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STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792
Phone (303) 866-2471



Roy Romer
Governor

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

CREATION OF THE DISPARITY RESOLUTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the State of Colorado to create, operate and maintain a state procurement system that provides all Colorado individuals and businesses with an equal and fair opportunity to compete for state contracts; and

WHEREAS, the creation and maintenance of such an open, fair, and equitable procurement system will benefit all Colorado businesses and citizens; and

WHEREAS, our economy will be strengthened by making our economic base as broad as possible; and

WHEREAS, toward that end, the Colorado General Assembly authorized and a private consultant, MGT, Inc., completed, in accordance with Supreme Court precedent, a "disparity study" to determine the extent to which women- and minority-owned businesses encounter obstacles to participation in state-based contracting; and

WHEREAS, the study indicated substantial disparity between the availability and the utilization of minority- and women-owned businesses in the awarding of state contracts for commodities, personal services, professional services, construction and highway and bridge design and construction; and

WHEREAS, a "Disparity Resolution Task Force" was created by Executive Order of April 7, 1998 to engage citizens from a wide variety of communities and from both the public and private sectors in a process to develop creative and positive recommendations for eliminating barriers to full and equal participation in state contracting opportunities; and

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WHEREAS, the Task Force formed five Working Groups, which met with the participation of over 100 Coloradans over a three-month period to gather input and provide recommendations; and

WHEREAS, that Task Force has submitted to me its recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the success of many of those recommendations will depend upon ongoing oversight, to ensure that they are being fully and effectively implemented; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the relevant state agencies will require ongoing information about the success or failure of specific recommendations in order to assess the state's progress toward the goal of maintaining an open, fair and equitable procurement system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roy Romer, Governor of the State of Colorado, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the statutes and constitution of the State of Colorado, DO HEREBY ORDER THAT:

1. An on-going nine-member Disparity Resolution Oversight Committee is hereby established, to be composed of public officials and statewide representation from the private sector, including minority and women organizations and chambers of commerce.
2. The Oversight Committee shall:
 - a. Receive and review all state procurement reports regarding utilization of minority and women business enterprises;
 - b. Receive and review all analyses and reports created in accordance with recommendations of the Disparity Resolution Task Force and present recommendations to the Governor regarding action that should be taken in responses to these analyses and reports;
 - c. Meet as necessary and appropriate with state officials to be briefed on agency plans for, and progress in, implementing Task Force recommendations;
 - d. Meet as necessary and appropriate with representatives of the private sector in order to form partnerships to improve business opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses;

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- e. Assess progress made by state agencies in implementing the Task Force recommendations adopted by the Governor and by relevant state agencies;
 - f. Report to the Governor and to interested community organizations as to the state's progress in implementing Task Force recommendations and in reducing the disparities in utilization of available minority- and women-owned firms;
 - g. Assess, as of September 1999, whether sufficient progress has been made toward equalizing opportunities for minority and women businesses in specific areas of state procurement, and recommend to the Governor which, if any, of the alternative strategies recommended in the Task Force report should be implemented in such specific procurement areas.
3. No member of the Committee shall receive compensation for Committee activities. Members on the Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Staff support for the Committee shall be provided by the Minority Business Office.



GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado, this 25th
Day of August, 1998


Roy Romer
Governor