

October 2024

"Innovating Together, Embracing Diversity in Business"

Toast to 50 years

of empowerment and innovation,
celebrating the strides made and
envisioning a future of even greater impact.



Your monthly news & updates

Four Pillars of the MPMSDC
Certify~~Connect~~Develop~~Advocate

[Visit our Website](#)

What does the Mountain Plains MSDC do?

The Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Development Council (**MPMSDC**) provides solutions for corporations that want to partner with the Council to leverage talent, capabilities, and markets that minority suppliers represent. The MPMSDC certifies minority suppliers.

We certify minority suppliers so that Corporate America can maximize and measure the impact of minority suppliers have on communities of color and ethnicity.

[Mountain Plains MSDC](#)

Vision of the Mountain Plains MSDC

The Vision of the MPMSDC is to be the bridge to help corporations create wealth within the minority business community by connecting them to capable and qualified MBEs for contracting opportunities.

**Executive Vice President's
Corner**
[Get Connected.](#)



Belinda Hooks
Mountain Plains MSDC
Executive Vice President

Stay Connected.
Be Connected!



Greetings and Welcome to October!

Hello MBEs, Corporate Members, and Strategic Partners!

We have some exciting events on the horizon! Mark your calendars and get ready for an unforgettable season of celebration, learning, and connection. Here's what's coming up:

□ October 11th, 2024 – 50th Anniversary Gala

Time: 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Location: Charter Communications

We invite you to a catered affair with drinks, live music, and a DJ. Dress to impress in semi-formal or cocktail attire for an evening celebrating **five decades** of dedicated service to our MBE community and corporate members. □ This milestone is only possible because of YOU!

Together, we've championed minority businesses, forged powerful connections, and driven economic growth. Let's make this celebration one to remember! □

□ Tuesday, October 29th – Corporate Roundtable Series with Dr. Andrea Hendricks

Topic: □ Connecting with the Community: Supply Chain Diversity □

Join Dr. Andrea Hendricks as she shares her expertise on the future of supply chain diversity. Learn key best practices and how supplier diversity can lead to innovative solutions while fostering an inclusive economy. Don't miss this chance to explore strategies that drive real change! □

□ Early December – Holiday Affair and Showcase

Get ready for our festive Holiday Affair and Showcase, taking place in Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. More details and registration will be coming soon, so stay tuned!

Looking forward to seeing you at these events!

Warm regards,

2024 Programming & Events from the Mountain Plains Council

FRIDAY
OCT 11, 2024

6 PM – 10 PM

6350 S. Fiddlers Green Cir
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Dress: Cocktail /
Semi-Formal

Mountain Plains
Minority Supplier
Development Council

50TH
ANNIVERSARY
MPMSDC

COLORADO

SPECIAL
EVENT

LIVE IN CO

Mountain Plains MSDC
50th ANNIVERSARY GALA

CERTIFY
DEVELOP
CONNECT
ADVOCATE

"Innovating Together, Embracing Diversity in Business"

Celebrate 50 Years of MPMSDC!

We invite you to an unforgettable evening commemorating five decades of service to our MBE community and corporate members. This milestone is only possible because of YOU!

Experience an evening honoring our journey of fostering inclusion, diversity, and business excellence. Together, we've championed minority businesses, forged powerful connections, and driven economic growth across the region.

Let's make this celebration one to remember!

Friday October 11th

6 PM – 10 PM

Charter Communications
6350 South Fiddlers Green Cir
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Dress
Semi - Formal
Cocktail Attire

Tickets: Payment via PayPal: Contact Us!
\$50 for One No PayPal account 303-623-3037
\$75 for Two needed for purchase.

PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE OCTOBER 7th

REGISTER HERE FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY
GALA



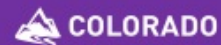
WWW.MPMSDC.ORG



Sponsors to Date



CERTIFY | DEVELOP | CONNECT | ADVOCATE





WWW.MPMSCD.ORG



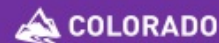
Sponsors to Date



Catering Provided by:



CERTIFY | DEVELOP | CONNECT | ADVOCATE



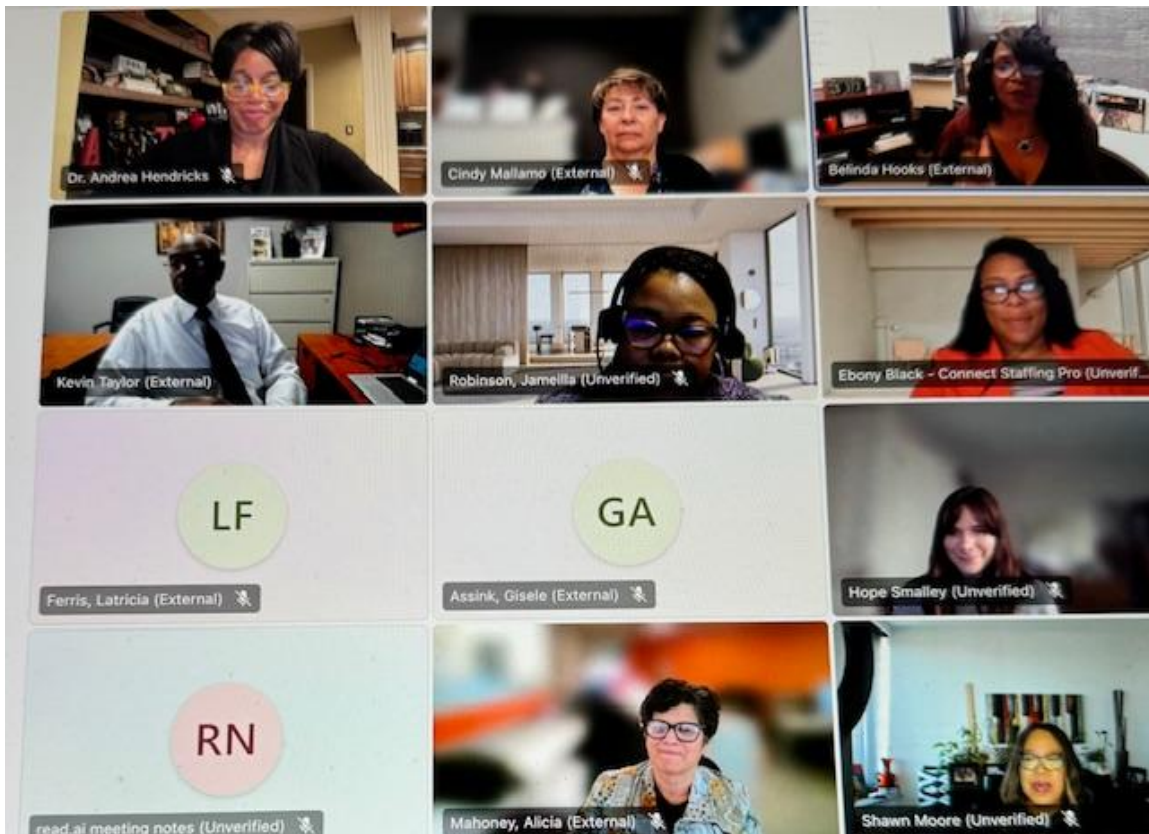
CALLING ALL CORPORATE MEMBERS & STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Mountain Plains MSDC is committed to fostering innovation, growth, and diversity in business leadership. In line with this commitment, Mountain Plains MSDC launched a groundbreaking series of six Corporate Roundtable sessions in partnership with **Authentico**, a multicultural marketing and DEI agency based in Kansas City, Missouri.

These sessions, initiated in June 2024, bring together corporate business leaders from across our 4-state service area. Each monthly session delves into key topics such as multicultural markets, Workforce 2030, diversity, inclusion, and cultural intelligence. Led by **Dr. Andrea Hendricks, Chief DEI Officer**, the discussions have already attracted over 90 leaders, fostering dynamic dialogue on the current and future roles of Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs). Leadership success hinges on developing core competencies, and this program helps participants stay ahead of emerging trends and challenges.

Mountain Plains MSDC remains committed to providing impactful programs that empower our members to cultivate meaningful and lasting business relationships. If you're a corporate member or strategic partner interested in learning more about how we support diverse business growth, we invite you to join us on this exciting journey.

Sign up below for the next Corporate Roundtable on Tuesday, October 29th and look for the upcoming registration for November 19th!



Turn camera on (Ctrl+Shift+D)

Belinda Hooks

Kevin Taylor

Dr. Andrea Hendricks (External)

Hope Smalley (Unverified)

read.ai meeting notes (Unverified)

Ebony Black - Connect Staffing Pro (L)

Assink, Gisele (External)

Ferris, Latricia (External)

RN

GA



VIRTUAL

WWW.MPMSDC.ORG



Mountain Plains
Minority Supplier
Development Council

October Virtual Corporate Roundtable

"Innovating Together, Embracing Diversity in Business"

The Mountain Plains MSDC Corporate Roundtable is an educational program specifically designed for corporate members to discuss relevant topics, including supplier diversity, procurement, contracting, and economic inclusion.

REGISTER TODAY!



Tuesday,
October 29th, 2024



10:00a-11:00a MST
11:00a-12:00p CST



Microsoft Teams Link

TOPIC: Connecting with the Community: Supply Chain Diversity

This session will focus on supply diversity/supply chain—what's next and key best practices for success. Leveraging supplier diversity often leads to innovative solutions. Supplier diversity is one of the most effective strategies to build an inclusive economy.



Your virtual hostess:
Dr. Andrea Hendricks



CERTIFY | DEVELOP | CONNECT | ADVOCATE

VIRTUAL

REGISTER HERE FOR THE October 29th Virtual
Corporate Roundtable

COLORADO VOTERS



Mountain Plains
Minority Supplier
Development Council

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Your vote ensures that your voice is heard on important issues that affect the future of our state and nation.

There is power in numbers and many elections have been decided on a **SINGLE VOTE!**



COLORADO

GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Polls open from 7 am - 8 pm

EARLY VOTING DATES:

October 21st - November 4th
Time: 9 am - 5 pm

MPMSDC MBE STATS:

350+ MINORITY
BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

61,937 TOTAL
EMPLOYEES IN MBE COMPANIES

3 WAYS TO VOTE:



VOTING EARLY



ELECTION DAY



BY MAIL

CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

[General Voting Information](#)

[What's On The Ballot](#)

[Find Your Polling Place](#)

* Please check with your local voting office to confirm early voting dates and times as voting guidelines are subject to change.

[Colorado General Voting Info](#)

[Colorado What's On the Ballot](#)

[Colorado Find Your Polling Place](#)

VOTER REGISTRATION DETAILS ACT NOW!



LIFE HAPPENS, MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS. VOTE EARLY!

Don't let unexpected life events or requirements prevent you from voting. **VOTE EARLY.** Beginning in 2024, every community in will offer 9+ days of early, in-person voting for statewide and federal elections!

WHAT IS EARLY VOTING?

Early voting allows voters to cast a ballot in person before an election, in an experience similar to voting at a polling place on Election Day. At early voting sites, voters are issued a ballot to complete, and can then insert them directly into a tabulator.

WHEN CAN I VOTE EARLY?

The early voting period takes place for a minimum of nine consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before an election. Communities may decide to provide additional days of early voting, up to 28 days total. Early voting is available for all statewide and federal elections. Communities may also choose to provide early voting for local elections.



ABSENTEE BALLOT

All voters can receive a mail ballot before each Election Day. If you need to update the address you want your ballot mailed to, use the online tool to fill out the Voter Registration Application and update your address. You can sign up to [track your mail ballot](#) on your Secretary of State website.

If you vote in-person, you may return your mail ballot and vote in-person at a voter service and polling center. Even if you do not return your mail ballot you may still vote in person. Once you vote in person your county clerk will not accept for counting any ballot that was mailed to you. The deadline to vote in-person is 7:00 PM on Election Day.

If you are a first time voter who registers by mail to vote in Colorado, you are required to submit one of the forms of identification (listed below) with your application. If you have not already done so, you must also submit a copy of one of these forms of identification when you return your absentee ballot application. **DO NOT** include original documents with the application. You must place the copy of ID in the outer envelope of the ballot, not inside the ballot itself. Please click on the link below for additional details.



Instructions for Absentee Voting

COLORADO DOES ALLOW SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION.

* Please check with your local voting office to confirm early voting dates and times as voting guidelines are subject to change.

KANSAS VOTERS



Mountain Plains
Minority Supplier
Development Council

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Your vote ensures that your voice is heard on important issues that affect the future of our state and nation.

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KANSAS

GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Polls open from 7 am - 8 pm

EARLY VOTING DATES:

October 16th - November 4th
Time: 9 am - 5 pm

MPMSDC MBE STATS:

350+ MINORITY
BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

61,937 TOTAL
EMPLOYEES IN MBE COMPANIES

3 WAYS TO VOTE:



VOTING EARLY



ELECTION DAY



BY MAIL

CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

[General Voting Information](#)

[What's On The Ballot](#)

[Find Your Polling Place](#)

* Please check with your local voting office to confirm early voting dates and times as voting guidelines are subject to change.

[Kansas General Voting Information](#)

[Kansas What's On The Ballot](#)

[Kansas Find Your Polling Place](#)

VOTER REGISTRATION DETAILS ACT NOW!



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WHEN CAN I VOTE EARLY?

The early voting period takes place for a minimum of nine consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before an election. Communities may decide to provide additional days of early voting, up to 28 days total. Early voting is available for all statewide and federal elections. Communities may also choose to provide early voting for local elections.



MAIL-IN BALLOT

Voters are allowed to vote by mail prior to election day in the state of Kansas. In order to do so, you must complete an application for an advance ballot and include your driver's license number or a copy of your photo identification. The deadline to submit advance voting applications to your county election official is July 30 for the 2024 primary election and October 29 for the 2024 general election. Ballots will be mailed to those who apply beginning July 17 for the 2024 primary election and October 16 for the 2024 general election. All ballots **MUST** be postmarked on or before election day and received in the county election office by the close of business on the third business day following the election.

[Instructions for Mail-InVoting](#)



KANSAS DOES NOT ALLOW SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION.

* Please check with your local voting office to confirm early voting dates and times as voting guidelines are subject to change.

NEBRASKA VOTERS



Mountain Plains
Minority Supplier
Development Council

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

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NEBRASKA

GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Polls open from 7 am - 8 pm

EARLY VOTING DATES:

October 7th - November 4th
Time: 9 am - 5 pm

MPMSDC MBE STATS:

350+ MINORITY
BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

61,937 TOTAL
EMPLOYEES IN MBE COMPANIES

3 WAYS TO VOTE:



VOTING EARLY



ELECTION DAY



BY MAIL

CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

[General Voting Information](#)

[What's On The Ballot](#)

[Find Your Polling Place](#)

* Please check with your local voting office to confirm early voting dates and times as voting guidelines are subject to change.

[Nebraska General Voting Information](#)

[Nebraska What's On The Ballot](#)

[Nebraska Find Your Polling Place](#)

VOTER REGISTRATION DETAILS ACT NOW!



LIFE HAPPENS, MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS. VOTE EARLY!

Don't let unexpected life events or requirements prevent you from voting. VOTE EARLY. Beginning in 2024, every community in will offer 9+ days of early, in-person voting for statewide and federal elections!

WHAT IS EARLY VOTING?

Early voting allows voters to cast a ballot in person before an election, in an experience similar to voting at a polling place on Election Day. At early voting sites, voters are issued a ballot to complete, and can then insert them directly into a tabulator.

WHEN CAN I VOTE EARLY?

The early voting period takes place for a minimum of nine consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before an election. Communities may decide to provide additional days of early voting, up to 28 days total. Early voting is available for all statewide and federal elections. Communities may also choose to provide early voting for local elections.



NEBRASKA DOES NOT ALLOW SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION.

* Please check with your local voting office to confirm early voting dates and times as voting guidelines are subject to change.



ABSENTEE BALLOT

Nebraska is a "no-excuse" state, meaning any registered voter may request an early-voting (absentee) ballot, and is not required to provide a reason.

You can apply for an early-voting ballot by contacting your [county election office](#) by mail or by fax. You can print an online early voting application, complete the form, and then mail, fax or scan/take a picture of your application and email it to your county election office. Please remember to write your driver's license/state ID number on the application or attach a copy of an acceptable form of photo ID or reasonable impediment certification. The last day for an early-voting application to be received is 6 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the election.

All county election offices will accept early-voting applications up to 120 days prior to a statewide primary, general election or special election. However, regular early-voting ballots are not sent out or voted until at least 35 days before a primary or general election and 15 days prior to all other elections. All early-voting ballots whether delivered in person or carrier to the county drop box or by mail must arrive by the close of polls on the day of the election.

You can vote early in-person at your county election office for a period prior to an election (30 days prior to a primary or general election and 15 days for all other elections). The day before the election is the last day to vote early in person.

[Instructions for Absentee Voting](#)

MISSOURI VOTERS



Mountain Plains
Minority Supplier
Development Council

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Your vote ensures that your voice is heard on important issues that affect the future of our state and nation.

There is power in numbers and many elections have been decided on a **SINGLE VOTE!**



MISSOURI

GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Polls open from 7 am - 8 pm

EARLY VOTING DATES:

Tue Sep 17 - Mon Nov 4 (with excuse)
Tue Oct 22 - Mon Nov 4 (without excuse)
Time: 9 am - 5 pm

MPMSDC MBE STATS:

350+ MINORITY
BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

61,937 TOTAL
EMPLOYEES IN MBE COMPANIES

3 WAYS TO VOTE:



VOTING EARLY



ELECTION DAY



BY MAIL

CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

[General Voting Information](#)

[What's On The Ballot](#)

[Find Your Polling Place](#)

* Please check with your local voting office to confirm early voting dates and times as voting guidelines are subject to change.

[Missouri General Voting Information](#)

[Missouri What's On The Ballot](#)

[Missouri Find Your Polling Place](#)

VOTER REGISTRATION DETAILS ACT NOW!



LIFE HAPPENS, MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS. VOTE EARLY!

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WHAT IS EARLY VOTING?

Early voting allows voters to cast a ballot in person before an election, in an experience similar to voting at a polling place on Election Day. At early voting sites, voters are issued a ballot to complete, and can then insert them directly into a tabulator.

WHEN CAN I VOTE EARLY?

The early voting period takes place for a minimum of nine consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before an election. Communities may decide to provide additional days of early voting, up to 28 days total. Early voting is available for all statewide and federal elections. Communities may also choose to provide early voting for local elections.



ABSENTEE BALLOT

Prior to the second Tuesday before an election, or at any time when requesting an absentee ballot to return by mail, absentee voters must provide one of the following reasons for voting absentee:

1. Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which such voter is registered to vote;
2. Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability on election day, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability and resides at the same address;
3. Religious belief or practice;
4. Employment as an election authority or by an election authority at a location other than such voter's polling place, a first responder, a health care worker, or a member of law enforcement;
5. Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained.
6. Certified participation in the address confidentiality program established under sections 589.660 to 589.681 because of safety concerns.



Instructions for Absentee Voting

MISSOURI DOES NOT ALLOW SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION.

* Please check with your local voting office to confirm early voting dates and times as voting guidelines are subject to change.

Stay informed about the latest events and engagements organized by the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC). If you're eager to expand your network, gain valuable insights, and connect with industry leaders, look no further!

To discover a diverse range of upcoming events and to secure your spot, we invite you to click on the NMSDC Events Calendar. This invaluable resource is your gateway to a world of professional growth, innovation, and collaboration within the NMSDC community.

**Stay Connected with
the National Council!**

**There are many
events to attend each
month:**



NMSDC

National Minority Supplier
Development Council

Events Calendar

Join us at the 2024 NMSDC Annual Conference & Exchange and MBDA National MED Week in Atlanta, October 20-23, 2024, where we'll continue marching towards our ambitious goal to reach \$1 trillion in NMSDC-certified MBE annual revenue by 2030. Help us rewrite the rules and propel us toward a future of inclusivity, prosperity, and equity!



SAVE THE DATE:
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025

40th Annual

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUSINESS AWARDS

Celebrating 'Content of Character'

In case your company is planning budgets for next year, we wanted to give you an advance look at contribution levels for this event.

Patron Tables of 10:

Gold Patron (includes FREE full-page ad) \$3,000
\$2,800 if purchased by December 6

Silver Patron (includes FREE half-page ad) \$2,500
\$2,300 if purchased by December 6

Bronze Patron \$2,000
\$1,800 if purchased by December 6

All purchases are tax deductible. We will be sending you the formal invitation in early November. If you would like to reserve your table early, please contact Stephen Straight at straight@usa.net.



mlkbusinessawards.org

Stay informed on what our strategic partners and friends of
the MPMSDC are doing!

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS
from our STRATEGIC PARTNERS &
CORPORATE MEMBERS

**(Click on the logo/flyer below for
more information)**

Business Consortium Fund (BCF), in partnership with **U.S. Bank** is excited to present a new cash flow management webinar specifically designed to support the small business community. This initiative, part of our Diverse Supplier Finance Institute, reflects both our expanding presence and our commitment to addressing the needs of MBEs and other small and disadvantaged businesses in a growing marketplace.

All are welcome!



FEATURING **us bank**



LIVE WEBINAR

MODERATOR



An Phan

Chief Programs Officer
Business Consortium Fund
New York City

SPEAKERS



Kate Wu

AVP, Business Access Advisor
U.S. Bank, Los Angeles



Cassandra Kidd

AVP, Business Access Advisor
U.S. Bank, Central Arkansas

The Diverse Supplier Finance Institute, operated by the Business Consortium Fund, invites you to join our complimentary virtual workshop on "Managing Your Business Cash Flow."



Discussion and Insights

Our panelists will discuss ways to manage cash flow, review a cash flow sheet, and explore scenarios to maximize cash flow.

This presentation is designed for a live audience of new business owners or existing business owners who want to improve their business outcomes. To accommodate different schedules, we are offering two sessions on this topic.

The session will be led by a U.S. Bank employee with expert knowledge in the subject matter.

REGISTER NOW



2:00 pm ET - Kate
5:30 pm ET - Cassandra



OCT 2ND
WEDNESDAY



BUSINESS
CONSORTIUM
FUND



www.bcfcapital.com



****BID OPPORTUNITY****
BID OPPORTUNITYBID OPPORTUNITY****
BID OPPORTUNITY**

Exciting News from Hickman Mills C-1 School District!

We are thrilled to announce that Hickman Mills C-1 School District is seeking proposals for a variety of exciting projects and initiatives. This is your chance to collaborate with us and make a meaningful impact on our school community.

Stay tuned and keep checking back regularly to discover the latest opportunities. Don't miss out on the chance to be part of something amazing!

Bid Webpage



Startups + Industry
Innovate With NREL

We serve our private and public funding partners by leveraging the capabilities at NREL and activating our network of startups, investors, incubators, foundations, and industry partners.

[Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center | NREL](#)



U.S. Small Business
Administration

The SBA wanted to share a valuable resource for veterans and veteran-owned businesses interested in government contracting. **The Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP)** offers specialized training designed to help veteran-owned small businesses compete and succeed in federal procurement.

This program is an excellent opportunity for those looking to enter or grow within the federal contracting space. It provides the tools, knowledge, and support necessary to navigate and excel in government contracting.

Feel free to use or pass along this information to any veteran small business owners who may benefit from this opportunity. You can learn more and register at: [Veteran Institute for Procurement] (<https://www.nationalvip.org>).

Empower to Grow Program

Free Training and Assistance

Federally focused training by FedMap

Explore our program for government contractors! Enjoy no-cost access to personalized 1-to-1 training, weekly training sessions, an extensive online course catalog, free tools and templates, and a vibrant networking community.

Training and access is FREE to eligible small businesses in OH, IL, IN, MI, MN, WI, AR, TX, LA, NM, OK, IA, KS, NE, MO

Who can participate?

If you meet one of the following criteria:

- are a certified 8(a) participant
- have a HUBZone certified small business
- have an economically disadvantaged women-owned small business (EDWOSB)
- have a small business located in areas of high unemployment or low income
- have a small business owned by low income individuals

YOU WILL LEARN:

How to navigate the government market with personalized one-to-one sessions, self-paced training, peer insights, and weekly training — all designed for government contractors.

Registration Required:

Apply now! fedmap.us/sba-e2g-training. Get access to our full course catalog, a growing peer network, and personalized one-to-one training (limited availability)

For more information about the Empower to Grow program,

Please contact your SBA District Office.

www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance

SBA Cooperative Agreement contract # SBAAGC7J2300009-01-00
This project is funded by a Cooperative Agreement from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA's funding should not be construed as an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services. All SBA-funded projects are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.



U.S. Small Business Administration



Program Dates

Assistance available now through Sept 28, 2025

Full Access

Online self-paced courses, weekly and personalized one-to-one training, tools and templates.

Training provided by:

Coley & Associates, Inc.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Please contact:

The FedMap Team
info@fedmap.us
(210) 384-1503
<https://www.fedmap.us/sba-e2g-training>

REGISTER HERE



Join the DPS Office of Business Diversity for the upcoming Coffee Chat. This event provides a casual environment for district vendors, employees, and community members to gather and connect. Quarterly events are attended by DPS personnel representing the corresponding meeting focus.

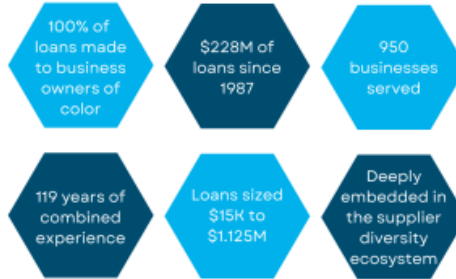
[Calendar of Events](#)

MISSION

The Business Consortium Fund, Inc. (BCF) exists to empower entrepreneurs by advancing equitable capital access for business owners of color. We provide funding and advice to certified minority businesses operating in the supply chains of the nation's largest corporations, as well as the supply chains of government organizations.

VISION

We envision a thriving economy with equitable capital access for business owners of color, including eliminating the racial wealth gap.










OFFERINGS

LOAN TYPES

-  Short term working capital (1 to 5 years)
-  Long term debt (5 to 10 years)
-  Receivables financing
-  Purchase order financing
-  Equipment financing
-  Micro loans from \$10K to \$100K

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

-  Past 3 years financial statements
-  Past 3 years filed business and personal tax returns
-  Personal financial statement for the owner
-  Accounts receivable and payable aging reports
-  6 months of business bank statements
-  Bios for company owners and key employees
-  Personal guarantee from owners 10% or greater

APPLY AT: bcfcapital.com

Access to supplier contracts is a proven path for growth to small business owners.

CONTACT US

-  Camellia Loojune | Director of Small Business Lending
cloojune@bcfcapital.com
212.243.7360 x 206
-  Ruben Rodriguez | Chief Lending Officer
rrodriguez@bcfcapital.com
212.243.7360 x 203

2024 MBEIC UPDATES

What is the MBEIC?

Each affiliate regional council has a Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee (**MBEIC**) that consists of owners/executives of minority businesses elected by local NMSDC- certified MBEs. As a standing committee of the affiliate regional council's Board of Directors, the MBEIC provides constructive input, promotes council events and activities, develops programs and serves as the liaison between corporate members, staff and MBEs.

[MEET our MBEIC Members](#)

NEWS from the MBEIC

October 2024

As advocates for small businesses, the Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee (MBEIC) is dedicated to promoting the interests and growth of minority-owned businesses. Recent developments in the small business sector highlight both challenges and opportunities for our community.

Standing Together for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

In a perfect world, the progress made in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) would be irreversible. Yet, in recent developments, we witness large corporate entities like Brown-Forman making decisions to scale back on their DEI initiatives, raising alarms for those committed to inclusivity in the workplace.

This corporate move seems like a step backward, as it disregards the tremendous effort to ensure marginalized communities are not just included but made to feel valued and supported. By abandoning these vital programs, Brown-Forman and other like-minded corporations have implicitly sent the message that diversity is no longer a priority.

These decisions are not just detrimental to employees but also alienate the very consumers that sustain these companies. For instance, nearly 30% of Gen Z identifies as LGBTQ+, representing a community with a collective \$1.4 trillion in spending power. By stepping away from DEI efforts, companies risk losing both consumer trust and the competitive edge that inclusivity brings to the workforce.

As consumers and business leaders, we must hold companies accountable. It is essential to reconsider where we place our support and spending. If corporations fail to uphold the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, they should not expect the loyalty of the communities they choose to overlook. Businesses relying on the purchasing power of excluded groups should be conscious of the long-term implications of retreating from DEI principles.

Let us remain united in promoting workplaces where everyone, regardless of background, identity, or orientation, is respected and valued. Our support should go toward businesses that actively champion these values.

For more information on Brown-Forman's decision, you can read the full article here: **[Brown-Forman Drops Diversity and Inclusion.](#)**

[Click here for the updated list of events.](#) Pick one (or all) and we'll see you soon.

The MBEIC looks forward to other networking and education opportunities across the entire Mountain Plains region.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the council or any of the MBEIC members if you have any questions or suggestions on how we can better serve our MBEs.

MBDA TEAM

WHO IS THE MBDA?

The Denver Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center is the only federally-funded agency in Colorado that was created to specifically foster the growth of minority-owned businesses.

Our professional team of consultants specialize in assisting minority-owned firms source, target and secure state and federal contracting opportunities.



[Visit our Denver MBDA](#)



Andra Hargrave
Director MBDA



Carlene Johns
MBDA Grant Program Manager

Small Business: October 2024 Edition
By Carlene Johns – Program Manager

Calling and Setting Appointments for Consulting at the Denver MBDA

So, you wonder how to start the process of meeting with a consultant, do you?

Well, it all begins with a simple phone call to the **Colorado MBDA office (720-458-1652)**.

Carlene (that's me) is a cool, nice person to speak with about getting started. Next comes a short inquiry about your business goals and plans (capability briefings) and how we might assist you with growth and expansion into the exciting world of bidding on government contracts. We can even advance your knowledge if you already have some experience. Our professional team has coached many clients on how to source, bid on and win millions of dollars in government contracts.

Remember, we are the only federally funded



Cynthia Martinez
Outreach Coordinator

agency that helps minority, socially disadvantaged and other diverse small business to grow and expand into governmental contracting at **no cost**.

Are you ready? We'd love to hear from you!
Happy Fall!

Carlene Johns – Program Manager

Andra Hargrave – Director MBDC



Angel Cardon
Procurement Technical Writer

Denver MBDA Business Center

6025 S. Quebec St., Suite 135
Centennial, CO 80111
720-458-1652
info@denvermbdacenter.com

Workforce Tag Talks October 2024



Workforce Tag is excited to be supporting the MPMSDC Council Connect newsletter for 2024. As partners with the MPMSDC. The goal of WFT is to increase resources that will support the success

AI can offer numerous benefits to small businesses, improving efficiency, customer engagement, and overall operations. Here are some key ways AI can help:

1. **Automation of Routine Tasks:** AI tools can automate repetitive tasks like responding to customer inquiries, scheduling appointments, and managing inventory. This allows small business owners to focus on more strategic activities.
2. **Customer Service:** AI-driven chatbots and virtual assistants can provide 24/7 customer support, answering common questions and guiding customers through processes. This improves response times and enhances the customer experience.
3. **Marketing and Personalization:** AI can analyze customer data to personalize marketing campaigns, recommend products, and optimize

content. This allows small businesses to target specific customer segments with tailored offers, boosting engagement and conversions.

4. **Data Analysis and Insights:** AI-powered analytics tools can help small businesses make sense of large amounts of data, uncovering trends, customer preferences, and market opportunities. This enables better decision-making and can lead to growth strategies that are more data-driven.
5. **Inventory Management:** AI can predict demand and manage stock levels efficiently, reducing the risk of overstocking or understocking. This helps small businesses optimize cash flow and minimize waste.
6. **Fraud Detection and Security:** AI can be used to detect suspicious activity in financial transactions, helping small businesses prevent fraud. It can also help with cybersecurity by identifying vulnerabilities and responding to potential threats in real-time.
7. **Customer Relationship Management (CRM):** AI integrated into CRM systems can track customer interactions, analyze their behavior, and suggest follow-ups or actions to retain customers. This helps small businesses maintain strong relationships with their clients.
8. **Content Creation:** AI tools can assist with generating blog posts, product descriptions, and social media content, reducing the time small businesses spend on content creation while maintaining consistent communication with their audience.
9. **Hiring and HR:** AI can help small businesses streamline their hiring process by screening resumes, scheduling interviews, and even conducting initial candidate assessments, saving time and resources.
10. **Financial Management:** AI can simplify accounting, budgeting, and financial forecasting, providing insights into cash flow, expenses, and profit margins, which helps in making more informed business decisions.

Overall, AI allows small businesses to be more agile and efficient, often leveling the playing field with larger competitors.

<https://www.business.org/business/operations/ai-for-small-business/>

WFT and the MPMSDC will continue to support you in all your business endeavors and welcome your input as you grow. We are trusted advisors who provide resources and technical assistance for small business and nonprofits to implement financial grants, develop grant dashboards, and communicate successful outcomes.

Liz Ojeda, Founder/CEO and Miguel Jara-Garcia, Admin Tech

"October MBE Spotlight"

CDH
CONSULTING



Company Name:
CDH Consulting

Owner Name:
Chris Del Hierro- Founder, Principal & Partner

About CDH

CDH Consulting thrives on helping clients navigate the ever-changing environmental demands associated with owning and operating oil and gas assets.

Led by a team of former industry professionals and nationally certified as a minority-owned business, our decades of combined experience and diverse team of professionals gives companies the edge in managing compliance in lockstep with operations.

Website:
[Company Website](#)

WELCOME MPMSDC NEWLY CERTIFIED MBEs
Welcome our Newest MBEs
Click on each company name for
website information!



- [Aerie Ventures \(CO\)](#)
- [Altura Land Consultants \(CO\)](#)
- [BaXoJe Construction \(KCMO\)](#)
- [Beyond Moving & Cleaning \(CO\)](#)
- [CNC Electrical \(CO\)](#)
- [CRFS Aviation Services \(CO\)](#)
- [CRJ LLC \(CO\)](#)
- [FH Construction Group \(CO\)](#)
- [H & F Transport \(NE\)](#)
- [InPowerUp \(CO\)](#)
- [LA Woodworks \(CO\)](#)
- [Pikes Peak Steel \(CO\)](#)
- [Pyramid Security Services \(CO\)](#)
- [SolitXcel \(CO\)](#)
- [Stearns Trucking LLC \(CO\)](#)

Mountain Plains MSDC Board of Directors

**To meet our entire Board of Directors please
check our website:**

We're grateful to our Officers, Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their thought leadership, service and support in making a difference towards minority business enterprises economic inclusion and parity.



Mountain Plains
Minority Supplier
Development Council
CO-KS-MO-NE

*****Mountain Plains MSDC new hires and promotions*****

To meet our entire staff please check our website:

The Council is uniquely positioned to offer management and technical services relevant for a dynamic marketplace including: business consulting, matchmaking, contract opportunity sourcing, finance sourcing and access to international markets.

Reminders to Check the following:



[Click Here for Current Opportunities](#)

Our bid opportunity page updates daily! This is password protected and ONLY for certified MBEs. If you need the updated password, please contact us at 303-623-3037 or communications@mpmsdc.org



Keep checking our calendar of events page to register for upcoming events!

Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Development Council | 6025 S. Quebec St. Suite 135 | Centennial, CO 80111 US

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