

Southern Maryland Consortium of African American Community Organizations to Host Informative Presentation on the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program.

Date: September 30, 2009

Place: College of Southern Maryland- Prince Frederick, Room 119

Time: 6pm

MBE/DBE Overview

The State of Maryland is committed to enhancing opportunities for small, minority and women-owned firms to participate fully and fairly in public contracting. In 1978 the Maryland General Assembly passed groundbreaking legislation and established the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program. Today, State law sets a goal for contracting to certified MBEs at 25% -- the most aggressive in the nation.

A comprehensive certification program is administered by the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) to ensure that only bona fide firms participate in the program. OMBE also administers the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. DBE goals are set annually and apply to federally-funded transportation projects. Requirements for both programs are governed by State and Federal statutes and participation is limited to only those businesses determined to be owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

Although certification is not required to do business with the State, only certified MBEs/DBEs can fulfill the minority participation goal on public contracts and be listed in MDOT's online MBE/DBE Directory.

Companies interested in seeking certification through MDOT are invited to learn more by attending. Conducted by staff from the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, this informative presentation will clarify and highlight the benefits of certification, the requirements of both programs, the application procedures and the overall certification process.