



News Release

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National Women's Business Council Releases

New Federal Procurement Resources

Updated Web Site and New Study Offer Support for Women-Owned Businesses

Washington, DC – The National Women's Business Council (NWBC) today announced the launch of a redesigned web site to assist women-owned businesses with federal government contracting. The web site, www.womenbiz.gov, expands on existing content to provide valuable information and tips specifically targeted to women-owned businesses. With links to many other government procurement resources, the redesigned Womenbiz.gov web site serves as a first stop for women business owners interested in doing business with the federal government.

“Government contracts can be a great source of business revenue for both new and established businesses,” said NWBC Executive Director Margaret Barton. “The redesigned Womenbiz.gov will help women business owners understand the government procurement process and learn how to navigate it successfully.”

The National Women's Business Council today also published a report highlighting best practices in federal procurement assistance programs offered by federal agencies through their Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). The report, “Best Practices in Federal Procurement: A Study of the Successes and Barriers for Women-Owned Business,” is based on interviews with OSDBU offices and women business owners and includes recommendations intended to improve outreach and procurement practices within federal government agencies.

With this new report, the NWBC offers policy makers and government agencies a detailed analysis of current outreach efforts as well as recommendations for improving federal contracting assistance programs in the future. Some of the best practices identified in the study include vendor outreach sessions, where program and procurement officials meet directly with small businesses, increased use of technology, including nationwide conference calls and video conferencing, and regional meetings and training for small businesses seeking procurement opportunities.

The report also serves as a guide for women business owners interested in federal contracting. “Women business owners consistently rank access to government contracts as one of their top priorities,” stated Barton. “With this report and the newly redesigned Womenbiz.gov web site, the Council continues to serve the women's business community by providing valuable resources aimed at helping them succeed in federal procurement.”

The full report, as well as an executive summary, will soon be available on the NWBC web site, www.nwbc.gov. To request a copy of the report via email, please contact Allison Gilmore at 202-205-6827 or allison.gilmore@sba.gov.

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The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. For more information about the Council, its mission and activities, contact: National Women's Business Council, 409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20024; phone: 202-205-3850; fax: 202-205-6825, e-mail: info@nwbc.gov; Web site: www.nwbc.gov.