



ICEA

Innovation Award Submission

XBE Workshop & Programming

**XBE = Minority, Women, & Veteran Owned Businesses*



Program Overview



Our Program

THE GIDEON GROUP
We turn great organizations into powerful brands.

OneZone
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Terry Dove Pittman
The Gideon Group

In partnership with the Gideon Group we have received over \$40k to support our XBE Workshop & Programming over the next three years.

We have create two key areas to support Minority, Women, and Veteran Owned Businesses.

1 Education Programming

We have created a two part series. The first is educating businesses on if they should become certified, if they qualify, and if it something they are willing to do. Below are the four key morning programs:

1. What is an XBE Business and are you one?
2. Learn more about Minority & Women Owned Certification
3. Learn more about Veteran Owned Certification
4. You are Certified now what? Understanding what's next.

The Course - 6 Part Series



This six-week workshop series on becoming State of Indiana Minority, Women, and Veteran Enterprise (MWVE) certified provides prospective XBE businesses with information and guidance on the certification process to become a certified MWVE supplier in the state of Indiana. The workshop will cover the following key areas:

1 Introduction to MWVE certification

Participants are introduced to the MWVE certification program and its significance in promoting diversity and inclusion in state procurement. They learn about the benefits of certification, such as increased access to contracting opportunities and networking resources.

2 Eligibility criteria

The workshop covers the eligibility requirements for MWVE certification, including the definition of minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses. Participants learn about the necessary documentation and qualifications they need to meet to be considered for certification.

3 Certification application process

The workshop provides a step-by-step overview of the MWVE certification application process. Participants learn about the required forms, supporting documents, and information they need to submit. They receive guidance on completing the application accurately and comprehensively.

4 Certification review and evaluation

Participants gain insights into the certification review and evaluation process conducted by the certifying agency. They learn about the criteria used to assess their business, such as ownership, control, and operational involvement. The workshop provides tips on how to strengthen their application and increase their chances of successful certification.

5 Maintaining certification and leveraging opportunities

The workshop offers guidance on maintaining MWVE certification once obtained. Participants learn about the renewal process, including any updates or changes in documentation requirements. They also explore strategies for leveraging their MWVE certification to access government contracts and business opportunities.

6 Resources and support

The workshop highlights the resources, programs, and support available to MWVE-certified businesses in the State of Indiana. Participants learn about networking events, business development assistance, and mentorship opportunities that can help them grow and succeed.

Our Impact - Today & Beyond



Overall, the workshop aims to empower XBE businesses seeking MWVE certification in the State of Indiana by providing them with a comprehensive understanding of the certification process, requirements, and benefits. It equips participants with the knowledge and resources needed to navigate the certification process successfully and leverage their certification status to access contracting opportunities. Our goal is to create 25 newly certified MWVE certified companies over the next year.

OUR FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF 10 XBE SMALL BUSINESSES!



Final Thoughts



As we reflect on our XBE workshop series, it's evident that the impact extends far beyond the confines of our initial six-part course. Graduating ten small businesses, with six currently navigating the certification process, showcases the tangible results of our commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in procurement opportunities.

Collaborating with the Department of Administration underscores our dedication to making this transformative course accessible to other communities, amplifying its reach and impact. With our 2024 date set, we eagerly anticipate welcoming a new cohort of twenty aspiring entrepreneurs, driven by the aspiration to surpass our goal of empowering twenty-five businesses.

This journey is a testament to the power of education, collaboration, and collective action in driving meaningful change and creating opportunities for growth and prosperity within our communities.