

MELISSA L. LINDLER, MPA, PMP
Office of Business Opportunities
City of Columbia, SC
Director



Connect

A native of Irmo, South Carolina, **Melissa Lindler** is a graduate of Irmo High School and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Master of Public Administration from the University of South Carolina. She is a certified project management professional and also holds a graduate certification in public management from Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis.

Ms. Lindler currently serves as the director for the Office of Business Opportunities with the City of Columbia, South Carolina. She is responsible for providing support, training, technical assistance, and capital assistance to small, minority and women owned businesses. Her duties also include overall management and oversight of the city's commercial revolving funds, disparity study implementation, contractor and supplier diversity initiative, commercial retention and redevelopment program, and increasing procurement access and building the capacity of small and disadvantage businesses in the water and sewer industry.

Prior to working for the City of Columbia, Ms. Lindler was a congressional staffer for Congressman James E. Clyburn (SC-06) for 12 years. As director of district planning and outreach, she was responsible for district planning, scheduling, special events coordination, and various aspects of constituency services.

Additionally, Ms. Lindler has successfully secured and assisted in the administration of over \$8 million in public and private funding. She received her grants specialist certification from the National Grant Writers Association and she has a certificate in the Principals and Techniques of Fundraising from the University of Indiana, Center of Philanthropy. Ms. Lindler has served as a grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education, S.C. Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, and S.C. Office of First Steps to School Readiness.

She presently serves on the Executive Board/Board of Directors of the International African American Museum currently under development in Charleston, South Carolina and has enjoyed previous service on the boards of The Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics, The Columbia Chapter of the Society, Inc., Jack and Jill of America Foundation, Inc., and the Total Care for the Homeless Coalition.