

Timeline



- 1953** President Dwight D. Eisenhower creates the Small Business Administration
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- 1958** Small Business Act of 1958 requires that all government subcontractors place a "fair portion" of their business with smallbusiness enterprises
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- 1968** President Richard Nixon establishes the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) and the Advisory Council for Minority Business Enterprise within the Department of Commerce
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- 1971** President Nixon expands the scope of OMBE by authorizing grants to organizations to provide technical and management assistance to MBEs
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- 1972** The National Minority Purchasing Council (precursor to the National Minority Supplier Development Council) is founded
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- 1974** OMBE decentralizes and establishes six regional offices and 13 district offices to enhance outreach
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- 1977** President Jimmy Carter terminates the Advisory Council for Minority Business Enterprise
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- 1979** OMBE is renamed the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)
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- 1981** The Minority Business Development Center program is established
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- 1983** President Ronald Reagan gives the Department of Commerce and the Small Business Administration authority to oversee the establishment, preservation and strengthening of federal MBE programs
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- 1983** President Reagan declares the first week of October as Minority Enterprise Development Week, and MBDA holds the first Minority Enterprise Development Week Conference
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- 1994** The Business Leadership Network is founded
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- 1997** The Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) is founded to provide third-party certification of women-owned businesses
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- 1999** MBDA Internet Portal is established to offer online business-development services

- 2000** WBENC holds its first Women in Business Conference, now known as the Women in Business National Conference and Business Fair
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- 2001** Congress creates the Office of Disability Employment Policy within the Department of Labor
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- 2001** The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce is founded
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- 2002** The Business Leadership Network is renamed the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN)
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- 2002** The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) is founded
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- 2004** The NGLCC launches the first (and only) third-party certification program for LGBT-owned businesses
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- 2005** MBDA creates the Office of Native American Entrepreneurship and Trade to help American Indian entrepreneurs and business owners
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- 2008** WBENC launches a Global Business Initiative to mentor international WBEs and to help U.S. WBEs enter global supply chain
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- 2009** WEConnect International is founded to certify WBEs based outside of the U.S. and connect them to corporate buyers
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- 2010** USBLN launches the first (and only) thirdparty certification program for disabilityowned businesses
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- 2011** MBDA launches a redesigned MBDA Business Center program, combining the Minority Business Enterprise Center and the Minority Business Opportunity Center programs
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- 2014** The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce files a brief in support of Peggy Young, who successfully sued UPS for discriminating against her when she was pregnant
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- 2017** The NGLCC publishes its first-ever "America's LGBT Economy Report," which details the impact LGBT-owned businesses have on the U.S. economy