

Resources for Women and Minorities

Federal

Small Business Administration (SBA)

www.sba.gov

Portland District Office
1515 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 1050
Portland, OR 97201

(503) 326-2682
Fax: (503) 326-2808

Programs:

Pre-Qualification Loan Program via an intermediary provides support and assistance in the small business loan application process to women, veteran and minority-owned businesses, as well as exporters, rural markets, and certain designated geographical areas and industries. The maximum loan amount under this program is \$250,000. For specific requirements and more information, please contact the local intermediary, the **Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs** (See Page 2).

Minority Enterprise Development—8(a) Program is intended to help socially and economically disadvantaged business owners gain equal access to the resources necessary to develop their business and compete on an equal basis in the mainstream economy. This is accomplished through one-on-one counseling, training workshops, and assistance for expanding into federal government contracting activity.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html

Jeana Eastman
(503) 231-6754

Program:

The **Loan Guaranty Program** was established to stimulate and increase Indian entrepreneurship and employment through the establishment, acquisition, or expansion of Indian-owned economic enterprises. The borrower must be a member of a federally recognized tribe, or Alaskan Native group, with a business that is located on or near a reservation, or recognized service area, and contribute to the economy of the reservation.

State

Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE)

www.omwbe.wa.gov

406 South Water Street
PO Box 41160
Olympia, WA 98504-1160

(360) 753-9693

Programs:

Certification as a minority- or women-owned business through the OMWBE assists disadvantaged businesses in acquiring State contracts. It also creates eligibility for the Linked Deposit Program.

The **Linked Deposit Program** was designed to serve the purpose of increasing access to capital for the State's minority and women-owned business community. The program loans up to \$50 million per year at two percentage points below the market interest rate for a similar purpose and term loan. There is no maximum individual loan amount, and loan terms can be up to 5 years. To qualify for a Linked Deposit Loan, businesses must be certified by the **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises** and have 50 employees or fewer.

Associations

MINORITY ORGANIZATIONS

Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME)

www.oame.org

4134 N. Vancouver Avenue
Portland, OR 97217

Sandford Maddox
(503) 249-7744
Email: smadd1@uswest.net

(Covers Clark, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties.)

Programs:

The **Technical Assistance** program provides one-on-one counseling to start-up and existing business owners, by **OAME** and **WAME** staff. It assists business owners with designing an action plan for his/her business plan creation, management and administration of the business, marketing/sales, budgeting, location and financing. The program also teaches

July 26, 2004

2

Office Documents:\The Rack Materials\Resources for Women & Minorities.doc

business owners to understand all phases of owning and managing a business, as well as learning how to network with major business owners and organizations.

The **Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs Credit Corporation** is a subsidiary company of **OAME**. This program allows minority business owners to take advantage of direct financing (micro-loan program), or help in finding outside loans or investments, and helps the business owner with application and loan documents. The direct financial assistance **OAME** provides, or the micro-plan program, allows loans up to \$15,000.

The **Administrative Services** program is a one stop administrative service for business owners. It provides educational services for low-income, minority small businesses in the areas of graphic design, use of computers, copier, postage machine, use of internet, faxing, mailing, usage of conference rooms, etc.

Oregon Native American Business Enterprise Network (ONABEN)

A Native American Business Network

www.onaben.org

11825 SW Greenburg Road, Suite B3
Tigard, OR 97223
(503) 968-1500
(800) 854-8289

Oregon Native American Chamber of Commerce

www.onacc.org

P.O. Box 82068
Portland, OR 97282-0068
(503) 654-2138

Kelly Anne Ilagen
kellyanne@onacc.org

Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber

www.hmcc.or.com

P.O. Box 1837
Portland, OR 97207

Mary Ann Potter
(503) 222-0280
E-mail: hmcc@quest.net

Black Contractors Alliance

C/o JEC Mechanical, Inc.
4134 N. Vancouver
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 288-7881

Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon

www.paccoregon.net

C/o Jamie Lim
5424 N Michigan Street
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 285-1994

Northwest Minority Business Council (NMBC)

www.nmbc.biz

320 Andover Park Street, Suite 205
Tukwila, WA 98188

(206) 575-7748
Fax: (206) 575-7783

Victor Valdez, MIM, *Executive Director*
valdezvf@nmbc.org

Magda Palmer, *Project Manager*

Programs:

Certifies bonafide minority-owned businesses. Also, the Counsel office refers companies to the Washington State OMWBE, and other government and public agencies, for their certification.

Minority Purchasing Programs promote business opportunities for minority-owned business firms. The Corporate Business Development Committee works with corporations to assure compliance to reporting requirements and complaint resolution.

Working Capital Loan Programs for short-term financing and equipment leasing are offered through several local and national banks and through the Business Consortium Fund, Inc. The BCF provides contract financing to qualified, certified, ethnic minority business members from across America through a network of local participating banks. The BCF is funded through investments from major corporations, state governments, and foundations.

WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS

National Women Business Owners Corporation

www.nwboc.org

1001 W. Jasmine Drive, Suite G
Lake Park, FL 33403

Janet Harris-Lange
(800) 675-5066
Fax: (561) 881-7364
info@nwboc.org

Program:

National Certification Program for Women Business Owners introduces women-owned companies to the corporate and government markets by increasing the opportunities for women entrepreneurs to compete for corporate and government business. The NWBOC has partnered with more than 40 corporations, government agencies, and organizations to develop its National Certification Program.

Women Entrepreneurs of Oregon (WEO)

www.oregonweo.org

Portland Metro Chapter
Sue Richardson
PMB 119
3 Monroe Parkway, Suite P
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

(503) 326-2682
Email: sue.richardson@sba.gov

Women Entrepreneurs of Oregon (WEO) is all about “Dynamic women taking risks and supporting each other to reach our goals”. **WEO** uses networking to encourage professional and personal support. They also provide skill-building programs for leadership and management development. Benefits of belonging to **WEO** include: a listing of your business on the **WEO** website and in “Membership Directory”, free checking and banking through Safeway Northwest Credit Union, and access to the **WE Fund, Inc.**, a non-profit organization providing loans for businesses of up to \$2,000.

American Business Women's Association (ABWA)

www.abwahq.org

Fort Vancouver Chapter
Stacy Mortensen
510 NW 56th Circle
Vancouver, WA 98663
(360) 694-7147

Programs:

E-Learning is a program that provides online training on topics from Managing Stress to Microsoft Office 2000. The courses are short, most being completed in 2 hours, affordable, and flexible, as you can study at anytime that's convenient for you. A certificate of completion may be given for most business and computer courses.

Business Skills Grants are great for busy, working women who need help in their current profession, or who are looking for a change, but don't need to enroll in a degree program. This program covers non-academic courses from a one-time computer course to obtaining a license.

The **Leadership Certificate Program** involves a total of 50 hours of classroom instruction, independent study, and work experience. It also includes a leadership skill assessment, required and optional workshops, self-study materials, and assignments for practical applications of basic leadership principals. A certificate at the end of the course will validate your commitment to increasing your leadership experience and expertise, your organizational effectiveness, and your own professional development. Benefits to the program are a pace of learning that suits your personality, lower cost, and no certification examination.

The **ABWA's** national scholarship trust, the **Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund**, has provided more than \$12.5 million to the professional education of women. **ABWA** members can apply for **SBMEF** grants and loans for business-skills training.

Women In Action (WIA)

www.womeninaction.org

Tammy Nelson, President
Columbia Credit Union
P.O. Box 324
Vancouver, WA 98666

Women In Action is a non-profit program, which encourages the building of self-confidence, helping women to transfer from welfare to work. **Women In Action** works with "welfare-to-work" programs in order to combine professional skills taught in class, with outdoor activities designed to encourage self-growth. These outdoor activities, such as hiking, kayaking and ropes courses, teach women to work together as a team, overcome self-defeating beliefs, and challenge themselves to reach new goals.

July 26, 2004

Office Documents:\The Rack Materials\Resources for Women & Minorities.doc

Private

Cascadia Revolving Fund

www.cascadiafund.org

1901 NW Market Street
Seattle, WA 98107
(206) 447-9226

Cascadia Revolving Fund is a private, non-profit organization that provides loans of up to \$300,000 to low-income entrepreneurs, minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, immigrant-owned businesses, Hispanic-owned businesses, child care businesses, businesses in distressed communities, nonprofit organizations and cooperatives. The interest rates are fixed and terms vary from one to five years. Business assets and personal assets are accepted for collateral, as it is usually required, although exceptions can be made. To receive a loan your business must have at least a six-month operating history and the loan must be for:

- Equipment or Inventory
- Working Capital
- Facility Improvements or
- Business Acquisitions

Mercy Corps International/Refugee-Immigrant Self-Employment (RISE)

www.mercycorpsnw.org

Oregon Programs Office
936 SE Ankeny, Suite 1
Portland, OR 97214

Carol Coven
(503) 236-1580

Programs:

The Portland Entrepreneur Initiative (PEI) is a nonprofit lending program designed to help entrepreneurs secure loans for their small business ideas. PEI offers technical assistance to all loan recipients and is dedicated to helping low-income, minority and women entrepreneurs in Portland become self-employed. They focus on helping those who are having difficulty getting credit from commercial banks or other traditional lenders. You can qualify for a **PEI** loan if:

- You have a viable business plan or idea
- You live and intend to do business in the city of Portland
- You are low to moderate income as defined by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Guidelines
- You want to start, expand or stabilize a business
- You have credit needs of between \$500 and \$25,000
- You can repay your loan within 3 years

The Refugee/Immigrant Self-Employment (RISE) Project is a nonprofit program offering business training, technical assistance and access to loans for refugees and immigrants. **RISE** offers 6-week business training courses in:

How to Find and Manage Money
Laws, Licensing and Taxes
Business Planning
Marketing and Advertising and
Lessons from Small Business Owners

These classes are offered five times a year with an option of evening or Saturday morning classes.