

# The Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises

## 2011 Centennial Accord Plan

### **Commitment to Centennial Accord Principles**

OMWBE is fully committed to the principals of consultation and cooperation memorialized in the Centennial Accord. The sovereign status of Tribes and the complex nature of jurisdictional issues regarding Indian Reservations, Tribal and member trust land, and Tribal land in general, require a sound working relationship between Tribes and the State. OMWBE acknowledges that implementation of the Centennial Accord is an ongoing process and pledges to work on a day to day basis to foster our government-to-government relationship with individual Tribes.

### **Programs**

The Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) is committed to a positive government-to-government relationship with Tribes in Washington State. OMWBE has three program areas that may assist Tribes and its members: Certification (state and federal), Linked Deposit Program and Business Development.

#### *Certification*

State Program (Chapter 39.19 RCW)

- OMWBE certifies small business owned by American Indians or Alaskan Natives. (chapter 39.19. RCW), includes these firms in a Directory of Certified Firms and develops programs designed to provide maximum practicable access to the contracting and procurement opportunities of state agencies and educational institutions.

Federal Program (49 CFR Parts 23 and 26)

- OMWBE certifies small businesses owned by American Indians (49 CFR Parts 23 and 26) and includes these firms in a Directory of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

#### *Linked Deposit Program*

OMWBE co-administers this program with the Office of the State Treasurer. A business certified with the state program may enroll its loan obtained from a "participating bank" in this program and receive a reduction on the interest rate it pays for commercial financing of up to two percent.

### *Business Development*

OMWBE provides no cost training and assistance to businesses and persons interested in starting a business in capacity building, marketing, accessing agency contracting/procurement opportunities.

### **Consultation Process-Procedures**

OMWBE is committed to the consultation process as outlined in Section II, of the Government to Government Implementation Guidelines. OMWBE will work on strengthening its relationship with Tribal leaders and work cooperatively on issues of mutual concerns. An OWMBE Tribal Liaison designated by the Director is charged with the overall coordination of agency relations with American Indian governments, businesses, communities and participants.

### **Dispute Resolution Process**

Tribal disputes are immediately brought to the attention of the Director. Specific issues are initially routed to the Tribal Liaison for coordination and facilitation.

### **Tribal Liaison**

OMWBE has a designated Tribal Liaison who serves as a point of contact, functions in a clearinghouse role, as well as acts as a policy adviser to the Director. The Tribal Liaison is responsible for assisting Tribes and the agency with implementing effective government-to-government relations. The Tribal Liaison is also responsible for providing opportunities for Tribes, businesses and agency staff to meet, share input, and develop understandings of positions and interests. A key aspect of the Tribal Liaison's job is to be accessible to agency staff and Tribal government.

The OMWBE Tribal Liaison shall:

- Consult the tribes on matters that directly impact them,
- Build upon already established relationships and ongoing relationships,
- Respond and participate in the consultation process, and
- Recognize that tribes are traditionally, culturally and administratively different from each other.

OMWBE encourages Tribes and members to contact OMWBE's Tribal Liaison for information on OMWBE's programs.

### **Information**

OMWBE's website, <http://www.omwbe.wa.gov/> has information on OMWBE's programs.