



U.S. Department of
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**DELLIBOVI ANNOUNCES GRANT TO ESTABLISH
CLEARINGHOUSE FOR DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**

A \$170,000 grant to the Washington Consulting Group to develop a disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) clearinghouse was announced today by Alfred A. DelliBovi, Administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

The purpose of the clearinghouse is to help businesses owned by women, minorities and other disadvantaged persons identify UMTA grantees who are undertaking activities for which the DBE may provide a product or service.

"The clearinghouse will connect the small business with its market," DelliBovi said. "Small businesses generally do not have the extensive resources to market their services. We hope that by using the clearinghouse, a small planning or engineering firm, or a manufacturer of a vehicle or garage component can call a central number and get a list of any of our grantees who may have received UMTA funds for the type of activity the DBE performs."

Since UMTA awards \$3 billion annually, DelliBovi said, participating DBEs should be able to identify a number of potential clients. "In a non-intrusive way, UMTA is making the procurement process more competitive, and at the same time, fairer to the small entrepreneur," he said. Transit providers gain because they potentially receive a larger number of bids and DBE entrepreneurs benefit because of access to a larger market.

In addition to promoting DBE participation in the public transit procurement process and fostering greater competition, the outreach initiative is expected to become a prototype for other agencies of the Department of Transportation in helping DBEs gain access to the multi-billion dollar federally funded procurement market.

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Information on the agency's DBE program may be obtained by contacting Robert G. Owens, Director, Office of Civil Rights at (202) 366-4018. Specific information on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Clearinghouse may be obtained from Casimir Bonkowski, in UMTA's Office of Grants Management, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 9311 Washington, D.C. 20590, phone (202) 366-1656.

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