



## ODOT Launches Small Business Training Program FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Is your small business or a small business you know looking to break into the highway construction industry? The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is launching a Small Enterprise Training Program to facilitate increased participation in construction contracting opportunities by Oklahoma's small businesses.

The program will offer free training to Oklahoma-based companies which meet National Small Business Administration's size guidelines and are actively pursuing ODOT contracting opportunities. The program's first day-long workshop will be January 12 in Oklahoma City.

The goal of the program is to assist ODOT's certified Disadvantaged Businesses Enterprises and other small businesses currently involved in or interested in expanding their operations in the road construction industry. The workshops will help to increase the participants' business expertise and their capacity to acquire and perform contracts both in the public and private sector. The year-long training program will include technical subjects such as bidding and estimating costs in addition to business skills like networking and using social media as an outreach tool.

"ODOT recognized the need for this program as we worked to provide supportive services to the state's Disadvantaged Business Enterprises," Susan McClune, ODOT Civil Rights Division Assistant Manager, said. "Many small companies needed assistance in gaining additional technical or business skills to be more successful, but could not qualify through the current DBE program."

Requirements to qualify for the program include being an independent for-profit business looking to perform work directly related to heavy highway construction either as a subcontractor, material supplier, service provider, trucking firm or provider of professional services.

Interested businesses will be required to be certified prior to taking part in the program by submitting a brief application and supporting documentation. All DBE companies currently registered with ODOT are also encouraged to participate.

For more information on the program eligibility requirements or to register, please contact Victoria Armstrong, ODOT Small Business Enterprise Program at 405-522-3978 or [varmstrong@odot.org](mailto:varmstrong@odot.org).

- [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us) -

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INFORMATION RELEASE

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