

# **EPA Office of Small Business Programs Update**

SBO 2008 National  
Conference

June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

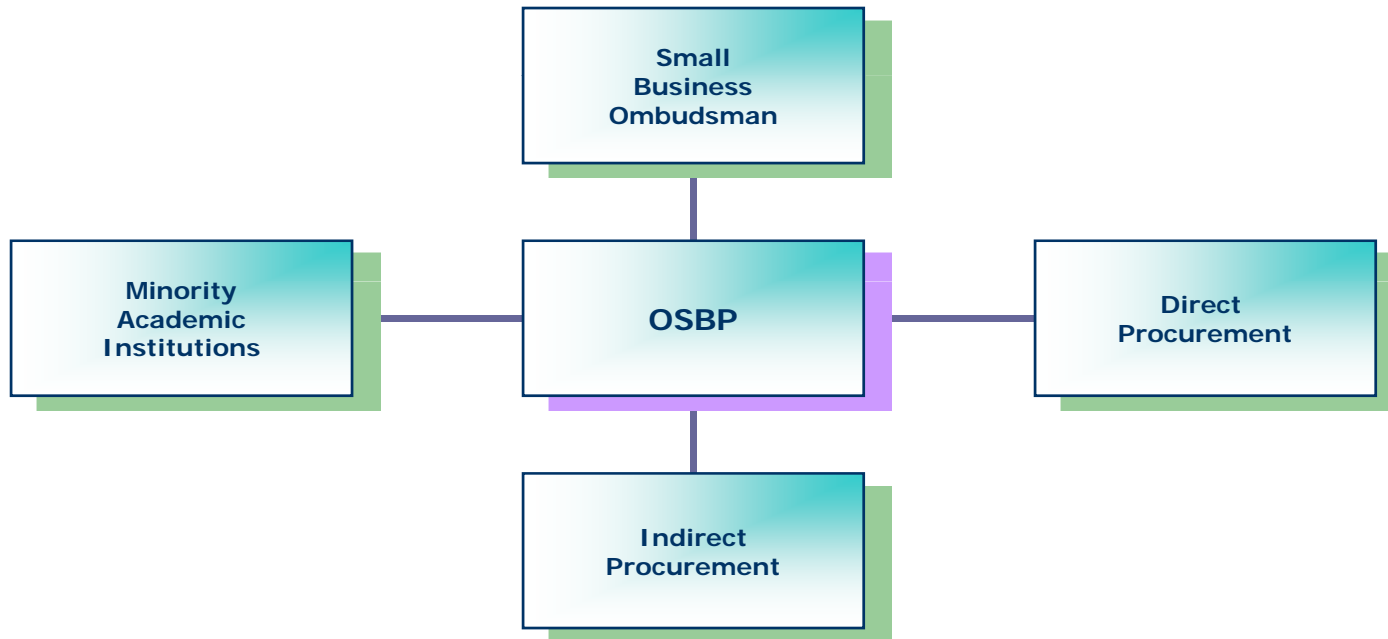
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Jeanette L. Brown,  
EPA OSBP Director

# Office Name Change

- As of March 2008, the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization's name has officially changed to the Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP).

# OSBP Program Components



## OSBP's G-4 Initiative

- **Getting Green by Going Green**
- Encourage small businesses to consider their environmental impacts.
- Green their operations
- Connect businesses with other EPA voluntary programs including; Energy Star, WasteWise

## OSBP's Direct Procurement Program

June 2007 and 2008, EPA OSBP has been recognized, among all Federal Agencies, as one of the agencies awarding the highest percentage of Federal contracts to Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses by the Department of Veteran's Affairs' Center for Veterans Enterprises.

# OSBP's Minority Academic Institution

The **MAI** Coordinator utilizes OSBP's outreach resources to:

- **Assess compliance** with EO authority for MAI program;
- **Identify best practices** within the Agency for partnering with MAIs;
- **Establish measurable goals** for partnership with MAIs;
- **Coordinate partnerships** with SBDCs;
- **Provide compliance assistance** through education and outreach;

## **Update:**

An internship program has been recently established as an Interagency Agreement with the Departments of Energy and the Department of Interior to enable students from MAI's to gain practical work experience with EPA.

# OSBP's DBE Program and Updates

The DBE Program is an outreach, education, and goaling program designed to increase the participation of DBEs in procurements funded by EPA assistance agreements. The EPA DBE Program encompasses many of the components of the former MBE/WBE Program and includes many new features.

## **Update:**

May 27, 2008 The DBE Rule is affective and now applies to all new grants created after this affective date.



# DBE Rule Docket

The rule and all supporting materials can be found on:

*[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)*



Or at:

[www.epa.gov/osbp](http://www.epa.gov/osbp)

# The Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) Assessment

- **FINDING 1:** It is impossible for SBO to accomplish its mission at current staffing levels.
- **RECOMMENDATION 1:** Fully staff the SBO program.

# The Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) Assessment

- **FINDING 2:** There is general confusion among stakeholders regarding the SBO's mission.
- **RECOMMENDATION 2:** Revitalize and expand the understanding of the SBO function with both internal and external stakeholders.

# The Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) Assessment

- **FINDING 3:** The SBO Hotline should be automated to incorporate new technologies and performance tools.
- **RECOMMENDATION 3:** Incorporate hotline technologies and design performance tools.

# The Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) Assessment

- **FINDING 4:** A ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach does not successfully address states’ needs because states have different budgets, priorities, and staffing allocated for accomplishing national objectives.
- **RECOMMENDATION 4:** Customize needs of the SBEAP support levels.

# The Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) Assessment

- **FINDING 5:** There is a critical need for support at the regional level.
- **RECOMMENDATION 5:** Expand and improve the quantity and quality of assistance at the regional level.

# The Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) Assessment

- **FINDING 6:** There is a lack of opportunity for states to have input in regulatory changes that impact the small businesses assisted through these components.
- **RECOMMENDATION 6:** Expand SBO role in the Agency's regulatory development process.

# SBO Highlights

Angela Suber  
Acting SBO

# Annual Survey

- 2004/05/06 Periodic Summary Report
- New annual reporting form ICR with outcome measures -- OMB Comments
  - More detailed descriptions
  - Need for pilot measures
  - Survey design

## Resources and Tools

- Makeover of the *Update Newsletter*
  - Convert to electronic format
  - First issue in July
- Suggested resources
  - Updated Green Book
  - Guide to Greening Small Business
  - Regulatory resources

# Website

- Smallbiz website
  - New look and functionality
    - Promotional Subcommittee
  - New contract
    - Expected to be awarded this summer

# Communication

- Quarterly NSC/NCAP conference calls with OSBP Director
- Frequent electronic updates from OSBP Director

# Current Functions

- Hotline
- Support National SBO/SBEAP Network and annual conference
- Support for regional liaisons and regional Liaison's meeting
- Deputy Administrator Trade Association Annual Meeting
- Advocate for small business in the Agency rulemaking