Business Diversity Overview

The Department of Corrections is committed to providing opportunities for a diverse supplier base to participate in the procurement process, encouraging the use of minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, small business vendors as suppliers. Supporting equity and inclusive prosperity in a state in which all people share equal rights and opportunities to prosper, the Department is uniquely positioned to work with small business in the communities where we have a justice presence.

**STEPS TAKEN:**

- Monthly review of enterprise reporting on diversity spending to identify areas for improvement.
- Began process of drafting new policies, based on the Community of Practice (COP) model policies.
- Increased veteran-owned business spend by $1.5 million from FY2019 to FY2020.
- Informed non-certified vendors of the benefits of OMWBE certification.

Despite the COVID-19 global pandemic during fiscal year 2020, the Department of Corrections achieved success by increasing annual diverse spend over the previous year. Despite the challenges, the percentage of small business and veteran spend increased significantly, while total Washington State Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises (OMWBE) certified vendor spend increased by over $445,000. Between all three categories of veteran, small business and OMWBE, the agency increased diverse spending by 2.17 percent.

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