**Equity in Contracting**

The University of Oregon seeks to promote and expand contracting opportunities on campus for disadvantaged businesses, including minority owned, women owned, veteran owned, and emerging businesses. By extending UO contracting engagement to disadvantaged businesses we contribute to the economic vitality of the communities we serve. UO also benefits directly by having a broader selection of competitively priced goods and services.

The university’s Purchasing and Contracting Services (PCS) oversees the contracting process. The unit provides periodic “How to do Business with UO” brunches and invites state and federally certified vendors to attend. PCS encourages and directs suppliers to gain certification as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) or Women Business Enterprise through the State of Oregon Certification Office of Business Inclusion and Diversity as a way to encourage a diverse portfolio of business providers. PCS provides UO employees with guidelines and policies on the contracting process, and how to be sure contracting is following the law.

**Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses:** OAR 580-061-0030 expands economic opportunities for Minority Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises and Emerging Small Businesses by offering them the contracting and subcontracting opportunities available through UO contracts. Notices of all solicitations over $25,000 procured through a competitive process are required to be solicited to certified businesses.

In accordance with OAR 580-061-0030(2), UO shall not knowingly contract with, or procure goods and services from an Entity that discriminates on the basis of age, disability, national origin, race, marital status, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.

For procurements of goods and services, bidders and proposers must certify, as part of the bid or proposal documents accompanying the bid or proposal on a public contract, that such bidder or proposer has not discriminated against Minority, Women, or Emerging Small Business Enterprises in obtaining any required subcontracts.

**Qualified Rehabilitation Facilities (QRFs):** In Oregon, public agencies must acquire products and services from qualified rehabilitation facilities (QRFs) when those products or services have been placed on the QRF procurement list. Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) qualifies each QRF in Oregon and manages the list of those goods and services determined suitable for procurement by state and local governments, school districts and other taxpayer-supported agencies. It is DAS's duty to work cooperatively with the QRFs and public agencies to develop and maintain contracting opportunities for Oregonians with disabilities. Additional information on how to use QRF's can be found on the Department of Administrative Services website.