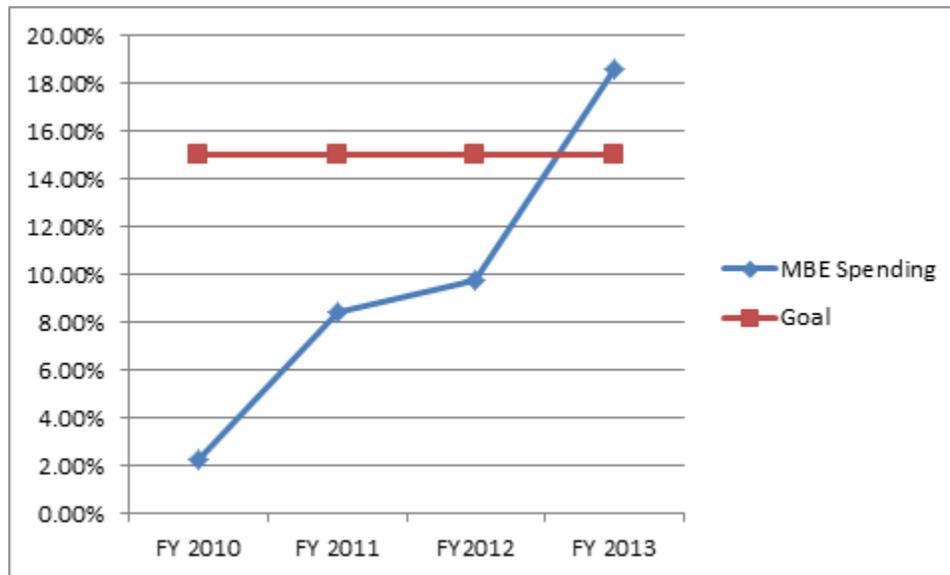




**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed
Minority Business Enterprise...Yes We Did!**

October 4, 2012

I am pleased to announce, for the first time in DYS history, the agency has met and exceeded the 15% state requirement for Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) spending. In fact, the FY13 first quarter (7/1/12 – 9/30/12) numbers indicate MBE spending at 18.5%. This momentous and historic achievement is the result of the entire agency's determination and efforts to make MBE a priority at DYS. MBE, as well as Encouraging Diversity and Growth Enterprise (EDGE), are priorities of the Governor. The statewide requirement to spend 15% of our eligible budget with certified minority vendors is set forth in Executive Order 2000-03T.



As depicted in the graph above, we have been steadily improving our MBE spending over the past 4 years, with a project slogan, “Yes We Can... Yes We Will!” And yes we did! Our success is attributed to those involved in making purchases at each DYS site, as they have adopted the motto “Think MBE First”. Other agency-wide efforts have included raising awareness about this requirement at all sites, maintaining an agency-wide competition, reaching out to certified vendors, attending trade fairs with MBE vendors, conducting MBE trainings for purchasers throughout our agency, benchmarking with other state agencies and distributing a quarterly newsletter on MBE activities.

Special thanks to Don Evans, our MBE-EDGE Officer, for his leadership in this initiative. More information about MBE and EDGE is available at the Department of Administrative Services website at <http://www.das.ohio.gov/Divisions/EqualOpportunity.aspx>.

Harvey J. Reed, Director
Department of Youth Services