



March 1, 2013

To the Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor, and
The Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly

Subject: **SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED AND VETERAN-OWNED SMALL
BUSINESS PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT.**

Greetings,

On behalf of the Department of Central Management Services, pursuant to Public Act 097-0260, we present the FY 2012 Annual Report for Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) and Veteran –Owned Small Businesses (VOSB). In FY 2012, CMS worked to establish the certification eligibilities and programmatic procedures that will be administered for all activity involving these businesses.

CMS has established the **Veterans Business Program (VBP)** which oversees the certification of SDVOSBs and VOSBs and monitors their utilization in State contracts. In addition, we have developed a strategic marketing plan to encourage vendors to become certified with the State, which includes statewide recruitment and outreach events conducted in partnership with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA).

To date, CMS has certified a total of twenty-one (21) VBP applications, with 11 firms identified as VOSB and 10 firms identified as SDVOSB. CMS has also enacted a recognition policy with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in an effort to increase the State's VBP vendor pool. During FY12, a total of \$700,659 of contracting dollars subject to goal, were awarded to SDVOSBs/VOSBs.

During FY13, we will also establish a VBP Committee composed of five members to be appointed by the Directors of CMS and IDVA. The VBP Committee appointees will serve for 2 years and will assist with oversight of the certification appeal process for VBP applicants.

We remain steadfast and committed to the continued improvement of our Veteran Business Program. We will focus an aggressive campaign this year to enhance the program by increasing outreach efforts, streamlining our certification process, and continuing to encourage qualified, prospective Veteran vendors to seek State business.

Respectfully,

Malcolm Weems
Director
Central Management Services