Timeline

1953  President Dwight D. Eisenhower creates the Small Business Administration

1958  Small Business Act of 1958 requires that all government subcontractors place a “fair portion” of their business with small business enterprises

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

1971  President Nixon expands the scope of OMBE by authorizing grants to organizations to provide technical and management assistance to MBEs

1972  The National Minority Purchasing Council (precursor to the National Minority Supplier Development Council) is founded

1974  OMBE decentralizes and establishes six regional offices and 13 district offices to enhance outreach

1977  President Jimmy Carter terminates the Advisory Council for Minority Business Enterprise

1979  OMBE is renamed the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

1981  The Minority Business Development Center program is established

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

1983  President Reagan declares the first week of October as Minority Enterprise Development Week, and MBDA holds the first Minority Enterprise Development Week Conference

1994  The Business Leadership Network is founded

1997  The Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) is founded to provide third-party certification of women-owned businesses

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

2001  Congress creates the Office of Disability Employment Policy within the Department of Labor

2001  The U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce is founded

2002  The Business Leadership Network is renamed the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN)

2002  The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) is founded

2004  The NGLCC launches the first (and only) third-party certification program for LGBT-owned businesses

2005  MBDA creates the Office of Native American Entrepreneurship and Trade to help American Indian entrepreneurs and business owners

2008  WBENC launches a Global Business Initiative to mentor international WBEs and to help U.S. WBEs enter global supply chain

2009  WEConnect International is founded to certify WBEs based outside of the U.S. and connect them to corporate buyers

2010  USBLN launches the first (and only) thirdparty certification program for disability-owned businesses

2011  MBDA launches a redesigned MBDA Business Center program, combining the Minority Business Enterprise Center and the Minority Business Opportunity Center programs

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

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