1	KBP-US 2 WIDENING	RECONSTRUCTION-WITH ADDED CAPACITY	

Remember, you must recertify every year to maintain your DBE status. You will be notified at least 4 weeks before your paperwork is due. If you do not submit the necessary paperwork by the date indicated on the letter, you risk losing your DBE certification. If you have questions regarding recertification, contact Wendy, 444-6337.



The State of Montana offers one stop vendor information at the following link:
<http://svc.mt.gov/gsd/onestop/SolicitationDefault.aspx>
 This website contains information from all agencies that are soliciting a contract. Check it out!



DBE Focus group recap...

The newly formed DBE focus group met for the first time on April 21 in Helena at the MDT headquarter building. Members of the group included: Sue Platis, Highway Specialties; Lisa Ballard, Current Transportation Solutions; Linda Dinas & Donnie Davis, Double Stud Construction; Vicki Gruber, Gruber Excavating; Deb Poteet, Poteet Construction; Carla Lott, Strong Bear Corporation; Wendy Stewart, DBE Program Manager; Shannon Hahn, DBE Supportive Services Coordinator. Topics that were discussed were DBE goal setting, DBE Statement of Work, DBE activities, ideal training time, and more face-to-face opportunities. The next meeting has not been scheduled, but looks like this will be a great opportunity for continuing discussions between DBEs .

			Participation
BLAHNIK CONSTRUCTION & READY MIX	WEST OF TWO DOT – W	STPP 14-3(24)77	3.12%
JIM GILMAN EXCAVATING INC	ELKHORN RAOD-SOUTH	ARRA 69-1(27)22	0.00%
JIM GILMAN EXCAVATING INC	DILLON-JACKSON INTCH	STPS 222-1(6)0	18.5%
JIM GILMAN EXCAVATING INC	16 M NE WISDOM-SPORTSMAN CAMP	STPP 46-3(4)42	0.00%
JIM GILMAN EXCAVATING INC	GRAND AVE-FLORENCE TO CONT	ARRA 1810(4)	3.46%
KNIFE RIVER BELGRADE	LIVINGSTON NE	ARRA 11 1(51)53	0.55%

SBA Proposes WOSB Rule

In March, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) released a proposed rule aimed at expanding federal contracting opportunities for women-owned small businesses (WOSB). The proposed rule is available for public comment for 60 days. This proposed rule is part of the Obama Administration's overall commitment to expanding opportunities for small businesses to compete for federal contracts, in particular those owned by women, minorities and veterans. The proposed rule identifies 83 industries in which WOSBs are under-represented or substantially under-represented in the federal contract marketplace. It is aimed at providing greater opportunities for WOSBs to compete for federal contracts, while achieving the existing statutory goal that 5% of federal contracting dollars go to women-owned small businesses. The creation of a rule to increase federal contracting opportunities for WOSBs was authorized by Congress in 2000. Since that time, SBA took a number of steps to study and analyze the market, including looking at participation by women-owned small businesses across all industries. Various draft rules were made available for public comment in prior years, but the Obama Administration chose last year to draft a new, comprehensive rule, based on the analysis of the prior studies and on all previously received questions and comments.

Some of the proposed WOSB rule components include:

- To be eligible, a firm must be 51% owned and controlled by one or more women, and primarily managed by one or more women.
- The women must be U.S. citizens.
- The firm must be "small" in its primary industry in accordance with SBA's size standards.
- In order for a WOSB to be deemed "economically disadvantaged," its owners must demonstrate economic disadvantage in accordance with the requirements set forth in the proposed rule.

Based upon the analysis in a study commissioned by the SBA from the Kauffman-RAND Foundation, the proposed rule identifies 83 industries (identified by "NAICS" codes) in which women-owned small businesses are under-represented or substantially under-represented. The eligible industries were identified based upon the combination of both the "share of contracting dollars" analysis, as well as the "share of number of contracts awarded" analysis used in the RAND study. In accordance with the statute, the proposed rule authorizes a set-aside of federal contracts for WOSBs where the anticipated contract price does not exceed \$5 million in manufacturing and \$3 million in other contracts. Contracts with values in excess of these limits are not subject to set-aside under this program. The proposed rule allows women-owned small businesses to self-certify as "WOSBs" or to be certified by third-party certifiers, including government entities and private certification groups. However, self-certifying WOSBs would be required to submit a robust certification at the federal ORCA website and also to submit a core set of eligibility-related documents to an online "document repository" to be maintained by the SBA. SBA intends vigorously to pursue ineligible firms which seek to take advantage of this program and in so doing to deny its benefits to the intended legitimate WOSBs. The public may submit comments to this proposed rule up until close of business on May 3, 2010, to www.regulations.gov, or by mailing them to Dean Koppel, Assistant Director, Office of Policy and Research, Office of Government Contracting, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd St. SW, Washington, DC 20416. Please reference RIN 3245-AG06 when submitting comments.

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Montana Department of Transportation



As part of our Statement of Work for this federal fiscal year, October 2009 to September 2010, we are able to fund MCA (Montana Contractor's Assn) dues for DBEs in order for DBEs to continue to network with prime contractors. In July, MCA offers dues at a reduced