

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION  
AND  
THE UNITED STATES INDIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**1. PARTIES**

This agreement is entered into by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) and the United States Indian American Chamber of Commerce, herein referred to as USIACC.

**2. PURPOSE**

The agreement is being established to enhance USDA's outreach efforts to Indian American and other small businesses. The main purpose of this Agreement is to establish a proactive working partnership between the OSDBU and USIACC to improve communications and outreach to the minority small business community. Improving the quality of relevant information exchanged with small and medium-sized businesses regarding USDA program and contract opportunities will increase access and facilitate participation.

The objectives of this agreement are designed to stimulate interest in doing business with USDA and increase the pool of qualified small businesses that can successfully compete for USDA contract and program opportunities. Disseminating appropriate information will increase their ability to make informed decisions, pivotal for the success of their companies and create an environment in which Indian American and other small businesses can flourish. Exchanging information that is accurate and timely will enable these small businesses to make informed decisions that will benefit them.

USIACC was established to help Indian American and other minority-owned businesses access federal procurements to expand their market base with the Federal Government as well as the commercial sector. Its primary mission is to preserve the competitive enterprise system of businesses and promote business development, community growth, and economic development.

USIACC is supported by agreements with, among others, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Departments of Commerce and Energy. USIACC strives to mobilize and strengthen the nation's small businesses by making them aware of available federal, state, local and private sector programs and resources and to help them access the federal assistance earmarked for small business each year.

### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **A. USIACC Responsibilities**

USIACC will provide the following effort and information in furtherance of the objectives of this agreement:

- (1) Invite USDA representatives to USIACC business events.
- (2) Share information regarding USDA programs to targeted membership. Disseminate program announcements and additional resource information in the most expeditious manner available.
- (3) Participate in an OSDBU emphasis program designed to increase the number of Indian American and other minority small and mid-sized business vendors that participate in the food commodity programs.
- (4) Work with OSDBU to identify and publicize opportunities available in USDA.
- (5) Work with OSDBU to develop methods to apprise firms of contracting opportunities in the very specialized food commodity areas.
- (6) Through publications recommended by USIACC, provide OSDBU with content space to outline available service and program assistance.
- (7) Direct small businesses that are interested in USDA's programs and resources to the appropriate federal or local OSDBU office.
- (8) Provide electronically information about USIACC events for posting on OSDBU web site.

#### **B. OSDBU RESPONSIBILITIES**

In furtherance of the objectives of this agreement OSDBU in accordance with statutory and regulatory authorities will:

- (1) Provide technical expertise in market research, selling to the Federal Government, and sourcing capital.
- (2) Provide USIACC with access to publicly available database information for targeted areas to assist with outreach and promoting USIACC small business events.
- (3) Provide access, technical support and assistance, as well as information about USDA contracting opportunities and lending programs.
- (4) Participate in USIACC's small business events.

- (5) Post information about USIACC events on OSDBU web site.
- (6) Provide, in electronic format, USDA program announcements that impact Indian American and other small and minority businesses.

**4. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

This is not a financial or funding obligating document. Each party will direct its own participation under this agreement.

Any activity that involves payment for services related to this agreement will be effected in an appropriate funding document.

All activities done pursuant to this agreement are subject to the availability of appropriated funds, and no provision herein will be interpreted to require obligation or payment of funds.

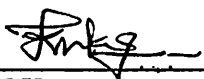
**5. TERM OF AGREEMENT AND RIGHT OF TERMINATION**

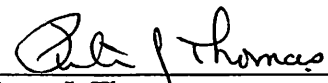
This agreement becomes effective on the date of the signatures of both parties. Either party may terminate this agreement, without liability, at any time and for any reason. This agreement shall expire four (4) years from the date of signature of all parties.

**6. SIGNATORY AUTHORITY FOR MODIFICATION**

Any modification to this agreement will be executed in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each party.

**7. EXECUTION**

  
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KV Kumar  
National Chairman  
U.S. Indian American Chamber of Commerce

  
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Peter J. Thomas  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Administration

11 May 2006  
Date

11 MAY 2006  
Date