

2016

RESOURCE GUIDE *for* SMALL BUSINESS

U.S. Small Business Administration • Massachusetts Edition

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a Resource
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2016 MASSACHUSETTS

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On the Cover:

*Evangeline Conley, Owner
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See story on inside back cover.*



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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



Finding Your Partner for Success

I am proud to hold the seat in the President's cabinet responsible for helping America's Mom & Pop businesses grow and scale up. At the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), we are committed to empowering potential entrepreneurs and small business owners like you who help drive America's economy. In today's competitive global landscape, small businesses face major opportunities and challenges. The SBA is here to help with capital, counseling, contracts, and loan assistance after a natural disaster. But our work doesn't happen alone. Just like any seasoned entrepreneur can tell you, effective partnerships are pivotal to an organization's success.

That's why we have dedicated resource partners located in close proximity to virtually every community in America. These partners amplify the support SBA offers through one-on-one counseling, training and mentorship.

This issue of our resource guide spotlights the 35th anniversary of our Small Business Development Centers. SBDCs are the most comprehensive small business assistance network in the world, serving America's urban centers, rural towns and underserved communities. They are hosted by universities and economic development agencies, and funded in part through cooperative agreements with SBA.

Small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs can go to one of the more than 940 SBDC service locations throughout the United States and its territories to obtain free professional counseling from qualified business

advisors. These SBDC advisors have expertise and can consult with you about how to write a successful business plan, obtain capital, market your business, manage your working capital, obtain a government contract, and export to the billions of consumers who live outside of our borders.

My personal commitment to help SBA serve America's small businesses is rooted in my own entrepreneurial experience. Before taking on the leadership of SBA, I started three small businesses, including a community bank that specialized in small business lending. I understand firsthand the sacrifice, struggle and strength that entrepreneurs muster every single day to sustain their vision. My success depended on my ability to seek out knowledgeable and trusted counselors. I wish I knew then what I know now: SBA and its resource partners offer the services and mentorship that can help you propel your business.

I encourage you to leverage the partnerships SBA and SBDC offer. Consult this resource guide for more information and visit www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance/sbdc to find your local center.

After all, our business is to empower yours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Maria Contreras-Sweet'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

Maria Contreras-Sweet
Administrator

U.S. Small Business Administration

THE VALUE *of* HEALTHCARE

Get your business check-up today!



SBA.gov/healthcare

- Learn what the Affordable Care Act (ACA) means for you and your small business, with information about key pieces of the law based upon the size of your business

Healthcare.gov

- Learn more about the new small business health insurance marketplaces, find coverage options for your employees and enroll in either your state or federal marketplace

BusinessUSA.gov/healthcare

- This new site includes a search tool to direct you to ACA resources based on a business's location, size and current insurance offerings

For more information, visit the above resources or contact your local SBA District Office.

FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR***Message From
The New England Regional Administrator***

Whether you're seeking financing or government contracting opportunities, education and technical assistance, looking to expand your business by exporting to foreign markets, or trying to make sense of federal or state regulations, the SBA has the resources available to help you. The SBA offers free or low cost, confidential, one-on-one counseling, classroom and web-based training, assistance in obtaining business loans, venture capital, surety bonds and government contracts through our offices in Boston and Springfield. We also partner with SCORE, the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network and the Center for Women & Enterprise, SBA's official women's business center. Finally, we offer a full range of online and video small business courses and chat sessions at our learning center at: www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center.

Today's SBA is customer friendly and more cost effective. We have made the process of starting or expanding a small business easier than ever for entrepreneurs. We implemented a new credit scoring model for loans of \$350,000 and under, and launched SBA One, which has stream lined and simplified our lending process. These improvements are designed to modernize our services and provide greater capital to small businesses. Finally, we are also working to improve our training and counseling, which we know are vital to small businesses, through online and video courses and chat sessions at our learning center at: www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center.

Seth A. Goodall*New England Regional Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration*

FROM THE SECRETARY



Message From The Secretary Executive Office of Housing and Economic Department

Massachusetts' small businesses employ nearly half of our private workforce and drive economic growth and job creation throughout the Commonwealth. The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to supporting these businesses by addressing barriers to success, building the best-trained and most highly educated workforce in the country, and creating a business environment that encourages growth.

Last year the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) met with thousands of residents, small business owners, and interested groups to design an Economic Development Plan that addresses the real needs of businesses. We heard concerns about a need for talent, a need for a better regulatory structure, and a desire for someone in government to address new problems as they surface.

To address workforce concerns and bring advanced manufacturing jobs to Massachusetts we funded more than \$10 million in skills training from the Berkshires to Cape Cod, and are working with Massachusetts' high schools, vocational/ technical schools, and institutions of higher education ensure that graduates have the skills they need to get jobs and grow our businesses. And we are pushing for more affordable housing state wide to help employers

attract the talent they need, and ensure that residents can afford to live in our cities and towns.

In 2015, EOHED established the first Assistant Secretary of Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship to work with small start-ups and build our entrepreneurial ecosystem to help address the issues that new companies face, while facilitating growth among more mature businesses.

To build a regulatory environment that encourages job creation and economic growth, Governor Charlie Baker signed Executive Order 562, initiating a year-long process of regulatory reform to increase efficiency and competitiveness.

I am proud of the work we have done so far this year to support small businesses throughout Massachusetts, and look forward to a continued partnership with the Small Business Administration and the Small Business Development Centers to help businesses access the services and support they need.

Sincerely,

Jay Ash
Secretary
Executive Office of Housing and Economic
Development



Message From The State Director of SBA's Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network



The Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC) Network has had a year of continued success. Our very talented staff continues to be recognized for making the MSBDC Network a premier service delivery system for small business needs within the Commonwealth.

Paula Camera, senior business advisor with our Central Regional Office, was the recipient of the 2015 Massachusetts Star Performer during the annual ASBDC conference in San Francisco.

The Berkshire Regional Office and eight of our clients were honored on May 4th at the annual New England-wide National Small Business Week Massachusetts Awards Ceremony. The Berkshire Regional Office was the recipient of the Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award.

MSBDC Boston Regional Office client Todd Snopkowski, president of SnapChef, which provides culinary staff, received top honors as Small Business Person of the Year.

Three senior staff members of the MSBDC Massachusetts Export Center / International Trade Program earned their Certified U.S. Export Compliance Officer (CUSECO) designation, the industry standard for professionals working as export compliance practitioners in the private sector. Paula Murphy, director of the Massachusetts Export Center, Kathleen Kinahan-Newell, trade compliance manager, and Julia Dvorko, Central MA regional director, were awarded credentials this past summer from the International Import Export Institute (IIEI). To receive the certification, they each took a rigorous four-hour 200 question exam to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the U.S. Commerce Department's Export Administration Regulations (EAR), the U.S. State Department's International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), and the U.S. Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR).

This year has been one of transitions for three MSBDC regional centers. The regional directors of the Western, Northeast and Boston regional offices all retired. The position in the Northeast Regional Office was filled recently by Ken Roffe, who started in November 2015.

The recruitment for applicants for the Boston and Western regional offices is expected to be completed by the spring of 2016.

In FY15, the MSBDC provided free, confidential, high-quality, in-depth business advisory services, training, and capital access to over 6,000 clients. This encompassed 23,059 hours of one-to-one business assistance and 10,282 training hours through numerous outreach sites across the Commonwealth.

Also during the year, business advisors helped clients secure over \$44.7 million in financing, increased export sales by over \$100 million, and contributed to the creation and retention of 3,256 jobs.

In 2015, Dr. Chrisman conducted an impact survey of long-term clients serviced by the MSBDC to assess the value of services. The return rate for the survey was extremely high at 29.7%. Long-term clients certified that \$2.57 in tax revenues were generated for each dollar expended on the program from federal, state and local funding sources.

The survey also showed that MSBDC clients outperformed the sales growth for all Massachusetts companies at a rate of 16.4% versus 4.4%. In addition, MSBDC clients had higher job growth for established firms (14% versus the Massachusetts average of 1.6%).

The MSBDC's success is directly related to our highly-skilled professional staff and strong partnerships with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Massachusetts Department of Business Development, higher educational sponsors led by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Isenberg School of Management, and a wide range of supporters in the business community.

Sincerely,

Georgianna Parkin
State Director
Massachusetts
Small Business Development Center Network
www.msbdc.org



Message From The District Director of SBA's Massachusetts and Rhode Island SCORE



SCORE is an SBA resource partner dedicated to the formation, growth and success of small businesses throughout the USA.

Contact the SCORE Chapter nearest you to make an appointment to discuss your business ideas; to brainstorm about specific business issues or to enroll in relevant business workshops. Primary SCORE locations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island are listed in this guide.

I wish each of you success in your business ventures and hope you will avail yourself of the experience the experienced volunteers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island can bring to your ideas.

Cordially,

Paul A. Waldeck
District Director
SCORE Massachusetts & Rhode Island
www.score.org

Its 9000 volunteer members, operating in all 50 states are made up of business people who have chosen to offer the expertise that made them successful by providing entrepreneurs with free counseling. Confidential counseling is offered in face to face; telephone; email and Skype configurations. One-on-one counseling sessions and workshops are offered at over 300 locations across the US.

In 2015, 290 SCORE volunteers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island held over 11,000 face to face and email training sessions with clients at their seven main locations and 60 satellite sites throughout the Commonwealth. All local Chapters offer low or no cost workshops. In the first 4 months of FY 2016 almost 3000 people attended these dynamic local workshops.



Message From the CEO, Center for Women & Enterprise



The Center for Women & Enterprise is a regional entrepreneurial training organization with offices in Eastern and Central Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and a new office opening this year in Vermont. We provide opportunities for women entrepreneurs and women in business to increase professional success, personal growth, and financial independence. CWE offers education, training, and technical assistance to entrepreneurs at every stage of business development, and from a wide variety of racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds – spanning the range from women in public housing who may want to start home-based or small retail businesses, to women running fast – growth technology businesses. As a benefit corporation, CWE provides its services on a sliding-scale basis in order to serve all women, regardless of their ability to pay.

ideas and business processes, and forums for the kind of networking that has contributed to the enormous growth in women-owned business. This year we are introducing new programs in our Centers, out in the community (Community Classrooms) and online. CWE also offers a full range of consulting services, including legal, marketing, finances, and general business strategy. Our class catalog can be found on our website, www.CWEonline.org.

Whether you are just beginning your journey on the path to entrepreneurship or if you already own a small business, our staff is ready to assist you.

Owning a small business is both challenging and rewarding. I wish you success in your venture.

Sincerely,

Susan Rittscher
President and CEO
Center for Women & Enterprise
617-536-0700
www.cweonline.org

Our organization has been a SBA resource partner since our founding 21 years ago in 1995. More than 33,500 women and men have been trained in that time, many of whom have achieved real economic success in pursuing their dream of owning their own business.

CWE's expertise lies in its training and education programs which provide crucial information, exposure to new

Message From The District Director

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"Ready to serve my
community, through business
development and education."
413-785-0484 Office
413-222-4286 Cell
oreste.varela@sba.gov
The branch office serves
Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden
and Hampshire Counties.



"How SBA Can Help Boost Your Business"

Since 1953 when SBA was first established, we have grown and evolved significantly, but the mission has remained the same. Together with our partners, lenders and networks, we are here to help the economy expand and create jobs and to help our small businesses start, grow and succeed. It is a mission all of us at the MA SBA are passionate about. We want to be your small business resource and to help you take your business to the next level. As for evolution, SBA today is well underway with a number of new exciting initiatives to take us to the next level and to be an agency that is Smart, Bold and Accessible!

As you explore the 2016 edition of the Massachusetts Small Business Resource Guide, you will find out about the many tools and resources that are available to help you address your specific needs:

- Learn how to get help with a business plan and/or to find the many outreach locations where you can meet on a confidential, one-on-one basis with our dedicated cadre of business advisors to get the answers you need;
- Find out about the many sources and types of small business loans we can assist with including: microloans; export finance products; below market priced real estate loans; and working capital lines of credit. We have programs to help you whether you are a start-up looking for that very first commercial loan all the way up to high tech or growth oriented businesses in need of venture funding;
- Explore ways to increase revenues by selling your goods and services to local, state and the federal government. We have a number of certification programs to help small businesses compete effectively and experts to help you navigate and to succeed.

In late 2015 SBA launched two major online initiatives, LINC and SBA ONE. LINC is an online portal that helps small businesses connect with prospective SBA lenders.....think online dating...but for small business loans. We have seen many successes with LINC and expect even more results as more and more lenders sign on to be LINC lenders and more small businesses find out about this new easy to use tool. SBA ONE is a new lender processing platform designed to increase the efficiency of the loan application process, making it easier for our lending partners to process SBA loans and to make the approval process quicker for small businesses. It is certainly exciting times at the SBA.

We at the Massachusetts District Office take pride in our work, particularly when it empowers you to turn your business ideas into reality. We feel that each successful business in the Commonwealth contributes to our collective prosperity. This work includes outreach into our underserved markets. We understand the importance of business ownership in communities that have been hit hard by our latest recession and making sure that all have equal access to opportunities through entrepreneurship.

As the Massachusetts SBA District Director, I invite you to look over this guide and connect with us. Call or e mail us and be sure to check out www.sba.gov/ma to see all of the events and workshops taking place in all corners of the state. I along with my team of eleven small business professionals look forward to assisting you and being part of your team.

Sincerely,

Robert Nelson

*District Director of
SBA's Massachusetts District Office*

Doing Business in Massachusetts

■ The SBA helps business owners grow and expand their businesses every day.



THE MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICT OFFICE

The Massachusetts District Office is responsible for the delivery of SBA's many programs and services. The District Director is Robert H. Nelson. The District Office is located at the Thomas P. O'Neill Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Room 265, Boston, MA. Office hours are from 8:30 AM until 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

The Springfield Branch Office is located at: STCC Technology Park, One Federal Street, Building 101-R Springfield, MA 01105
Office hours are from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM.

Office of Advocacy Region I
O'Neill Federal Bldg., 10 Causeway St., Rm. 275A, Boston, MA 02222
Lynn Bromley, Regional Advocate
To reach Lynn call 617-565-8418 or for more information visit www.sba.gov/advo.

CONTACTING THE MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICT OFFICE

For program and service information, please contact us at 617-565-5590.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Financial assistance for new or existing businesses through guaranteed loans

made by area bank and non-bank lenders. For information call 617-565-5590.

Free counseling, advice and information on starting, better operating or expanding a small business are available through the SCORE - Counselors to America's Small Business www.score.org, Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) www.msbd.org and Women's Business Centers (WBC) www.cweonline.org. They also conduct training events throughout the district - some require a nominal registration fee.

Assistance to businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals through the Business Development Program. Contact David Polatin at 617-565-5562 or email: david.polatin@sba.gov.

Special loan programs are available for businesses involved in international trade. For more information, please contact:
U. S. Export Assistance Center
John F. Kennedy Federal Bldg., Suite 1826A
55 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
John Joyce,
Regional Export Finance Manager
617-565-4305

Assistance is available for veteran, service-disabled veteran small business owners and reservists. The Massachusetts Veterans Business Development Specialist is Oreste Varela at 413-785-0484 or oreste.varela@sba.gov

Office of Government Contracting
O'Neill Federal Building
10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222
Janette Fasano, Area Director
617-565-5622
janette.fasano@sba.gov

Events are listed on the Training Calendar at: www.sba.gov/ma

We Welcome Your Questions

For extra copies of this publication or questions please contact:

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Boston, MA 02222-1093
Tel: 617-565-5590
Website: www.sba.gov/ma
E-mail: massachusettsdo@sba.gov

Celebrating a Resource Partner Milestone

by Paula Panissidi, SBA's Director of Marketing

If you're a small business owner, whether you're just starting out or have been in business for a while, you're likely wearing multiple hats...So many hats, in fact, that it's very easy to miss the little successes along your journey as an entrepreneur. Those milestones give us perspective and, often, a sense of accomplishment. They allow us to see just how far we've come. So, it's important to celebrate them.

Hiring your first employee. The first month you made a profit. Getting your first huge client or public endorsement. Securing that first loan so you can expand your business. Opening that second location. These are all important milestones, but many years in the future these milestones will also help you gauge the impact you've made...whether on an individual, in a community, or globally.

It is with this appreciation for milestones in mind that we recognize the 35th anniversary of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program. Funded in part through cooperative agreements with the SBA, SBDCs offer existing and future entrepreneurs free business counseling and planning assistance, as well as insight and guidance with respect to several special

focus areas, such as green business technology, disaster preparedness and recovery, veteran's assistance, technology transfer, and regulatory compliance. And, with more than 900 locations throughout the country, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, SBDCs are unparalleled in their reach as a professional business counseling network.

In recognition of the tremendous contribution SBDCs have made and continue to make to the growth and sustainability of America's small businesses, this edition of SBA's Small Business Resource Guide is dedicated to America's Small Business Development Centers. The next several pages profile just a handful of the small businesses that have succeeded, in large part, due to the assistance they received from an SBDC. We hope these stories both inspire and motivate you to pursue the path of entrepreneurship.

To learn more about Small Business Development Centers, please read the Counseling section of this resource guide. To find the nearest SBDC, visit www.sba.gov and click on the Local Assistance tab.

SUCCESS STORY



EMSEAL:

How a \$10 Thousand Grant Turned into a \$1.5 Million Sale

Federal grants for starting a business do not exist -- but there are certain grants for growing a business and other initiatives that help achieve specific agency agendas. For example, in order for America to be competitive globally -- the SBA administers grants for small businesses conducting scientific research & development and innovation in high-tech (SBIR/STTR). Government grants are very competitive and have strict rules for what the funds can be used for. The STEP (State Trade and Export Promotion) grant originated because of the **Small Business Jobs Act of 2010**. Part of this law builds on the President's National Export Initiative, supporting and promoting American companies to grow sales outside the United States and create jobs -- which is why we have the STEP program.

Westborough, Massachusetts-based EMSEAL took full advantage of SBA's STEP program in 2013 -- using a 10K grant to fund a trade mission to the United Kingdom and a targeted print media campaign to raise awareness about the company. EMSEAL leveraged this opportunity to connect with key decision-makers in the architectural design and engineering fields responsible for the construction of large commercial and public projects around the world. EMSEAL's closing of a \$1.5 million sale to help fortify the new construction of King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia -- was one of the many successes as a result of the STEP program nationally. In addition to the export contract won in Saudi Arabia, other notable sales that year included London's Heathrow Airport and the San Francisco 49ers' new Levi's Stadium domestically -- making a record year for the company.

How did they do it? Since 2004, EMSEAL has been guided by the free business advisory services of the Massachusetts Export Center, which is part of the **Massachusetts Small Business Development Center** -- supported by SBA, the Massachusetts Department of Business Development and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Isenberg School of Management.

As a result of developing a longstanding relationship with their local international trade specialist -- Julia Dvorko, PhD., Central MA Regional Director for MA Export Center -- EMSEAL has been able to identify and evaluate international distributors in numerous foreign markets and significantly increase its geographic footprint into some very challenging emerging markets, including: Afghanistan, Iraq, Ukraine, Jordan, Indonesia, India, among other nations. Julia worked with EMSEAL's International Project Manager, Bashar Moussallieh to

access expert resources such as **U.S. Commercial Service** and the **State of Massachusetts Office of International Trade and Investment** that led to valuable connections paving the way to exponential export growth. In 2014, exports accounted for about 12% of the company's total revenue -- growing about 30% from the previous four years. As a result of the new business and growing interest in their products worldwide, EMSEAL was also able to create eight new jobs. Today, EMSEAL has about 60 international distributors in almost 50 countries worldwide and is poised for a much stronger increase in export sales over the next several years.

"Export has always been a part of our business, my father and family immigrated to Massachusetts from South Africa in 1979 -- and I think that we brought with us the feeling that the world is not such a terribly big place after all, and with the right approach, you can benefit from it in business." said Lester Hensley, CEO of EMSEAL at an export event.

This year, EMSEAL was recognized doubly for all their success, being awarded with the **2015 New England Exporter of the Year** and also **2015 Massachusetts Exporter of the Year**.

"The Exporter of the Year award by the SBA is significant and it is noteworthy that EMSEAL was named not only the MA Exporter of the Year, but also the New England Exporter of the Year. The rallying wisdom at EMSEAL is "This is not our recession -- we will not participate" and the numbers show the results...a fantastic business that has expanded over time with increased revenues, profitability, territories and employees." said Robert H. Nelson, Massachusetts District Director.

About EMSEAL

EMSEAL is a manufacturer and distributor of pre-compressed sealants and expansion joints for commercial, industrial, and institutions worldwide. EMSEAL is the leading innovator and manufacturer of premium sealants and expansion joint systems for the commercial construction industry as well as for numerous gasketing applications in specialty market applications. The Company operates from multiple locations. The corporate headquarters in Westborough, Massachusetts is the primary sales, marketing, and technical support unit for worldwide sales as well as the manufacturing unit for the Company's engineered, extruded joint product lines. Its two Toronto, Ontario locations (EMSEAL, LLC) manufacture EMSEAL's pre-compressed, impregnated foam sealant technologies.

SUCCESS STORIES



Rosalie the Riveter

Rosalie Berger, Owner
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48 Main Street
Stockbridge, Ma 01262
www.rtrtechnologies.com

Rosalie the Riveter, an American icon made famous by Norman Rockwell hung for years in the Norman Rockwell Museum, in Stockbridge, MA. Today, the former museum is where Rosalie Berger is getting her inspiration and building her business as CEO of RTR Technologies.

Rosalie didn't set out to be a business woman. She was an early childhood reading teacher in Coney Island, NY, for eight years but always had a fascination with manufacturing. After teaching she got into real estate and was very successful with her expertise in evaluating buildings for developers -- which led to her becoming a broker. In 1989 she was showing an apartment to a client that happened to be an engineer with an idea for a "third rail" heating system for train tracks. This gentleman was Craig Berger, who later became her husband. Was it a fortuitous meeting or fate? Either way, her love of manufacturing led to the founding of RTR. The company had received a lot of success in the early years until the tragic events of 9-11. Rail use plummeted and with it, her business was in peril.

Rosalie turned to SBA and the Small Business Development Center Network for guidance. "If it weren't for the SBA, we would be out of business", says Rosalie. Prior to 9-11 RTR utilized two SBA loans to fund its business. After 9-11, "traditional" lenders would not approve a loan for her business. She was in dire straits and

subsequently worked closely with a local SBA representative and SBDC to receive a 9-11 economic recovery loan.

Since 1993, Rosalie has been carving out a niche market for her company and working with clients globally in the mass transit industry. RTR is a market leader in sustainable design and manufacturing of energy-efficient heating and de-icing systems for rail and mass transit systems. As a certified woman-owned business, Rosalie has come a long way in an industry, mostly male-dominated -- where long sought after government contracts were highly competitive. RTR is a company that has sustained itself through the years, by utilizing the SBA tools available that were meant to help disadvantaged businesses. Years of perseverance paid off this past year, when RTR was awarded a \$6.5 million contract to modernize control systems for contact rail heat and switch heaters throughout the entire Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) system.

Today her company employs over 40 personnel with over \$30 million in projects, with MBTA, NJ Transit, and Washington-Dulles transit to name a few. She remains energetic and passionate - "Success through Service" is her mantra which is the pervasive attitude throughout her company. She adores the "Old Corner House" built in 1782 which is the company headquarters. In fact she is personally responsible for selecting the art work and other adornments. Art being a passion of Rosalie's -- it is no surprise that she takes pride in supporting artists, art venues and various other local charities.

Rosalie has worked hard to make her company successful. She sought and received assistance from SBA which propelled her company forward. Rosie the Riveter would be proud.



Aspen Aerogels: Getting from Government Funded to Going Public

An interview with George Gould Ph.D., Vice President of Research and Development

The **Small Business Innovation Research** program was established with the goal of strengthening the role of innovative small businesses in federally-funded research and development. SBIR is a competitive, awards-based program that enables small firms to explore their technological potential in three phases -- while providing an incentive to profit from commercialization.

Although the government-wide program was officially established under the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 by the Reagan Administration, the founding father of the SBIR program -- Roland Tibbetts -- championed the cause decades earlier while serving as the SBIR program manager at the National Science Foundation from 1976 to 1996. Mr. Tibbetts was a distinguished Veteran, a First Lieutenant in the US Army Air Corp during World War II who understood the value of government funded programs. After serving his country, he benefitted from the GI Bill -- which provided him with a means to receive his undergraduate degree from Boston University and his MBA from Harvard. Mr. Tibbetts also worked as a VP of small hi-tech firms and saw the challenges of pursuing federal R&D funding first-hand; one of the many reasons he saw a need to lobby for a permanent SBIR program. Today, the SBA honors the Tibbetts Award annually in the spirit of Roland Tibbetts to those SBIR companies that demonstrate economic impact and technological innovation.

SBA 2015 Tibbetts Award Winner: Aspen Aerogels

Aspen Aerogels is one of the success stories that started as an SBIR-funded company -- then grew to the size of a publicly traded

company. An energy technology company that designs, develops and manufactures innovative aerogel insulation; Aspen won its first SBIR award in 2001 in their first year after spinning off from Aspen Systems Inc. -- an SBA 8A firm. Since then, the company has grown from an 8 employee operation with \$2 million in revenue to a 250 employee operation with over \$100 million in annual commercial revenue. In 2014, Aspen Aerogels started trading on the New York Stock Exchange and completed its initial public offering -- raising \$75 million for expansion and investment in its business. Due to a change in the ownership rules Aspen Aerogels Inc. is no longer eligible for SBIR funding -- but their rise from a government supported company is a true testament of Roland Tibbetts' vision for the SBIR program.

How did they do it?

George Gould Ph.D., Vice President of Research and Development shared best practices and tips for other small innovative firms starting out just as Aspen Aerogels did over a decade ago.

Aspen Aerogels has been very successful at being funded multiple SBIR awards with multiple agencies such as: NASA, Air Force, Missile Defense Agency, and Department of Energy over the course of your career -- is this common?

"It's not common, but it's not rare. There are companies that are really good at this. You get smart people together and you learn how to write and market ideas to get some investment; to check out

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your idea; to see if it has value," said Mr. Gould, "We didn't have venture capital backing or an owner with deep pockets -- I came out of academia and I was used to writing proposals. I don't know of other ways to survive... If you don't get funded, you don't do anything, you get fired or close your doors -- so you need to scratch and propose work."

What are some words of wisdom you would share with other companies seeking a similar path to success through the SBIR program?

- **Experience** is a key ingredient to success. Almost everybody on the team was a Ph.D. and an expert in areas such as: materials science, aerogels, high-temperature materials, process engineering. We began laying the foundation for the technology with our people first. In effect, what the SBIR program allowed us to do is to employ a few more very qualified people for a longer period of time, than we otherwise wouldn't have been able to support -- and they are still here.
- You need to have a winning idea, without that you don't get anywhere. New technology or products must be significantly better than what is currently out there on the market; let's say by a factor of ten times better than your competitors. Ten times is tough, but if you don't shoot for ten times better you may not get there. Shooting for 2 times better, you may only get to 30% better. . Really what we invented wasn't aerogel -- what we invented were the processes to make aerogels rapidly, at low-cost, functional, and practical. We made a new form of aerogel, a composite and flexible format.
- **Leverage the investments** being made in your company, from sources like SBIR. You need to use those investments wisely; you need to create a customer base that is willing to support you -- because one grant or one series of grants is very unlikely to take you past the finish line. It's just the way it is. There's just not enough money and not enough time. To do what we've done in the materials company, it takes many years -- plus you have to build a factory at hundreds of millions in investments. You need to leverage your investments of other people because that will allow you to be successful with your good idea. SBIR didn't build our laboratory. But we were able to defray some costs or leverage investment by the government or other sources -- vice versa to build the company. By more sources of investment, the better chance you have to succeed.
- What we did is not just focus on technology as a company, we built a business. It put a lot of burden onto the R&D team, because our research team was expected to pay for ourselves -- the lights and rent throughout the history of our company. That was our responsibility -- so one piece of advice is accept that responsibility -- rise to the challenge, don't just say you need to feed me because I give good ideas. It's got to be about survival, do what you can for the company.
- While you are building the technology and doing a good job with your customers -- you need to have a good business plan. What is your strategy? You need to set that business strategy; it can't be something you come up with later. You need to have good leadership, hire quality people and have technical people who know something about developing the idea. If you're going to do manufacturing, you've got to hire people who know something about it. Technical people need to bring forth what they're doing on their piece of it -- they need to help develop it -- but ultimately, they need to hand it off to people who know how to commercialize it.
- **Partner with larger companies** to leverage your understanding of your technology. Get them interested because they can help you perfect your technology by setting very high requirements. For example, government agencies are very exacting customers that put challenging requirements out there -- so if you can deliver products that they like -- you are in good shape if you can satisfy what they like. If they want to buy it, than other people will want to buy it when it becomes affordable.

Final Thoughts

"We benefitted immensely from the SBIR program. We are one of the very few companies I think that have survived the rigors of going from a neonatal care type company into something that has strength and revenue.", said Mr. Gould.

"Let's separate it from SBIR program -- I think around 1% of startups survive under any circumstance. So to be a success story and survive

as the entity that you began as -- it's all about the process of making it is where there is a lot of economy. Small businesses come and go, but the companies that stay relevant are the ones that generate more jobs, more technology, more investment, more value, more revenue, and more excitement. That's a company like ours, where we went from a handful of people to employing well over 250 people. We went from \$2 million in SBIR contracts -- to revenues of well over \$100 million." added Mr. Gould.



"SBIR is all about developing a new technology, commercialize it, and it has to match with what the sponsors need in terms for solutions, you need to do an honest job to provide your sponsors with solutions. I think we've been recognized because we create very high quality solutions, we know how to deliver for what the customer wants. We don't propose things, that don't have a pretty good chance of working, but we also push the envelope."

Applying for the SBIR Program:

There is no single application to participate in SBIR or STTR. It is dependent upon the R&D needs as needed -- of the participating Fed agencies/departments. SBIR solicitations follow a grant path or procurement/contracting path. Starting at the local level, we recommend taking the following steps to begin the process:

STEP 1 -- Meet with an **SBDC Counselor** for intake and an initial counseling session to explore feasibility and prepare research. In Massachusetts, please contact:

Massachusetts Small Business Development Center at Clark University
Arthur Martin
Senior Business Advisor/Technology Specialist
armartin@clarku.edu

Southeastern Regional Small Business Development Center
Daniel Lilly
Senior Business Advisor/Procurement Specialist
delilly@msbdc.umass.edu

STEP 2 -- Do Your Homework!

Research other successful awards in an area of interest -- "aerogels" for example -- to find agencies and program managers that are interested in that topic. Use www.SBIR.gov and www.Zyn.com/sbir to do the research.

Once you find an agency and program manager interested in the science, make contact and find a matching solicitation that is relevant.

STEP 3 -- Prepare to do Business with Government

First essential steps are to register with the following websites:

- 1) Get a free DUNS Number - a unique 9-digit number that is required for all businesses to register with the federal government for contracts or grants.
- 2) Register on www.SAM.gov -- required for doing business with the government.
- 3) Register on www.GRANTS.gov -- set an email alert certain topics come up in a solicitation for proposals.
- 4) Register on www.SBIR.gov -- set up a small business user account and follow the steps under "I am a/an" "Applicant".

STEP 4 -- Begin the Proposal Process Using the Specific Agency's Portal

Follow the specific instructions posted for each solicitation -- every agency is different. Whether you are awarded or not, you will hear back from the agency.

For example, if you are interested in SBIR solicitations with the Department of Defense, you need to register with the DoD SBIR/STTR Small Business Portal.

COUNSELING

Getting Help to Start, Market and Manage Your Business

COUNSELING



Every year, the U.S. Small Business Administration and its nationwide network of resource partners help millions of potential and existing small business owners start, grow and succeed.

Whether your target market is global or local, the SBA and its resource partners can help at every stage of turning your entrepreneurial dream into a thriving business.

If you're just starting out, the SBA and its resources can help you with business and financing plans. If you're already in business, you can use the SBA's resources to help manage and expand your business, obtain government contracts, recover from disaster, find foreign markets for your produce or services, and make your voice heard in the federal government.

You can access SBA information at www.sba.gov or visit one of our local offices for assistance.

SBA'S RESOURCE PARTNERS

In addition to our district offices, which serve every state and territory, the SBA works with a variety of local resource partners to meet your small business needs: SCORE chapters, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), and Women's Business Centers (WBCs). This partner network reaches into communities across America: More than 13,000 business counselors, mentors and trainers are available through over 300 SCORE chapters, 900 Small Business

Development Centers, and 110 Women's Business Centers. These professionals can help with writing a formal business plan, locating sources of financial assistance, managing and expanding your business, finding opportunities to sell your goods or services to the government, and recovering from disaster. To find your local district office or SBA resource partner, visit www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance.

SCORE

SCORE is a national network of more than 11,000 entrepreneurs, business leaders and executives who volunteer as mentors to America's small businesses. SCORE volunteers donated more than 1.2 million hours providing services to small business clients. SCORE leverages decades of experience from seasoned business professionals to help entrepreneurs to start and grow companies and to create jobs in local communities. SCORE does this by harnessing the passion and knowledge of individuals who have owned and managed their own businesses and want to share this "real world" expertise with you.

Found in more than 300 chapters throughout the country, SCORE provides key services – both face-to-face and online – to busy entrepreneurs who are just getting started or are in need of a seasoned business professional as a sounding board for their existing business. As members of your community, SCORE mentors understand local business licensing rules, economic conditions and important business networks. SCORE can help you by:

- Matching your specific needs with a business mentor
- Traveling to your place of business for an on-site evaluation
- Teaming with other SCORE mentors to provide you with tailored assistance in a number of business areas

Across the country, SCORE offers more than 10,000 educational workshops and seminars depending on the needs of the local business community. The SCORE workshops cover all manner of business topics, including: an introduction to the fundamentals of a business plan, managing cash flow and marketing your business. For established businesses, SCORE offers more in-depth training in areas like customer service, digital marketing, hiring practices and operating home-based businesses.

For around-the-clock business advice and information on the latest business news and trends visit www.sba.gov/score or call 800-634-0245 for the SCORE office nearest you. More than 1,200 online mentors are available to answer your questions about starting and running a business. For more information on SCORE and to get your own business mentor, visit www.SCORE.org.

ON THE UPSIDE

It's true, there are a lot of reasons not to start your own business. But for the right person, the advantages of business ownership far outweigh the risks.

- You get to be your own boss.
- Hard work and long hours directly benefit you, rather than increasing profits for someone else.
- Earnings and growth potential are unlimited.
- Running a business will provide endless variety, challenge and opportunities to learn.



HELP YOUR START UP STAY UP.

As a small business owner, having the right insurance coverage can mean the difference between staying in business and going belly up. At Progressive, our experts can provide a broad range of coverage—from general liability, commercial auto, and more—to help you protect not just your vehicle, but the business that depends on it.

Protect your business today. 1-800-PROGRESSIVE | [ProgressiveCommercial.com](https://www.ProgressiveCommercial.com)

PROGRESSIVE
COMMERCIAL

Commercial Auto Insurance provided by Progressive Casualty Insurance Company and affiliates. General Liability insurance is placed through Progressive Specialty Insurance Agency, Inc. with select insurers, which are not affiliated with Progressive, are solely responsible for servicing and claims, and pay the agency commission for policies sold. Prices, coverages, policy policies, and commission rates vary among these insurers. Not available in AK or HI.

SCORE CHAPTERS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Boston SCORE Chapter 20

Massachusetts SBA Office
10 Causeway St., Rm. 265
Boston, MA 02222-1093
617-565-5591
www.boston.score.org

Northeast Massachusetts SCORE Chapter 411

SCORE NE Massachusetts
c/o Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce
583 Chestnut St., Unit 8
Lynn, MA 01904
978-922-9441
info@scorenemass.org
www.scorenemass.org

Cape Cod SCORE Chapter 225

270 Communications Way, Ste. 5-B
Hyannis, MA 02601
508-775-4884 • 508-790-2540 Fax
capecodscore@verizon.net
www.scorecapecod.com

Southeastern Massachusetts SCORE Chapter 422

Metro South Chamber of Commerce
60 School St.
Brockton, MA 02301
508-587-2673 • 508-587-1340 Fax
www.sema.score.org

Western Massachusetts SCORE Chapter 228

Business Growth Center
Scibelli Enterprise Center, Bldg. 101
1 Federal St.
Springfield, MA 01105
413-785-0314 • 413-755-6101 Fax
contact.0228@scorevolunteer.org
www.westernmassachusetts.score.org

Worcester Regional SCORE Chapter 173

446 Main St.
Worcester, MA 01608
508-753-2929 • 508-754-8560 Fax
www.worcester.score.org

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) mission is to build, sustain, and grow small businesses; promote small business development; and enhance local economies by creating businesses and fulfilling its mission of creating jobs.

The SBDCs are vital to SBA's entrepreneurial outreach and have been providing service to small businesses for over 35 years. It is one of the largest professional small business management and technical assistance networks in the nation. With over 900 locations across the country, SBDCs

offer existing and future entrepreneurs free one-on-one expert business counseling and low-cost training by qualified small business professionals.

In addition to its core business development services, the SBDCs offer special focus areas such as disaster recovery and preparedness, technology transfer and commercialization, regulatory compliance, and accessing unique resources for women, minority, and veteran business owners and entrepreneurs. SBDCs have also increased their capacity to help U.S. entrepreneurs enter global markets through export readiness assessment, training, regulatory compliance and a broad range of international trade assistance for new and existing exporters.

The program combines a unique combination of federal, state and private sector resources to provide, in every state and territory, the foundation for the economic growth of small businesses. In FY2014 they:

- Assisted more than 9,500 entrepreneurs to start new businesses – equating to nearly 26 new business starts per day.
- Provided counseling services to more than 91,000 emerging entrepreneurs and 75,000 existing businesses.
- Provided training services to approximately 214,000 clients.

The efficacy of the SBDC program has been validated by a nationwide evaluation study. Of the clients surveyed, more than 80 percent reported that the business assistance they received from the SBDC counselor was worthwhile. The top five impacts of counseling cited by SBDC clients were revising marketing strategy, increasing sales, expanding products and services, improving cash flow and increasing profit margin. More than 40 percent of long-term clients who received five hours or more of counseling reported an increase in sales and profit margins.

For information on the SBDC program, visit www.sba.gov/sbdc.

SBDC Locations in Massachusetts

www.msbd.org

State Office

Georgianna Parkin, State Director
Tillson House
University of Massachusetts Amherst
23 Tillson Farm Rd.
Amherst, MA 01003
413-545-6301
www.msbd.org

Berkshire Regional Office

33 Dunham Mall, Ste. 103
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-499-0933
www.msbd.org/berkshire/

Boston Regional Office & Minority Business Center

University of Massachusetts
Wheatley Hall, 3rd Fl., Ste. 154-10
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
617-287-7750
www.sbd.umb.edu/

Central Regional Office

Clark University
125 Woodland St., Carriage House
First Fl. Right
Worcester, MA 01610
508-793-7615
www.clarku.edu/offices/sbdc/

Northeast Regional Office

Salem State University
Enterprise Center
121 Loring Ave., Ste. 310
Salem, MA 01970
978-542-6343
<http://sbdc.salemstate.edu/>

Southeast Regional Office

200 Pocasset St.
Fall River, MA 02721
508-673-9783
www.msbd.org/semass/

Western Regional Office

Business Growth Center
Scibelli Enterprise Center, Bldg. 101
1 Federal St.
Springfield, MA 01105
413-737-6712
www.msbd.org/wmass/

Massachusetts Export Center

State Transportation Bldg.
10 Park Plaza, Ste. 3730
Boston, MA 02116
617-973-8664
www.mass.gov/export/

Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Business Growth Center
Scibelli Enterprise Center, Bldg. 101
1 Federal St.
Springfield, MA 01105
413-545-6307
www.msbd.org/ptac/

U.S. Export Assistance Centers

SBA trade finance specialists are co-located in 19 U.S. Export Assistance Centers throughout the U.S., with U.S. Department of Commerce and, in some locations, Export-Import Bank of the U.S. personnel. This multiple agency collaboration provided trade promotion and export-finance assistance in a single location. The USEACs

also work closely with other federal, state and local international trade organizations to provide assistance to small businesses. To find your nearest USEAC, visit: <http://www.sba.gov/content/us-export-assistance-centers>. You can find additional export training and counseling by contacting your local SBA district office.

U.S. Export Assistance Center

John F. Kennedy Federal Bldg., Ste. 1826A
55 New Sudbury St.
Boston, MA 02203
John Joyce, Regional Export Finance Mgr.
617-565-4305 • 617-565-4313 Fax
john.joyce@sba.gov

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS

The SBA's Women Business Center (WBC) program is a network of over 100 community-based centers that provide business training, counseling, coaching, mentoring and other assistance geared toward women, particularly those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. WBCs are located in nearly every state and U.S. territory including the District of Columbia

and the territories of Puerto Rico and American Samoa. They are partially funded through a cooperative agreement with the SBA.

To meet the needs of women entrepreneurs, WBCs offer services at convenient times and locations, including evenings and weekends. WBCs are located within non-profit host organizations that offer a wide variety of services in addition to the services provided by the WBC. Many of the WBCs also offer training and counseling and provide materials in different languages in order to meet the diverse needs of the communities they serve.

WBCs often deliver their services through long-term training or group counseling, both of which have shown to be effective. WBC training courses are often free or are offered for a small fee. Some centers will also offer scholarships based on the client's needs.

A number of WBCs also provide courses and counseling via the Internet, and in mobile classrooms and satellite locations. In fiscal year 2015, the WBC program counseled and trained over

140,000 clients, creating local economic growth and vitality. The WBCs helped entrepreneurs access more than \$87 million dollars in capital. Based on a 2010 Impact Study, of the WBC clients that have received three or more hours of counseling, 15 percent indicated that the services led to hiring new staff, 34 percent indicated that the services led to an increased profit margin, and 47 percent indicated that the services led to an increase in sales.

In addition, the WBC program has taken a lead in preparing women business owners to apply for the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Federal Contract program that authorizes contracting officers to set aside certain federal contracts for eligible women-owned small businesses or economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses. For more information on the program, visit www.sba.gov/wosb.

To find the nearest SBA WBC, visit www.sba.gov/women.

The bank of growing businesses.

Your small business deserves big ideas. Turn to a preferred, local SBA Lender for help.

Your new business opportunities may qualify for one of the SBA (Small Business Administration) loan programs. Our Preferred Lender status allows us to approve loans and lines of credit on behalf of the SBA. This makes the process faster and saves you time.

Contact your bankESB Preferred SBA Lender today at 855-527-4111.

Need to Purchase Equipment?
Call us to discuss what the SBA offers to help small businesses grow.

bankESB

The bank of you.

bankesb.com | 855.527.4111

SBA Preferred Lender

Member FDIC
Member DIF



Center for Women & Enterprise

Boston

24 School St., 7th Fl.
Boston, MA 02108
617-536-0700 • 617-536-7373 Fax
info@cweonline.org

Central Massachusetts

69 Milk St., Ste. 217
Westborough, MA 01581
508-363-2300 • 508-363-2323 Fax
info-worcester@cweonline.org

CWE provides education, technical assistance, networking, access to capital, and access to markets through multi-week courses, workshops, and women's business certification.

Resources for Women

SBA's online women's business center:
www.onlinewbc.gov

SBA EMERGING LEADERS

The intense seven-month entrepreneurship training for identified SBA Emerging Leaders creates a learning environment to accelerate the growth of high-potential small businesses, stimulates job creation and helps drive economic development within their communities. A competitive selection process results in company executives participating in high-level training and peer-networking sessions led by professional instructors. Graduates are poised to create an economic ripple effect because they are now equipped with the support, resources and enhanced business skills necessary to succeed.

Impact of Emerging Leaders:

The initiative is currently offered in 48 underserved communities across the country.

To date 3,000 businesses have participated and nearly 2,700 Emerging Leaders have graduated since its inception. A study of Emerging Leaders past participants reported that:

- Nearly 70% obtained revenue growth
- Over 80% created new jobs or retained all
- Participants secured federal, state, local and tribal contracts awards over \$1 Billion
- 95% were satisfied with the Emerging Leaders program

Visit www.sba.gov/emergingleaders for more information.

Congratulations to the E200 Class of 2015.

Metamagnetics - designs and deploys leading-edge commercial and defense products by coupling advanced materials science and innovative design techniques.

Pit Stop Barbecue - is a Zagat-rated southern style restaurant that serves beef and pork ribs, smoked chicken and assorted southern-style food items.

Inspiration Zone LLC - provides consulting services in four key areas; brand management, business strategy, consumer engagement and education.

Chicken & Rice Guys - is a premier food truck business in Boston that, in two short years, has doubled its revenue, and expanded to three trucks and catering services.

NSI, Inc. - provides a host of scientific, analytic, modeling and programmatic services and technologies to the defense and intelligence communities.

STC Biologics, Inc. - develops biologic drugs from design to proof-of-concept studies in humans, then partner those drugs with companies with commercialization capabilities in different markets.

Initiatives Inc. - assists governments and NGOs in more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America to strengthen their health services.

Pirtek Avon - provides the fastest mobile hose repair service in Boston to you directly on site, with multiple vans covering the Greater Boston/Providence area.

Brewer's Ledge - designs and constructs unique climbing structures for schools, training facilities, rehabilitation centers and playgrounds.

Offshoots, Inc. - is a woman-owned hybrid practice offering both landscape architecture and planning and productive landscape installation services.

Rethinking Power Management - is a team of engineers and building specialists skilled in uncovering efficiency opportunities and developing simple, cost-effective solutions.

Stone Projects - designs, fabricates, and installs premium-quality stone surfaces.

Stellar Technology Consulting - provides cloud services, data protection, social media management, and remote IT assistance.

The Realty Concierge - is a relocation firm that has assisted employees of Boston's largest firms with their real estate needs for over twenty years.



SBA'S LEARNING CENTER

SBA's Learning Center is a virtual campus complete with free online courses, workshops, podcasts and learning tools.

Key Features of the SBA's Learning Center:

- Training is available anytime and anywhere — all you need is a computer (or mobile device) with Internet access.
- Nearly 50 free online and interactive courses and workshops are available.
- Checklists and worksheets to get your business planning underway.
- Course topics include how to write a business plan, financing options that include SBA lending programs, mastering overseas markets through exporting, public sector procurement tactics, and specialty material for veterans, young entrepreneurs, and women business owners.
- Over 10 new courses launched in the last year; including a new Spanish-language version of a course for Young Entrepreneurs. This robust portal also includes video content, templates, and articles.

Visit www.sba.gov/learning for these free resources.

SBA'S CLUSTER INITIATIVE

Every small business must effectively connect into the key relationships necessary to drive success in its particular industry or market sector. Regional Innovation Clusters act as a networking hub to connect small businesses in a particular industry sector and geographic region with other business innovators in the same sector and with specialized suppliers, research



institutions, large prime customers or contractors and investors who also operate in that sector. In addition, market success requires small businesses to know their customers and distribute their product development dollars efficiently. Therefore, through intensive, industry-specific technical assistance, our Clusters help small business innovators commercialize promising technologies needed by government

and industry buyers in that particular sector. And then, through showcasing, networking and “demonstration events,” they help get these small businesses and their products in front of investment and other funding sources, research institutions and customers/buyers in order to bring products to market.

Across the country, our resource partners work with our Regional Innovation Clusters: The resource partners provide the businesses with information and coaching on the key building blocks of business success, while the Cluster experts help them with the highly technical product development and relationship-building assistance necessary to get and keep customers and investors in their particular market sector (such as smart-grid, fuel cell energy storage, solar cells, imaging, aerospace, and agricultural processing technologies and networks).

For more information on SBA’s Cluster Initiative, go to www.sba.gov/clusters.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

If you want to start a business or learn how to better manage your business money, consider Money Smart for Small Business. SBA and FDIC jointly provide their free instructor-led business training curriculum. The curriculum is designed to provide introductory training for new and aspiring entrepreneurs. The 13 modules provide the most essential information on running a small business from a financial standpoint. In addition to grounding participants in the basics, the curriculum serves as a foundation for more advanced training and technical assistance. You can find this curriculum by visiting www.sba.gov/moneysmart.

To learn more about the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, visit www.mymoney.gov.



At First Ipswich Bank, we’re committed to helping companies succeed with an array of banking products, services, and resources, designed specifically for businesses and their owners. Learn more at firstipswich.com/signature



Business Checking

A full range of operating and specialty accounts, plus our top-tier personal checking — free for business owners

Business Online Banking

A powerful, multi-user online banking system with desktop, tablet, and smartphone access

Online Cash Management

A comprehensive suite of tools for electronic payments, cash flow optimization, and fraud prevention

Business Loans & Lines

An experienced team of business lending specialists and fast, local lending decisions

Looking for an SBA Loan? Contact our Business Banking Officer, Lisa Shanko to learn more at 978-356-8133 or lshanko@firstipswich.com.

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REACHING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

The SBA also offers a number of programs specifically designed to meet the needs of underserved communities.

ENCORE ENTREPRENEURS

With their range of life experiences and their tendency to have more disposable income, entrepreneurs age 50 and older are one of the fastest growing groups of business owners. To help meet the needs of “encore entrepreneurs,” SBA and AARP have joined forces to mentor, counsel, and educate Americans age 50 and over on how to start or grow a small business. Through this partnership, SBA and AARP collaborate to connect the 50+ population to small business development resources, including online courses, webinars, live workshops, conferences, and mentoring activities. For additional information, visit www.sba.gov/encore.

FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

SBA’s Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives works to engage and build strong partnerships with community and nonprofit organizations, both secular and faith-based, to support entrepreneurship, economic growth and promote prosperity for all Americans. The Center works in coordination with other offices within the Agency to formulate policies and practices that extend the reach and impact of SBA programs into local communities. SBA recognizes the important role community leaders and networks have in economic development at the local and national level. Further, the Center plays a key role in helping identify, engage and impact underserved communities. For additional information, visit www.sba.gov/faith-based.

LGBT BUSINESS OUTREACH INITIATIVE

The SBA’s groundbreaking outreach to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community is for the first time bringing SBA resources directly to LGBT business owners. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by the nation’s 1.4 million LGBT-owned businesses, the SBA has partnered with several national business advocacy organizations, including the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, to increase the use of SBA programs by LGBT owned businesses.

The SBA is the nation’s leading advocate and champion for all entrepreneurs and is deeply committed

to helping LGBT-owned small businesses launch, innovate, hire and grow. Across the country, our resource partners are providing LGBT entrepreneurs with game-changing business advice. For more information on LGBT business development, go to www.sba.gov/LGBT or e-mail: lgbt@sba.gov.

NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The SBA Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) ensures that American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians seeking to create, develop and expand small businesses have full access to the business development and expansion tools available through the Agency’s entrepreneurial development, lending, and contracting programs.

The office provides a network of training initiatives that include a Native Entrepreneurial Empowerment Workshop, a Native American 8(a) Business Development Workshop, a Money Smart Workshop, an Incubator Workshop and the online tool, “Small Business Primer: Strategies for Growth.” ONAA also is responsible for consulting with tribal governments prior to finalizing SBA policies that may have tribal implications. Visit www.sba.gov/naa for more information.

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

Women entrepreneurs are changing the face of America’s economy. In the 1970s, women owned less than 5 percent of the nation’s businesses.

Today, they are majority owners of about a third of the nation’s small businesses and are at least equal owners of about half of all small businesses. SBA serves women entrepreneurs nationwide through its various programs and services, some of which are designed especially for women.

The SBA’s Office of Women’s Business Ownership (OWBO) serves as an advocate for women-owned businesses. The office oversees a nationwide network over 100 Women’s Business Centers that provide business training, counseling and mentoring geared specifically to women, especially those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. The program is a public-private partnership with locally-based nonprofits.

Women’s Business Centers serve a wide variety of geographic areas, population densities, and economic environments, including urban, suburban, and rural. Each Women’s Business Center tailors its services to the needs of its individual community, but all offer a variety of innovative

programs, often including courses in different languages. They provide training in finance, management, and marketing, as well as access to all of the SBA’s financial and procurement assistance programs.

In addition to the women’s business centers, the Office of Women’s Business Ownership works with other offices within SBA to monitor how women are utilizing SBA programs such as our loan programs, investment programs and contracting opportunities. OWBO also establishes partnerships with many women’s business organizations to help ensure that more women have access to the services provided by SBA and its partners.

Through a strategic alliance with Thunderbird School of Global Management, SBA is pleased to provide access to the DreamBuilder online training curriculum in both English and Spanish. This curriculum is currently being used by over 30 women’s business centers. It is available at no cost to entrepreneurs at <https://www.dreambuilder.org/sba>

For the second year, the Office of Women’s Business Ownership has held the InnovateHer competition. The InnovateHER Challenge provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase products and services that: have a measurable impact on the lives of women and families, have the potential for commercialization, and fill a need in the marketplace. SBA’s InnovateHER: Innovating for Women Business Summit on March 17, 2016 in Washington, D.C. will bring together creative ideas to support women’s efforts to push the limits, break the glass ceiling and create long-term, positive changes in gender equality.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

The SBA recognizes the importance of fostering young entrepreneurs and small business owners and their role in the economy. The SBA offers different activities and resources throughout the year aimed at aspiring young entrepreneurs, including social media outreach and customized online courses. For additional information, visit www.sba.gov/young.

SBA also administers two contracting and business development programs that are specifically designed to benefit underserved communities. For more information on the 8(a) Business Development Program and the HUBZone Program, see the Contracting section.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY



Each year SBA serves over 200,000 veterans, service disabled veterans and military spouses across the United States and at military installations around the globe. SBA provides training and mentorship, access to capital, preparation for opportunities in federal procurement, cultivating connections within commercial supply chains and disaster relief assistance.

SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) offers a number of programs and services to support aspiring and existing veteran entrepreneurs and military spouses of all eras, women veterans, and service disabled veterans. These programs, Boots to Business, Boots to Business: Reboot, Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (VWISE), and Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV), offer cutting edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management. These programs were developed to introduce transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses, to entrepreneurship, exploring self-employment opportunities, and turning an idea into a growth venture. In addition, these programs also help to connect participants to SBA's local network of resource partners and establish a support structure for graduates.

For more information on any of SBA's program for veterans, please visit www.sba.gov/veterans.

BOOTS TO BUSINESS AND BOOTS TO BUSINESS: REBOOT

Boots to Business and Boots to Business: Reboot both provide participants with an overview of business ownership as a career vocation, an orientation to the components of a business plan, a practical exercise in opportunity recognition, and an introduction to available public and private sector resources. However, the two programs are targeted to veterans, service members and their spouses at different life stages:

- **Boots to Business:** An entrepreneurial education program offered as an elective track within the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP), this course is open to service members (including members of the National Guard and Reserves) and their spouses. This course is available on over 180 installations around the world.
- **Boots to Business Reboot:** An entrepreneurial education program offered in local communities around the nation, this course is open to veterans of all eras (including members of the National Guard and Reserves) and their spouses.

VETERAN WOMEN IGNITING THE SPIRIT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP (V-WISE)

Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (VWISE) is an entrepreneurial training program for female veterans of all service eras and branches with a passion for and interest in either starting a new small business or growing an existing one. VWISE enables female veterans to find their passion and learn business-savvy skills in order to turn their ideas or businesses into growth ventures while recognizing entrepreneurship as an important part of strengthening economic growth nationwide.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) offers experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management. Training includes a 30-day online course, a nine-day residency at an EBV University and 12-months support from faculty experts. The curriculum focuses on practical

training in the tools and skills of new venture creation and growth, reflecting issues unique to disability and public benefits programs. Graduates of EVB leave with a support structure that helps them stay connected with resources and networks beneficial to their new endeavor. EVB is available to post-9/11 veterans and active duty service members with service-connected disabilities.

VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS (VBOCS)

The SBA Resource Partner Network extends its reach specifically to our veteran community through the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) Program. Through a cooperative agreement with 15 veteran-serving organizations across the country, SBA provides entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling and mentoring, and referrals for eligible veterans owning or considering starting a small business. Services provided by VBOCs include: pre-business plan workshops, concept assessments, business plan preparations, comprehensive feasibility analysis, entrepreneurial training, one-on-one counseling, and other business-development related services. VBOCs also provide assistance and training in such areas as international trade, franchising, Internet marketing, accounting, etc.

Massachusetts Veterans Business Development Specialist

Oreste Varela
413-785-0484
oreste.varela@sba.gov
www.sba.gov/vets

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS DURING DEPLOYMENT

SBA also connects veterans and military spouses to lenders that offer loan programs providing fee relief for eligible veterans and military spouses and offers special low-interest-rate financing to small businesses when an owner or essential employee is called to active duty. SBA's Veterans Advantage program provides fee relief for eligible veterans and military spouses and survivors. The Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (MREIDL) provides loans up to \$2 million to eligible small businesses to cover operating costs that cannot be met due to the loss of an essential employee called to active duty in the Reserves or National Guard.

ARE YOU RIGHT FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERSHIP?

Most new business owners who succeed have planned for every phase of their success. Thomas Edison, the great American inventor, once said, "Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." That same philosophy also applies to starting a business.

First, you'll need to generate a little bit of perspiration deciding whether you're the right type of person to start your own business.

IS ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR YOU?

There is simply no way to eliminate all the risks associated with starting a small business, but you can improve your chances of success with good planning, preparation and insight. Start by evaluating your strengths and weaknesses as a potential owner and manager of a small business. Carefully consider each of the following questions:

- **Are you a self-starter?** It will be entirely up to you to develop projects, organize your time, and follow through on details.
- **How well do you get along with different personalities?** Business owners need to develop working relationships with a variety of people including customers, vendors, staff, bankers, employees and professionals such as lawyers, accountants, or consultants. Can you deal with a demanding client, an unreliable vendor, or a cranky receptionist if your business interests demand it?
- **How good are you at making decisions?** Small business owners are required to make decisions constantly – often quickly, independently, and under pressure.
- **Do you have the physical and emotional stamina to run a business?** Business ownership can be exciting, but it's also a lot of work. Can you face six or seven 12-hour workdays every week?
- **How well do you plan and organize?** Research indicates that poor planning is responsible for most business failures. Good organization — of financials, inventory, schedules, and production — can help you avoid many pitfalls.
- **Is your drive strong enough?** Running a business can wear you down emotionally. Some business owners burn out quickly

from having to carry all the responsibility for the success of their business on their own shoulders. Strong motivation will help you survive slowdowns and periods of burnout.

- **How will the business affect your family?** The first few years of business start-up can be hard on family life. It's important for family members to know what to expect and for you to be able to trust that they will support you during this time. There also may be financial difficulties until the business becomes profitable, which could take months or years. You may have to adjust to a lower standard of living or put family assets at risk.

Once you've answered these questions, you should consider what type of business you want to start. Businesses can include franchises, at-home businesses, online businesses, brick-and-mortar stores or any combination of those.

FRANCHISING

There are more than 3,000 business franchises. The challenge is to decide on one that both interests you and is a good investment. Many franchising experts suggest that you comparison shop by looking at multiple franchise opportunities before deciding on the one that's right for you.

Some of the things you should look at when evaluating a franchise: historical profitability, effective financial management and other controls, a good image, integrity and commitment, and a successful industry.

In the simplest form of franchising, while you own the business, its operation is governed by the terms of the franchise agreement. For many, this is the chief benefit for franchising. You are able to capitalize on a business format, trade name, trademark and/or support system provided by the franchisor. But you operate as an independent contractor with the ability to make a profit or sustain a loss commensurate with your ownership.

If you are concerned about starting an independent business venture, then franchising may be an option for you. Remember that hard work, dedication and sacrifice are key elements in the success of any business venture, including a franchise.

Visit www.sba.gov/franchise for more information.

HOME-BASED BUSINESSES

Going to work used to mean traveling from home to a plant, store or office. Today, many people do some or all their work at home.

Getting Started

Before diving headfirst into a home-based business, you must know why you are doing it. To succeed, your business must be based on something greater than a desire to be your own boss. You must plan and make improvements and adjustments along the road.

Working under the same roof where your family lives may not prove to be as easy as it seems. One suggestion is to set up a separate office in your home to create a professional environment.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Can I switch from home responsibilities to business work easily?
- Do I have the self-discipline to maintain schedules while at home?
- Can I deal with the isolation of working from home?

Legal Requirements

A home-based business is subject to many of the same laws and regulations affecting other businesses.

Some general areas include:

- **Zoning regulations.** If your business operates in violation of them, you could be fined or shut down.
- **Product restrictions.** Certain products cannot be produced in the home. Most states outlaw home production of fireworks, drugs, poisons, explosives, sanitary or medical products and toys. Some states also prohibit home-based businesses from making food, drink or clothing.

Be sure to consult an attorney and your local and state departments of labor and health to find out which laws and regulations will affect your business. Additionally, check on registration and accounting requirements needed to open your home-based business. You may need a work certificate or license from the state. Your business name may need to be registered with the state. A separate business telephone and bank account are good business practices.

Also remember, if you have employees you are responsible for withholding income and Social Security taxes, and for complying with minimum wage and employee health and safety laws.

After you've thought about what type of business you want, the next step is to develop a business plan. Think of the business plan as a roadmap with milestones for the business. It begins as a pre-assessment tool to determine profitability and market share, and then expands as an in-business assessment tool to determine success, obtain financing and determine repayment ability, among other factors.

Creating a comprehensive business plan can be a long process, and you need good advice. The SBA and its resource partners, including Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers, and SCORE, have the expertise to help you craft a winning business plan. The SBA also offers online templates to get you started.

In general, a good business plan contains:

Introduction

- Give a detailed description of the business and its goals.
- Discuss ownership of the business and its legal structure.
- List the skills and experience you bring to the business.
- Discuss the advantages you and your business have over competitors.



Marketing

- Discuss the products and services your company will offer.
- Identify customer demand for your products and services.
- Identify your market, its size and locations.
- Explain how your products and services will be advertised and marketed.
- Explain your pricing strategy.

Financial Management

- Develop an expected return on investment and monthly cash flow for the first year.
- Provide projected income statements and balance sheets for a two-year period.

- Discuss your break-even point.
- Explain your personal balance sheet and method of compensation.
- Discuss who will maintain your accounting records and how they will be kept.
- Provide "what if" statements addressing alternative approaches to potential problems.

Operations

- Explain how the business will be managed day-to-day.
- Discuss hiring and personnel procedures.
- Discuss insurance, lease or rent agreements.
- Account for the equipment necessary to produce your goods or services.
- Account for production and delivery of products and services.

Concluding Statement

Summarize your business goals and objectives and express your commitment to the success of your business. Once you have completed your business plan, review it with a friend or business associate and professional business counselor like SCORE, WBC or SBDC representatives, SBA district office economic development specialists or veterans' business development specialists.

Remember, the business plan is a flexible document that should change as your business grows.



CAPITAL

Financing Options to Start or Grow Your Business



Many entrepreneurs need financial resources to start or expand a small business and must combine what they have with other sources of financing. These sources can include family and friends, venture-capital financing and business loans.

This section of the Small Business Resource guide discusses SBA's primary business loan and equity financing programs. These are: the 7(a) Loan Program, the Certified Development Company or 504 Loan Program, the Microloan Program and the Small Business Investment Company Program. The distinguishing features for these programs are the total dollar amounts that can be borrowed, the type of lenders who can provide these loans, the uses for the loan proceeds and the terms placed on the borrower. The SBA does not provide grants to individual business owners to start or grow a business.

SBA BUSINESS LOANS

If you are contemplating a business loan, familiarize yourself with the SBA's business loan programs to see if there may be a viable option. The SBA has a variety of loan programs which are distinguished by their different uses of the loan proceeds, their dollar amounts, and the requirements placed on the actual lenders. The three principal players in most of these programs are

the applicant small business, the lender and the SBA. *(The Agency does not actually provide the loan, but rather they guaranty a portion of the loan provided by a lender (except for microloans)).* The lender can be a regulated bank or credit union, or a community based lending organization.

For help locating a lender in your area, SBA has an online tool called LINC that matches small businesses with participating SBA lenders. LINC begins with a simple online form that requests basic information about your business and financing needs. That information is transmitted to all participating SBA lenders operating within your county. If a lender is interested, you will receive an email with the contact information for that lender. LINC can be accessed through SBA's website at <https://www.sba.gov/tools/linc>.

Submitting an inquiry through LINC does not constitute a loan application but is instead a valuable tool to identify SBA lenders within your community. Once you have identified those lenders, you will apply directly to the lenders by providing them the documents they require. Generally an application includes a business plan that explains what resources will be needed to accomplish the desired business purpose including the associated costs, the applicants' contribution, planned uses for the loan proceeds, a listing of the assets that will secure the loan

(collateral), a history of the business and explanation of how the business generates income, and most important, an explanation of how the business will be able to repay the loan in a timely manner.

The lender will analyze the application to see if it meets their criteria and make a determination if they will need an SBA guaranty in order to provide the loan. SBA will look to the lender to do much, if not all, of the analysis before it provides its guaranty to the lender's proposed loan. The SBA's business loan guaranty programs provide a key source of financing for viable small businesses that have real potential but cannot qualify for credit on reasonable terms by themselves.

If no lenders respond to your inquiry through LINC or if you are unable to secure financing from the lenders that you have contacted, please contact your local SBA District Office for additional resources.

7(a) LOAN PROGRAM

The 7(a) Loan program is the SBA's primary business loan program. It is the agency's most frequently used non-disaster financial assistance program because of its flexibility in loan structure, variety of uses for the loan proceeds and availability. The program has broad eligibility requirements and credit criteria to accommodate a wide range of financing needs.

Congress authorized SBA to provide financial assistance either directly or in cooperation with banks or other financial institutions through agreements to participate in section 7(a) of the Small Business Act. Historically, a 7(a) loan was provided either directly from SBA or from regulated lenders who provided the loan after they obtained a guaranty from SBA. Since 1996, all 7(a) loans have only been provided on a guaranteed basis, meaning from a lender participating in the 7(a) Loan Guaranty Program.

The business loans that SBA guarantees do not come from the Agency, but rather from banks and other approved lenders. The loans are funded by these organizations and they

make the decision to approve or deny the applicant's loan request.

The guaranty that SBA provides the lender reduces the lender's risk of borrower non-payment because the guaranty assures the lender that if the borrower defaults, the lender can request that SBA pay the debt rather than the borrower. SBA only guarantees a portion or percentage of every loan, so in the event of default the lender will only get partially repaid by SBA. However the borrower is still obligated for the full loan amount.

To qualify for an SBA guaranteed loan, a small business must meet the lender's criteria and the 7(a) program requirements. One of those requirements is that the lender must certify that it would not provide this loan under the proposed terms and conditions without an SBA guaranty. If the SBA is going to provide a lender with a guaranty, the applicant must be eligible and creditworthy and the loan structured under conditions acceptable to the SBA.

The 7(a) Program includes ten (10) types of loans which all share certain eligibility requirements but which also have some different requirements so they can accommodate specific business needs and/or give lenders greater flexibility with loan structure. The most popular 7(a) loan type is the Basic 7(a) Loan, which can be used for the most diverse purposes. The other nine 7(a) loan types are variations of the Basic 7(a) Loan with different uses for the loan proceeds and alternative structures.

The applicant business must:

1. Be an operating business (except for loans to Eligible Passive Companies);
2. Be organized for profit;
3. Be located in the United States;
4. Be able to demonstrate a need for the desired credit.
5. Be a business, along with its Affiliates, that meets SBA's Size Standard Requirements.
6. Be a business that is not engaged in a prohibited business activity or owned by a non-qualified owner, or located at a prohibited place.
7. Only use the Loan Proceeds for only acceptable purposes, which includes proceeds to start-up a new business, buy an existing business, acquire machinery & equipment and/or furniture & fixtures, acquire or renovate a building which the business will occupy, permanent working capital, and refinancing existing business debt

under certain conditions. Proceeds from a Basic 7(a) cannot be used to buy investments that are held for their potential appreciation, or to be provided to an associate of the business except under very limited circumstances.

8. Be able to demonstrate that it can't get the proceeds from its own resources or those of its principal owners and the lender must certify that they would only approve the loan if it is able to obtain a guaranty from SBA.
9. Have ownership that is of Good Character
10. Be able to satisfy any Miscellaneous Eligibility Requirements that may be imposed on a loan request based on the circumstances of the case including, but not limited to the purpose of the loan.

THE BASIC 7(a) LOAN

The Basic 7(a) Loan is the most commonly provided type of SBA business loan based on historical dollars approved. They are the most

flexible types of SBA loans because they can help finance such a large variety of business purposes for the largest number of business types, engaged in the widest spectrum of activities.

In the Federal Government's 2013 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013) about 80 percent of the dollars and 38 percent of the number of all 7(a) loans were Basic 7(a) Loans. The reciprocal percentages were divided between the nine other 7(a) Programs.

The Basic 7(a) Loan is a term loan usually repaid with one monthly payment of principal and interest. Interest only repayment periods are permitted when needed, such as for a start-up business that doesn't achieve breakeven in its initial months of operation. Other repayment structures are also permitted depending upon the borrower's needs and the flexibility of the lender.

A Basic 7(a) Loan does not revolve so the sum of the disbursements is the loan amount. SBA can guaranty revolving lines of credit, but that is accomplished through some of the nine variations to the Basic 7(a) Loan.

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your business
thrive!**



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What to Take to the Lender

Documentation requirements will vary depending upon the purpose of the loan. Contact your lender for the information you must supply.

Common requirements include the following:

A Business Plan that includes:

- Purpose of the loan
- History of the business
- Projections of income, expenses and cash flow as well as an explanation of the assumptions used to develop these projections
- Personal financial statements on the principal owners
- Resume(s) of the principal owners and managers.
- Amount of investment in the business by the owner(s)
- Projected opening-day balance sheet (new businesses)
- Lease details
- Proposed Collateral

Three Years of Financial Statements that include:

- Balance Sheet and Income Statement (P&L) for three years (existing businesses) (Tax Returns usually suffice)
- Interim Financial Statements dated within 180 days of the request for assistance
- Schedule of term debts (existing businesses)
- Aging of accounts receivable and payable (existing businesses), plus
- Interim Financial Statements dated within 180 days of the request for assistance

How the 7(a) Program Works

Small Business applicant assembles their request for financing based on the intended purpose of the proposed loan and what documents the lender requires. A loan to help a moving company acquire a new truck will be less involved than a loan to acquire or start-up a business. The paperwork can be completed on either a business loan application provided by the lender or an SBA application, but using the SBA forms does not actually increase the chance an applicant has in getting a business loan. The applicant then submits their loan application to a lender for the initial review. If the applicant is applying for their first business loan, it is recommended that the selected lender be the one who maintains the personal account of the owner(s).

The lender will generally review the credit merits of the request before deciding if they will make the loan

themselves or if they will need an SBA guaranty. If a guaranty is needed, the lender will also review the application for SBA eligibility. The applicant should be prepared to complete some additional documents if the lender says they need an SBA guaranty for approval. Applicants who feel they need more help with the process should contact their local SBA district office or one of the SBA's resource partners for assistance.

There are several ways a lender can request a 7(a) Guaranty for a proposed business loan from SBA. The main differences between these processing methods are based on the experience the lender has in requesting guarantees from SBA, the documentation the lender provides to SBA, the amount of review the SBA conducts after receiving the request, the amount of the loan and the lender responsibilities in case the loan defaults and the business' assets must be liquidated. The current different processing methods are:

- Standard 7(a) Guaranty
- Certified Lender Program
- Preferred Lender Program
- SBA Express
- Export Express
- Community Advantage

When a lender requests a 7(a) guaranty for a business loan they propose to provide a small business their application consist of two parts. The applicant fills out SBA Form 1919 while the lender completes SBA Form 1920. The Form 1919 is designed for the applicant to explain what they intend to do with the money and how they will repay the loan. The Form 1920 requires the lender to explain their analysis of the eligibility and credit merits of the request.

When the request loan amount is smaller (generally under \$350,000) the lender is allowed to provide SBA with less information in their application for guaranty but that does not mean the applicant business can provide the lender with less information. The lender has the ability to ask the applicant for as much detail as they believe is necessary for them to make their decision on the specific request.

When the SBA receives a request for guaranty from a lender they will either re-analyze, review or trust the lender's eligibility and credit analysis before deciding to approve or reject the request. See the section on 7(a) Loan Processing from Lenders later on in this article for more detail on what SBA does when it receives a request

for guaranty from the lender.

By guaranteeing a loan, the SBA assures the lender that, in the event the borrower does not repay the loan, the government will reimburse the lending institution for a percentage of the amount owed. By providing this guaranty, the SBA is able to help tens of thousands of small businesses every year get financing they might not otherwise obtain.

When SBA approves a guaranty they notify the lender who will work with the applicant to make sure the terms and conditions designed for the specific loan are met before closing. The lender also disburses the funds and assumes responsibility for collecting the payments and general servicing. The borrower makes loan payments directly to the lender. As with any loan, the borrower is obligated to repay the full amount of the loan in a timely manner.

What the SBA Looks for:

- Ability to repay the loan on time from the projected operating cash flow;
- Owners and operators who are of good character;
- Feasible business plan;
- Management expertise and commitment necessary for success;
- Sufficient funds, including (but not limited to) the SBA guaranteed loan, to operate the business on a sound financial basis (for new businesses, this includes the resources to meet start-up expenses and the initial operating phase);
- Adequate equity invested in the business; and
- Enough collateral to fully secure the loan or, all worthwhile available business collateral plus personal real estate if the loan cannot be fully secured.

The Impact of a Credit Score

SBA also credit scores every business that is a potential recipient of a loan guaranteed by SBA. If the loan is for \$350,000 or less, the credit score obtained will have a significant impact on the amount of work the lender has to complete when applying for an SBA guaranty. As such, it is important for any owner of a business to be aware of their credit score and correct any discrepancies prior to approaching their lender.

The following aspects of the Basic 7(a) Loan are also applicable to all other 7(a) Loan unless specifically referenced as not applying to a specific Special 7(a) Loan.

Percentage of Guarantees and Loan Maximums

SBA only guarantees a portion of any particular 7(a) loan so each loan will have an SBA share and an unguaranteed portion which gives the lender a certain amount of exposure and risk on each loan. The percentage of guaranty depends on either the dollar amount or the program the lender uses to obtain its guaranty. For loans of \$150,000 or less the SBA generally guarantees as much as 85 percent and for loans over \$150,000 the SBA generally provides a guaranty of up to 75 percent.

The maximum dollar amount of a single 7(a) loan is \$5 million and there is no minimum. The maximum dollar amount of the SBA share which can be provided to any one business (including affiliates) is \$3,750,000.

Interest Rates

The actual interest rate for a 7(a) loan guaranteed by the SBA is negotiated between the applicant and lender but is subject to the SBA maximums. Both fixed and variable interest rate structures are available. The maximum rate comprises two parts, a base rate and an allowable spread. There are three acceptable base rates (Wall Street Journal Prime*, London Interbank One Month Prime plus 3 percent, and an SBA Peg Rate). Lenders are allowed to add an additional spread to the base rate to arrive at the final rate. For loans with maturities of less than seven years, the maximum spread will be no more than 2.25 percent. For loans with maturities of seven years or more, the maximum spread will be 2.75 percent. The spread on loans under \$50,000 and loans processed through Express procedures have higher maximums.

Most 7(a) term loans are repaid with monthly payments of principal and interest. For fixed-rate loans the payments stay the same because the interest rate is constant. For variable rate loans the lender can change the payment amount when the interest rates change. Applicants can request that the lender establish the loan with interest-only payments during the start-up and expansion phases (when eligible) to allow the business time to generate income before it starts making full loan payments.

Guaranty and Other Fees

Loans guaranteed by the SBA are assessed a guaranty fee. This fee is based on the loan's maturity and the dollar amount guaranteed, not the total dollar amount of the loan. The guaranty fee is initially paid by the lender and then passed on to the borrower at closing. The funds the business needs to reimburse the lender can be included in the overall loan proceeds.

On any loan with a maturity of one year or less, the fee is just 0.25 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan. On loans with maturities of more than one year, the normal guaranty fee is:

- 2.0 percent of the SBA guaranteed portion on loans up to \$150,000; **
 - 3.0 percent on loans over \$150,000 but not more than \$700,000; and
 - 3.5 percent on loans over \$700,000.
- There is also an additional fee of 0.25 percent on any guaranteed portion over \$1 million.

**** All references to the prime rate refer to the base rate in effect on the first business day of the month the loan application is received by the SBA.***

**** For all SBA-guaranteed loans of \$150,000 or less that are approved between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016, the guaranty fee will be 0%.**

Benefit For Veterans and/or

Spouses: Any guaranteed loans approved to businesses owned by Veterans of any era or their Spouses during fiscal year 2016 (October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016) will receive the benefit of having its regular guaranty fee reduced by 50%, when the loan is over \$150,000.

If the loan being provided a business owner by qualifying veterans is for \$150,000 or less and the lender chooses to apply for its guaranty of that loan by using Express processing procedures (described elsewhere in this article) then the guaranty fee will be zero as long as the guaranty is approved before September 30, 2016.

The lender may not charge a prepayment penalty if the loan is paid off before maturity but the SBA will charge the borrower a prepayment fee if the loan has a maturity of 15 or more years and is pre-paid during the first three years.

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7(a) Loan Maturities

The SBA's loan programs are generally intended to encourage longer term small-business financing, but actual loan maturities are based on the ability to repay, the purpose of the loan proceeds and the useful life of the assets financed. Maturity generally ranges from 7 to 10 years for working capital, business start-ups, and business acquisition type loans, and up to 25 years if the purpose is to acquire real estate or fixed assets with a long term useful life.

Collateral

The SBA expects every 7(a) loan to be secured first with the assets acquired with the loan proceeds and then with additional business and personal assets, depending upon the loan amount and the way the lender requests their guaranty. However, SBA will not decline a request to guaranty a loan if the only unfavorable factor is insufficient collateral, provided all available collateral is offered. When the lender says they will need an SBA guaranty, the applicant should be prepared for liens to be placed against all business assets. Personal guaranties are required from all the principal owners of the business. Liens on personal assets of the principals may also be required. SBA does not require any collateral for any 7(a) guaranteed loan for \$25,000 or less but the lender can require collateral if they chose.

Loan Structure

The structure of a Basic 7(a) Loan is that repayment has to be set up so the loan is paid in full by maturity. Over the term of the loan there can be additional payments or payment relaxation depending on what is happening with the business. Balloon payments and call provisions are not allowed on any 7(a) term loan.

Eligibility

7(a) loan eligibility is based on a number of different factors, ranging from Size and Nature of Business to Use of Proceeds and factors that are case specific.

Size Eligibility

The first eligibility factor is size, as all loan recipients must be classified as "small" by the SBA. The size standards for all 7(a) loans are outlined below. A more in-depth listing of standards can be found at: www.sba.gov/size.

SBA Size Standards have the following general ranges:

- Manufacturing — from 500 to 1,500 employees
- Wholesale Trades — Up to 100 employees
- Services — \$2 million to \$35.5 million in average annual receipts
- Retail Trades — \$7 million to \$35.5 million in average annual receipts
- Construction — \$7 million to \$33.5 million in average annual receipts
- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting — \$750,000 to \$17.5 million in average annual receipts

There is an alternate size standard for businesses that do not qualify under their industry size standards for SBA funding. That alternative is that the applicant business (plus affiliates) can't have a tangible net worth exceeding \$15 million and average net income exceeding \$5 million for the last two years. This new alternate makes more businesses eligible for SBA loans and applies to SBA non-disaster loan programs, namely its 7(a) Business Loans and Certified Development Company programs.

Nature of Business

The second eligibility factor is based on the nature of the business and the process by which it generates income or the customers it serves. The SBA has general prohibitions against providing financial assistance to businesses involved in such activities as lending, speculating, passive investment, pyramid sales, loan packaging, presenting live performances of a prurient nature, businesses involved in gambling and any illegal activity.

The SBA also cannot make loan guaranties to non-profit businesses, private clubs that limit membership on a basis other than capacity, businesses that promote a religion, businesses owned by individuals incarcerated or on probation or parole, municipalities, and situations where the business or its owners previously failed to repay a federal loan or federally assisted financing, or are delinquent on existing federal debt.

Use of Proceeds

The third eligibility factor is Use of Proceeds. A Basic 7(a) Loan can provide proceeds to purchase machinery, equipment, fixtures, supplies, and to make improvements to land and/or buildings that will be occupied by the subject applicant business.

Proceeds can also be used to:

- Permanent Working Capital;
- Purchase Inventory;
- Expand or renovate facilities;

- Acquire machinery, equipment, furniture, fixtures and leasehold improvements;
- Acquire a business;
- Start a business;
- Acquire Land and Build a Location for the applicant business; and
- Refinance existing debt under certain conditions.

SBA 7(a) loan proceeds cannot be used:

- For the purpose of making investments.
- To provide funds to any of the owners of the business except for ordinary compensation for actual services provided.
- For Floor Plan Financing
- For a purpose that does not benefit the business

Miscellaneous Factors

The fourth factor involves a variety of requirements such as SBA's credit elsewhere test where the personal resources of the owners need to be checked to see if they can make a contribution before getting a loan guaranteed by the SBA. It also includes the SBA's anti-discrimination rules and limitations on lending to agricultural enterprises because there are other agencies of the Federal government with programs to fund such businesses.

Generally, SBA loans must meet the following criteria:

- Every loan must be for a sound business purpose;
- There must be sufficient invested equity in the business so it can operate on a sound financial basis;
- There must be a potential for long-term success;
- The owners must be of good character and reputation; and
- All loans must be so sound as to reasonably assure repayment.

For more information, go to www.sba.gov/apply.

SPECIAL PURPOSE 7(a) LOAN PROGRAMS

The 7(a) loan program is the most flexible of the SBA's lending programs. Over time, the Agency has developed several variations of the Basic 7(a) Loan in order to address specific financing needs for particular types of small businesses or to give the lender greater flexibility with the loan's structure. The general distinguishing feature between these loan types is their use of proceeds. These programs allow the proceeds to be used in ways that are not otherwise permitted in a basic 7(a) loan. These special purpose programs

are not necessarily for all businesses but may be very useful to some small businesses. They are generally governed by the same rules, regulations, fees, interest rates, etc., as the basic 7(a) loan. Lenders can advise you of any variations. The Special Purpose Loans include:

International Trade Loan Program

The SBA's International Trade Loan (ITL) is designed to help small businesses enter and expand into international markets or, when adversely affected by import competition, to make the investments necessary to better compete. The ITL offers a combination of fixed asset, working capital financing and debt refinancing with the SBA's maximum guaranty--90 percent--on the total loan amount. The maximum loan amount is \$5 million.

Guaranty Coverage

The SBA can guaranty up to 90 percent of an ITL up to a maximum of \$4.5 million, less the amount of the guaranteed portion of other SBA loans outstanding to the borrower. The maximum guaranty for any working

capital component of an ITL is limited to \$4 million. Any other working capital SBA loans that the borrower has are counted against the \$4 million guaranty limit.

Use of Proceeds

- For the facilities and equipment portion of the loan, proceeds may be used to acquire, construct, renovate, modernize, improve or expand facilities or equipment in the U.S. to produce goods or services involved in international trade, including expansion due to bringing production back from overseas if the borrower exports to at least one market.
- Working capital is an allowable use of proceeds under the ITL.
- Proceeds may be used for the refinancing of debt not structured on reasonable terms and conditions, including any debt that qualifies for refinancing under the standard SBA 7(a) Loan Program.

Loan Term

- Maturities on the working capital portion of the ITL are typically limited to 10 years.

- Maturities of up to 10 years on equipment unless the useful life exceeds 10 years.
- Maturities of up to 25 years are available for real estate.
- Loans with a mixed use of fixed-asset and working-capital financing will have a blended-average maturity.

Exporter Eligibility

- Applicants must meet the same eligibility requirements as for the SBA's standard 7(a) Loan Program.
- Applicants must also establish that the loan will allow the business to expand or develop an export market or demonstrate that the business has been adversely affected by import competition and that the ITL will allow the business to improve its competitive position.

Foreign Buyer Eligibility

Foreign buyers must be located in those countries where the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. is not prohibited from providing financial assistance.

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TERM LOAN
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Law Office

\$100,000
SBA EXPRESS
LINE OF CREDIT
January 2015

LEXINGTON, MA
IT Consulting

\$350,000
SBA EXPRESS
LINE OF CREDIT
December 2014

WOBURN, MA
Dry Cleaner

\$150,000
SBA EXPRESS
TERM LOAN
June 2015

SOMERVILLE, MA
Transportation

\$50,000
SBA EXPRESS
TERM LOAN
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Collateral Requirements

- Only collateral located in the U.S. (including its territories and possessions) is acceptable.
- First lien on property or equipment financed by the ITL or on other assets of the business is required. However, an ITL can be secured by a second lien position if the SBA determines there is adequate assurance of loan repayment.
- Additional collateral, including personal guaranties and those assets not financed with ITL proceeds, may be appropriate. A small business wanting to qualify as adversely impacted from import competition must submit supporting documentation that explains the impact, and a plan with projections that explains how the loan will improve the business' competitive position.

Export Working Capital Program

The SBA's Export Working Capital Program (EWCP) assists businesses exporters in meeting their short-term export working capital needs. Exporters can use the proceeds to make the products they will be exporting. They can also apply for such lines of credit prior to finalizing an export sale or contract. With an approved EWCP loan in place, exporters have greater flexibility in negotiating export payment terms—secure in the assurance that adequate financing will be in place when the export order is won.

Benefits of the EWCP

- Financing for suppliers, inventory or production of export goods.
- Export working capital during long payment cycles.
- Financing for stand-by letters of credit used as bid or performance bonds or advance payment guarantees.
- Reserves domestic working capital for the company's sales within the U.S.
- Permits increased global competitiveness by allowing the exporter to extend more liberal sales terms.
- Increases sales prospects in under-developed markets which may have high capital costs for importers.
- Low fees and quick processing times.

Guaranty Coverage

- Maximum loan amount is \$5,000,000.
- 90 percent of principal and accrued interest up to 120 days.

- Low guaranty fee of one-quarter of one percent of the guaranteed portion for loans with maturities of 12 months or less.
- Loan maturities are generally for 12 months or less, but can be up to a maximum of 36 months.

Use of Proceeds

- To pay for the manufacturing costs of goods for export.
- To purchase goods or services for export.
- To support standby letters of credit to act as bid or performance bonds.
- To finance foreign accounts receivable.

Interest Rates

The SBA does not establish or subsidize interest rates on loans. The interest rate can be fixed or variable and is negotiated between the borrower and the participating lender.

Advance Rates

- Up to 90 percent on purchase orders.
- Up to 90 percent on documentary letters of credit.
- Up to 90 percent on foreign accounts receivable.
- Up to 75 percent on eligible foreign inventory located within the U.S.
- In all cases, not to exceed the exporter's costs.

Collateral Requirements

The export-related inventory and the receivables generated by the export sales financed with EWCP funds generally will be considered adequate collateral. The SBA requires the personal guarantee of owners with 20 percent or more ownership.

How to apply

Application is made directly to SBA-participating lenders. Businesses are encouraged to contact SBA staff at their local U.S. Export Assistance Center (USEAC) to discuss whether they are eligible for the EWCP and whether it is the appropriate tool to meet their export financing needs. Participating lenders review/approve the application and submit the guaranty request to SBA staff at the local USEAC.

CAPLines

The CAPLines Program is designed to help small businesses meet their short-term and cyclical working capital needs. The programs can be used to finance seasonal working capital needs; finance the direct costs of performing

certain construction, service and supply contracts, subcontracts, or purchase orders; finance the direct cost associated with commercial and residential construction; or provide general working capital lines of credit. The maturity can be for up to 10 years except for the Builders Capline which is limited to 36 months after the first structure is completed. Guaranty percentages are the same as for a Basic 7(a) Loan. There are four distinct short term loan programs under the CAPLine umbrella:

- **The Contract Loan Program** is used to finance the cost associated with contracts, subcontracts, or purchase orders. Proceeds can be disbursed before the work begins. If used for one contract or subcontract, it is generally not revolving; if used for more than one contract or subcontract at a time, it can be revolving. The loan maturity is usually based on the length of the contract, but no more than 10 years. Contract payments are generally sent directly to the lender but alternative structures are available.
- **The Seasonal Line of Credit Program** is used to support buildup of inventory, accounts receivable or labor and materials above normal usage for seasonal inventory. The business must have been in business for a period of 12 months and must have a definite established seasonal pattern. The loan may be used over again after a "clean-up" period of 30 days to finance activity for a new season. These loans also may have a maturity of up to five years. The business may not have another seasonal line of credit outstanding but may have other lines for non-seasonal working capital needs.
- **The Builders Line Program** provides financing for small contractors or developers to construct or rehabilitate residential or commercial property. Loan maturity is generally three years but can be extended up to five years, if necessary, to facilitate sale of the property. Proceeds are used solely for direct expenses of acquisition, immediate construction and/or significant rehabilitation of the residential or commercial structures. The purchase of the land can be included if it does not exceed 20 percent of the loan proceeds. Up to 5 percent of the proceeds can be used for physical improvements that benefit the property.
- **The Working Capital Line Program** is a revolving line of credit

(up to \$5,000,000) that provides short term working capital. These lines of credit are generally used by businesses that provide credit to their customers, or whose principle asset is inventory. Disbursements are generally based on the size of a borrower's accounts receivable and/or inventory. Repayment comes from the collection of accounts receivable or sale of inventory. The specific structure is negotiated with the lender. There may be extra servicing and monitoring of the collateral for which the lender can charge up to 2 percent annually to the borrower.

Other Guaranty Lines of Credit

All the Special Purpose Programs listed above have SBA structured repayment terms meaning the Agency tells the lender how principal and interest is to be repaid. These programs also require the lender to use certain closing forms. Lenders with the ability to obtain 7(a) guarantees through any of the Express processes are considered experienced enough to be able to structure their own repayment terms

and use their own closing documents. With this ability the lender can tailor a line of credit that it gets guaranteed by SBA to the needs of the business. Therefore, if a potential applicant sees that the previously listed Basic 7(a) or Special Purpose 7(a) Programs don't meet their needs they should discuss their options with a lender capable of providing an SBA Express or Export Express loan with an SBA guaranty.

SBAExpress

The SBAExpress Loan or Line of Credit is a flexible smaller loan up to \$350,000 that a designated lender can provide to its borrower using mostly their own forms, analysis and procedures to process, structure, service, and disburse this SBA-guaranteed loan. When structured as a term loan the proceeds and maturity are the same as a Basic 7(a) Loan. When structured as a revolving line of credit the requirements for the payment of interest and principal are at the discretion of the lender and maturity can't exceed 7 years.

Export Express

SBA's Export Express loans offers flexibility and ease of use for both borrowers and lenders on loans up to \$500,000. It is the simplest export loan product offered by the SBA.

Use of Proceeds

Loan proceeds may be used for business purposes that will enhance a company's export development. Export Express can take the form of a term loan or a revolving line of credit. As an example, proceeds can be used to fund participation in a foreign trade show, finance standby letters of credit, translate product literature for use in foreign markets, finance specific export orders, as well as to finance expansions, equipment purchases, and inventory or real estate acquisitions, etc.

Ineligible Use of Proceeds

Proceeds may not be used to finance overseas operations other than those strictly associated with the marketing and/or distribution of products/services exported from the U.S.



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Interest Rates

Terms are negotiated between the borrower and lender but interest rates may not exceed Prime plus 4.5 percent on loans over \$50,000 and Prime plus 6.5 percent on loans of \$50,000 or less.

Exporter Eligibility

Any business that has been in operation, although not necessarily in exporting, for at least 12 full months and can demonstrate that the loan proceeds will support its export activity is eligible for Export Express. The one year in business operations requirement can be waived if the applicant can demonstrate previous successful business experience and exporting expertise and the lender does conventional underwriting, not relying solely on credit scoring.

Foreign Buyer Eligibility

The exporter's foreign buyer must be a creditworthy entity and not located in countries prohibited for financial support on the Export-Import Bank's Country Limitation Schedule and the methods of payment must be acceptable to the SBA and the SBA lender.

How to Apply

Interested businesses should contact their existing lender to determine if they are an SBA Export Express lender. Application is made directly to the lender. Lenders use their own application material in addition to SBA's Borrower Information Form. Lenders' approved requests are then submitted with a limited amount of eligibility information to SBA's National Loan Processing Center for review.

7(a) LOAN PROCESSES FOR LENDERS

There are various ways a lender can apply to SBA for a 7(a) guaranty. Some are designed for experienced lenders who are fully committed to providing business loans guaranteed by SBA to their clientele that need them, while others are designed for lenders with limited experience or when there are certain issues that require SBA to thoroughly review the situation. The fundamental process available to all lenders who have signed up to participate with SBA is called the Standard Loan Guaranty Process. It is used by lenders to request a guaranty from SBA when they are new to SBA lending or the request requires an SBA review. Other methods of processing

a request for guaranty have less requirements for SBA, so the time SBA take is less, but potentially more requirements or responsibilities for the lender. The determining factors on which one is used depends on the experience of the lender in dealing with SBA, the complexity of the case, the purpose of the loan, and the dollar amount being requested.

Standard 7(a) Loan Processing

After the applicant business and lender complete their required documents, the lender makes application to SBA for a guaranty by submitting them to SBA's Loan Guaranty Processing Center. The center will screen the application and, if satisfactory complete a thorough review of both eligibility and creditworthiness before making the decision to approve the issuance of a guaranty as submitted, approve with modifications (which will be discussed with the lender), or reject the request. When the lender makes application to SBA, they have already internally agreed to approve the recommended loan to the applicant if, and only if, the SBA provides a guaranty.

Standard processing means a lender makes their request for guaranty using SBA Form 1920 and the applicant completes SBA Form 1919, even if the applicant previously completed the lender's required application forms.

The analysis of eligibility starts with a review of the "Eligibility Questionnaire," completed by the lender. The analysis of credit starts with a review of the SBA Form 1920 and the lender's credit memo which must discuss at least six elements:

1. Balance sheet and ratio analysis;
2. Analysis of repayment. It is not acceptable to base repayment ability solely on the applicant's credit score.
3. Assessment of the management skills of the applicant;
4. Explanation of the collateral used to secure the loan and the adequacy of the proposed collateral;
5. Lender's credit history with applicant including an explanation of any weaknesses;
6. Current financial statements and pro-forma financial spread. SBA pro-forma analysis reflects how the business will look immediately following disbursement, not one year after disbursement.

SBA also expects that the lender's credit memo includes the intended use of the loan proceeds and any

historical and current issues that require explanation. SBA also expects a discussion of the process by which the applicant business generates its income when it is not immediately obvious. An explanation of how the business conducts its operation is also expected.

SBA has three days to screen and 10 days to process the request for guaranty from the lender. Any additional time a lender takes to make their determination prior to requesting a guaranty from SBA will add to the length of time to reach a final decision. If the guaranty is approved, SBA will prepare a loan authorization outlining the terms and conditions under which the guaranty is provided and prepare an approval letter for transmission to the lender.

Certified Processing

SBA has a Certified Lenders Program (CLP) which lenders with more experience and commitment to SBA lender can obtain which allows them to request a 7(a) guaranty through a process similar to the Standard process except the SBA will only review the lenders request rather than re-analyze.

Preferred Processing

SBA has a Preferred Lenders Program (PLP) designed for lenders who have been delegated the authority to make both the eligibility and credit decisions without a second look by SBA. This process is used by the most experienced lenders who have the most dedicated staffs ready to review requests for financial assistance from existing and potential customers in order to see if they need to become SBA guaranteed loans.

SBAExpress Processing

The SBAExpress guaranty is available to lenders as a way to obtain a guaranty on smaller loans up to \$350,000. The program authorizes select, experienced lenders to use mostly their own forms, analysis and procedures to process, structure, service, and disburse SBA-guaranteed loans. The SBA guarantees up to 50 percent of an SBAExpress loan. Loans under \$25,000 do not require collateral. The use of proceeds for a term loan is the same as for any Basic 7(a) Loan. Like most 7(a) loans, maturities are usually five to seven years for working capital and up to 25 years for real estate or equipment. Revolving lines of credit are allowed for a maximum of seven years.

Export Express Processing

SBA Export Express offers flexibility and ease of use for lenders. Participating lenders may use their own forms, procedures and analyses. The SBA provides the lender with an immediate response. This loan is subject to the same loan processing, closing, servicing and liquidation requirements as for other similar-sized SBA loans.

Guaranty Coverage

The SBA provides lenders with a 90 percent guaranty on loans up to \$350,000 and a 75 percent guaranty on loans between \$350,001 and \$500,000.

Community Advantage Loans

The **Community Advantage Pilot Program** is aimed at helping businesses located in underserved communities gain access to capital by opening up 7(a) lending to mission-focused, community-based lenders — such as Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), Certified Development Companies (CDCs), and SBA Microloan Intermediaries. These lenders provide technical assistance and economic development support to businesses located in underserved markets.

The application process is the same as for a Basic 7(a) Loan. The main difference with this program from other SBA 7(a) loan programs is the lender who ultimately provides the loan funds is not a traditional SBA lender. The maximum loan amount is \$350,000.

Visit: www.sba.gov/content/community-advantage-loans for more information about this program.

Massachusetts Community Advantage Lenders

Bay Colony Development Corporation

City Point
230 Third Ave., 1st Fl.
Waltham, MA 02451
Eric Adams
781-478-3650
Service Area: Statewide

Cape & Islands Community Development, Inc.

5 Shoot Flying Hill Rd.
Centerville, MA 02632
508-362-3755

Common Capital Inc. (Western Mass. Enterprise Fund)

4 Open Square Way, Ste. 407
Holyoke, MA 01040
413-420-0183

Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation

594 Columbia Rd.
Dorchester, MA 02125
617-825-4200

New Bedford Economic Development Council, Inc.

1213 Purchase St.
New Bedford, MA 02740
508-991-3122

South Eastern Economic Development Corp./SEED

80 Dean St.
Taunton, MA 02780
508-822-1020

CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LOAN PROGRAM (504 LOANS)

The 504 Loan program is an economic development program that supports American small business growth and helps communities through business expansion and job creation. The 504 loan program provides long-term, fixed-rate, subordinate mortgage financing for acquisition and/or renovation of capital assets including land, buildings and equipment. Some refinancing is

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also permitted. Most for-profit small businesses are eligible for this program. The types of businesses excluded from 7(a) loans (listed previously) are also excluded from the 504 loan program.

The SBA's 504 Certified Development Companies (CDC) serve their communities by financing business expansion needs. Their professional staff works directly with borrowers to tailor a financing package that meets program guidelines and the credit capacity of the borrower's business.

CDCs work with banks and other lenders to make loans in first position on reasonable terms, helping lenders retain growing customers and provide Community Reinvestment Act credit.

The SBA 504 loan is distinguished from the SBA 7(a) loan program in these ways:

The maximum debenture, or long-term loan, is:

- \$5 million for businesses that create a certain number of jobs or improve the local economy;
- \$5 million for businesses that meet a specific public policy goal, including loans for aiding rural development and expansion of small businesses owned by veterans, women, and minorities; and
- \$5.5 million for manufacturers and energy related public policy projects.

Recent additions to the program allow \$5.5 million for each project that reduces the borrower's energy consumption by at least 10 percent; and \$5.5 million for each project that generates renewable energy fuels, such as biodiesel or ethanol production. Projects eligible for up to \$5.5 million under one of these two requirements do not have to meet the job creation or retention requirement, so long as the CDC portfolio reflects an average jobs to debenture portfolio ratio of at least 1 job per \$65,000.

- Eligible project costs are limited to long-term, fixed assets such as land and building (occupied by the borrower) and substantial machinery and equipment.
- Most borrowers are required to make an injection (borrower contribution) of just 10 percent which allows the business to conserve valuable operating capital. A further injection of 5 percent is needed if the business is a start-up or new (less than two years old), and a further injection of 5 percent is also required if the primary collateral will be a single-purpose building (such as a hotel).
- Two-tiered project financing: A lender finances approximately

50 percent of the project cost and receives a first lien on the project assets (but no SBA guaranty); A CDC (backed by a 100 percent SBA-guaranteed debenture) finances up to 40 percent of the project costs secured with a junior lien. The borrower provides the balance of the project costs.

- Fixed interest rate on SBA loan. The SBA guarantees the debenture 100 percent. Debentures are sold in pools monthly to private investors. This low, fixed rate is then passed on to the borrower and establishes the basis for the loan rate.
- All project-related costs can be financed, including acquisition (land and building, land and construction of building, renovations, machinery and equipment) and soft costs, such as title insurance and appraisals. Some closing costs may be financed.
- Collateral is typically a subordinate lien on the assets financed; allows other assets to be free of liens and available to secure other needed financing.
- Long-term real estate loans are up to 20-year term, heavy equipment 10- or 20-year term and are self-amortizing.

Businesses that receive 504 loans are:

- Small — net worth under \$15 million, net profit after taxes under \$5 million, or meet other SBA size standards.
- Organized for-profit.
- Most types of business — retail, service, wholesale or manufacturing.

For information, visit

www.sba.gov/504.

Bay Colony Development Corporation

City Point
230 Third Ave., 1st Fl.
Waltham, MA 02451
Eric Adams
781-478-3650
Service Area: Statewide

Coastal Community Capital

5 Shoot Flying Hill Rd.
Centerville, MA 02632
Jeannine Marshall, Executive Director
508-362-3755
Service Area: Statewide

Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation

594 Columbia Rd., Ste. 302
Dorchester, MA 02125
Dan DeSantis, Director
617-825-4200
Service Area: Statewide

Granite State Development Corporation

One Cate St.
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Matt Collins, Vice President
508-294-6822
Service Area: Statewide

New England Certified Development Corporation

500 Edgewater Dr. Ste. 555
Wakefield, MA 01880
Paul Flynn, Director of SBA Lending
781-928-1100
Service Area: Statewide

Ocean State Business Development Authority

155 S. Main St., Ste. 301
Providence, RI 02903
Henry Violet, President
401-454-4560
Service Areas: Bristol, Norfolk and Worcester counties.

South Eastern Economic Development Corporation (SEED)

80 Dean St.
Taunton, MA 02780
Maria Gooch-Smith, Executive Director
508-822-1020
Service Area: Statewide

Worcester Business Development Corporation

89 Shrewsbury St., Ste. 300
Worcester, MA 01604
Craig Blais, President
508-755-5734
Service Area: Statewide

**MICROLOAN PROGRAM
(LOANS UP TO \$50,000)**

The Microloan Program provides very small loans (up to \$50,000) to women, low-income, minority, veteran, and other small business owners through a network of more than 100 Intermediaries nationwide. Under this program, the SBA makes funds available to nonprofit intermediaries that, in turn, make the small loans directly to start-up and existing businesses. Entrepreneurs work directly with the Intermediaries to receive financing and business knowledge support. The proceeds of a microloan can be used for working capital, or the purchase of furniture, fixtures, supplies, materials, and/or equipment. Microloans may not be used for the purchase of real estate. Interest rates are negotiated between the borrower and the Intermediary. The maximum term for a microloan is six years. Because funds are borrowed from the Intermediary, SBA is not involved in the business loan application or approval process. And, payments are made directly from the small business to the Intermediary.

The program also provides business-based training and technical assistance to micro-borrowers and potential micro-borrowers to help them successfully start or grow their businesses. Such training and technical assistance may include general business education, assistance with business planning, industry-specific training, and other types of training support.

Entrepreneurs and small business owners interested in small amounts of business financing should contact the nearest SBA district office for information about the nearest Microloan Program Intermediary Lender or go to www.sba.gov/microloans.

Accion USA *

10 Fawcett St., Ste. 204
Cambridge, MA 02138
Ana Hammock, Dir. Of Lending
617-625-7080
Service Area: Statewide

Common Capital, Inc. *

4 Open Square Way, Ste. 407
Holyoke, MA 01040
Sam Ortiz, Commercial Lender
413-420-0183
Service Areas: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden Counties & parts of Worcester

Community Teamwork, Inc

Merrimack Valley Small Business Center
88 Middle St., Ste. 202
Lowell, MA 01852
Liliana Kualapai, Center Director
978-322-8400
business@commteam.org
www.commteam.org
Service Areas: Essex and Middlesex

Dorchester Bay Economic Dev. Corp.*

594 Columbia Rd., Ste. 302
Dorchester, MA 02125
Dan DeSantis, Director
617-825-4200
Service Areas: Lower Roxbury and Dorchester

Economic Dev. Industrial Corp. of Lynn

Lynn City Hall, 3 City Hall Sq., Rm. 307
Lynn, MA 01901
James Cowdell, Executive Director
781-581-9399
Service Area: City of Lynn

Jobs for Fall River, Inc.

One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722
Kenneth Fiola
508-324-2620
kenfiolajr@aol.com
Service Area: City of Fall River

New Bedford Economic Development *

1213 Purchase St., 3rd Fl.
New Bedford, MA 02740
Ramon Silva, Senior Lending Officer
508-991-3122 ext. 24 • 508-991-7372 Fax
rsilva@nbedc.org
Service Area: City of New Bedford

North Central Massachusetts Economic Development Council

860 South St.
Fitchburg, MA 01420
David Ritter
978-353-7607
Service Area: North Central MA

South Eastern Econ. Dev. Corp. (SEED) *

80 Dean St.
Taunton, MA 02780
Maria Gooch-Smith, Executive Director
508-822-1020
mgoochsmith@seedcorp.com
Service Areas: Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, Suffolk, Middlesex, Nantucket

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Learn more at www.northeastbank.com/sba



In Massachusetts, contact:

Eric Bancroft
VP, Business Development Officer
Office: 508.202.3125



*Peter McVety, Owner McVety's Hearth and Home
Veteran Small Business Owner*

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STATE TRADE AND EXPORT PROMOTION (STEP) PROGRAM

The State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) Program is a pilot export initiative to make matching-fund awards to states to assist small businesses enter and succeed in the international marketplace. Activities to support small business exporting under the STEP Program are provided to eligible small business concerns ("STEP Clients") located in states, territories, and the District of Columbia. For more information on the STEP program visit www.sba.gov/internationaltrade.

SURETY BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM

The Surety Bond Guarantee Program is a public-private partnership between the Federal government and surety companies to provide small businesses with the bonding assistance necessary for them to compete for public and private contracting and subcontracting opportunities. The guarantee provides an incentive for sureties to bond small businesses that would otherwise be unable to obtain bonding. The program is aimed at small businesses that lack the working capital or performance track record necessary to secure bonding on a reasonable basis through regular commercial channels.

Through this program, the SBA guarantees bid, payment, performance and ancillary bonds issued by surety companies for individual contracts and subcontracts up to \$6.5 million. The SBA reimburses sureties between 70 and 90 percent of losses sustained if a contractor defaults on the contract. On Federal contracts, SBA can guarantee bonds on contracts up to \$10 million, if guarantee would be in the best interest of the Government.

SBA has two program components, the Prior Approval Program and the Preferred Surety Bond Program. In the Prior Approval Program, the SBA guarantees 90 percent of surety's paid losses and expenses on bonded contracts up to \$100,000, and on bonded contracts greater than \$100,000 that are awarded to socially and economically disadvantaged concerns, HUBZone contractors, and veterans, and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. All other bonds guaranteed in the Prior Approval Program receive an 80 percent guarantee. Sureties must obtain the SBA's prior approval for each bond guarantee issued. Under the Preferred Program, the SBA guarantees 70 percent, and sureties may issue,

monitor and service bonds without the SBA's prior approval.

Small businesses, surety companies, and bond agents are invited to visit our website at www.sba.gov/osg.

Participating agents and sureties may be found at http://web.sba.gov/orasbgpub/dsp_welcome.cfm.

The program office may be reached at 202-205-6540 or

Tamara E. Murray

Underwriting Marketing Specialist
Denver, CO
303-927-3479

Linda M. Laws

Underwriting Marketing Specialist
Seattle, WA
206-553-7317

SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY PROGRAM

The Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program is a multi-billion dollar program founded in 1958, as one of many financial assistance programs available through the U.S. Small Business Administration. The structure of the program is unique in that SBICs are privately owned and managed investment funds, licensed and regulated by SBA, that use their own capital plus funds borrowed with an SBA guarantee to make equity and debt investments in qualifying small businesses. The funds raise private capital and can receive SBA-guaranteed leverage up to three times private capital, with a leverage ceiling of \$150 million per SBIC and \$225 million for two or more licenses under common control. Licensed SBICs are for-profit investment firms whose incentive is to share in the success of a small business. The U.S. Small Business Administration does not invest directly into small business through the SBIC Program, but provides funding through SBA guarantee debentures to qualified investment management firms with expertise in certain sectors or industries.

SBIC Licensees Located in Massachusetts

Ascent Venture Partners IV-A, L.P.

Brian Girvan, Contact
255 State St., 5th Fl.
Boston, MA 02109
617-720-9400 • 617-720-9401 Fax
tscanlon@ascentvp.com

Citizens Ventures, Inc.

Joshua Conlon - EVP, Director
28 State St., 11th Fl., MS 1000
Boston, MA 02109
617-994-7084 • 617-742-9471 Fax
joshua.conlon@rbccitizens.com

Crescent Direct Lending SBIC Fund, L.P.

John Bowman
One Post Office Sq., 36th Fl.
Boston, MA 02109
617-854-1501 • 617-854-1550 Fax
john.bowman@crescentcap.com (link sends e-mail)
Investment Criteria
Investment Size Range
Preferred Min: \$0
Preferred Max: \$0
Type of Capital Provided
Funding Stage Preference
Industry Preference
Geographic Preferences
Description of Firm's Focus

Crystal Financial SBIC LP

Ward K. Mooney
Two International Place, 17th Fl.
Boston, MA 02110
617-428-8700 • 617-428-8701 Fax
jfranklin@crystalfinco.com

Draper Fisher Jurvetson New England Fund I (SBIC), L.P.

Todd Hixon, Contact
One Broadway, 14th Fl.
Cambridge, MA 02142
617-758-4213 • 617-758-4101 Fax
todd@navfund.com
Investment Criteria
Description of Firm's Focus
This fund is no longer investing in new portfolio companies.

Gemini Investors III, L.P.

David F. Millet, Contact
20 William St., Ste. 250
Wellesley, MA 02481
781-237-7001 • 781-237-7233 Fax
mkeis@gemini-investors.com

Gemini Investors IV, L.P.

Matt Keis, Contact
20 William St., Ste. 250
Wellesley, MA 02481
781-237-7001 • 781-237-7233 Fax
mkeis@gemini-investors.com

High Peaks Ventures, L.P.

Russell Howard, Contact
One Bank St., 2nd Fl.
Williamstown, MA 01267
518-720-3090 • 518-720-3091 Fax
Russ@HPVP.com
Investment Criteria
Investment Size Range:
Preferred Min: \$750,000
Preferred Max: \$3,000,000
Type of Capital Provided: Equity Capital
Funding Stage Preference: Early Stage
Industry Preference: Technology
Geographic Preferences: New York State
Description of Firm's Focus:
High Peaks is a venture capital firm focused on investments in market leading, early stage tech. companies. High Peaks closed its inaugural fund in '04 & is actively investing in NY state and thru-out the north-east focusing on internet-enabled business.

Lancet Capital Health Ventures, L.P.

William Golden, Manager
 245 First St., Ste. 1800
 Cambridge, MA 02142
 617-444-8582 • 617-444-8405 Fax
wgolden@lancetcapital.com
 Investment Criteria
 Investment Size Range
 Preferred Min: \$100,000
 Preferred Max: \$2,500,000
 Type of Capital Provided: Private Equity
 Funding Stage Preference: Early Stage
 Industry Preference: Biomedical
 Geographic Preferences: Northeast
 US Description of Firm's Focus:
 Invest primarily in medical device,
 drug discovery, bioinformatics companies.

Lineage Capital II, L.P.

T. Brook Parker
 399 Boylston St., Ste. 450
 Boston, MA 02116
 617-778-0672 • 617-778-0659 Fax
sba@lineagecap.com (link sends e-mail)
 Investment Criteria
 Investment Size Range
 Preferred Min: \$0
 Preferred Max: \$0

Long River Ventures III, L.P.

Tripp Peake
 7 North Pleasant St., Ste. 2C
 Amherst, MA 01002
 413-587-2155 • 413-587-2156 Fax
tpeake@longriverventures.com (link sends e-mail)
 Investment Criteria
 Investment Size Range
 Preferred Min: \$0
 Preferred Max: \$0
 Type of Capital Provided
 Funding Stage Preference
 Industry Preference
 Geographic Preferences
 Description of Firm's Focus

Pine Street Capital Partners II, L.P.

David Morris
 572 Washington St.
 The Rotunda Bldg., Ste. 16
 Wellesley, MA 12207
 781-237-0005

PVP Fund I, L.P.

Russell Howard
 Primary Venture Partners
 One Bank St., 2nd Fl.
 Williamstown, MA 01267
 518-720-3090 • 518-720-3091 Fax
russ@primary.vc (link sends e-mail)
 Investment Criteria
 Investment Size Range
 Preferred Min: \$0
 Preferred Max: \$0

Seacoast Capital Partners III, L.P.

Thomas Gorman, Contact
 55 Ferncroft Rd., Ste. 110
 Danvers, MA 01923
 978-750-1311 • 978-750-1301 Fax
tgorman@seacoastcapital.com

SEED Ventures, L.P.

Thomas Wooters, Contact
 80 Dean St.
 Taunton, MA 02780
 508-822-1020 • 508-880-7869 Fax
tom@seedvf.com
 Investment Criteria
 Investment Size Range
 Preferred Min: \$100,000
 Preferred Max: \$1,250,000
 Type of Capital Provided:
 75%: Loan and debt
 25%: Equity
 Funding Stage Preference:
 20-30%: startup & dvlpmnt
 70-80%: Exp & Later
 Industry Preference: No industry specific
 Geographic Preferences:
 Southeast Massachusetts

Ticonderoga SBIC, L.P.

Craig A.T. Jones, Contact
 25 Braintree Hill Park, Ste. 200
 Braintree, MA 02184
 781-416-3400 • 781-416-9868 Fax



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 617.303.7445 - Direct
 617.416.6567 - Mobile
kkelly@radiusbank.com

Jennifer Mason

Vice President
 SBA Relationship Manager
 617.303.7468 - Direct
 781.771.3919 - Mobile
jmason@radiusbank.com

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THE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is a highly competitive program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) that has the potential for commercialization. Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR enables small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. By including qualified small businesses in the nation's R&D arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains entrepreneurial spirit as it meets its specific research and development needs.

SBIR Program Eligibility

Only United States small businesses are eligible to participate in the SBIR program. An SBIR awardee must meet the following criteria at the time of

Phase I and II awards:

1. Organized for profit, with a place of business located in the United States;
2. No more than 500 employees, including affiliates;
3. Be a concern which is more than 50% directly owned and controlled by one or more individuals (who are citizens or permanent resident aliens of the United States), other small business concerns (each of which is more than 50% directly owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or permanent resident aliens of the United States), or any combination of these;
4. Be a concern which is more than 50% owned by multiple venture capital operating companies, hedge funds, private equity firms, or any combination of these (for agencies electing to use the authority in 15 U.S.C. 638(dd)(1)); or
5. Be a joint venture in which each entity to the joint venture must meet the requirements set forth in paragraph (a)(1)(i) or (a)(1)(ii) of this section. A joint venture that includes one or more concerns that meet the requirements of paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section must comply with §121.705(b) concerning registration and proposal requirements.
6. No single venture capital operating company, hedge fund, or private equity firm may own more than 50% of the concern.
7. For awards from agencies using the authority under 15 U.S.C. 638(dd) (1), an awardee may be owned and controlled by more than one VC, hedge fund, or private equity firm so long as no one such firm owns a majority of the stock.
8. If an Employee Stock Ownership Plan owns all or part of the concern, each stock trustee and plan member is considered an owner.
9. If a trust owns all or part of the concern, each trustee and trust beneficiary is considered an owner.
10. Phase I awardees with multiple prior awards must meet the benchmark requirements for progress toward commercialization.

SBIR-Participating Agencies

Each year, Federal agencies with extramural research and development (R&D) budgets that exceed \$100 million are required to reserve 2.9% (FY 15) of the extramural research budget for SBIR awards to small businesses. These agencies designate R&D topics and accept proposals. Currently, eleven agencies participate in the SBIR program:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce - National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Science Foundation

For additional information visit

www.sbir.gov.



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SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM

Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) is another program that expands funding opportunities in the federal innovation research and development (R&D) arena. Central to the program is expansion of the public/private sector partnership to include the joint venture opportunities for small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. The unique feature of the STTR program is the requirement for the small business to formally collaborate with a research institution in Phase I and Phase II. STTR's most important role is to bridge the gap between performance of basic science and commercialization of resulting innovations.

STTR Program Eligibility

Only United States small businesses are eligible to participate in the STTR program. The small business must meet all of the following criteria at time of award:

- Organized for profit, with a place of business located in the United States;

- At least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in, the United States, and;
- No more than 500 employees, including affiliates.

The nonprofit research institution must also meet certain eligibility criteria:

- Located in the US
- Meet one of three definitions:
- Nonprofit college or university
- Domestic nonprofit research organization
- Federally funded R&D center (FFRDC)

STTR differs from SBIR in three important aspects:

1. The SBC and its partnering institution are required to establish an intellectual property agreement detailing the allocation of intellectual property rights and rights to carry out follow-on research, development or commercialization activities.
2. STTR requires that the SBC perform at least 40% of the R&D and the single partnering research

institution to perform at least 30% of the R&D.

3. Unlike the SBIR program, STTR does not require the Principal Investigator to be primarily employed by the SBC.

STTR-Participating Agencies

Each year, Federal agencies with extramural research and development (R&D) budgets that exceed \$1 billion are required to reserve 0.40% (FY 15) of the extramural research budget for STTR awards to small businesses. These agencies designate R&D topics and accept proposals. Currently, five agencies participate in the STTR program:

- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Science Foundation

For additional information visit www.sbir.gov.

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Rick Hamilton, VP
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Craig Schermerhorn, VP
30 years experience



John Ward, VP
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The old adage “time is money” is perhaps one of the most pertinent statements that you can apply to small business owners. Whether you’re starting a business or managing a growing one, entrepreneurs and business owners wear many hats and have many questions:

- What laws and regulations apply to my business?
- How do I start to write a business plan?
- Where can I get help with X, Y and Z?

Many of us invariably turn to our networks and the Internet to find answers. But how can you trust that the information you are getting is truly applicable to your business and, let’s face it, even accurate?

As part of its mission to help business owners start, succeed and grow, SBA, through the SBA.gov website has developed numerous online tools and guides to help small businesses get information and answers they need quickly and efficiently. For example, these **10 Steps to Starting a Business** and these **10 Steps to Hiring your First Employee** guides are essential reading. Then there are the **Licenses and Permits Search Tool** and the **Loans and Grants Search Tool**.

New Online Tools to Help Business Owners Plan, Manage and Grow

The SBA has expanded its capacity and selection of tools and information that business owners need by developing a whole range of new online features! Check them out:

1. Find an SBA Lender through the Leveraging Information and Networks to access Capital (LINC) Tool

The SBA extends financial assistance to for-profit small businesses through its lending partners, such as banks, certified development companies, and microloan intermediaries. For help locating a lending partner in your area, use SBA’s LINC tool that matches small businesses with SBA lenders. LINC begins with a simple online form that requests basic information about your business and financing needs. That information is transmitted to all participating SBA lenders operating within your county. If



a lender is interested, you will receive an email with the contact information for that lender. LINC can be accessed through SBA’s website at <https://www.sba.gov/tools/linc>.

2. Get to Know Your Market and Competition Better with the SizeUp Tool

Want to know how your business stacks up against the competition? Where your potential competitors are located? Where the best places are to advertise your business? These are all critical inputs for your business plan and can also help back up any financing applications.

Now with the new SizeUp tool you can crunch millions of data points and get customizable reports and statistics about your business and its competition. Just enter your industry, city, state and other details. SizeUp then runs various reports and provides maps and data related to your competition, suppliers and customers. It also highlights potential advertising opportunities.

3. Build a Business Plan Tool

Business planning can seem a daunting task, but it doesn’t have to be that way. To help you plan and steer your business, this new “Build a Business Plan” tool guides you through the process of creating a basic, downloadable business plan. The great thing about it is you can build a plan in smaller chunks of time, save your progress and return at your leisure.

To use the tool, simply log into SBA.gov and enter information into a template for each section of the business plan including, market analysis, company description and

financial projections. The tool is secure and confidential and will keep your plan on record for up to six months. You can also save, download or email the plan at any time.

4. Size Standards Tool - Find Out Fast if You Qualify for Government Contracts

In order to be eligible to sell to the government and compete for small business “set-aside” contracts, business owners had to rummage through various rules and matrices to find out if their business is truly “small” according to SBA size standards. Now, with this new Size Standards Tool, you can follow three simple steps to cut through the guesswork and quickly find out if you qualify for government contracting opportunities. SBA also offers other resources including government contracting training courses, and guides to help you register as a contractor.

5. Events Calendar - Locate Business Training and Seminars

SBA and its partners, including Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business Centers, and SCORE, hold hundreds of small business training seminars and workshops across the country. Until now, there was no single repository for these events. Now, with SBA’s Events Calendar, you can quickly find and sign up for training. Enter a date range and/or zip code to locate events in your area. Results are filtered by topic such as “starting a business,” “managing a business,” “business planning,” and “financing a business.”

Loan Programs for Businesses

Ways borrowers can use the money

(Information current as of 03/03/2015)

Program	Who Qualifies	Use of Proceeds	Maturity	Maximum Loan Amount	Structure	Benefits to Borrower
Basic 7(a)	For profit businesses that can meet SBA's size standards, nature of business, use of proceeds, credit elsewhere, and other miscellaneous eligibility factors.	Acquire land; purchase existing building; convert, expand or renovate buildings; construct new buildings; acquire and install fixed assets; acquire inventory; purchase supplies and raw materials; purchase a business, start a business, leasehold improvements, term working capital; and, under certain conditions, to refinance certain outstanding debts.	Based on the use of proceeds and borrower's ability to repay. Not based on collateral. Maximum maturity: 10 years for working capital (seven years is common), 10 years for fixed assets, 25 years for real estate.	A Basic 7(a) can be for as much as \$5 million. SBA's limit to any one business is \$3.75 million so a business can have multiple loans guaranteed by SBA but the guaranteed portion combined cannot exceed \$3.75 million.	Term loans with one monthly payment of principal and interest (P&I). Borrower contribution required. Interest rate depends upon how lender applies for guaranty (see lender program chart). Cannot revolve, no balloon or call provisions.	Business can obtain financing not otherwise available, fixed maturity, available when collateral is limited. Can establish or re-affirm relationship with lender.
International Trade Loan (ITL)	Same as Basic 7(a), plus, business must be engaged or preparing to engage in exporting or be adversely affected by competition from imports.	Acquire, renovate, modernize facilities or equipment used in making products or services to be exported, plus, for permanent working capital and to refinance business debts currently on unreasonable terms.	Same as Basic 7(a).	Same as Basic 7(a), but when borrower has both international trade and working capital loans guaranteed by the SBA, the limit to any one business is \$4 million.	Same as Basic 7(a).	Same as Basic 7(a). Plus, long-term financing for export-related fixed assets and working capital.
Export Working Capital Loan (EWCP)	Same as Basic 7(a). Plus, must be in business one year and engaged or preparing to engage in exporting.	Short-term working capital to cover the costs of filling export orders, including ability to support an Export Stand-By Letter of Credit.	Can be up to a maximum of 36 months but generally 12 months or less.	Gross loan amount \$5.0 million. SBA guaranteed portion \$4.5 million	Finance single or multiple transactions. Interest paid monthly, principal paid as payments from items shipped overseas are collected. Can be renewed annually. Extra fees apply. Percentage of guaranty up to 90%. Generally revolving.	Provides U.S. exporters with a line of credit that can be separated from domestic operations line of credit. Can be used to finance 100% of the cost of filling export orders.
Seasonal CAPLines	Same as Basic 7(a). Plus, in business for at least one year and can demonstrate seasonal financing needs.	To finance the seasonal increases of accounts receivable, inventory and labor.	10 years	Same as Basic 7(a).	Short-term financing for seasonal activities to be repaid at the end of the season when payment for the seasonal activity is made to business	Provides opportunity for seasonal businesses to get seasonal financing not otherwise available.
Contract CAPLines	Same as Basic 7(a). Plus, will perform on contract or purchase order for some third-party buyer.	To finance the cost of one or more specific contract, sub-contract, or purchase order, including overhead or general and administrative expenses, allocable to the specific contract(s).	10 years	Same as Basic 7(a).	Short-term financing for performance of approved contract, sub-contract, or purchase order to be repaid when payment for the activity is made to business. Can be revolving or not.	Provides opportunity for contractors and sub-contractors to get financing not otherwise available.
Builders CAPLines	Same as Basic 7(a). Plus, building/renovating residential or commercial structure for re-sale without knowing buyer at time of approval.	For the direct expenses related to the construction and/or "substantial" renovation costs of specific residential or commercial buildings for resale, including labor, supplies, materials, equipment rental, direct fees. The cost of land is potentially eligible.	Maximum of three years to disburse and build or renovate. Extension possible to accommodate sale.	Same as Basic 7(a).	Short-term financing to build or renovate home or building for sale to unknown third party. "Substantial" means rehabilitation expenses of more than one-third of the purchase price or fair market value at the time of application. Can be revolving or not.	Provides opportunity for residential and commercial builders to get financing not otherwise available.

Program	Who Qualifies	Use of Proceeds	Maturity	Maximum Loan Amount	Structure	Benefits to Borrower
Working Capital CAPLines	Same as Basic 7(a). Borrower should sell on credit and/or have inventory needing immediate replacement after the sale.	For short-term working capital and operating needs, including to finance export sales. Proceeds must not be used to pay delinquent withholding taxes or similar trust funds (state sales taxes, etc.) or for floor planning.	10 years	Same as Basic 7(a).	Structured with requirements for payment of principal tied to the businesses collection of payments from their clientele	Provides opportunity for businesses that sell on credit to get revolving financing not otherwise available.
SBA Express Lender Structured Loans or Lines of Credit	Businesses needing a line of credit to conduct credit in the USA.	Working capital	If revolving, seven-year maximum, including term out period.	\$350,000	Structure is established by individual lender. Lender must have SBA Express designation	Has availability for a line of credit to help with short-term cash needs of the business.
Export Express Lender Structured Loans or Lines of Credit	Businesses needing a line of credit to support exporting activity.	Working capital 70 percent of which is to be used to support exporting activities.	If revolving, seven-year maximum, including term out period.	\$500,000	Structure is established by individual lender. Lender must have Export Express designation	Has availability for a line of credit to help with short-term cash needs of the business.
Non-7(a) Programs						
504 Loan Program	For-profit businesses that can meet the SBA's size standards, nature of business, use of proceeds, credit elsewhere, and other miscellaneous factors.	Non-7(a) Programs For the acquisition of long-term fixed assets, equipment with a useful life of at least 10 years; refinance loan-term fixed asset debt under certain conditions; working capital under certain conditions; to reduce energy consumption; and to upgrade renewable energy resources.	Based on the use of proceeds. Twenty years for real estate. Ten years for machinery and equipment.	The SBA portion of the financing can generally be up to \$5.0 million but may be up to \$5.5 million for manufacturing businesses or energy saving public policy goals.	Loans packaged by Certified Development Companies (CDC) and designed to finance up to 40 percent of a "project" ¹ secured with a 2nd position lien. Another loan from a third party lender financing up to 50 percent of the same project secured in 1st position, and borrower contribution of at least 10 percent. Extra contributions for special-purpose properties and new businesses.	Long-term Treasury fixed rates that are below market, low borrower contribution only 10 to 20 percent, full amortization with no call or balloon conditions.
Microloan Program	Same as Basic 7(a). Plus, nonprofit child-care businesses.	Similar to Basic 7(a). Plus, start-up nonprofit child-care businesses	Shortest term possible, not to exceed six years.	\$50,000 to the small business at any given time.	The SBA provides a loan to a nonprofit micro-lender called an "intermediary" who uses the proceeds to make microloans to small businesses. Technical assistance can also be provided.	Direct loan from nonprofit intermediary lender, fixed-rate financing, can be very small loan amounts, and technical assistance is available.

¹ "Project" is the purchase or lease, and/or improvement or renovation of long-term fixed assets by a small business, with 504 financing, for use in its business operations.

Lender's Programs Chart

Ways lenders can request guarantees

(Information current as of 03/03/2015)

Program Processing	Which Lenders Qualify	Types of Loans that can be Guaranteed	Maximum Allowable Interest Rates	Eligibility Analysis	Credit Analysis	Maximum Loan Amount
Standard Processing	Lenders that have an executed participation agreement with the SBA.	Basic 7(a). International Trade, Export Working Capital, all CAPLines.	Base rate is <i>Wall Street Journal</i> prime, or LIBOR* one month rate plus 3 percent, or SBA Peg rate. Plus , an allowable spread from 2.25 to 2.75 percent based on term. Lender can add 2 percent if loan is \$25,000 or less, and 1 percent if loan is \$25,001 to \$50,000. Can be fixed or variable.	Lender completes eligibility questionnaire and SBA reviews eligibility during loan processing.	Lender to cover all aspects of prudent credit analysis with emphasis on applicant's ability to repay loan from operation. SBA conducts analysis of lender's analysis.	Maximum loan \$5 million. Loans up to \$150,000 guaranteed up to 85 percent; loans over \$150,000 guaranteed up to 75 percent. Business with multiple SBA loans may get some variations.
Certified Lender Program (CLP) Processing	Same as Standard 7(a). Plus, an executed CLP agreement.	Same as Standard 7(a) processing except no policy exceptions.	Same as Standard 7(a).	Same as Standard 7(a).	Same as Standard 7(a) except SBA reviews lender's analysis work, not a re-analysis.	Maximum loan \$5 million. Guaranty percentage same as Standard 7(a).
Preferred Lender Program (PLP) Processing	Same as Standard 7(a). Plus, an executed PLP agreement.	Same as Standard processing except restrictions on loans involving some types of debt refinancing.	Same as Standard 7(a).	Lender completes Eligibility Analysis.	Delegated to lender.	Maximum loan \$5 million. Guaranty percentage same as Standard 7(a).
SBA Express Processing	Same as Standard 7(a). Plus, an executed SBA Express agreement.	Basic 7(a) with restrictions on some types of debt refinancing. Plus, lender structured term and revolving loans.	If \$50,000 or less, cannot exceed prime + 6.5 percent. If over \$50,000, cannot exceed prime + 4.5 percent. Prime may be lender prime.	Lender completes SBA Form 1920 "Eligibility Information."	Delegated to lender.	Maximum loan \$350,000. Guaranty percentage 50 percent.
Export Express Processing	Same as Standard 7(a). Plus, an executed Export Express agreement.	Similar to export working capital loan and international trade loans which meet export related eligibility criteria.	If \$50,000 or less, cannot exceed prime + 6.5 percent. If over \$50,000, cannot exceed prime + 4.5 percent. Prime may be lender prime.	Lender completes SBA Form 1920 "Eligibility Information."	Delegated to lender.	Maximum loan \$500,000. Guaranty percentage range between 75 and 90 percent.
Community Advantage	Lenders that have an executed Community Advantage agreement.	Basic 7(a) except restrictions on some types of refinancing.	Prime + 6 percent.	Lenders complete SBA Form 1920 "Eligibility Information."	Similar to Standard 7(a) except credit factors to consider are more defined.	Maximum loan \$250,000. Guaranty percentage same as Standard 7(a).

* London InterBank Offered Rate

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

CONTRACTING

Applying for Government Contracts



The U.S. government is the largest single purchaser of goods and services in the world, buying everything from armored vehicles and cutting-edge scientific research, to paper clips and super computers. Every year, the federal government awards more than \$500 billion in contracts, and a significant share of those contracts are made specifically available for award to small businesses.

The Small Business Administration works with agencies to award at least 23 percent of all prime government contracts to small businesses, including specific statutory goals for small disadvantaged businesses (SDB) – 5%, businesses that are women-owned (WOSB) – 5% or service-disabled veteran-owned (SDVOSB) – 3%, and businesses that are located in historically underutilized business zones (HUBZone firms) – 3%.

The agency ensures that small businesses have access to long-lasting development opportunities, which means working with small businesses to help them to become and remain competitive, as well as encouraging federal agencies to award more contracts to small businesses. The SBA performs an advocacy function for small businesses through outreach programs, matchmaking events, and online training opportunities. The agency

works directly with individual Federal buying offices and large business government contractors to identify contracting opportunities for small businesses.

HOW GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING WORKS

Sealed bidding vs. Negotiation

There are two primary competitive contracting methods the government uses to purchase goods and services, sealed bidding and negotiation. The first method, sealed bidding, involves the issuance of an invitation for bid (IFB) by a procuring agency. Under the sealed bidding method, a contract is awarded to the responsive and responsible bidder whose bid, conforms to the requirements of a solicitation (IFB) that will be most advantageous to the government, considering only price and the price-related factors included in the IFB. The second method, negotiation, involves issuing a request for proposal (RFP) or request for quotation (RFQ). The business with the best proposal in terms of technical content, best value, price and other factors generally is awarded the contract.

Types of Contracts

Fixed-price contracts place the full responsibility for the costs and risk of loss on the contractor, and generally do not permit any adjustment on the basis of the contractor's costs during the performance of the contract. It provides maximum incentive for the contractor to control costs and perform effectively and imposes a minimum administrative burden upon the contracting parties. This type of contract is used in all sealed bid and some negotiated procurements.

Cost reimbursement contracts provide for the payment of allowable costs incurred by the contractor plus a reasonable profit, to the extent stated in the contract. The contract establishes a ceiling price, above which a contractor may not exceed without the approval of the contracting officer. Cost reimbursement contracts are commonly used in research and development contracts.

Some contracts do not fit neatly into these two categories, such as time and material contracts (prices for hourly wages are established but the hours are estimated), and although rarely used, letter contracts, which authorizes a contractor to begin work on an urgent requirement before all terms and conditions are finalized.

Small Business Set-Asides

A “set-aside” for small businesses reserves an acquisition exclusively for small business competition. This includes requirements competed among HUBZone Certified Small Businesses, SBA 8(a) Certified small businesses, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned small businesses, and Economically Disadvantaged/Women-Owned small businesses in specific industries. Generally, set asides are appropriate, or in some cases required, if the contracting officer has a reasonable expectation of receiving two or more offers from responsible concerns and award can be made at fair market prices. Some programs also have authority for sole awards (awards with competition) depending on the circumstances.

There are two ways in which set-asides can be determined. First, if an acquisition of goods or services has an anticipated dollar value above \$3,500 (micropurchase threshold), but not exceeding \$150,000 (simplified acquisition threshold (SAT)), it is automatically reserved for small businesses. The acquisition will be set aside above the SAT only if the contracting officer determines there are two or more responsible small businesses that are competitive in terms of price, quality, and delivery, and an award can be made at a fair market price. Reasonable expectations of small business competition are based on market research including an evaluation of past acquisition history for an item or similar items. As part of market research, contracting officers may publish Sources Sought notices on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO; www.fbo.gov) website seeking firms for upcoming opportunities. Be sure to respond to these notices so you can be solicited for the requirements.

There are several exceptions and unique rules for specific kinds of small businesses and industries, so you should become familiar with the rules, which are contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). For small business set-asides for manufactured items, any business proposing to furnish a product that it did not manufacture must furnish the product of a small business manufacturer unless the SBA has granted either a waiver or exception to this requirement, referred to as the Non-manufacturer rule. In industries where the SBA finds that there are no small business manufacturers, it may issue a waiver to the non-manufacturer rule. Waivers permit small businesses dealers or distributors to provide the

product of any size concern regardless of the place of manufacture (but other laws such as the Buy American Act or Trade Agreements Act may apply). For service and construction requirements, the small business must perform set percentages of the work with its own employees (Limitations on Subcontracting), on set-aside requirements.

Sole Source

Although competition is the preferred means of contracting, the SBA’s 8(a) Business Development Program (FAR subpart 19.8), HUBZone (subpart 19.13), Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (subpart 19.14) and Woman-Owned Small Business Programs (subpart 19.15) each have provisions allowing for sole-source awards, when applicable. A contracting officer must give equal consideration to firms in each of these Programs when considering an award.

Subcontracting

Subcontracting opportunities are a great opportunity for small businesses, especially for those not ready to bid as

prime contractors. Experience gained from subcontracting with a federal prime contractor can better prepare businesses to bid for prime contracts.

Current regulations stipulate that for contracts offering subcontracting opportunities with values over \$700,000 for goods and services, or \$1.5 million for construction must offer the maximum practicable subcontracting opportunities to small businesses. In addition, potential large business prime contractors must submit a subcontracting plan with their proposal describing how they will successfully maximize subcontracting opportunities to small businesses.

To find subcontracting opportunities, a list of federal prime solicitations is listed under the U.S. Small Business Administration Subcontracting Network (SUBNET) web.sba.gov/subnet/search/index.cfm and through the General Services Administration (GSA) at www.gsa.gov/portal/content/101195. Research the list of prime contractors and determine which are best suited to your business. Develop a marketing strategy, and then contact the Small Business Liaison Officer (SBLO)

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listed for each prime to schedule an appointment. The SBA has a cadre of Commercial Market Representatives (CMRs) who work closely with large prime contractors to maximize use of small businesses as subcontractors. They can also assist small businesses with subcontracting matters. To find a CMR, go to: <https://www.sba.gov/content/cmr-directory>.

SBA CONTRACTING PROGRAMS

HUBZONE

The Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) program helps small businesses located in distressed urban and rural communities gain access to federal set-aside contracts and sole source contracts, as well as a price evaluation preference in full and open contract competitions. Federal agencies have a goal of awarding 3 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards to small businesses that SBA has certified as HUBZone. The list of HUBZone small business can be located at http://dsbs.sba.gov/dsbs/search/dsp_searchhubzone.cfm. To qualify for the program, a business (except those that are tribally-owned) must meet the following criteria:

- Small Business by SBA size standards
- Owned and controlled at least 51 percent by U.S. citizens, or a Community Development Corporation (CDC), an agricultural cooperative, or an Indian tribe
- Principal office must be located within a "Historically Underutilized Business Zone," which includes lands considered "Indian Country" and military facilities closed by the Base Realignment and Closure Act
- At least 35 percent of its employees must reside in a HUBZone.

Note: Different rules apply for Tribal Governments, Alaska Native Corporations, Community Development Corporations and small agricultural cooperatives. These are delineated in Title 13 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 126.

Existing businesses that choose to move to qualified areas are eligible to apply for certification provided they meet all the eligibility requirements. To fulfill the requirement that 35 percent of a HUBZone firm's employees reside in a HUBZone, employees must live in a primary residence at a place for at least

To be eligible to bid on a federal contract, you must know your business. Answer the following three questions:

1. Are you a small business?

Is your small business:

- Organized for profit?
- Located in the U.S.?
- Operated primarily within the U.S. or making a significant contribution to the U.S. economy through payment of taxes or use of American products, materials, or labor?
- Independently owned and operated?
- Not dominant in the field of operation in which it is bidding for government contracts?
- A sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, or any other legal form?

If the first six criteria apply to your business, ask yourself the second important question to find out if your business meets size standard requirements.

2. What is the size standard for your business?

Size standards are used to determine whether a business is small or "other than small." Size standards vary depending upon the industry. To determine the size standard for your business, you will need a North American Industry Classification code (NAICS). Every federal agency uses these codes when considering your business. To determine your NAICS code, go to www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/. Some SBA programs require their own unique size standards. To find out more about these requirements and other size standard information, go to www.sba.gov/size.

180 days, or as a currently registered voter, and with intent to live there indefinitely.

The SBA is responsible for:

- Determining whether or not applicants are qualified HUBZone small business concerns;
- Maintaining a list of qualified HUBZone small business concerns for use by acquisition agencies in awarding contracts under the program;

3. Do you fall under a specific certification?

Under the umbrella of "small business," SBA has outlined several specific certifications that businesses may fall under. These certifications are divided into two categories:

SBA-Certified and Self-Certified.

The SBA-Certified Programs were created to assist specific businesses in securing federal contracts and therefore can only be issued by SBA administrators. For the Self-Certified Programs, you can determine for yourself if your business meets the requirements by referring to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

Just as Congress has given federal agencies a goal of procuring 23 percent of federal contracts from small businesses, so too must federal agencies meet specific contracting goals for other categories of small firms. These goals are:

- 23 percent of contracts for Small Businesses
- 5 percent of contracts to Small Disadvantaged Businesses
- 5 percent to Women-Owned Small Businesses
- 3 percent to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses
- 3 percent to HUBZone Small Businesses

Federal agencies have a strong incentive to fulfill these contracting goals. You should apply for those SBA-Certified and determine which Self-Certification programs for which you qualify to take advantage of contracting opportunities.

- Adjudicating protests and appeals of eligibility to receive HUBZone contracts.

For additional information, visit www.sba.gov/hubzone.

8(a) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The 8(a) program is an essential instrument for helping socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs gain access to the

economic mainstream of American society. The 9-year program helps thousands of aspiring entrepreneurs gain a foothold in government contracting. The program offers business development assistance that includes one-on-one training and counseling, training workshops, match-making opportunities with federal buyers and other management and technical guidance. 8(a) participants can receive sole-source contracts, up to a ceiling of \$4 million for goods and services and \$6.5 million for manufacturing. While we help 8(a) participants build their competitive and institutional know-how, we also encourage them to participate in competitive acquisitions to become viable firms that continue to grow after graduating from the program. There is a statutory requirement that small disadvantaged business concerns be awarded not less than 5 percent of the total value of all prime contract awards. All 8(a) firms are considered small disadvantaged business concerns for the purpose of federal contracting.

To be eligible for the 8(a) Business Development program, a business must meet the following criteria:

- Small Business in the Primary NAICS;
- Owned (at least 51 percent) by one or more individuals who qualify as socially and economically disadvantaged, and who are U.S. citizens of good character;
- Controlled, managed, and operated full-time by one or more individuals who qualify as disadvantaged, and;
- Must demonstrate potential for success (generally by being in business for at least two full years) and have the capacity to perform on government and non-government contracts before applying.

Socially disadvantaged individuals are those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual capabilities. The following individuals are automatically presumed to be socially disadvantaged: Black Americans, Native Americans, Alaska Natives or Native Hawaiians, Hispanic Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, and Subcontinent Asian Americans. An individual who is not a member of one of these groups must establish individual social disadvantage by a preponderance of evidence.

Economically disadvantaged individuals are socially disadvantaged individuals whose ability to compete

in the free-enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities as compared to others in the same or similar line of business who are not socially disadvantaged. Such individuals have a net worth of less than \$250,000 (excluding primary residence and other exclusions).

Firms owned by Alaska Native Corporations, Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Community Development Corporations can also apply to the SBA for 8(a) business development assistance. Entity owned firms may receive sole source contracts without dollar limitation.

Each 8(a) firm is assigned a Business Opportunity Specialist at the nearest SBA District Office geographically near the business to coordinate the firm's business development assistance.

In addition, 8(a) participants may take advantage of specialized business training, counseling, marketing assistance, and high-level executive development provided by the SBA and our resource partners. 8(a) participants can also be eligible for assistance in obtaining access to surplus government property and supplies, SBA-guaranteed loans, and bonding assistance.


For additional information about applying for the SBA's 8(a) Program, visit www.sba.gov/8a.

SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS

A Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) is defined as a small business that is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

There is a federal government-wide goal of awarding at least 5 percent of prime contracting dollars to SDBs each year. Large prime contractors must also establish a 5 percent subcontracting goal for SDBs in their subcontracting plans which includes SBA 8(a) certified small businesses.

Firms self-certify as SDB in the federal data base called the System for Award Management (SAM) without submitting any application to the SBA; however, firms approved by the SBA into the 8(a) Business Development Program are automatically certified as an SDB. To self-certify, firms should access the website: www.sba.gov/sdb. By reading the information contained therein you will be given guidance as to what steps are required.



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SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

The Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) program has a federal government-wide goal of awarding at least 3 percent of prime and subcontracting dollars to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses each year. Large prime contractors must also establish a subcontracting goal for SDVOSBs in their subcontracting plans. These subcontracting goals are reviewed at time of proposal by both the contracting officer and the SBA prior to the award of a contract.

While the SBA does not certify companies as SDVOSBs, SDVOSB protest process is administered by SBA to ensure that only businesses owned by service-disabled veterans receive contracts reserved exclusively for them. When a business's SDVOSB self-certification is challenged, the SBA determines if the business meets the status, ownership and control requirements.

An SDVO SBC must be owned and controlled by one or more individuals with a service connected disability. To determine your eligibility, contact your local veterans' business development officer, visit the various program websites, or contact SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development at www.sba.gov/about-offices-content/1/2985.

WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS FEDERAL CONTRACT PROGRAM

On October 7, 2010, the SBA published a final rule effective February 4, 2011, aimed at expanding federal contracting opportunities for women-owned small businesses. The Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Federal Contract Program authorizes contracting officers to set aside certain federal contracts for eligible women-owned businesses and economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses (EDWOSB) in specified industries where it has been determined WOSBs and EDWOSBs are



underrepresented. Commencing October 14, 2015, certain contract requirements can be awarded on a sole-source basis to WOSB and EDWOSB concerns in those specified industry categories.

To be eligible, a firm must be at least 51 percent owned or controlled by one or more women. The women must be U.S. citizens and the WOSB or EDWOSB must be "small" under its primary industry in accordance with SBA's size standards established for under the North American Industry Classification code assigned to that industry. To be deemed "economically disadvantaged" its owners must demonstrate economic disadvantage in accordance with the requirements set forth in the final rule. For additional information, visit www.sba.gov/wosb.

Protests under the WOSB Federal Contract Program are also adjudicated by the SBA. When a company's WOSB or economically disadvantaged WOSB self-certification is challenged, the SBA determines if the business meets ownership and control requirements.

Large prime contractors must also establish a subcontracting goal for Woman-Owned Small Businesses in their Subcontracting Plans. These subcontracting goals are reviewed at time of proposal by both the contracting officer and the SBA prior to the award of a contract.

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GETTING STARTED IN CONTRACTING

Once you have identified the important information regarding your business, it is time to start the process of procuring a government contract.

1. Identify your DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) Number

To register your business, obtain a DUNS number used to identify and track millions of businesses. You can obtain your free DUNS number when registering with the System for Award Management. Log on to www.sam.com for more information or by contacting Dun & Bradstreet at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

2. Identify your EIN (Employer Identification Number)

An EIN, otherwise known as a federal tax identification number, is generally required of all businesses. For more information, go to www.irs.gov.

3. Identify your NAICS (North American Industry Classification) codes

The NAICS codes are used to classify the industry a particular business occupies. You will need at least one NAICS code to complete your registration, but be sure to list as many as apply. You may also add or change NAICS codes at any time. Visit www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/ to find NAICS codes.

4. Register with the System for Award Management (SAM), formerly the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) - www.sam.gov

The SAM is an online federal government maintained database of companies wanting to do business with the federal government. Agencies search the database for prospective vendors. You must be registered in SAM in order to do business as a Federal contractor.

Register at www.SAM.gov. After completing registration, you will be asked to enter your small business profile information through the SBA Supplemental Page. The information will be displayed in the Dynamic Small Business Search. Creating a profile in SAM and keeping it current ensures your firm has access to federal contracting opportunities.

Entering your small business profile, including your business information and key word description, allows contracting officers, prime contractors, and buyers from state and local governments to learn about your company.

5. Submit an offer for a GSA Schedule Contract

The GSA (General Services Administration) Multiple Award Schedule (aka Federal Supply Schedule) is used by GSA to establish long-term, government-wide contracts with commercial firms. Although their use is not generally mandatory, many Agencies and buying offices use GSA schedules for their contracting needs. Once these contracts are established, government agencies can order the supplies and services they need directly from the firms through the use of an online shopping tool. Becoming a GSA schedule contractor increases your



opportunity for contracts across all levels of government. Businesses interested in becoming GSA schedule contractors should review the information available at www.gsa.gov/schedules.

6. Make Sure Your Business is Financially Sound

This critical step is absolutely necessary to make sure that your business is financially prepared for the journey ahead. Even if you are able to obtain a government contract, you will not be receiving all of the money at once. It helps to have a clear plan of how your business will stage the benefits of the contract.

7. Search Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps) for Contracting Opportunities

FedBizOpps, is an online service operated by the federal government that announces available business opportunities. FedBizOpps helps identify the needs of federal agencies and available contracting opportunities. To begin searching for contracting opportunities, go to www.fbo.gov.

8. Marketing Your Business

Registering your business is not enough to obtain a federal contract; you will need to market your business to attract federal agencies. Tips for good marketing are:

- Determine which federal agencies buy your product or service, and get to know them;
- Identify the contracting procedures of those agencies;
- Focus on opportunities in your niche and prioritize them.

- You should identify the PSC (Product Services Code) and/or a FSC (Federal Supply Classification), which describes your business. These codes provide additional information about the services and products your business offers.

9. Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs)

Doing business with the government is a big step to growing your business. Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) provide local, in-person counseling and training services for you, the small business owner. They are designed to provide technical assistance to businesses that want to sell products and services to federal, state, and/or local governments. PTAC services are available either free of charge, or at a nominal cost. PTACs are part of the Procurement Technical Assistance Program, which is administered by the Defense Logistics Agency.

What can a PTAC do for you?

- Determine if your business is ready for government contracting.
- Pursuing government contracts is a challenge, and can be burden for your company if you do not have the resources or maturity to handle a contract. A PTAC representative can sit with you one-on-one and determine if your company is ready, and how to position yourself for success.
- Help you register in the proper places. There are numerous databases to register with to get involved with the government marketplace, including the Department of Defense's System for Award Management (SAM), GSA Schedules, and other government vendor sites.
- See if you are eligible in any small business certifications. Some government contracts are set aside for certain businesses that have special certifications, such as woman-owned, minority-owned, and HUBZone. A PTAC representative can help you obtain these certifications, if you are eligible, allowing for more government contract opportunities.
- Research past contract opportunities. A PTAC representative can look into past contracts, to see what types of contracts have been awarded to businesses like yours.

In addition, a PTAC can help you identify and bid on a contract, and if you are awarded the contract, continue to provide you support through measuring your performance and helping with your contract audits. Don't hesitate to find the PTAC near you today to get started in government contracting or to improve your success.

ADDITIONAL PROCUREMENT AND FEDERAL RESOURCES

The following federal procurement resources may also be of assistance:

- **The Certificates of Competency (CoC) program** allows SBA to review a contracting officer's non-responsibility determination that it is unable to fulfill the requirements of a specific government contract. The SBA will conduct a detailed review of the firm's technical and financial capabilities to perform on the contract. If the business demonstrates the capability to perform, the SBA issues a Certificate of Competency to the contracting officer, requiring award of that contract to the small business.
- **Procurement Center Representatives (PCR) and Commercial Marketing Representatives (CMR):** PCRs work to increase the small business share of federal procurement awards. CMRs offer many services to small businesses, including counseling on how to obtain subcontracts. To find a PCR or CMR near you, go to www.sba.gov/content/procurement-center-representatives.
- **SBDCs (Small Business Development Centers):** Like PTACs, SBDCs are important SBA Resource Partners which provide "hands-on" assistance to small businesses. To find an SBDC servicing your area, go to: <http://americassbdc.org/home/find-your-sbdc/>.
- **Department of Defense** (The DoD is the largest purchaser of goods from small businesses): www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/
- **Office of Federal Procurement Policy:** www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement_default
- **Acquisition Forecast:** www.acquisition.gov/comp/procurement_forecasts/index.html
- **Federal Supply Schedule (FSS):** www.gsa.gov
- **Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS):** https://www.fpds.gov/fpdsng_cms/index.php/en/
- **GSA Center for Acquisition Excellence:** www.gsa.gov/portal/content/103487
- **Natural Resources Sales Assistance** The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) administers a Property Sales Assistance Program through its Office of Government Contracting. The Program includes; Royalty Oil, Strategic Materials from the National Stockpile, Leases involving rights to minerals; coal, oil and gas, Surplus Real & Personal Property Sales, and the U.S. Small Business Administration's Timber Sale Program. The SBA oversees timber sales by working in conjunction with the following agencies via Memorandums of Understanding (MOU): Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management and Fish & Wildlife Service, Department for Defense, Department of Energy, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. There are also directives governing the program in the Forest Service Handbook 2409.18, and 13 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) section 121.501-512. Timber sales are not governed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation. SBA's Timber Program is administered via a Senior Representative located in SBA Headquarters, and 3 Industrial Specialists

- Forestry (ISF) located in Atlanta, GA; Denver, CO; and Portland, OR. The ISF's monitor the 148 market areas that make-up the national parks, forests, and Federally-owned lands. Timber is regularly sold from Federal forests and other federally managed lands. SBA works with the Forest Service and other agencies to ensure opportunities exist for small businesses to bid on these Federal timber sales.

U.S. EXPORT RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESSES

MARKET RESEARCH

Trade Statistics

- o Trade Stats Express | tse.export.gov
- o State and Metro Export Reports www.trade.gov/mas/ian/statereports

Market Research Library/Country Commercial Guides

- o Get free access to reports on countries, industries, and commercial developments written by our Commercial Service officers in country www.export.gov/mrktresearch

FTA Tariff Tool

- o Find out the tariffs with our trading partners on specific products and create reports and charts of trends under different agreements www.export.gov/ftatarifftool

A Basic Guide to Exporting

- o The nuts-and-bolts information a company needs to meet the challenges of the global economy. Includes real-life principles of exporting www.export.gov/basicguide

OPPORTUNITIES: FINDING BUYERS AND MAKING CONTACTS

U.S. Export Assistance Centers

- o Located in over 100 cities, specializing in the below services to help small businesses export www.export.gov/eac/index.asp

Trade Counseling

- o Develop a market entry strategy, find the best export finance options, navigate export controls and complete the required trade documentation

Business Matchmaking

- o Get connected with pre-screened foreign buyers, participate in trade events, and set up meetings with government officials in your target markets

Market Intelligence

- o Conduct analysis of market potential and foreign competition, complete background checks on companies, and get help from USEAC staff on navigating any cultural differences

"Gold Key" Services

- o The Department's "Gold Key" suite of service includes: customized matchmaking meetings scheduled overseas to find business partners and customers, pre-screened appointments arranged before travelling, market and industry briefings with trade specialists, post-meeting debriefings and assistance in developing appropriate follow-up strategies,

and help with travel, accommodations, interpreter service, and clerical support

Trade Missions

- o Participate in overseas trips with U.S. government personnel to meet with potential business partners and explore potential market opportunities

Foreign Buyer Delegations

- o Exhibit your products to vetted potential foreign buyers at trade shows in the United States

Major Foreign Trade Shows

- o Showcase your products and services in U.S. pavilions at overseas trade shows

Reverse Trade Missions

- o Meet foreign delegates coming to see U.S. products and technologies.
- o The U.S. Trade and Development Agency connects international buyers with U.S. manufacturers and service providers in order to open new export markets and commercial opportunities world-wide www.ustda.gov

Advocacy

- o The Advocacy Center coordinates U.S. government efforts to advocate on behalf of U.S. exporters bidding on public-sector contracts with foreign governments and government agencies www.export.gov/advocacy

Agricultural products

- o The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides several of the aforementioned services through the Foreign Agricultural Service and partner State-Regional Trade Groups | www.fas.usda.gov/getting-started and www.fas.usda.gov/programs/market-access-program-map/state-regional-trade-groups

FEDERAL EXPORT FINANCING AND INSURANCE OPTIONS

Export Financing and Insurance

- o Federal export financing options can make your company more competitive by helping you offer a potential buyer more attractive payment terms

The Small Business Administration (SBA)

- o Take advantage of a wide range of financing options for small businesses, including the Export Express Program, Export Working Capital Program, and International Trade Loan | www.sba.gov

COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Export Licenses (BIS)

- o Obtain information on exports requiring a license before shipping www.bis.doc.gov

Economic and Trade Sanctions (Treasury)

- o Find out the countries, entities, and individuals with whom U.S. firms cannot do business | treas.gov/ofac

Electronic Export Information (Census)

- o Upon exporting any good value at over \$2500, information must be submitted to the Automated Export System. Get help on filing AES, classifying merchandise, regulations and trade data 1-800-549-0595

SBA DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Knowing the Types of Assistance Available for Recovery



The disaster program is SBA's largest direct loan program, and the only SBA program for entities other than small businesses. SBA is responsible for providing affordable, timely and accessible financial assistance to non-farm businesses of all sizes, private, nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters following declared disasters.

The SBA is authorized by the Small Business Act to make two types of disaster loans:

Physical Disaster Loans

Physical Disaster Loans are the primary source of funding for permanent rebuilding and replacement of uninsured or underinsured disaster-caused damages to privately-owned real and/or personal property. SBA's physical disaster loans are available to businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations of all sizes, homeowners and renters. Businesses and private, nonprofit organizations of any size may apply for a loan up to \$2 million (actual loan amounts are based on the amount of uncompensated damage) to repair

or replace real property, machinery, equipment, fixtures, inventory and leasehold improvements. A homeowner may apply for a loan of up to \$200,000 to repair or replace the primary residence to its pre-disaster condition. Homeowners or renters may apply for a loan up to \$40,000 to help repair or replace personal property, such as clothing, furniture or automobiles, lost in the disaster.

The SBA may increase a loan up to 20 percent of the total amount of physical damages as verified by SBA to make improvements that protect the property from similar future disasters.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans

Economic Injury Disaster Loans provide the necessary working capital after a declared disaster until normal operations resume. Small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture (fisheries, for example) and most private nonprofit organizations of all sizes are eligible for EIDL assistance, regardless of whether there was any physical damage. The loan limit is \$2 million. The EIDL helps small businesses meet

ordinary and necessary operating expenses as they recover from a disaster. The limit for physical and EIDL loans combined is \$2 million.

The Military Reservists Economic Injury Disaster Loan is a working capital loan for small businesses facing financial loss when the owner or an essential employee is called up to active duty in their role as a military reservist. The loan limit is \$2 million and the business can use the funds to cover operating expenses until the essential employee or business owner is released from active duty.

The SBA can only approve disaster loans to applicants having an acceptable credit history and repayment ability. The terms of each loan are established in accordance with each borrower's ability to repay. The law gives SBA several powerful tools to make disaster loans affordable: low-interest rates (around 4 percent), long-terms (up to 30 years), and refinancing of prior liens (in some cases). As required by law, the interest rate for each loan is based on SBA's determination of whether the applicant has credit available elsewhere — the ability to borrow or use their own



resources to recover from the disaster without causing undue hardship.

More information on all of SBA's disaster assistance programs, including information for military reservists, is available at www.sba.gov/disaster. Apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure Website at: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster Preparedness

Recovering from a disaster doesn't begin with clearing the debris and returning to work. Imagine stepping into your store, or restaurant, or the office where you run your business, a day or two after the fire has been contained, the tornado has passed, or floodwaters have receded. First come the questions: "How much will it cost to rebuild? Will my insurance cover all this? How will I pay my employees and vendors and cover the bills during the recovery phase?" Before a disaster strikes is a good time to start, or update and test your business continuity plan.

And while SBA disaster loans go a long way toward revitalizing communities devastated by the economic fallout that follows disasters, with a solid preparedness plan in place, your business will be able to recover sooner,

possibly without taking on new debt.

Assessing your risks and needs are an important first step in developing your business continuity strategy. The American Red Cross' Ready Rating™ program (www.readyrating.org) is a free online tool that helps businesses get prepared for disaster and other emergencies. With Ready Rating you can evaluate your level of disaster readiness, and you'll get customized feedback on how to establish or expand your disaster plan.

Another useful site provided by FEMA — Ready.gov (www.ready.gov) — provides practical disaster preparedness tips and checklists for businesses, homeowners and renters. SBA has teamed up with Agility Recovery Solutions to offer business continuity strategies through the "PrepareMyBusiness" website (www.preparemybusiness.org) and monthly disaster planning webinars. Previous topics — presented by experts in their fields — have included crisis communications, testing the preparedness plan, and using social media to enhance small business recovery. At the website you can sign up for future webinars, view previous webinars, and download checklists that give you tips on risk

assessment, evacuation plans and flood preparedness, that will help you develop a solid business continuity plan.

Meanwhile, here are a few preparedness tips to consider:

- **Review Your Insurance Coverage.** Contact your insurance agent to find out if your coverage is right for your business and make sure you understand the policy limits. Ask about Business Interruption Insurance, which compensates you for lost income and covers operating expenses if your company has to temporarily shut down after a disaster.
- **Establish a solid supply chain.** If all your vital external vendors and suppliers are local and if the disaster is significantly widespread, you'll all be in the same boat, struggling to recover. It's a good idea to diversify your list of vendors for key supplies to companies outside your area or internationally, if possible. Create a contact list for important contractors and vendors you plan to use in an emergency and find out if those suppliers have a recovery plan in place. Keep this list with other documents filed in a place that's accessible, and also at a protected off-site location.
- **Plan for an alternate location.** Do some research well in advance of the disaster for several alternative places to relocate your company in the event a disaster forces you to shut down indefinitely. Some options include contacting a local real estate agent to get a list of available vacant office space. Make an agreement with a neighboring business to share office space if disaster strikes. If possible, make plans for employees to telecommute until the office has been rebuilt.

The financial and emotional cost of rebuilding a business after a disaster can be overwhelming. However, with a business continuity plan in place, you'll be able to rebound and reopen quickly, and in a better position to contribute to the economic recovery of your community.

As small businesses are leading America's economic recovery, many of them are investing time and money into their plans to grow and create jobs. Developing a strong disaster preparedness plan should be a critical and integral piece of those efforts. Planning for a disaster is the best way of limiting its effects.

ADVOCACY AND OMBUDSMAN

Watching Out for the Interests of Small Businesses



OFFICE OF ADVOCACY

The SBA's Office of Advocacy, the "small business watchdog" of the government, examines the role and status of small business in the economy and independently represents the views of small business to federal agencies, Congress, the president and federal courts. The advocacy office compiles and interprets statistics on small business and is the primary entity within the federal government to disseminate small business data.

Headed by the chief counsel for advocacy, the office also funds outside research of small business issues and produces numerous publications to inform policy makers about the important role of small businesses in the economy and the impact of government policies on small businesses. In addition, the office monitors federal agency compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act – the law that requires agencies to analyze the impact of their proposed regulations on small entities (including small businesses, small governmental jurisdictions and small nonprofit organizations), and consider regulatory alternatives that minimize the economic burden on small entities.

Advocacy's mission is enhanced by a team of regional advocates, located in the SBA's 10 regions. They are Advocacy's direct link to small business owners, state and local government entities, and organizations that

support the interests of small entities. The regional advocates help identify regulatory concerns of small business by monitoring the impact of federal and state policies at the grassroots level.

Learn more about the Office of Advocacy at www.sba.gov/advocacy.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN:

Bringing Fair Regulatory Enforcement to America's Small Businesses

The National Ombudsman has helped thousands of small businesses save time and money by resolving difficult regulatory compliance and enforcement issues. As part of President Obama's mandate to promote a level playing field for small business, we work directly with federal regulators to facilitate practical and timely resolutions of Regulatory Enforcement Fairness (REF) matters impacting small businesses.

The National Ombudsman oversees fair enforcement of small business regulation by:

- Providing small business owners a confidential way to report and resolve federal REF problems, like excessive enforcement action or disproportionate fines
- Escalating small business concerns to federal agencies for fairness review & resolution
- Grading federal agencies on their small business policies and practices

Small businesses can connect with the National Ombudsman online at

sba.gov/ombudsman, in-person, or through a national network of Regulatory Fairness Board Members. The National Ombudsman meets with small business owners around the country at listening sessions and regulatory fairness dialogues in all ten SBA Regions. These outreach events provide critical, real-time input from the small business community on REF issues impacting small business growth and help federal regulators better understand how government can best support small business success.

Regional Regulatory Fairness Boards in each of SBA's 10 regions promote regulatory fairness by alerting federal regulators to important REF issues such as unintended consequences of a new rule or regulation. These Boards, each made up of five small business owners, also help raise awareness in their communities about resources available to small businesses through the SBA and the National Ombudsman.

Every year, the National Ombudsman reports to Congress its findings on the impact of the policies and practices of every federal agency that touches small business.

To learn more about how the National Ombudsman can help your small business, or to confidentially report a REF issue, call 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or complete the simple one-page form at sba.gov/ombudsman/comment.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Taking Care of Startup Logistics



Even if you are running a small home-based business, you will have to comply with many local, state and federal regulations. Avoid the temptation to ignore regulatory details. Doing so may avert some red tape in the short term, but could be an obstacle as your business grows. Taking the time to research the applicable regulations is as important as knowing your market. Bear in mind that regulations vary by industry. If you're in the food-service business, for example, you will have to deal with the health department. If you use chemical solvents, you will have environmental compliances to meet. Carefully investigate the regulations that affect your industry. Being out of compliance could leave you unprotected legally, lead to expensive penalties and jeopardize your business.

BUSINESS LICENSES

There are many types of licenses, both state and local as well as professional. Depending on what you do and where you plan to operate, your business may be required to have various state and/or municipal licenses, certificates or permits.

Licenses are typically administered by a variety of state and local departments. Consult your state or local government for assistance.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Registration
100 Washington St., Ste. 710
Boston, MA 02118
617-727-3074
www.mass.gov/dpl

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

Search to determine if the name of your proposed business is already in use. If it is not used, register the name to protect your business. For more information, contact the county clerk's office in the county where your business is based. If you are a corporation, you'll need to check with the state.

BUSINESS INSURANCE

Like home insurance, business insurance protects your business against fire, theft and other losses. Contact your insurance agent or broker. It is prudent for any business to purchase a number of basic types of insurance. Some types of coverage are required by law, others simply make good business sense. The types of insurance listed below are among the most commonly used and are merely a starting point for evaluating the needs of your business.

Liability Insurance – Businesses may incur various forms of liability in conducting their normal activities. One of the most common types is product liability, which may be

incurred when a customer suffers harm from using the product. There are many other types of liability, which are frequently related to specific industries. Liability law is constantly changing. An analysis of your liability insurance needs by a competent professional is vital in determining an adequate and appropriate level of protection for your business.

Property – There are many different types of property insurance and levels of coverage available. It is important to determine the property insurance you need to ensure the continuation of your business and the level of insurance you need to replace or rebuild. You should also understand the terms of the insurance, including any limitations or waivers of coverage.

Business Interruption – While property insurance may pay enough to replace damaged or destroyed equipment or buildings, how will you pay costs such as taxes, utilities and other continuing expenses during the period between when the damage occurs and when the property is replaced? Business Interruption (or "business income") insurance can provide sufficient funds to pay your fixed expenses during a period of time when your business is not operational.

"Key Man" – If you (and/or any other individual) are so critical to the operation of your business that it cannot continue in the event of your illness or death, you should consider "key man" insurance. This type of policy is frequently required by banks or government loan programs. It also can be used to provide continuity of operations during a period of ownership transition caused by the death, incapacitation or absence due to a Title 10 military activation of an owner or other "key" employee.

Automobile – It is obvious that a vehicle owned by your business should be insured for both liability and replacement purposes. What is less obvious is that you may need special insurance (called "non-owned automobile coverage") if you use your personal vehicle on company business. This policy covers the business' liability for any damage which may result from such usage.

Officer and Director – Under most state laws, officers and directors of a corporation may become personally liable for their actions on behalf of the company. This type of policy covers this liability.

Home Office – If you are establishing an office in your home, it is a good idea to contact your homeowners' insurance company to update your policy to include coverage for office equipment. This coverage is not automatically included in a standard homeowner's policy.

TAXES

Taxes are an important and complex aspect of owning and operating a successful business. Your accountant, payroll person, or tax adviser may be very knowledgeable, but there are still many facets of tax law that you should know. The Internal Revenue Service is a great source for tax information. Small Business/Self-Employed Tax Center: www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed.

When you are running a business, you don't need to be a tax expert. However, you do need to know some tax basics. The IRS Small Business/Self-Employed Tax Center gives you the information you need to stay tax compliant so your business can thrive.

For Small Business Forms and Publications visit: www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/Small-Business-Forms-and-Publications.

FEDERAL PAYROLL TAX (EIN NUMBERS)

An Employer Identification Number (EIN), also known as a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), is used to identify a business entity. Generally, businesses need an EIN to pay federal withholding tax.

You may apply for an EIN in various ways, one of which is to apply online at www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/Employer-ID-Numbers-EINs. This is a free service offered by the Internal Revenue Service.

Call 800-829-1040 if you have questions. You should check with your state to determine if you need a state number or charter.

FEDERAL SELF-EMPLOYMENT TAX

Every employee must pay Social Security and Medicare taxes. If you are self-employed, your contributions are made through the self-employment tax.

The IRS has publications, counselors and workshops available to help you sort it out. For more information, contact the IRS at 800-829-1040 or www.irs.gov.

State Taxes

You must file your state business taxes separately if you are a partnership or corporation. If you are a sole proprietorship, you file through your personal income taxes. You can obtain the necessary business tax forms and general information from:

Massachusetts State Taxes

Department of Revenue
Customer Service Bureau
200 Arlington St.
Chelsea, MA 02150
617-887-6367 or 800-392-6089
www.mass.gov/dor

Resale Certificate

You will need a resale certificate if you plan to sell products. The permit allows you to purchase inventory from suppliers without paying taxes. To obtain a certificate, contact the MA Department of Revenue, Sales and Use Tax Division for a Form SF-4, Resale Certificate Application. You must obtain a State EIN (Employee Identification Number) – (Form TA-1) prior to obtaining a resale certificate. For an application or for general information call 617-887-6367.

SALES TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE


If you plan to sell products, you will need a Sales Tax Exemption Certificate. It allows you to purchase inventory, or materials, which will become part of the product you sell, from suppliers without paying taxes. It requires you to charge sales tax to your customers, which you are responsible for remitting to the state. You will have to pay penalties if it is found that you should have

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FEDERAL INCOME TAX

Like the state income tax, the method of paying federal income taxes depends upon your legal form of business.

Sole Proprietorship: You must file IRS Federal Form Schedule C along with your personal Federal Income Tax return (Form 1040) and any other applicable forms pertaining to gains or losses in your business activity.

Partnership: You must file a Federal Partnership return (Form 1065). This is merely informational to show gross and net earnings of profit and loss. Also, each partner must report his share of partnership earnings on his individual Form 1040 based on the information from the K-1 filed with the Form 1065.

Corporation: You must file a Federal Corporation Income Tax return (Form 1120). You will also be required to report your earnings from the corporation including salary and other income such as dividends on your personal federal income tax return (Form 1040).

FEDERAL PAYROLL TAX

Federal Withholding Tax: Any business employing a person must register with the IRS and acquire an EIN and pay federal withholding tax at least quarterly. File Form SS-4 with the IRS to obtain your number and required tax forms. Call 800-829-3676 or 800-829-1040 if you have questions.

IRS WEB PRODUCTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

For the most timely and up-to-date tax information, go to www.irs.gov.

VIRTUAL SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOP

www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/Small-Business-Self-Employed-Virtual-Small-Business-Tax-Workshop

The Virtual Small Business Tax Workshop is the first of a series of video products designed exclusively for small business taxpayers. This workshop helps business owners understand federal tax obligations. The Virtual Small



Business Workshop is available on CD at www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=101169,00.html if you are unable to attend a workshop in person. Small business workshops are designed to help the small business owner understand and fulfill their federal tax responsibilities. Workshops are sponsored and presented by IRS partners who are federal tax specialists.

Workshop topics vary from a general overview of taxes to more specific topics such as recordkeeping and retirement plans. Although most are free, some workshops have fees associated with them. Fees for a workshop are charged by the sponsoring organization, not the IRS.

The IRS's Virtual Small Business Tax Workshop is an interactive resource to help small business owners learn about their federal tax rights and responsibilities. This educational product, available online and on CD consists of nine stand-alone lessons that can be selected and viewed in any sequence. A bookmark feature makes it possible to leave and return to a specific point within the lesson. Users also have access to a list of useful online references that enhance the learning experience by allowing them to view references and the video lessons simultaneously.

The Tax Calendar for Small Businesses and Self-Employed (Publication 1518) www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=101169,00.html contains useful information on general business taxes, IRS and SSA customer

assistance, electronic filing and paying options, retirement plans, business publications and forms, common tax filing dates, and federal legal holidays.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

All employees must have a Social Security number and card. It must be signed by its owner, and you should always ask to see and personally record the Social Security number. Failure to do so may cause your employee to lose benefits and considerable trouble for yourself in back tracking to uncover the error.

Each payday, your employees must receive a statement from you telling them what deductions were made and how many dollars were taken out for each legal purpose. This can be presented in a variety of ways, including on the check as a detachable portion or in the form of an envelope with the items printed and spaces for dollar deductions to be filled in.

EMPLOYEE CONSIDERATIONS Taxes

If you have any employees, including officers of a corporation but not the sole proprietor or partners, you must make periodic payments towards, and/or file quarterly reports about payroll taxes and other mandatory deductions. You may contact these government agencies for information, assistance and forms.

Social Security Administration
800-772-1213
www.ssa.gov



WORKPLACE DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): For assistance with the ADA, call 800-669-3362 or visit www.ada.gov.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

The Federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 requires employers to verify employment eligibility of new employees. The law obligates an employer to process Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office of Business Liaison offers a selection of information bulletins and live assistance through the Employer Hotline. For forms call 800-870-3676, for the Employer Hotline call 800-357-2099.

E-Verify: Employment Eligibility Verification

E-Verify, operated by the Department of Homeland Security in partnership with the Social Security Administration, is the best — and quickest — way for employers to determine the employment

eligibility of new hires. It is a safe, simple, and secure Internet-based system that electronically verifies the Social Security number and employment eligibility information reported on Form I-9. E-Verify is voluntary in most states and there is no charge to use it.

If you are an employer or employee and would like more information about the E-Verify program, please visit www.dhs.gov/E-Verify or contact Customer Support staff: 1-888-464-4218 Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. E-mail: e-verify@dhs.gov

SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS

All businesses with employees are required to comply with state and federal regulations regarding the protection of employees. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration provides information on the specific health and safety standards adopted by the U.S. Department of Labor. Call 1-800-321-6742 or visit www.osha.gov.

Social Security's Business Services Online

The Social Security Administration now provides free electronic services online at www.socialsecurity.gov/employer/. Once registered for Business Services Online, business owners or their authorized representative can:

- file W-2s online; and
- verify Social Security numbers through the Social Security Number Verification Service, used for all employees prior to preparing and submitting Forms W-2.

Federal Withholding

U.S. Internal Revenue Service
800-829-1040
www.irs.gov

Health Insurance

Compare plans in your area at www.healthcare.gov.

Employee Insurance

If you hire employees you may be required to provide unemployment or workers' compensation insurance.



Put an SBA loan to work for your business.

In these challenging times, chances are your business could use a boost. As an SBA Preferred Lender, The Milford National can help. This special program is just one of many commercial lending and banking services tailored to the needs of area businesses. We work one-on-one to provide you with custom-tailored solutions to help you put your plans into action.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, call us at 508-634-4100 or visit www.milfordnational.com.

The Milford
National Bank
milfordnational.com

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BUILDING CODES, PERMITS AND ZONING

It is important to consider zoning regulations when choosing a site for your business. You may not be permitted to conduct business out of your home or engage in industrial activity in a retail district. Contact the business license office in the city or town where the business is located.

BAR CODING

Many stores require bar coding on packaged products. Many industrial and manufacturing companies use bar coding to identify items they receive and ship. There are several companies that can assist businesses with bar-coding needs. You may want to talk with an SBDC, SCORE or WBC counselor for more information.

Federal Registration of Trademarks and Copyrights

Trademarks or service marks are words, phrases, symbols, designs or combinations thereof that identify and distinguish the source of goods. Trademarks may be registered at both the state and federal level. To register a federal trademark, contact:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
800-786-9199
www.uspto.gov/

Trademark Information Hotline

703-308-9000

STATE REGISTRATION OF A TRADEMARK

Trademarks and service marks may be registered in a state.

Caution: Federally registered trademarks may conflict with and supersede state registered business and product names.

Patents

A patent is the grant of a property right to the inventor by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. It provides the owner with the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale or selling the patented item in the United States.

Additional information is provided in the publications, General Information Concerning Patents and other publications distributed through the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. For more information, contact the:

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION: Choosing Your Business Structure

There are many forms of legal structure you may choose for your business. Each legal structure offers organizational options with different tax and liability issues. We suggest you research each legal structure thoroughly and consult a tax accountant and/or attorney prior to making your decision.

The most common organizational structures are sole proprietorships, general and limited partnerships and limited liability companies.

Each structure offers unique tax and liability benefits. If you're uncertain which business format is right for you, you may want to discuss options with a business counselor or attorney.

Sole Proprietorship

One person operating a business as an individual is a sole proprietorship. It's the most common form of business organization. Profits are taxed as income to the owner personally. The personal tax rate is usually lower than the corporate tax rate. The owner has complete control of the business, but faces unlimited liability for its debts. There is very little government regulation or reporting required with this business structure.

General Partnership

A partnership exists when two or more persons join together in the operation and management of a business. Partnerships are subject to relatively little regulation and are fairly easy to establish. A formal partnership agreement is recommended to address potential conflicts such as: who will be responsible for performing each

task; what, if any, consultation is needed between partners before major decisions, and what happens when a partner dies. Under a general partnership each partner is liable for all debts of the business. Profits are taxed as income to the partners based on their ownership percentage.

Limited Partnership

Like a general partnership, a limited partnership is established by an agreement between two or more persons. However, there are two types of partners.

- A general partner has greater control in some aspects of the partnership. For example, only a general partner can decide to dissolve the partnership. General partners have no limits on the dividends they can receive from profit so they incur unlimited liability.
- Limited partners can only receive a share of profits based on the proportional amount of their investment, and liability is similarly limited in proportion to their investment.

LLCs and LLPs

The limited liability company or partnership is a relatively new business form. It combines selected corporate and partnership characteristics while still maintaining status as a legal entity distinct from its owners. As a separate entity it can acquire assets, incur liabilities and conduct business. It limits liability for the owners. The limited liability partnership is similar to the LLC, but it is for professional organizations.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

800-786-9199 • www.uspto.gov

Copyrights

Copyrights protect original works of authorship including literary, dramatic, musical and artistic, and certain other intellectual works. Copyrights do not protect facts, ideas and systems, although it may protect the way these things are expressed. For general information contact:

U.S. Copyright Office

U.S. Library of Congress
James Madison Memorial Building
Washington, DC 20559
202-707-9100 - Order Line
202-707-3000 - Information Line
www.copyright.gov

OTHER ASSISTANCE

OTHER SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE

Small Business Resources

AARP MASSACHUSETTS

One Beacon St., Ste. 2301
Boston, MA 02108
617-305-0515
www.aarp.org/ma

ART MORPHEUS

BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

539 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02116
617-456-1131
www.artmorpheus.org
Non-profit organization that promotes a vibrant artistic community and economic revitalization for working artists.

ASCENTRIA CARE ALLIANCE

14 E. Worcester St., Ste. 300
Worcester, MA 01604
774-243-3900
www.ascentria.org
In Massachusetts we offer; the micro-enterprise development program to train and assist refugees and asylees to start or strengthen their own business and attain economic self sufficiency through self-employment.

ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MASSACHUSETTS - AIM

One Beacon St.,
Boston, MA 02108
617-262-1180
www.aimnet.org

ASSOCIATED SUBCONTRACTORS OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.

31 State St.,
Boston, MA 02109
617-742-3412
www.associatedsubs.com
ASM is the state's leading association for specialty contractors. Our business is helping you do yours!

BENTLEY MICROFINANCE GROUP

Bentley Microfinance Group
175 Forest St.
Lindsay Hall 30A
Waltham, MA 02452
<http://bentleylends.org/bentley-micro-finance/>
The Bentley Microfinance Group is a principally student run organization that falls under Bentley's 501(c)3 non-profit classification. Charged with managing its loan fund, BMG targets lending to local entrepreneurs and small business owners in the Greater Boston area who have found the traditional means of accessing capital closed to them.

BERKSHIRE ENTERPRISES BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTER

1350 West St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-236-2140 • 413-443-5166 Fax
www.berkshireenterprises.com/index.htm

BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

One City Hall, 9th Fl.
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201
617-722-4300
www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org

BRANECC - BRAZIL NEW ENGLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Endereço:
Entrepreneur Innovation Center at the Maynard Building at Framingham State University
14 Vernon St., Rm. 215, 2nd Fl.
Framingham, MA 01701
857-246-9122
branecc@branecc.com

THE BUSINESS COALITION

One Boston Place, Ste. 2600
Boston, MA 02108
781-935-9580
staff@thebusinesscoalition.org
The Business Coalition (TBC) is a non-profit organization whose members are comprised of companies, agencies and institutions experienced in international trade & development. Our members believe the private sector can help stimulate the U.S. economy and create jobs by actively supporting international trade initiatives.

CAMBODIAN MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER LOWELL, INC.

465 School St.
Lowell, MA 01851
978-454-6200
<http://www.cmaalowell.org/wp/>
Our mission is to improve the quality of life for Cambodian Americans and other minorities and economically disadvantaged persons in Lowell through educational, cultural, economic and social programs.

CAMBRIDGE INNOVATION CENTER (CIC), CAMBRIDGE, MA

Cic.us
CIC has been helping great entrepreneurs leading fast-growing companies succeed since 1999.

CIMIT: CENTER FOR INTEGRATION OF MEDICINE AND INNOVATIVE ...

www.cimit.org
A non-profit consortium of Boston's leading teaching hospitals and universities, CIMIT fosters interdisciplinary collaboration among world-class experts in translational research, medicine, science and engineering, in concert with industry, foundations and government, to rapidly improve patient care.

CIMIT GENERAL INFORMATION:

cimitinfo@partners.org
617-643-3800 • 617-643-3840 Fax

BOSTON OFFICE (PRIMARY):

165 Cambridge St., Ste. 702
Boston, MA 02114

CITY OF BOSTON DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD DEV. OFFICE OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

26 Court St., 9th Fl.
Boston, MA 02108
617-635-3880
<http://dnd.cityofboston.gov/>
The Office of Business Development provides entrepreneurs and existing businesses with access to financial and technical resources. OBD also supports the nationally recognized Boston Main Streets program, designed to promote the continued revitalization of the City's neighborhood commercial districts through public/private partnerships.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE *

City Hall
93 Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143
617-663-3311
www.somervillema.gov

CITY OF WORCESTER

Executive Office of Economic Development
Worcester City Hall
455 Main St.
Worcester, MA 01608
508-799-1400
development@worchesterma.gov
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

COLLABORATIVE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
50 Prescott St., Rms. 1319-1320
Worcester, MA 01605
508-831-5761
cei@wpi.edu

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS COMMBUYS NEW E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

www.commbuys.com
Whether you are a supplier or a buyer, COMMBUYS will ensure you get the best deals in a fair, transparent, open and competitive process. Connecting business with government.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF REGISTRATION

1000 Washington St., Ste. 710
Boston, MA 02118-6100239
617-727-3074
www.mass.gov/dpl
The Division of Professional Licensure (DPL) is an agency within the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation. DPL oversees 28 boards of registration, which license and regulate more than 370,000 individuals and businesses to practice some 50 trades and professions in Massachusetts.

Supervises and provides services to 33 occupational regulatory boards that are responsible for establishing minimum standards of competence and conduct representing 46 professions in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE OFFICE OF SUPPLIER DIVERSITY (SDO) (FORMERLY SOMWBA)

1 Ashburton Place, 13th Fl., Ste. 1313
Boston, MA 02108
617-502-8831
www.mass.gov/sdo
Provides services in certification, enforcement and business assistance to minority and women-owned businesses.

COMMONWEALTH KITCHEN

Quincy St.
Boston, MA 02121
617-522-7900
<http://www.commonwealthkitchen.org/>
CommonWealth Kitchen is a collaborative community working to strengthen the local economy, particularly for people who have been impacted by racial, social, and economic inequality. We offer shared kitchens with integrated business assistance, creating and growing dynamic food-based businesses and careers.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATIONS

www.mass.gov/ocabr

CONSUMER HOTLINE

888-283-3757 Toll Free in MA only
or 617-973-8787 locally

COOPERATIVE FUND OF NEW ENGLAND

800-818-7833
cfne@coopfund.coop
www.cooperativefund.org
The Cooperative Fund of New England (CFNE) provides financing and facilitates technical assistance to worker-owned cooperatives, including the sale of traditionally-owned businesses to its employees.

COOPERATIVE CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION

845 Donald Lynch Blvd.
Marlborough, MA 01752
508-481-6755
ccuassociation.org
The Cooperative Credit Union Association is a credit union trade group with a heritage distinguishing it as the oldest continually operating trade group in the United States. While proud of this heritage, the Association serves its member credit unions throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island as their legislative and regulatory advocate, as a liaison to vendors and business partners, and as a resource for training and education, and industry news.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

COWORK SPRINGFIELD

1 Federal St.
Springfield, MA 01105
www.coworkspringfield.com
coworkspringfieldma@gmail.com
CoWork Springfield's mission is to build a diverse peer support network of entrepreneurs in the Pioneer Valley and our vision is to offer access to professional and modern coworking spaces where entrepreneurs can Connect, Create, and Collaborate.

CPA REFERRAL SERVICE/PAS

WWW.MSCPA@MSCPAONLINE.ORG

MSCPA@MSCPAONLINE.ORG

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF CPA'S

105 Chauncy St., 10th Fl.
Boston, MA 02111
800-392-6145

DISTRICT HALL, BOSTON, MA

<http://www.districthallboston.org/>
District Hall's unique character is defined by its civic nature and public purpose. Our mission is to build, strengthen, and connect individuals and communities of innovators while expanding the reach, visibility, and benefits of Greater Boston's innovation economy.

DOD NORTHEAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Council promotes Federal Small Business Programs. For Small Businesses, the council can help you find Government Prime Contracting and Subcontracting opportunities through Matchmakers, other events and by putting you in touch with your local Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) and other on-line sources.
<http://dodneregional.org/index.html>

E FOR ALL

<http://eforall.org/>
EforAll started in December 2010 as the Merrimack Valley Sandbox, a non-profit with initial funding from the Deshpande Foundation. The Deshpande Foundation at that time had two other successful programs up and going at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Hubli Sandbox in Hubli, India. Both the MIT and Hubli programs encouraged entrepreneurship as a means to improve communities, and building on that success, the Deshpande Foundation decided to try to use entrepreneurship to help the cities of Lowell and Lawrence MA, both of which were struggling with high unemployment in the shadow of the very visible entrepreneurial activity 30 miles away in Boston

EPA SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

<https://www.epa.gov/compliance/small-business-compliance>

FAIRMOUNT INNOVATION LAB, DORCHESTER, MA

<http://www.lab584.org/>
The Fairmount Innovation Lab is a unique, cross-sector lab, incubator, and accelerator for elevating, launching and growing creative enterprises along the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line.

FDIC

15 Braintree Hill Park
Braintree, MA 02184
781-794-5500
www.fdic.gov

FRAUNHOFER TECHBRIDGE

Boston, MA
<http://www.cse.fraunhofer.org/techbridge>
Energy entrepreneurs are burdened with a nearly impossible task: with scant resources, they must navigate the expensive and nuanced process of validating their revolutionary solutions for investors and customers. To address this pervasive challenge, Fraunhofer TechBridge performs customized technical validation work informed directly by industry, paving the way for groundbreaking energy startups to attract funding and partnerships.

GREATER NEW ENGLAND MINORITY SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

101 Huntington Ave., 17th Fl.
Boston, MA 02199
617-578-8900
www.gnemsdc.org
The Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council works to increase the procurement opportunities between corporate members and certified minority owned businesses.

GREENTOWN LABS

Somerville, MA
<http://greentownlabs.org/>
Greentown Labs provides prototyping space, shared machine shop tools, office space and an event space. We leverage our facility, partners, and sponsors to provide our entrepreneurs access to the equipment, services, education, and network they need to launch their companies quickly.

HARVARD INNOVATION LAB

Batten Hall
125 Western Ave.
Boston, MA 02134
617-495-6600
neal_doyle@harvard.edu
www.i-lab.harvard.edu

HISPANIC-AMERICAN CHAMBER INSTITUTE

406 S. Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02130
617-637-6403
www.hainst.org
The Institute promotes economic, social, and educational development in Hispanic communities in the United States and Latin America.

HISPANIC AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

225 Franklin St., Ste. 2600
Boston, MA 02110
www.hacc.com

INCITEHEALTH

Boston
incitehealth.hms.harvard.edu/about/
Mission: InciteHealth is a year-long, part-time program aimed at transforming primary care through the creation of new ventures

INITIATIVE FOR A COMPETITIVE INNER CITY

56 Warren St #300
Roxbury, MA 02119
617-238-1740
<http://www.icic.org/>
Founded in 1994 by Harvard Business School Professor Michael Porter, the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City is a nonprofit research and strategy organization and the leading authority on U.S. inner city economies and the businesses that thrive there.

INTERISE

197 Portland St., #200
Boston, MA 02114
617-350-6300
www.interise.org
Interise (formerly InnerCity Entrepreneurs) is the premier organization for established small businesses interested in growth. Interise seeks to fill a gap in small business economic development by using practice and applied research to promote job creation, wealth generation, and community building.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEW ENGLAND

1 Milk St., 4th Fl.
Boston, MA 02109
617-695-9990
www.iine.us

IRS SMALL BUSINESS & SELF-EMPLOYED TAX CENTER SMALL BUSINESS AND SELF-EMPLOYED "FILING SEASON CENTRAL"

Filing Season Central is your one stop assistance center for filing your business returns. This includes Highlights of Tax Law Changes, Tax Tips, and more.
www.irs.gov/businesses/small/index.html

IXL CENTER, CAMBRIDGE, MA

IXL Center helps corporations and individuals develop breakthrough strategic solutions and world-class innovation management capabilities in order to drive significant, sustainable business impact.
<http://www.ixl-center.com/>

KIRSTEIN BUSINESS LIBRARY BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Copley Square
700 Boylston St.
Boston, MA 02116
617-859-2142
Business reference books, magazines, business databases and librarians to help you use them! Statistics for business plans, sample plans, books on starting small businesses. Take a look at the library's business databases
www.bpl.org/electronic/business.asp
Most databases are usable outside from Kirstein with a free library card or ecard
www.bpl.org

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

www.masslawhelp.com

LYNN BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER LYNN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

583 Chestnut St., Unit #8
Lynn, MA 01904
781-592-2900 • 781-592-2903 Fax
info@LynnAreaChamber.com
www.lynnchamber.com

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS (MACDC)

15 Court Sq.,
Boston, MA 02108
617-426-0303
www.macdc.org
Our mission is to support and advance the affordable housing, economic development and community building strategies of our members, and to build the power of low and moderate income people to achieve greater economic, social and racial justice.

MASSACHUSETTS BANKERS ASSOCIATION

One Washington Mall, 8th Fl.
Boston, MA 02203
617-523-7595
www.massbankers.org
The Massachusetts Bankers Association represents commercial, savings and co-operative banks and savings and loan institutions located in Massachusetts and elsewhere in New England.

MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION

20 West St.
Boston, MA 02111
617-338-0500

MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION: HOME

massgaming.com/
The mission of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is to create a fair, transparent, and participatory process for implementing the expanded gaming law.

MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION

101 Federal St., 12th Fl.
Boston, MA 02110
617-979-8400 • 617-725-0258 Fax
www.massgaming.com

OTHER ASSISTANCE

MASSHOUSING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION DIVISION

One Beacon St., 7th Fl.
Boston, MA 02108
617-854-1097
www.masshousing.com

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

10 Park Plaza, Ste. 3730
Boston, MA 02116
617-973-8600
<http://www.mass.gov/mobd>
One-stop business assistance which helps businesses identify and access state programs and resources.

MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN ENERGY CENTER

63 Franklin St.
Boston, MA 02110
617-315-9355
www.masscec.com

MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY & BANKING COUNCIL (MCBC)

P.O. Box 45578
Somerville, MA 02145
800-982-8268

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY ON-SITE CONSULTATION PROGRAM

<http://www.mass.gov/lwd/labor-standards/on-site-consultation-program/>

MASSACHUSETTS EXPORT CENTER SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

State Transportation Bldg.
10 Park Plaza, Ste. 3730
Boston, MA 02116
617-973-8664
www.mass.gov/export/
Provides export assistance to small businesses and special export loan program.

MASSACHUSETTS GROWTH CAPITAL CORPORATION

529 Main St., Schrafft Center, Ste. 1M10
Charlestown, MA 02129
617-523-6262
www.massgcc.com

MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH CONNECTOR

133 Portland St.
Boston, MA 02114
877-623-7773
www.betterhealthconnector.com

MASSACHUSETTS LIFE SCIENCES CENTER

1000 Winter St.
Waltham, MA 02451
781-373-7777
www.masslifesciences.com

MASSACHUSETTS LATINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Corporate Office
1655 Main St., Ste 201
Springfield, MA 01103
413-746-1989
www.malcc.com

MASSACHUSETTS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP *

100 Grove St., Ste. 108
Worcester, MA 01605
508-831-7020
www.massmep.org
The Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP) helps organizations transform to a Next Generation Manufacturer that is better able to compete in a global economy.

MASSACHUSETTS MINORITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

1452 Dorchester Ave.
Dorchester, MA 02124
617-287-2400
info@massmca.org

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INVESTMENT

10 Park Plaza
Suite 4510
Boston, MA 02116
617-973-8650
www.mass.gov/moiti

MASSACHUSETTS OILHEAT COUNCIL

1 Van de Graaff Dr.
Burlington, MA 01803
781-365-0844
The Massachusetts Oilheat Council (MOC) is a business association for heating Oil and petroleum products companies. While MOC's primary mission is to promote and protect Oilheat, the MOC has become an important resource for consumers, businesses, government officials and the media who seek information about Oilheat and its important role in the energy mix of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION (MRA)

333 Turnpike Rd., #102
Southborough, MA 01772
508-303-9905

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

105 Chauncy St., 10th Fl.
Boston, MA 02111
617-556-4000

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE

75 North Dr.
Westborough, MA 01581
617-371-3999
www.masstech.org
An innovative public economic development agency working to support a vibrant, growing economy across Massachusetts. Our strength stems from partnerships and industry insights. We develop meaningful collaborations across industry, academia and government which serve as powerful catalysts, turning good ideas into economic opportunity.

MASSCHALLENGE, INC.

21 Drydock Ave., 6th Fl.
Boston, MA 02210
888-782-7820
www.masschallenge.org

MASS DEVELOPMENT

Keystone Building
99 High St.
Boston, MA 02110
800-445-8030
www.massdevelopment.com
MassDevelopment works with businesses, nonprofits, and local, state, and federal officials and agencies to strengthen the Massachusetts economy. Through these collaborations we help create jobs, increase the number of housing units, eliminate blight, and address factors limiting economic growth including transportation, energy, and infrastructure deficiencies.

MASS VENTURES

308 Congress St., 5th Fl.
Boston, MA 02210
617-723-4920
www.mass-ventures.com
MassVentures is a venture capital firm focused on fueling the Massachusetts innovation economy by funding early-stage, high-growth Massachusetts startups as they move from concept to commercialization.

MERRIMACK VALLEY SMALL BUSINESS CENTER

88 Middle St., Ste. 202
Lowell, MA 01852
978-322-8400
www.commteam.org/small-business

METRO SOUTH BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER

METRO SOUTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

60 School St.
Brockton, MA 02301-4087
508-586-0500 • 508-586-1340 Fax
www.metroouthchamber.com

MLK JR. BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT CENTER

237 Chandler St.
Worcester, MA 01609
508-756-6330
www.smoc.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY CONTRACTORS - NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER *

Michael Jefferson, Executive Director
One Federal St.
Springfield, MA 01105
860-278-7850
mjefferson@themdc.com
The National Association of Minority Contractors - NE Chapter works to increase the economic footprint of minority owned constructions firms through training & development, collaborative strategies and political advocacy.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS - BOSTON CHAPTER *

P.O. Box 51922
Boston, MA 02205
617-506-3641
www.naaapboston.org
NAAAP Boston is the local chapter of National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to cultivate, support and promote Asian American leaders through professional development programs, community services engagements and diverse industry connections.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES - MA (NFIB-MA)

www.nfib.com/massachusetts

NEW ENGLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

Scibelli Enterprise Center
One Federal St.
Springfield, MA 01105
413-821-9200 ext. 132
www.nebaworks.com

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR FAMILY BUSINESS

209 Hayden Hall
Boston, MA 02115
617-373-7031
<http://www.fambiz.neu.edu>

PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Peter Cokotis, Program Manager
Business Growth Center
Scibelli Enterprise Center, Bldg. 101
1 Federal St.
Springfield, MA 01105
413-545-6307 • 413-737-2312 Fax
www.msbd.org/ptac/
ptachelp@msbdc.umass.edu
Guides you through the government procurement process and provides you with information on how to become more competitive in the government marketplace.

RETAILERS ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS

18 Tremont St., Ste. 810
Boston, MA 02108
617-523-1900
www.retailersma.org
A statewide trade association dedicated to promoting and protecting the retail industry through government relations and money-saving benefits for members.

ROXBURY INNOVATIVE CENTER, ROXBURY, MA

<http://roxburyinnovationcenter.org/>
The Roxbury Innovation Center is a landmark project for the city of Boston. this project supports local economic development by encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship

OTHER ASSISTANCE

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
800-392-6090

SMALL BUSINESS SERVICE BUREAU, INC. NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

554 Main St.
Worcester, MA 01608
800-343-0939
The Small Business Service Bureau improves the business climate for small businesses through its programs, services and active Legislative Advocacy program. SBSB offers members high-quality business and financial products and services at competitive prices, serving as the small business owner's single source for all his or her small business needs.

SMALLER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND

1601 Trapelo Rd., Ste. 212
Waltham, MA 02451
781-890-9070
www.sbane.org

SMARTER IN THE CITY

Roxbury, MA
http://www.smarterinthecity.com/
At our exciting co-work space located in a converted triple-decker in Dudley Square, we support local entrepreneurs from underrepresented communities as they develop and grow their tech businesses.

SOUTH COAST BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTER C/O SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

200 Pocasset St.
Fall River, MA 02721-1585
508-673-9783 • 508-674-1929 Fax

SPARK

177 High St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
413-534-3376
www.sparkholioke.com
SPARK helps people turn their business concepts into reality, by linking them to the right local resources to get on the path to success. Whether its access to live events, classes, connection to resources, or our accelerator program our goal is to create an entrepreneurial community that supports the growth and creation of ideas

TECHSANDBOX INC.

105B South St.
Hopkinton, MA 01748
508-485-7263
Hub for science and technology startups in the I495, I90, Rt. 9 MetroWest Corridors of MA. Programs, panels and networking, start-up incubator

THE NATHAN HALE VETERANS OUTREACH CENTERS

763 State Rd.
Plymouth, MA 02360
508-224-0100
www.thenathanhaleveteransoutreachcenter.com

THE VENTURE FORUM

306 Main St. #400
Worcester, MA 01605
www.theventureforum.org

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut
451 West St.
Amherst, MA 01002-2999
800-352-8015 Toll Free or 413-253-4300
413-253-4347 Fax
www.rurdev.usda.gov/ma/

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

JFK Federal Bldg.
55 New Sudbury St., Ste. 1826A
Boston, MA 02203
617-565-4301
http://www.export.gov/Massachusetts/
Promotes international trade; provides market research, trade leads and counseling.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STATISTICS BOSTON REGIONAL OFFICE

JFK Federal Bldg., Rm. E-310
Boston, MA 02203
617-565-2327
www.dol.gov
Information on wage & hour laws; health and safety regulations.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

300 Westgate Center Dr.
Hadley, MA 01035-9587
413-253-8200
www.fws.gov/
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. This bureau works with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Thomas P. O'Neill Federal Bldg.
10 Causeway St., Rm. 1087
Boston, MA 02222
617-565-8100
www.gsa.gov
Front door to contracting opportunities with GSA. Call to make an appointment.

U.S. INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

FK Federal Bldg.
15 New Sudbury St.
Boston, MA 02203
617-316-2850
www.irs.gov
Provides federal tax questions, tax forms and publications.

VENTURE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

3 University of Massachusetts – Boston
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
617-287-6070
http://www.umb.edu/vdc
Technology and life science startups launching at the Venture Development Center have an 86% success rate, raising an average of \$3,022,429!

VETERAN BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE

Michael Fitzgerald, President
200 Springs Rd., Rm. 116B
Bedford, MA 01730
781-983-3728
President@VeteranBusinessOwners.org
www.veteranbusinessowners.org

VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING AND RESOURCE NETWORK

www.vettrn.org/
VETRN provides, free of charge, enrollment in a veteran specific intensive business training program, the national award winning StreetWise 'MBA' program.

WORCESTER BUSINESS RESOURCE ALLIANCE

Worcester City Hall
455 Main St., 4th Fl.
Worcester, MA 01608
508-929-1300
http://www.worcesterma.gov/development/business-assistance/business-resource-alliance

Other Business Assistance in Worcester

RUNNING START

95 Prescott St.
Worcester, MA 01605
774-312-7569
ohey@runningstartinc.com
Housed in a reclaimed mill building in the Gateway Park neighborhood of Worcester, Running Start is a co-working incubator space conveniently located near Union Station, Downtown and a growing population of retail and dining establishments. The workspace is constantly evolving to deliver the amenities and environment that its co-working members want.

MASSACHUSETTS BIOMEDICAL INITIATIVES

60 Prescott St.
Worcester, MA 01605
508-797-4200
MBI is a private, independent economic development organization that serves as a catalyst for life science and healthcare innovation. We help start biomedical companies and create jobs within the Biotechnology, Medical Device, Informatics, and Biomufacturing industry by providing secure, clean bench and sink surface, staff trained and fully licensed laboratory space for usage by "seed stage" companies. Building and maintaining collaborative affiliations and partnerships are essential to our success.

WCTI – WORCESTER CLEANTECH INCUBATOR

44 Portland St.
Worcester, MA 01608
508-344-1608
Worcester CleanTech Incubator's mission is to foster the growth of new enterprises to address the most pressing issues of our time. We believe that entrepreneurship is the lifeblood of innovation and the key to society's transition towards sustainability. WCTI provides both the physical and network resources companies need to propel their ideas to market. Founded and operated by the Institute for Energy and Sustainability, we are a community in the heart of central Massachusetts dedicated to building change. The WCTI facility, located in the Printers Building at 44 Portland Street in Worcester, provides over 10,000 square feet that offers private offices, co-working space, conference rooms, event space, and prototyping labs.

THE WORCESTER IDEALAB

20 Franklin St.
Worcester, MA 01608
774-239-7782
The Worcester Idea Lab is an event space in Worcester's developing downtown that seeks to become a center known for collaboration and innovation. Operated by local nonprofit Action! Worcester, the Idea Lab seeks to provide/rent the space to companies, organizations, and individuals for a variety of events and uses.

SBA PARTICIPATING LENDERS

ADAMS COMMUNITY BANK (EXP)

2 Center St.
Adams, MA 01220
413-749-1125

ALIGN CU (EXP)

40 Market St.
Lowell, MA 01852
978-275-2701

ATHOL SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP)

196 Timpany Blvd.
Gardner, MA 01440
978-632-7903

AVIDIA BANK (EXP,EX)

100 East Main St.
Westborough, MA 01581
978-567-3669

BANK OF AMERICA (PLP,EXP,EX)

10 Mall Rd.
Burlington, MA 01803
800-263-2055

BANK OF CANTON (PLP,EXP)

490 Turnpike St.
Canton, MA 02021
781-830-6220

BANK OF CAPE COD (EXP,EX)

1582 Iyannough Rd.
Hyannis, MA 02601
508-568-2303

BANK OF NEW ENGLAND

3 Pelham Rd.
Salem, MA 03079
603-894-5700

BANK RHODE ISLAND (PLP,EXP)

One Turks Head Pl., 16th Fl.
Providence, RI 02903
401-456-5000

BANKFIVE (PLP,EXP,EX)

79 Main St.
Fall River, MA 02720
774-888-6129

BANKGLOUCESTER (PLP,EXP)

160 Main St.
Gloucester, MA 01930
978-675-9929

BANKNEWPORT (EXP,EX)

500 W. Main Rd.
Middletown, RI 02840
401-845-8731

BARRE SAVINGS BANK (EXP)

P.O. Box 940
Barre, MA 01005
978-355-4135

BAY STATE SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

28 Franklin St.
Worcester, MA 01608
508-890-9043

BAYCOAST BANK (EXP,EX)

P.O. Box 1311
Fall River, MA 02722
508-675-4377

BERKSHIRE BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

24 North St.
Pittsfield, MA 01202
413-236-3288

BEVERLY BANK (PLP,EXP)

73 Lafayette St.
Salem, MA 01970
978-921-2397

BLUE HILLS BANK (EXP,EX)

1920 Centre St.
West Roxbury, MA 02062
617-360-6599

BOSTON PRIVATE BANK & TRUST CO. (PLP,EXP,EX)

Ten Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109
617-912-4252

BRAINTREE CO-OPERATIVE BANK

1010 Washington St.
South Braintree, MA 02184
781-843-1370

BRIDGEWATER CREDIT UNION (EXP)

75 Main St.
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-279-2406

BRIDGEWATER SAVINGS (PLP,EXP,EX)

756 Orchard St.
Raynham, MA 02767
508-884-3348

BRISTOL COUNTY SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP)

215 Pleasant St.
Fall River, MA 02721
508-678-1862

BROOKLINE BANK (EXP)

131 Clarendon St.
Boston, MA 02117
617-927-7961

BUSINESS LENDERS, LLC (PLP)

50 State House Sq.
Hartford, CT 06119
860-244-9202

CAMBRIDGE SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP)

626 Massachusetts Ave.
Arlington, MA 02138
617-575-8563

CAMBRIDGE TRUST COMPANY (PLP,EXP,EX)

1336 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
617-441-1451

CAPE ANN SAVINGS BANK (EXP)

109 Main St.
Gloucester, MA 01930
978-283-0246

CAPE COD FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK (EXP,EX)

171 Falmouth Rd.
Hyannis, MA 02610
508-247-2389

CATHAY BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

621 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02111
617-338-4700

CEI 7(A) FINANCING. LLC

30 Federal St., Ste. 300
Brunswick, ME 04011
207-209-0294

CENTRAL ONE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (EXP,EX)

714 Main St.
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508-841-0698

CENTURY BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

400 Mystic Ave.
Medford, MA 02155
781-393-6058

CHARLES RIVER BANK (EXP,EX)

70 Main St.
Medway, MA 02053
508-533-8661

CHICOPEE SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP)

70 Center St.
Chicopee, MA 01013
413-598-3157

CITIZENS BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

480 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02886
401-468-6127

CLINTON SAVINGS BANK

200 Church St.
Clinton, MA 01510
978-365-3475

COASTAL HERITAGE BANK

195 Washington St.
Weymouth, MA 02188
781-682-4487

COASTWAY COMMUNITY BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

One Coastway Plaza
Cranston, RI 02903
401-455-3200

COLONIAL COOPERATIVE

6 City Hall Ave.
Gardner, MA 01440
978-632-0171

COMMERCE BANK & TRUST CO. (PLP,EXP,EX)

386 Main St.
Worcester, MA 01608
508-797-6807

COUNTRY BANK FOR SAVINGS (EXP)

75 Main St.
Ware, MA 01082
413-277-2066

CRESCENT CREDIT UNION (EXP)

P.O. Box 4290
Brockton, MA 02303
508-408-6305

DEAN BANK (EXP)

21 Main St.
Franklin, MA 02038
508-528-0088

DEDHAM INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS (EXP)

55 Elm St.
Dedham, MA 02026
781-329-6700 ext. 835

DIGITAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (PLP,EXP,EX)

220 Donald Lynch Blvd.
Marlboro, MA 01752
508-804-9512

EAGLE BANK (EXP)

350 Broadway
Everett, MA 02149
617-394-3631

EAST BOSTON SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

10 Elm St.
Salem, MA 01923
978-977-6006

EAST CAMBRIDGE SAVINGS BANK (EXP,EX)

344 Cambridge St.
Cambridge, MA 02141
617-551-2420

EAST WEST BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

2223 Washington St.
Newton, MA 02462
617-340-8313

EASTERN BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

265 Franklin St.
Boston, MA 02110
617-897-1091

EASTHAMPTON SAVINGS BANK (EXP)

241 Northampton St.
Easthampton, MA 01027
413-527-4111

EDGARTOWN NATIONAL BANK (EXP)

P.O. Box 96
Edgartown, MA 02539
508-627-4162

ENTERPRISE BANK (EXP,EX)

237 Littleton Rd.
Westford, MA 01886
978-656-5630

EQUITABLE COOPERATIVE BANK

400 Broadway
Lynn, MA 01904
781-599-5600

EVERETT CO-OPERATIVE BANK (EXP)

419 Broadway
Everett, MA 02149
617-387-1110

FARM CREDIT EAST

P.O. Box 720
Middleboro, MA 02346
508-946-4455

FIDELITY BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

9 Leominster Connector
Leominster, MA 01453
978-870-1436

FIRST CITIZENS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (EXP)

200 Mill Rd., Ste. 100
Fairhaven, MA 02719
774-628-7817

FIRST COMMONS BANK (EXP,EX)

161 Linden St.
Wellesley, MA 02482
617-243-4415

FIRST IPSWICH BANK

31 Market St.
Ipswich, MA 01938
978-356-8153

FIRST NIAGARA BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

225 Park Ave.
West Springfield, MA 01089
413-747-1295

FIRST PRIORITY CREDIT UNION (EXP)

100 Swift St.
East Boston, MA 02128
800-949-7628 ext. 1228

FLORENCE SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

85 Main St.
Florence, MA 01062
413-587-1724

FREEDOM CREDIT UNION (EXP)

1985 Main St., Ste. 7
Springfield, MA 01103
413-505-5735

GEORGETOWN BANK (EXP)

2 E. Main St.
Georgetown, MA 01833
978-352-8600

SBA PARTICIPATING LENDERS

GFA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (PLP,EXP)

P.O. Box 468
Gardner, MA 01440
978-632-2542 ext. 1183

GREENFIELD COOPERATIVE BANK (PLP,EXP)

62 Federal St.
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-772-5000

GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP)

400 Main St.
Greenfield, MA 01032
413-775-8153

GREYLOCK FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (PLP,EXP,EX)

150 West St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-236-4810

HAMPDEN BANK (EXP,EX)

19 Harrison Ave.
Springfield, MA 01103
413-452-5148

HANSCOM FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (EXP)

1610 Eglin St.
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731
781-698-2186

HARBORONE BANK (PLP,EXP)

770 Oak St.
Brockton, MA 02303
508-895-1292

HAVERHILL BANK (EXP)

P.O. Box 1656
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-374-0161

HOLBROOK COOP (PLP)

95 N. Franklin
Holbrook, MA 02343
781-767-1888

HOLYOKE CREDIT UNION (EXP)

490 Westfield Rd.
Holyoke, MA 01040
413-532-7007 ext. 1125

HOME LOAN AND INVESTMENT BANK, FSB (PLP,EXP,EX)

One Home Loan Plaza, Ste. 3
Warwick, RI 02886
800-722-5671

HOMEFIELD CREDIT UNION (EXP)

86 Worcester St.
North Grafton, MA 01536
508-839-5493

HOMETOWN BANK (PLP,EXP)

31 Sutton Ave.
Oxford, MA 01540
508-499-1886

INDEPENDENCE BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

1370 S. County Tr.
East Greenwich, RI 02818
401-471-6300

INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS (EXP,EX)

312 Haverhill Rd.
Rowley, MA 01969
978-225-1387

JEANNE D'ARC CREDIT UNION (EXP,EX)

581 Merrimack St.
Lowell, MA 01854
978-323-4714

LEADER BANK (PLP,EXP)

180 Massachusetts Ave.
Arlington, MA 02474
781-646-3900 ext. 183

LEE BANK (PLP,EXP)

75 Park St.
Lee, MA 01238
413-243-9295

LEOMINSTER CREDIT UNION (EXP,EX)

20 Adams St.
Leominster, MA 01453
978-466-7215

LIBERTY BAY CU (PLP,EXP,EX)

350 Granite St.
Braintree, MA 02184
617-439-6575

LOWELL FIVE CENT SAVINGS BANK (EXP)

34 John St.
Lowell, MA 01852
978-441-6434

MANSFIELD BANK (EXP)

80 N. Main St.
Mansfield, MA 02048
508-851-3653

MARBLEHEAD BANK (EXP,EX)

21 Atlantic Ave.
Marblehead, MA 01945
781-631-5500

MARLBOROUGH SAVINGS BANK (EXP)

178 Main St.
Marlborough, MA 01752
508-460-4154

MARTHA'S VINEYARD SAVINGS BANK (EXP)

P.O. Box 1069
Edgartown, MA 02539
508-627-1346

MASS. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (PLP)

500 Edgewater Dr., Ste. 555
Wakefield, MA 01880
781-928-1133

MECHANICS CO-OPERATIVE BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

15 W. Britannia St.
Taunton, MA 02780
508-884-2151

MERRIMACK VALLEY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (EXP)

500 Merrimack St.
Lawrence, MA 01843
978-975-4095

METRO CREDIT UNION (EXP)

200 Revere Beach Pkwy.
Chelsea, MA 02150
617-889-7736

MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

6 Main St.
Natick, MA 01760
508-315-5424

MILFORD FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

246 Main St.
Milford, MA 01757
508-381-5228

MILFORD NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY (PLP,EXP,EX)

P.O. Box 228
Milford, MA 01757
508-244-5137

MILLBURY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (EXP)

50 Main St.
Millbury, MA 01527
508-865-7614

MILLBURY NATIONAL BANK

18 Main St.
Millbury, MA 01527
508-865-9521

MILLBURY SAVINGS BANK (EXP)

109 Elm St.
Millbury, MA 01527
508-581-6257

MONSON SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

197 Main St.
Monson, MA 01057
413-267-1205

MOUNTAINONE BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

93 Main St.
North Adams, MA 02147
413-663-2189

MUTUAL BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

570 Washington St.
Whitman, MA 02382
781-524-5044

MUTUALONE BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

160 Cochituate Rd.
Framingham, MA 01701
508-532-8353

NATIONAL GRAND BANK OF MARBLEHEAD (EXP)

91 Pleasant St.
Marblehead, MA 01945
781-631-6000

AWARD WINNERS

Massachusetts Small Business Week 2015 Award Winners

Small Business Person of the Year Award

Todd Snopkowski
Snapchef
Boston, MA

Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business of the Year

Elaine J. Boone
PTS Truck-Trailer-Construction
Equipment Supply
Palmer, MA

Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year

Michael Chege & Raphael Bibiu
Ace Medical Services, Inc.
Worcester, MA

Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year

Debra Heims
H&S Environmental, Inc.
Westborough, MA

Microenterprise Business of the Year

Matthew & Tina Phaneuf
BioSurfaces, Inc.
Ashland, MA

Region 1 Prime Contractor of the Year

Arthur Mabbett
Mabbett & Associates, Inc.
Bedford, MA

Massachusetts & New England SBA Small Business Exporter of the Year

Lester Hensley & Bashar
Moussallieh
EMSEAL Joint Systems Ltd.
Westborough, MA

Massachusetts & New England SBA Financial Services Champion

Mary Katherine Mansfield
Bay Colony Development
Corporation
Waltham, MA

Massachusetts & New England SBA Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award

Keith Girouard
Massachusetts Small Business
Development Center
Berkshire Regional Office
Pittsfield, MA

Massachusetts & New England SBA 8(a) Graduate of the Year

Hector Sanchez
P&S Construction, Inc.
Chelmsford, MA

Massachusetts SBA District Director Award

Robert J. Viamari
Cape & Plymouth Business
Magazine
Yarmouth Port, MA

SBA PARTICIPATING LENDERS

NBT (PLP,EXP,EX)

54 North St.
Pittsfield, MA 02101
413-448-6162 ext. 101

NEEDHAM BANK

1063 Great Plain Ave.
Needham, MA 02492
781-474-5438

NEWBURYPORT FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

63 State St.
Newburyport, MA 01950
978-462-3136

NEWTEK SMALL BUSINESS FINANCE, INC. (PLP,EXP,EX)

462 Seventh Ave., 14th Fl.
New York, NY 10018
212-356-9510

NORTH BROOKFIELD SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP)

35 Summer St.
North Brookfield, MA 01535
508-867-0732

NORTH EASTON SAVINGS BANK (EXP)

20 Eastman St.
South Easton, MA 02375
508-297-8012

NORTH MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK (EXP)

P.O. Box 469
Ayer, MA 01432
978-772-8502 ext. 1121

NORTH SHORE BANK (EXP,EX)

248 Andover St.
Peabody, MA 01960
978-538-7052

Northeast Bank (PLP,EXP)
200 Berkeley St.
Boston, MA 02116
207-786-3245 ext. 3267

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY BANK

66 Elm St.
Danvers, MA 01923
978-716-3225

NORTHERN BANK & TRUST COMPANY (EXP)

275 Mishawum Rd.
Woburn, MA 01801
781-937-5400

NORTHMARK BANK (EXP)

89 Turnpike St./P.O. Box 825
North Andover, MA 01845
978-686-9100

NORWOOD BANK

11 Central St.
Norwood, MA 02062
781-440-4272

NUVO BANK & TRUST (EXP)

1500 Main St.
Springfield, MA 01115
413-787-2724

PATRIOT COMMUNITY BANK

237 Lexington St.
Woburn, MA 01801
781-404-1207

PENTUCKET BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

One Merrimack St.
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-556-5447

PEOPLE'S FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK

P.O. Box 35036
Brighton, MA 02135
617-254-0707

PEOPLE'S UNITED BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

491 Shrewsbury St.
Worcester, MA 01604
508-890-5173

PEOPLESBANK (EXP)

330 Whitney
Holyoke, MA 01040
413-493-8697

PILGRIM BANK (EXP)

40 S. Main St.
Cohasset, MA 02025
781-236-0908

PITTSFIELD COOPERATIVE BANK (EXP)

70 South St.
Pittsfield, MA 02101
413-629-1630

RADIUS BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

One Harbor St., Ste. 201
Boston, MA 02210
617-728-7320

RANDOLPH SAVINGS BANK (EXP,EX)

10 Cabot Place
Stoughton, MA 02072
781-573-1356

READING CO-OPERATIVE BANK (EX)

180 Haven St.
Reading, MA 01867
781-670-1579

ROCKLAND FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

241 Union St.
Rockland, MA 02370
800-562-7328

ROCKLAND TRUST (PLP,EXP,EX)

2036 Washington St.
Hanover, MA 02339
781-982-6546

ROCKPORT NATIONAL BANK (EXP)

16 Main St.
Rockport, MA 01966
978-309-1261

ROLLSTONE BANK & TRUST (PLP,EXP)

780 Main St.
Fitchburg, MA 01420
978-353-2805

RTN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (EXP)

600 Main St.
Waltham, MA 02452
781-736-9975

SAGE BANK

15 Hurd St.
Lowell, MA 01852
978-322-7043

SALEM FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

210 Essex St.
Salem, MA 01970
978-720-5260

SALISBURY BANK & TRUST (EXP)

210 Main St.
Great Barrington, MA 01230
860-596-2470

SANTANDER BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

19 Pleasant St.
Woburn, MA 01801
617-953-9135

SAVERS BANK

P.O. Box 250
Southbridge, MA 01550
508-765-7389

SEAMEN'S BANK (EXP)

P.O. Box 659
Provincetown, MA 02657
508-487-8424

SHARON CREDIT UNION

30 Pond St.
Sharon, MA 02067
781-793-2778

SOUTH SHORE BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

1530 Main St.
South Weymouth, MA 02190
781-682-3283

SOUTHBRIDGE CREDIT UNION (EXP)

155 Main St.
Southbridge, MA 01550
508-909-7194

SOUTHBRIDGE SAVINGS BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

7-11 Elm St.
Southbridge, MA 01550
508-764-0079

SPENCERBANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

176 Main St.
Spencer, MA 01562
508-885-5313

ST. ANNE'S CREDIT UNION OF FALL RIVER (EXP)

286 Oliver St.
Fall River, MA 02724
508-991-4446

ST JEAN'S CREDIT UNION (EXP)

370 Highland Ave.
Salem, MA 01970
978-219-1029

ST. MARY'S CREDIT UNION (PLP,EXP)

46 Lizotte Dr.
Marlborough, MA 01752
508-490-6747

STCU CREDIT UNION

145 Industry Ave.
Springfield, MA 01104
413-732-9812

TD BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

17 New England Executive Park
Burlington, MA 01803
978-989-2407

THE COOPERATIVE BANK (EXP)

40 Belgrade Ave.
Roslindale, MA 02131
857-203-9509

THE COOPERATIVE BANK OF CAPE COD (EXP)

695 Attucks Ln.
Hyannis, MA 02601
508-568-1217

THE SAVINGS BANK (EXP,EX)

357 Main St.
Wakefield, MA 01880
781-486-5309

UNIBANK FOR SAVINGS (PLP,EXP)

24 Gold Star Blvd.
Worcester, MA 01605
508-849-4340

UNITED BANK (EXP,EX)

95 Elm St.
West Springfield, MA 01090
413-726-2328

UPS CAPITAL (PLP,EXP,EX)

425 Day Hill Rd.
Windsor, CT 06095
860-687-2718

VILLAGE BANK (EXP)

319 Auburn St.
Auburndale, MA 02466
617-340-1211

WALPOLE CO-OPERATIVE BANK (EXP)

982 Main St.
Walpole, MA 02081
508-660-6549

WASHINGTON SAVINGS BANK

100 Broadway
Dracut, MA 01826
978-275-6000

WASHINGTON TRUST COMPANY (PLP,EXP,EX)

23 Broad St.
Westerly, RI 02891
401-348-1396

WEBSTER BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

609 West Johnson Ave.
Cheshire, CT 06410
203-271-7344

WEBSTER FIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (EXP)

271 Greenwood
Worcester, MA 01607
508-671-5122

WEBSTER FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK (EXP)

100 Front St., Ste 1900
Worcester, MA 01608
508-438-4725

WELLESLEY COOPERATIVE BANK (EXP,EX)

40 Central St.
Wellesley, MA 02482
781-237-7221

WELLS FARGO & COMPANY (PLP,EXP,EX)

200 Berkeley St., 23rd Fl.
Boston, MA 02116
857-260-1954

WESTFIELD BANK (PLP,EXP,EX)

141 Elm St.
Westfield, MA 01085
413-568-1911

WEYMOUTH BANK (EXP)

744 Broad St.
East Weymouth, MA 02189
781-337-8000

WINTER HILL BANK

342 Broadway
Somerville, MA 02145
617-666-8600

WORKERS' CREDIT UNION (PLP,EXP,EX)

815 Main St.
Fitchburg, MA 01420
978-353-7176

Preferred Lender = PLP
Express Lender = EXP
Export Lender = EX

MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICT OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT FY 2015

Fiscal Year 2015 was one of major achievements. The U.S. Small Business Administration's Massachusetts District Office supported 2,667 loans for over \$657 million dollars through three main loan programs: the 7(a) Loan Guaranty Program, the Certified Development Company/504 Loan Program, and the Microloan Program. In addition, over 19,182 clients were trained and counseled by SBA and our resource partners – SCORE, the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network, the Women's Business Center at the Center for Women & Enterprise, and the Northeast Veterans Business Resource Center.

SUCCESS

Guaranteed **2,342** loans worth over **\$330** million through SBA's flagship 7(a) Loan Guaranty Program through **143** lenders.

Approved **249** Certified Development Company **504** loans totaling over **\$141** million.

76 businesses in MA obtained **microloans** totaling over **\$1.3** million through our 9 microlenders.

Contract Awards to MA Small Businesses (estimate):
Small Business: **\$2.3** billion
Hub Zone: **\$67** million
8(a): **\$123** million
Veterans: **\$173** million
Service Disabled Vet: **\$149** million
Women **\$167** million

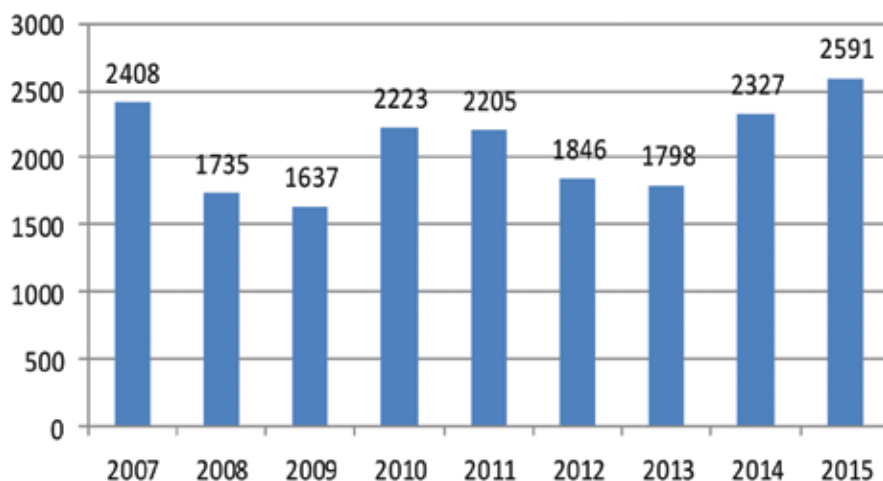
Small Business Innovation Research Program : **85** awards granted totaling over **\$26.8** million.

Small Business Investment Company Program: 144 financings to 71 businesses for \$286.4 million

Surety Bonding
80 bonds were issued for **\$47.4** million

www.sba.gov/ma

Total 7(a) and 504 Loans



(estimated as of 10/23/15)

Small Business Clients Counseled and Trained by:

Small Business Development Centers	5,346
SBA Massachusetts District Office	5,958
SCORE Chapters	4,961
Center for Women & Enterprise	<u>2,917</u>

Total Clients Served **19,182**

2015

NEW 7(a) LENDERS

The Cooperative Bank
 Milford Federal Savings
 Sharon Credit Union
 North Easton Savings

NEW MICROLENDERS

North Central Mass
 Economic Development
 Council

NEW PREFERRED LENDERS

St. Mary's Credit Union
 Avidia Bank

NEW EXPRESS LENDERS

The Cooperative Bank
 Northern Bank & Trust
 The Cooperative Bank of
 Cape Cod
 Homefield Credit Union
 Sharon Credit Union

LENDER of the QUARTER AWARDS

1st Quarter:
 Berkshire Bank
 2nd Quarter:
 HarborOne Bank
 3rd Quarter:
 Spencer Savings Bank
 4th Quarter:
 Easthampton Savings
 Bank

NEW 8(a) FIRMS

R.S. Electrical Services
 Integrative Sciences
 Vision Sown

NEW HUBZONE FIRMS

Integrative Sciences
 Lawrence Training
 School
 Fulltec Consultants
 Patel Construction

TOP SBA 7(a) LOAN GUARANTY LENDERS	GROSS \$ AMOUNT	LOANS	TOP 504 LENDER NAME	GROSS AMOUNT	NUMBER OF LOANS
EASTERN BANK	\$ 46,049,200	815	BAY COLONY DEVELOPMENT CORP.	\$ 40,845,000	80
CITIZENS BANK, N.A.	\$ 17,340,100	124	GRANITE STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.	\$ 44,723,000	77
BERKSHIRE BANK	\$ 6,699,100	119	NEW ENGLAND CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COR	\$ 37,911,000	52
ROCKLAND TRUST COMPANY	\$ 13,091,900	100	SOUTH EASTERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.	\$ 10,649,000	24
SANTANDER BANK, N.A.	\$ 20,140,500	89	CAPE & ISLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$ 6,659,000	11
TD BANK, N.A.	\$ 9,405,000	84	TOTAL FOR ALL LENDERS	\$ 141,485,000	249
LEADER BANK, N.A.	\$ 7,058,200	73			
INDEPENDENCE BANK	\$ 12,000,000	50			
CAMBRIDGE SAVINGS BANK	\$ 6,823,000	39			
SOUTH SHORE BANK	\$ 2,073,361	34			
HARBORONE BANK	\$ 2,332,300	32			
BRISTOL COUNTY SAVINGS BANK	\$ 6,508,000	29			
ST. MARY'S CU	\$ 1,650,000	26			
MERRIMACK VALLEY FCU	\$ 1,573,200	24			
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.	\$ 17,806,400	23			
COMMERCE BANK & TRUST CO.	\$ 4,221,500	22			
SPENCER SAVINGS BANK	\$ 3,322,000	22			
SALEM FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK	\$ 10,141,000	21			
EASTHAMPTON SAVINGS BANK	\$ 1,856,500	19			
WORKERS CREDIT UNION	\$ 1,370,100	19			
TOTAL FOR ALL LENDERS	\$ 330,052,071	2342			

TOP SBA 504 CDC 3rd PARTY LENDER NAME	GROSS \$ AMOUNT	LOANS
Eastern Bank	\$ 31,665,496	43
Rockland Trust Company	\$ 5,760,800	11
Enterprise Bank and Trust Co.	\$ 4,104,613	9
Nuvo Bank and Trust Co.	\$ 2,086,745	7
BankNewport	\$ 8,418,487	6
Avidia Bank	\$ 3,170,000	6
Radius Bank	\$ 2,445,000	6
Commerce Bank & Trust Co.	\$ 2,105,000	6
The Milford National Bank and Trust Co.	\$ 1,748,913	6
Citizens Bank, N.A.	\$ 4,521,000	5
TOTAL FOR ALL LENDERS	\$ 184,873,319	249

Out of 68 SBA District Offices Nationwide, Massachusetts Ranked:

#1 on loans less than \$50K

#2 on loans less than \$150K and underserved

#3 on total loan approvals

#3 in number of 7A Loans approved

#5 in number of 504 Loans approved

Thank you

2015

www.sba.gov/ma

TOP SBA MICROLENDERS	GROSS \$ AMOUNT	LOANS
Accion	\$ 364,356	27
New Bedford Economic Development	\$ 282,000	16
Common Capital	\$ 84,833	8
SEED	\$ 225,000	6
Dorchester Bay Neighborhood	\$ 190,000	5
Community Teamwork	\$ 121,244	4
Jobs for Fall River	\$ 88,000	4
EDIC of Lynn	\$ 32,000	4
RCAP	\$ 25,000	2
TOTAL FOR MICROLENDERS	\$ 1,387,433	76

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On the Cover: **Success is the Spice of Life for Owner of Greek Goddess Products**

BUFFALO, NY – Like many foodpreneurs before her, Evangeline Conley liked making her homemade salad dressing and marinade for her friends and family for special gatherings and occasions. Their positive reaction to the recipe gave her the motivation and idea to start her own business.

When Conley founded Greek Goddess Products, Inc. in 2008, she reached out early for guidance on how to get started. She learned about the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Buffalo State College from a friend who suggested she start there. "The first thing I did was take a course through the SBDC. It was a start-up workshop allowing me the opportunity to learn about balance sheets, profits and loss, and ways to market my business," says Conley. "As a business owner, it's so important to learn about managing your finances and how to approach legal fees and trademark laws."

As a result of the assistance that Conley received from the Buffalo State SBDC, she was able to begin bottling Greek Goddess Salad Dressing and Marinade commercially. Today, the dressing is stocking the shelves of local stores, delis and markets in and around Western New York. "It's a unique blend of olive oil, vinegar and spices, all natural ingredients," said Conley. "Our customers love using it as salad dressing, meat/poultry/vegetable marinade, and simply dipping bread."



Conley, an encore entrepreneur, has worked with the center since her start-up, seeking advice and citing it as a vital step to growing her business. She credits her former business advisor John Mckeone of the Buffalo State College SBDC for the success she enjoys today.

"We are seeing more and more encore entrepreneurs step into business," says SBA Buffalo District Director Franklin Sciortino. "One in four individuals ages 44 to 70 is interested in becoming an entrepreneur and 63 percent of Americans plan to work during retirement. SBA and AARP joined forces in 2012 to reach out to baby boomers and provide them with the necessary training and mentoring services for older entrepreneurs to start or grow their small businesses and create jobs, just like Evangeline Conley did."

Conley is extremely proud of The Greek Goddess Products successes, and she is serious when she urges other businesses to seek out resources for growth. "Don't be afraid of rejection," she said. "Make sure your business is something you love, seek out help and feel good about what you do."

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