



State of New Jersey

Department of the Treasury

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New Agreement to Open, Speed NJ Certification of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises

(New York) -- State Treasurer David Rousseau today signed a new agreement with two regional affiliates of a national not-for-profit association that will make it easier and faster for New Jersey firms to be certified as minority or women-owned business enterprises, enhancing their access to contracting opportunities in the public sector and private industry.

“Governor Jon Corzine has made the economic success of small, minority and women-owned businesses a top priority of his administration, and the agreement signed today creates more opportunities for businesses to succeed,” said Treasurer Rousseau.

The agreement is a Memorandum of Understanding between the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Minority and Women Business Development (DMWBD) and the two regional affiliates of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), a non-profit corporate membership organization that certifies bona-fide minority business enterprises and facilitates procurement opportunities for its members. The MOU, with the New York & New Jersey Minority Supplier Development Council and the PA-NJ-Delaware Minority Supplier Development Council, was signed at a the New York & New Jersey-sponsored expo at the Marriott Marquis in Manhattan today and takes effect immediately.

“This MOU advances the joint goal of the State and the Council, which is to support and help minority-owned business enterprises compete for procurement opportunities. More specifically, the agreement allows council-certified minority-owned businesses who are not yet registered with the State to obtain State certification through an expedited and streamlined process,” he said.

Nina Moseley, Senior Director of the DMWBD, said that under the new agreement, Council-certified firms would not be required to fill out and submit lengthy application packets normally required of businesses seeking New Jersey Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification.

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A \$100 application fee would also be waived. “This agreement will fast track the application process, limiting the paperwork to a few single-page documents, saving New Jersey companies the time and expense associated with gaining MBE certification” she said.

Elizabeth Lindsey, Associate Assistant Treasurer for Economic Development, also welcomed the new alliance with the Minority Supplier Development Council “This MOU will provide these firms with the ability to compete for more contracts in the private sector and to utilize this additional certification as an important marketing tool.”

Francis Blanco, DMWBD Director, also noted that the MOU will grow the size of New Jersey’s registry of women and minority-owned business enterprises, which now stands at 2,300. “We would expect that hundreds of more businesses will become part of this registry, which gives qualified businesses high profile exposure for contracting and subcontracting opportunities,” she said.

“Governor Corzine wants to do everything possible to put more New Jersey businesses and New Jersey citizens to work, and this MOU is designed to do just that by putting more businesses in the state’s MBE registry,” Treasurer Rousseau said.

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