



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House, Room 224
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-222-2080

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

13-05

May 9, 2013

**PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND
MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN RHODE ISLAND**

WHEREAS, Rhode Island was founded on the principles of tolerance and diversity;
and

WHEREAS, for generations, minority populations have enriched the fabric of our
State, strengthened our economy, and made Rhode Island a better place to live; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important for the State to acknowledge the changing
demographics of our population and actively recruit minority talent to the workforce; and

WHEREAS, it is a priority of the Chafee Administration to reflect these changing
demographics through substantial minority employment in State government and
increased opportunities for minority business enterprises to participate in State
procurement and construction projects; and

WHEREAS, by drawing from the entire pool of human resources and talent, and by
creating a culture that values diversity and inclusion, we strengthen our collective
performance as a State workforce and thereby improve the State's ability to serve the
people of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, over the past 30 years, Rhode Island's population has increased from
seven percent (7%) to twenty-four percent (24%) people of color. In addition, in just the
last decade, Rhode Island's Latino population grew forty-four percent (44%), adding
almost 40,000 residents. The Asian-American and African-American populations also grew
by twenty-eight percent (28%) and twenty-three percent (23%), respectively, over the
same time period; and

WHEREAS, by the year 2040 the population of the State as a whole is projected to be forty-one percent (41%) people of color; and

WHEREAS, R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-14.1-1 *et seq.*, enacted in 1986, declared a State policy by which minority business enterprises (MBEs), which include minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged business enterprises, shall be awarded a minimum of ten percent (10%) of all dollars in State procurement and construction projects and a preference in State contracts and subcontract awards; and

WHEREAS, R.I. Gen. Laws § 28-5.1-1 *et seq.*, the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Act, enacted in 1988, declared a policy of affirmative action to achieve equal opportunity in all units of State government, and established a State Equal Opportunity Office within the Department of Administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby order as follows:

1. The Director (Director) of the Department of Administration (Department), shall review all divisions and offices within the Department charged with facilitating equal opportunity employment and MBEs, including, but not limited to, the Division of Human Resources, the State Equal Opportunity Office, the Human Resources Outreach and Diversity Office, the Division of Purchases, and the MBE Program, and shall make recommendations to the Governor to improve collaboration between these offices and all executive departments to ensure these programs are more effective. These recommendations shall encourage measures of quality and accountability in equal opportunity and affirmative action hiring and MBE procurement as allowed by law. In addition, these recommendations shall include strategies for recruiting, hiring, promoting and retaining a more diverse workforce. The Director shall submit these recommendations to the Governor for approval on or before August 1, 2013. All executive departments shall comply with the Director's recommendations and shall cooperate fully with taking steps to increase minorities in the State's workforce and increase the usage of MBEs with State contracts.
2. Every State agency, in partnership with the Office of Equal Opportunity, shall track and maintain hiring data as part of the agency's performance management functions. Each agency shall provide the Office of Equal Opportunity, which shall coordinate with the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Performance Management and the Office of Outreach and Diversity, with a plan for improving minority hiring no later than October 1, 2013.

3. The Division of Purchases MBE Compliance Office shall identify State contracts and sub-contracts that could increase the number of minority-owned businesses participating in State work where strategic efforts can be undertaken. Each agency shall provide a list of contracts and sub-contracts that should be reviewed for MBE recruiting potential as part of the plan which shall coordinate with the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Performance Management and the Division of Purchases MBE Compliance Office on or before December 1, 2013.
4. The Director shall prepare an annual report to the Governor due on August 1, 2013 and every August 1 thereafter, for the prior fiscal year, demonstrating the State's progress in minority employment and MBE procurement and any recommendations for continued improvements in these programs. This report shall take into account the Affirmative Action Plans that are submitted by every State agency on an annual basis, as required under R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 28-5.1.
5. The Department and the Human Resources Outreach and Diversity Office shall develop and conduct a diversity training program within one year of the effective date of this Order. For future hires, such training may be part of the standardized orientation provided to new employees.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

So Ordered:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lincoln D. Chafee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Lincoln D. Chafee