

Sophorn Cheang - Seeking to Assist Underserved Contractors

So I would say that if I were to have a more available resource right now, I would enhance the capacity and resources for our certification office for business inclusion, diversity and diversity known as COVID is COVID.

COVID is a program that in our agency that administers certification of small businesses Meeting programs qualification.

Here's at our agency we had an opportunity to engage directly with the communities and especially small businesses through the COVID program.

This program certifies minority owned, woman owned and services able veteran owned business owners and emerging small businesses who are interested in contracting with not just need the state but the county and also the city government agency.

Our goal is to foster an environment where every small business in Oregon can compete fairly regardless of ethnicity, agenda, disability or sigh.

We strongly believe in.

Also we commit and then we try to help owners of disadvantage and emerging small businesses access opportunities to compete in public contract is community contracting opportunities.

That is a field where minority woman service, disabled veteran and emerging small businesses and counter barriers we have heard it from them.

So we when we connect and when we talk to them, we know that they still continue to to be the barrier for them to connect to the state government for them to understand how's our state procurement work and to be a board to to prepare themselves to be competitive.

So when firms owned by the disadvantaged individuals participate in contracting this historically and understood and I say historically but still currently understood businesses advance helping enhance and strengthen our local, regional and state economy.

So that's kind of where I believe that there's additional resources for us to help more and if we could do it sooner, we would do it right now.

But for the last year we have been working with the governor got the Governor's Racial Justice Council.

This is one of the governor Kate Brown's priorities as well to put together a policy option package that we prepare for for next year that will help this the COVID office to reuse the certification processing time to increase average efforts to compile data to better track the availability of the certified firms and and they are used by our public contracting agency and and also implement strong stronger resources and advocacy to support small businesses such as implementation of education program and the most a mentor program.

So I wish that we have more money and then we could do it right now and but we we looking forward to the next year.