



February 27, 2015

To the Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor, and

The Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly

Subject: **UPDATED SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED AND VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT.**

Greetings,

Pursuant to Public Act 097-260 (30ILCS 500/45-57(b)) the Department of Central Management Services (CMS), presents the FY 2014 Annual Report for Service Disabled Veteran-owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) and Veteran-owned Small Businesses (VOSB). In FY 2014, CMS has established the certification policies procedures administered for these Veteran-owned businesses.

The Veterans Business Program (VBP) oversees the certification of SDVOSB/VOSB firms and reports their utilization in State contracts. In addition, we work in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), and the four Chief Procurement Offices (CPO), in carrying out strategic marketing plans encouraging the Veteran vendors to participate within the State's procurement process. These efforts include statewide recruitment and outreach events conducted in partnership with these agencies along with support from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA) and the Capital Development Board (CDB). Further, CMS joined forces creating better business resources with federal and state agencies such as the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Illinois Procurement Technical Assistant Centers (PTAC), Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), and adding Chambers of Commerce across Illinois. This combining effort has increased CMS' ability to provide comprehensive business tools to VBP companies to help them succeed in competing for procurements within the mainstream of their industries.

In addition, CMS implemented efforts to increase Veteran business participation amongst all agencies under the purview of the Governor. These efforts resulted in establishing Administrative Rules for agency adherence; conducting statewide training for agency staff and procurement administrators and incorporating relevant procurement templates for all solicitations.

To date, CMS has certified a total of **113 VBP** applications, with **49 identified as SDVOSB and 64 identified VOSB**. This represents an increase in VBP participants in our vendor base by **61%** from 70 FY13 certifications. CMS has also enacted certification recognition policies with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Cook County, in an effort to increase the State's VBP vendor pool.

During FY14, we also established a VBP Committee composed of five members appointed by the Directors of CMS and IDVA. The VBP Committee appointees serve for 2 years and assist with oversight of the certification appeal process for VBP applicants.

During FY14, CPO offices reported:

- Total number of Veteran small businesses who entered into contracts with state.....26.
- Total value of contracts awarded.....\$25,639,036.

The \$25,639,036 total contracts award value represents 2.31% of spend being achieved by SDVOSB/VOSBs. The total of FY14 contracting dollars subject to our Veterans business goal was \$1,106,236,144.

CMS remains steadfast and committed to the continued improvement of our Veteran Business Program. We will focus an aggressive campaign during FY15 to increase agency implementation of VBP goal setting measures on available contracts; increasing outreach efforts and workshops; streamlining our certification process; and, continuing to encourage qualified, prospective Veteran vendors to do business with the State.

Respectfully,

  
Tom Tyrrell  
Acting Director