

# Government Contracts, ARRA and Minority Businesses

The ARRA makes a long-overdue and historic investment in our national infrastructure — including roads, bridges, public transit, housing and broadband — to save or create nearly 400,000 jobs for American workers today and power enhanced economic growth for decades to come.

The Act includes \$150 billion in new federal infrastructure funding that reflects President Obama's belief that we can only strengthen our economy by investing in local economies. For more information related to the Act, please visit [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

Some of these projects include:

- Investing more than \$17 billion in public transit and high speed rail to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.
- Safeguarding the roads, bridges, dams, ports, rail and water systems our families use everyday with an historic \$40 billion, two-year investment.
- Expanding broadband throughout America.
- Making an historic \$25 billion investment in school construction, sufficient to renovate and modernize 10,000 schools.

## What does this mean for minority businesses?

MBDA is working with many government agencies including the Small Business Administration, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Department of Transportation, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Economic Development Administration to make sure minority businesses play a role in rebuilding our nation. Key to this is identifying minority firms capable of bidding on federal, state and local government contracts and notifying MBDA minority business centers of available opportunities.

To this end, MBDA wants to remind minority entrepreneurs that ARRA contracting will be done no differently than any other government contracting opportunity. MBDA recommends that minority businesses:

- Register in the Central Contracting Registry (CCR) [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov). Or, if you are already registered, please make sure your profile is up-to-date with correct contact information, capabilities, bonding and most important "past performance."
- Register with MBDA's Phoenix Opportunity Matching System and visit your local MBDA minority business center. For the nearest MBDA centers go to [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov).
- Look out for "Sources Sought" and "Request for Information (RFIs)" postings. If you are contacted regarding an opportunity, please respond as soon as possible
- Make contacts and build relationships. Some contracts may be large or bundled, but by building strategic partnerships with other companies, your company can still be a part of the work.
- Firms who are 8(a)s, on the GSA schedule, women-owned business, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Trical Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Service Disabled Veteran Owned, Native Tribes, in Hub-Zones: are state certified and have strong past performance have a competitive advantage for "shovel ready projects."
- Keep informed by visiting [recovery.gov](http://recovery.gov), [fedbizopps.gov](http://fedbizopps.gov) and [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) to make sure you are aware of every opportunity for your business.

Overall, make sure your business is ready, has strategic alliances in place and can take advantage of these opportunities as they become available. For more information, or to locate ARRA opportunities, please contact a minority business center near you. MBDA's minority business centers can be found by visiting [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov).