



BusinessLINC Program Proposal Summary

BusinessLINC builds upon an already successful public-private partnership that began on June 5, 1998, between the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the private, business sector. The BusinessLINC (Learning, Investment, Networking, and Collaboration) initiative was formed to encourage the linkage of large businesses to small businesses, enhancing the economic vitality and competitive capacity of small businesses located in economically distressed urban and rural areas.

BusinessLINC will fund sources for promoting, expanding and facilitating mentor-protégé relationships in distressed urban, Native American and isolated rural areas, and provide the additional money needed to identify existing and potential small business successes for linkage to appropriate larger businesses.

BusinessLINC will:

- Support local BusinessLINC coalitions to identify existing and potential business assets in distressed urban, Native American and isolated rural communities that could benefit from technical assistance linkages to large businesses;
- Develop innovative approaches, case studies and other supportive materials to encourage large business-to-small business linkages;
- Encourage large companies to contract with or purchase goods from smaller, less developed companies; and
- Establish on-line information and databases of companies interested in mentor-protégé programs and community based, local or statewide business development programs that support such relationships;

Program Level

In FY2001, SBA requests appropriation for a program level of \$6.6 million (with \$1.25 million specifically targeted to Native Americans) to expand the BusinessLINC program by providing assistance through contracts, cooperative agreements, and co-sponsorships of private and/or public organizations. The BusinessLINC program received an appropriation of \$1.5 million in FY2000.

August 8, 2000