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## **Development Services Group Announces Its Change to Woman-Owned Status**

Bethesda, Md. – Development Services Group, Inc. (DSG), a research consulting and professional services firm in Bethesda, Maryland, recently announced that it became a woman-owned small business.

In April 2016, Marcia Cohen became President of DSG, Chair of DSG's Board of Directors, and DSG's majority stockholder. Previously, she served as DSG's Vice President for Research and Evaluation for 15 years. Ms. Cohen is a distinguished researcher and evaluation manager, with an exceptional track record in business development and project management.

Mrs. Cohen has, among her many accomplishments, spearheaded innovations in the assessment research that underlies effective government programs and in the development of evidence-based repositories of such assessments, for the U. S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services. These projects include *CrimeSolutions.gov*, the *Model Programs Guide*, the *National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices*, and the *What Works Clearinghouse for Postsecondary Education*.

These projects have earned for DSG a national and international reputation for leadership, innovation, and rigor in evidence assessment of justice, education, behavioral health, and human services programs that work. Ms. Cohen has provided leadership, innovation, and management acumen to projects in all of these areas, and she will continue to do so in her new role with DSG. She also oversees DSG's training and technical assistance awards for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, including the Youth Violence Prevention Coordinated Training and Technical Assistance Program, a White House initiative working with 39 sites.

Ms. Cohen has demonstrated the leadership required to maintain and build on these successes. "DSG is a dynamic firm that has experienced significant growth in recent years, especially in its work and evidence-based assessments," Ms. Cohen said. "We expect this growth to continue, in part because of our continuing commitment to the highest standards for all our work in juvenile and criminal justice, education, behavioral health, and human services."

Alan Bekelman, the founder and former President of DSG, has assumed the position of DSG's Executive Vice President for Business Development and will continue to lead its

business development efforts. “Ms. Cohen’s ongoing commitment to social justice is reflected in the work she does in the analytical and policy-related products she produces,” Bekelman said. “Indeed, her extraordinary leadership has made the ‘what works’ field more relevant and useful to practitioners and community residents alike, and it will continue to make major contributions to the work of DSG’s many federal clients as well.”

DSG is located at 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 800 East, Bethesda, MD 20814. It has more than 60 staff members, more than 400 consultants, and working partnerships with numerous other major national research consulting and professional services firms, both large and small.

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