



State of Iowa
Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER FORTY-NINE

- WHEREAS,** State government is committed to helping all Iowans achieve their business goals; and
- WHEREAS,** the Iowa General Assembly established the Targeted Small Business programs to help develop businesses that are at least 51 percent owned, operated and actively managed by a minority, woman or disabled person; and
- WHEREAS,** the Targeted Small Business (TSB) Assistance Program is designed to help minorities, women and persons with disabilities receive business assistance; and
- WHEREAS,** the TSB program also has been able to help the unique population it serves by partnering with the Small Business Administration and local communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the TSB also helps businesses that are unable to secure traditional bank loans; and
- WHEREAS,** the TSB program supports multiculturalism in Iowa and helps grow and expand Iowa's economy; and
- WHEREAS,** funding for this program has been nearly eliminated; and
- WHEREAS,** the number of businesses owned by minorities requesting assistance has declined; and
- WHEREAS,** this past year, only a handful of minority owned businesses have received assistance; and
- WHEREAS,** a financial assistance program is still needed because of the limited amount of financial resources available to small businesses; and
- WHEREAS,** the TSB program is a unique program available to those small businesses that are at least 51 percent owned, operated and actively managed by women, minorities or persons with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor of the State of Iowa, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Laws and Constitution of the State of Iowa, do hereby order and direct the creation of the Targeted Small Business Taskforce.

- I. **Purpose.** The task force shall study Iowa's targeted small business programs in order to determine if they are still needed and, if so, how to improve, enhance and increase the efficacy and efficiency of the programs. Items to be addressed by the task force should include but are not limited to:
 - A. the funding source and level provided for the TSB program;
 - B. the program's criteria for funding projects (e.g. suggested industries, retail, wage and/or benefits requirements);
 - C. the compatibility and integration of the TSB program with other economic development efforts of the state;

- D. the level of assistance provided by the TSB program;
- E. the training and technical assistance opportunities provided to targeted small businesses;
- F. outreach efforts to increase awareness and participation in the program.

II. Organization. Members of the taskforce shall be appointed by the Governor, except members of the Iowa House and Senate. Members of the taskforce shall include:

- A. the Director of the Department of Economic Development, or her designee
- B. the Director of the Department of Inspections and Appeals, or his designee
- C. the Director of the Department of Administrative Services, or her designee
- D. the Director of the Department of Human Rights, or his designee
- E. seven small business owners who are minorities, women or persons with disabilities
- F. two members of the Iowa House, one appointed by the majority leader and one by the minority leader
- G. two members of the Iowa Senate, one appointed by the Democratic leader and one appointed by the Republican leader

III. Support. The Iowa Department of Economic Development is charged with coordinating and providing administrative support for the Targeted Small Business Taskforce.

The task force shall convene no later than September 1st, 2006. The taskforce shall submit a report of its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1st, 2006. Nothing in this executive order shall be construed to contravene any applicable state or federal law.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 4th day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand six.

Thomas J. Vilsack

THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Chester J. Culver

CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE