

# Small Business Procurement Program

Implementing the 2023 Oregon Disparity Study

## Procurement Equity in Oregon

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature funded a Disparity Study to assess the participation of traditionally excluded and marginalized groups from governmental procurement opportunities. The study began in October 2022, with results published in November 2023.

Additionally, in August 2022, Executive Order No. 22-15 directed state agencies to create five-year action plans addressing gaps in equity and inclusion for minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and emerging small businesses in state contracting.

To support the work of the executive order and the alignment of recommendation implementation from the disparity study, the Office of Procurement Equity was created.

***HB 2337 directs DAS to establish a procurement program for small businesses and requires Business Oregon to create a certification to promote equity for all small businesses in Oregon.***

## HB 2337- Implementing Disparity Study findings

HB 2337 would implement a new framework to support small businesses through certification and procurement initiatives. This framework would establish a Small Business Procurement Program through the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and create a new certification through the Oregon Business Development Department (Business Oregon).

## Key Provisions:

- **Small Business Procurement Program Targets:** Introduces procurement targets for small businesses utilization, ensuring measurable goals and increased opportunities for certified small businesses in state contracting.
- **Creation of the Oregon Small Business Enterprise (OSBE) Certification:** Establishes a new certification that includes all Oregon-based small businesses, whether they are classified or not as minority-owned, woman-owned, veteran-owned, or an emerging small business. This will expand eligibility to businesses that may not have met previous criteria. Existing certifications will remain active.
- **Enhanced Business Support:** Expands outreach and engagement efforts, and resources and technical assistance, to Oregon based small businesses, driving increased participation and creating a more equitable distribution of contracts.

This new certification would expand support services, HB2337 strengthens Oregon's commitment to inclusive economic growth. This bill expand eligibility to participation and ensures that all Oregon-based small businesses have access to compete for contracts.

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