



# News Release

## PRESS OFFICE

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## **SBA Grants Will Fund 19 New Women's Business Centers, Continue Funding for 80 Existing Centers**

### *Women's Centers Will Aid in the Development of Women-owned Businesses*

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Small Business Administration today announced \$12 million in grant funding for 19 new Women's Business Centers (WBCs) and 80 existing WBCs, broadening the reach of business training and counseling to assist women to start, grow and expand their small businesses.

The \$12 million includes funding for the 19 new WBCs, continued funding for the 29 existing WBCs that are still in their first five years of funding and 51 older WBCs that were awarded sustainability grants. Each WBC is required to match a portion of the federal funds with private contributions.

WBCs are community-based and they are in nearly every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa, serving a wide variety of economic environments including urban, suburban and rural. Each WBC tailors its services to meet the needs of the local area, and works to provide women business owners with long-term training, counseling and mentoring, as well as access to all of the SBA's programs and services.

The WBC program, established by Congress in 1988, is administered by the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership and promotes the growth of women-owned businesses through business training and technical assistance, and provides access to credit and capital, federal contracts, and international trade opportunities.

The new WBCs are located in the following cities: Wiscasset, Maine; Kenosha, Wis.; Seattle, Wash.; New York, N.Y.; Durant, Okla.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Greensburg, Pa.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Wilmington, Del.; San Antonio, Texas; San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Syracuse, N.Y.; Forest, Miss.; Newark, N.J.; Santa Ana, Calif.; Huntsville, Ala. (serving Northern Alabama counties); Mobile, Ala.; San Bernardino, Calif.; and Albuquerque, N.M.

With the addition of these 19 centers, women entrepreneurs now have 99 WBCs nationwide to help them start and grow their small businesses. The WBC program served more than 144,000 clients across the country last year, providing help with financial management, procurement training, marketing and technical assistance. WBCs also provide specialized programs that include mentoring in various languages, Internet training, issues facing displaced workers and rural home-based entrepreneurs.

For a complete list of all centers receiving grants, to find the location nearest to you and for additional information about the SBA's Women's Business Center program, visit online at <http://www.onlinewbc.gov/wbc.pdf>.

New FY 2006 Women's Business Centers  
Grant Recipients, 2006

Coastal Enterprise, Inc.  
36 Water Street  
Wiscasset, ME

Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corp.  
Racine/Kenosha Office  
Tentative Location:  
Kenosha Chamber of Commerce  
Kenosha, WI

Seattle Business Assistance Center  
(for Tacoma, WA)  
1437 South Jackson, Suite 201  
Seattle, WA

New York Association for New Americans, Inc.  
17 Battery Place  
New York, NY 10004

Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc.  
(for Oklahoma City)  
2912 Enterprise Blvd.  
Durant, OK 74701

Empowerment Group, Inc.  
2111 North Front Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Seton Hill University  
Seton Hill Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601

CHARO Community Development Corporation  
4301 East Valley Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90032 (for Riverside, CA)

YWCA Delaware, Inc.  
100 W. Tenth Street, Suite 515  
Wilmington, DE 19801

San Antonio Local Development Company Inc.  
dba South Texas Business Fund  
1901 S. Alamo, Suite 283  
San Antonio, TX 78204

Mission Community Services  
Corporation/Missin BIC/WSP  
4111 Broad Street, Suite 100  
San Luis Obispo, CA 92401-7903

Syracuse Women's Business Innovation Center  
Syracuse University  
Skytop Office Building, Suite 124  
Syracuse, NY 13244

Crudup-Ward Activity Center  
656 Longview Street  
Post Office Box 1113  
Forest, MS 39074

Women's Venture Fund  
The Latino Institute  
346 Mount Prospect Avenue  
Newark NJ 07104

Rancho Santiago Community College District  
Foundation  
2323 North Broadway  
Santa Ana, CA 92706 (for Orange Co.)

Women's Business Center for North Alabama  
185 Chateau Drive, 200 D  
Huntsville, Alabama 35802 (for Northern AL  
counties)

Women's Business Center of Southern Alabama  
1301 Azalea Road, Suite 201A  
Mobile, AL 36693

Foundation for California State  
University/Coachella Valley  
Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship  
California State University, San Bernardino  
5500 University Parkway  
San Bernardino, CA 92407

Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team  
414 Silver, SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102