



U.S. Small Business Administration and the President's Faith-Based and Communities Initiative

SBA's Expanded Mission

The SBA's focus on helping small businesses succeed is expanding to include non-profit, faith-based and community organizations that emphasize entrepreneurship and economic development to spur growth, especially in communities with greatest needs.

- SBA's rules have been changed to ensure that grant recipients can provide technical assistance to non-profit, faith-based and community organizations when a significant portion of their activities involves aiding small businesses.
- SBA's 68 district offices sent a letter from the Administrator to more than 25,000 faith-based and community groups inviting them to participate in SBA programs geared to their specific needs. The offices also held over 150 workshops for faith-based and other community organizations.

Examples of Results Thus Far

SBA's Illinois District Office is providing the Joseph Center, a faith-based business school in Illinois, with a wide range of services to help graduates establish successful small businesses.

SBA's Michigan District Office is working with the Christian Business Network and the 6,000-member Straight Gate Church in Detroit, which recently started an entrepreneurship program.

SBA's Cleveland District Office is working with the Urban League to develop a supplemental equity fund for SBA loans.

The New Jersey Small Business Development Center contracted with the St. James AME Church to customize Entrepreneurial Assessment and "Starting Your Small Business" courses.

SBA's North Florida District Office helped the faith-based *FreshMinistries* start a highly successful Small Business Incubator.

SBA's New York District Office will hold a Faith-Based Initiative Summit in the spring of 2005 to reach faith-based and other community organizations in the New York Metropolitan area.

Going Forward

- Intensify partnerships with faith-based and community groups
- Work more closely with SBA grantees
- Measure our success

For more information about SBA's Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, call: 202-205-9037; e-mail: www.fbcf@sba.gov; or check the website: www.sba.gov/fbcf.