



John R. Kasich  
Governor

David Goodman  
Director

[www.development.ohio.gov](http://www.development.ohio.gov)



**For Immediate Release**  
June 5, 2017

**Contact:** Morgan Bleich-Lee at (614) 728-0989  
[Morgan.Bleich-Lee@development.ohio.gov](mailto:Morgan.Bleich-Lee@development.ohio.gov)

## State of Ohio Partners with Columbus Urban League to Help Grow Minority Businesses

The Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) has selected the Columbus Urban League to help develop and grow Ohio small, minority-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses through the Minority Business Assistance Centers (MBAC) Program.

“Through our partnerships across the state, minority-owned businesses will be better supported in their growth and development,” said Jeffrey L. Johnson, chief of the Minority Business Development Division at the Ohio Development Services Agency.

This program supports minority-owned businesses by offering no cost counseling, state certification support, and trainings focused on creating jobs and increasing sales.

"The Columbus Urban League is excited to serve as the host of the Minority Business Assistance Center for the Columbus Region," said Stephanie Hightower, president and CEO of the Columbus Urban League. "We look forward to leveraging our historic reputation and solid public and private partnerships to ensure quality access to capital, resources and expertise for minority-owned and small businesses to grow and expand."

Partners of the MBAC program consist of non-profit organizations, economic development organizations, and educational institutions with strong experience in business and economic development.

For more information about the Minority Business Assistance Centers (MBAC) program, visit: [www.minority.ohio.gov](http://www.minority.ohio.gov), then click "Minority Business Assistance Center".

The MBAC program is managed by DSA's Minority Business Development Division and is a state initiative to develop and grow Ohio's small, minority-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.

###