
	<p><b>State of Rhode Island</b></p> <p><b>Governor's Commission on Disabilities</b></p> <p><b>Disability Business Enterprise Program</b></p> <p><b>2008 Annual Report</b></p>	
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## **I. Introduction**

The Rhode Island Disability Business Enterprise (DBE) Program was created through the Governor's Commission on Disabilities in 1987 when the Handicapped Products Procurement Bill became law. It was brought forth through the efforts of then Governor Edward DiPrete, Senator Richard Patterson, Representative Paul Sherlock and citizen advocates Peter Holden and Paul Pickens. Its purpose was to help establish a market for the goods and services produced by the employees of the State recognized rehabilitation agencies.

Originally, called the Handicapped Products Procurement Committee and under the stewardship of the State's Economic Development Corporation ([www.riedc.com](http://www.riedc.com)), the program was moved to the Governor's Commission on Disabilities in 1996 and is now titled the Disability Business Enterprise Program. It has evolved through amendments made to the original legislation in 1992, 1997 and 2004 to now certify companies owned by and employing people with disabilities.

More information about the Disability Business Enterprise Program can be found on the Internet at <http://dbe.gcd.ri.gov>

## **II. DBE Committee (9 members)**

Bill Nieranowski, Chair; representing people with disabilities  
 John Treat, Vice-chair, Maher Center, representing rehabilitation facilities  
 Andy Argenbright, CPA, representing people with disabilities  
 Monica Dzialo, designee of the Director of the Department of Human Services  
 Paul Grenon, designee of the Director of the Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals  
 Paul Harden, designee of the Director of the Economic Development Corporation  
 Gail Reid, Trudeau Center, representing rehabilitation facilities  
 Linda Roche, designee of the State Purchasing Agent  
 Open, representing rehabilitation facilities in the mental health community

## **III. Staff (1 part-time)**

In May of 2005, Ms. Christine Botts joined the Governor's Commission on Disabilities as Public Information Officer and Disability Business Enterprise Program Coordinator. Previous to Ms. Botts arrival, the coordinator's position was unfilled since the departure of Ms. Andrea Castaneda fourteen months earlier. Ms. Botts brings a wealth of business experience to the program. For the previous eight years, Ms. Botts ran her own contracting business where she competed for and won commercial and government construction contracts.

#### **IV. Certified Disability Business Enterprises (22 organizations)**

A New Leaf, Providence, RI	Fogarty Center, North Providence, RI
Adaptive Technology Consultants, Salisbury.MA	In-Sight, Warwick, RI
Andy Argenbright, CPA, East Providence, RI	James L. Maher Center, Newport, RI
Arc of Blackstone Valley, Pawtucket, RI	J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center, Warwick, RI
Arc of Northern RI, Woonsocket, RI	Ocean State Center for Independent Living, Warwick, RI
Coffee Plus, Providence, RI	Pandora s Products, North Providence, RI
Cookie Place, Providence, RI	ProMail Etc, Providence, RI
Corliss Institute (new)	Thayer Wood Products, South Kingstown, RI
Cove Center, Providence, <u>RI</u>	Training Thru Placement, North Providence, RI
CranstonArc Comstock Industries, Cranston, RI	Vision Dynamics, Cromwell, CT
EVAS, Westerly, RI	Zane Sherman, artist, Providence, RI

#### **V. Ongoing and New State contracts awarded**

##### **Cookie Place**

Contracts for selling cookies at URI and RICA  
Various catering contracts

##### **Maher Center**

Prisoner Lunch Catering (Newport County) – 3 yr contracts totaling approximately \$75,000  
Prisoner Lunch Catering (Washington County) – 3 yr contract totaling approximately \$60,000  
Laundry Contract –Veteran’s Home, Bristol, RI – 3 yr contract totaling approximately \$90,000  
Laundry Contract –URI

##### **Cranston ARC and EVAS**

Awarded MPAs for shredding and adaptive equipment

##### **Cove Center**

Provided flowers to various state agencies/cities/towns  
Multiple DBEs participated in the farmer’s market for State employees on Smith Hill

##### **Better Shred (Cranston ARC)**

Shredding contracts with the Division of Taxation, State Police, Attorney General’s Office, DMV,  
Cranston School Department, Smithfield Town Hall, CCRI, MHRH, Elderly Affairs and the  
Department of Health

##### **In-Sight**

Contract for calendar mailing

##### **Trudeau Center**

Various mass mailing contracts

##### **Adaptive Technology**

Adaptive computer equipment/software

##### **EVAS**

Adaptive Technology contracts with ORS

##### **Cranston Arc**

Emergency Janitorial Contract –Benjamin Rush/L. Pasteur Building

**ProMail**

City of Providence  
State Building Code Commission

**Vision Dynamics**

Adaptive Technology with various cities/towns/school departments

**VI Grants Received**

The DBE program was awarded a \$5000 grant from Rhode Island Resource Recovery to begin a pilot paper recycling program in State facilities. A proposal for a follow-on grant for an additional \$5000 was submitted but was not awarded.

**VIII. Other accomplishments**

- Certified 22 organizations as Disability Business Enterprises
- Expanded the Pilot Recycling Program to include the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, the Youth Probation Office, the Division of Taxation, the Attorney's General Office, and the Department of Environmental Management.
- Researched other state disability business employment programs in order to provide resource data for the DBE regulation.
- Facilitated meeting between the Department of Purchasing and the James L. Maher Center to discuss the possibility of the Maher Center becoming the contractor for food service for MHRH. The acting Director and several purchasing agents toured the three businesses run by the Maher Center, the greenhouse, the laundry facility, and the food service for the Naval War College.
- Researched a federal contract opportunity for Shredding for the state of Connecticut. Facilitated a meeting between Dorothy Reynolds, program manager for the RIPTAC, and the CranstonArc. CranstonArc submitted their first federal bid for shredding.
- Researched bid opportunities based on DBE Commodity Codes and attended bid openings.
- Created and distributed a Summary Report for Phase 1 of the Pilot Recycling Program.
- Marketing effort. Promoted using DBE produced goods and services with
  - Bryant College
  - City of Warwick
  - RI Farmer's Market
  - We Mean Business Expo
- Coordinated meetings between DBEs and State agency buyers to introduce DBE products and services.
- Provided assistance to DBEs pursuing State contracts.

**IX. Issues to resolve in 2009**

- Publication of the DBE purchasing regulation.
- Funding the DBE contractor position in light of the State's budget issues.
- Find a funding source to continue the DBE Training Plan.
- Accurately determining the dollar amount of contracts awarded to DBEs

**X. 2009 Goals**

- Increase the number of contracts awarded to DBE's.
- Continue with DBE training plan.
- Increase awareness of the DBE program through marketing.
- Develop process to identify dollar volume of contracts awarded to DBE's
- Increase the number of DBE's

## **XI. Conclusion**

The Master Price Agreements established in 2007 have proven to be beneficial to the CranstonArc and EVAS by allowing them to provide completely priced goods and services directly to the State

The Pilot Recycling Program grew significantly before the first round of funding expired. When the program ended 6 State departments recycled their waste paper through the program. A final report is available from the Governor's Commission on Disabilities. Unfortunately, with the changes in the RIRRC board of directors, our efforts to implement Phase 2 of the Pilot Recycling Program have been delayed. In 2009, we will pursue the funding to complete Phase 2 with the support of the Department of Environmental Management.

This year's efforts have proven to be more diverse and efforts were undertaken to broaden awareness of the DBE program. With the severe economic climate in the State and the country, the Disability Business Committee encouraged the search of other areas to find business in areas beyond the State of Rhode Island. By our count 11 of the 22 DBEs have done business with the State in 2008. In 2008, we look forward to expanding our circle of success to include more DBEs.

As with all businesses, 2008 provided challenges and disappointments. We aggressively pursued cleaning contracts, both temporary and long term, when the incumbent vendors were found to be out of compliance. While we achieved short term success gaining contracts, we were disappointed in our results winning long term contracts.

Going forward in 2009, we expect even more challenges as the economy proceeds up or down. But, we are resolved to weather whatever storms present themselves, set our goals, and do our absolute best to achieve them. We are committed to making this program successful regardless of the environment we find ourselves in. With the support of the Administration and Purchasing we believe we can continue the success of the DBE program.

As always, we thank the Governor's Office, the Department of Administration (DoA), the Division of Purchases (DoP), the State's agencies buyers and The Governor's Commission on Disabilities (GCD) for their cooperation in keeping the DBE program on track.