



ILLINOIS

Pat Quinn, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Malcolm E. Weems, Acting Director

March 1, 2012

To the Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor and
The Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly

Subject: VETERANS BUSINESS PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings,

On behalf of the Department of Central Management Services (CMS) pursuant to Public Act 097-0260, we present the FY2011 Annual Report for Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSB). In FY2011, CMS worked to establish the certification eligibilities and programmatic procedures that will be administered for all activity involving these businesses.

During FY 2011, CMS established a unified certification program incorporating both veterans and service disabled veteran owned business entities, for program participation called the **Veterans Business Program (VBP)**. The established VBP certification application process has been initiated, with ongoing recruitment beginning the 2nd quarter of FY 2011. On December 1, 2011, the application was placed on our website, available for all interested veteran owned businesses and support organizations.

To date, CMS has received a total of fourteen (14) VBP applications, 7 firms identified as VOSB and 7 firms identified as SDVOSB. Over 57% of the applicant firms applied during the month of February 2012. A total of 2 firms have been certified and are eligible for program participation. CMS has finalized administrative rules applicable to the program and its procedures and is preparing to submit the final documents for approval from the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

While no contracting activity has taken place during the programmatic design efforts, we anticipate not less than 3% of the total dollar amount of State contracts, subject to a VBP goal, to be awarded to SDVOSBs and VOSBs. We will also establish a VBP Committee composed of five members. The Director of CMS will appoint 2 persons and the Director of Illinois Veteran Affairs will appoint 3 persons. The appointees will serve for 2 years. The Committee will assist with the certification process for qualified service disabled veteran owned business and qualified veteran owned businesses.

We remain steadfast and committed to the continued improvement of our Veteran Business Program. We continue to look for ways to enhance the Program by increasing outreach programs, streamlining our certification process, and continuing to encourage qualified, prospective Veteran vendors to seek State business.

Respectfully,

Malcolm E. Weems

Acting Director

Central Management Services