

**Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment**

**Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group**

**Recommendation to the Federal Communications Commission**

**November 19, 2018**

Given the success of the Supplier Diversity Workshop on June 4, 2018, facilitated by the Office of Communications Business Opportunities (“OCBO”) and the Media Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”), in partnership with the Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group (“DEI WG”), the Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment (“ACDDE”) makes the following recommendations to the Commission.

The ACDDE recommends that OCBO continue to host an annual Supplier Diversity Workshop in cooperation the pertinent FCC Bureaus and/or Offices. The Workshops should focus on best practices, strategies, and practical information for the expansion of procurement and contracting opportunities for small, minority-owned, women-owned, and other diverse businesses -- before, during, and after the deployment of existing or next generation networks and technologies, or other important developments.

The ACDDE also recommends that the Workshops serve generally as a forum to:

(1) inform government agency and corporate contracting personnel about the availability of small and diverse businesses;

(2) facilitate networking among governmental entities, companies and Workshop participants to increase awareness about the nature of the supplier services available, as well as contracting opportunities;

(3) educate and inform small and diverse businesses on how to navigate government small business and corporate supplier diversity programs;

(4) help government sector small business program managers and corporate supplier executives and diversity officers to better understand the challenges that small and diverse businesses experience; and

(5) share best practices, strategies, and tools, and short and long-term public and private sector business opportunities for small and diverse businesses.

In addition, the ACDDE recommends that OCBO maintain a list of all Workshop participants, including small and diverse businesses, that attended the June 2018 Workshop. Such list should serve as the foundation of a regularly updated small and diverse business contact database that could be used for future events, as well as for disseminating correspondence or information about Commission policies or proceedings related to supplier diversity.

The ACDDE further recommends that the Commission consider the following two proposals:

1) work with the communications and technology companies and government entities to secure details about their respective small business and supplier diversity programs and make this information readily available to the public through the FCC’s *Contracting and Procurement Information* page, currently available on FCC.gov; and

2) develop an online portal to federal government agencies’ repositories of procurement opportunities for small minority-owned, women-owned, and other diverse businesses. Examples of such repositories may exist at the Minority Business Development Agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The development of such an online portal should be initiated and managed by OCBO in coordination with other federal and state agencies. The objective is to have broad interagency cooperation and participation. The portal would enable the Commission to expand outside of the federal sector and better serve the public interest by acting as a disseminator of information for the technology and telecommunications industries and a one-stop information resource to diverse suppliers seeking technology and telecommunications contracting and procurement opportunities with government and private sector organizations.

And finally, the DEI WG recommends that OCBO coordinate with the ACDDE on any action related to the implementation of these recommendations.

**Submitted: November 19, 2018**

**Adopted: November 19, 2018**