



## Happy Birthday, Bonding Education Program!

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) is happy to celebrate the Bonding Education Program's (BEP) Fourth Birthday!



April 22, 2010

Nearly 400 business leaders and entrepreneurs attended "Chicago Small Business Day" at Chicago Transit Authority headquarters



April 22, 2014

Victor Mendez, Acting Deputy Transportation Secretary, speaks during the "Chicago Small Business Day" 4 years later

The Chicago Small Business Summit on April 22, 2014, brings the BEP full circle. In April 2010, during the "Chicago Small Business Day" with Congressman Bobby Rush, Secretary LaHood announced the beginning of the BEP at Chicago Transit Authority headquarters. Nearly 400 business leaders and entrepreneurs attended the forum organized by the Congressman, USDOT, the Chicago Transit Authority, and OSDBU's partner for the BEP, The Surety & Fidelity Association of America.

The program has grown from three pilots, to the implementation of 58 programs across the country. Since the program's inception in 2010,

240 contractors have achieved bonds, totaling approximately \$225 Million.

The BEP is designed to help small businesses become bond ready by providing individualized growth plans for each program participant and provides one-on-one sessions with local surety bonding professionals to help in assembling the materials necessary for a complete bond application. This program is tailored to businesses competing for transportation-related contracts.

For information on the BEP, please visit:

[www.dot.gov/osdbu/financial-assistance/bonding-education/bonding-education-program](http://www.dot.gov/osdbu/financial-assistance/bonding-education/bonding-education-program)