



March, 2009

Welcome. The Center for Business Inclusion and Diversity (CBID) (501(c)(3) pending) is an organization dedicated to promoting and advocating for women and minority owned businesses. CBID is a natural offshoot of the *Pinder Group* and is the home of Top 100 MBE Awards Ceremony, now in its fourth year! Additionally, the CBID website (stay tuned for launch) will contain *Ask MBE*, a unique feature which will allow MBEs to ask experts for advice on all of their business issues.

Since the month of March is Women's Month, the topic of this month's newletter should be related to celebrating women owned businesses. However, because the *Economic Stimulus Package* could significantly impact all MBE's, we decided to start there. Along with our analysis of the Stimulus Package, the newsletter contains links to valuable resources to help you analyze the legislation and information that will help you follow the money as it makes its way to the federal and state agencies. It also contains a critical *Call to Action!* which could have a major effect on MBE participation in the contracts awarded as a result of the Package.

We hope you find this first issue a valuable tool for your business, and we welcome your suggestions for topics for future newsletter.

Sincerely,

Sharon R. Pinder

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