

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

Women's Business Centers (WBCs) represent a national network of more than 100 educational resource centers designed to assist women start and grow small businesses. WBCs operate with the mission to level the playing field for women entrepreneurs, who still face unique obstacles in the world of business.

(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Alaska

1 WOMEN\$Finances and Assisted Living Home Resource Center of Alaska

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Web site: [www.alaskabizbuilders.org/women\\$fund](http://www.alaskabizbuilders.org/women$fund)

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2002

SBA Region: 10

Population: Urban

WOMEN\$ Fund was established in 1995 as a program of the YWCA and fully implemented in Spring 1996. WOMEN\$Fund is a microenterprise training and microlending program for women entrepreneurs in Anchorage, Alaska. Consistent with the National YWCA's mission to empower women and girls and to eliminate racism, the programs of the YWCA of Anchorage promote independence, knowledge and self-esteem, especially for low-income and minority women. WOMEN\$Fund's mission is to secure financial independence for women through the provision of capital and technical assistance. By providing training classes in entrepreneurship, technical assistance, individual mentoring and seed money for women-owned small businesses, WOMEN\$ Fund seeks to empower low- and moderate-income single-parent and minority women in Anchorage and surrounding Alaska communities for economic self-sufficiency. In late 2002, the WBC changed its name to WOMEN\$finances to compliment the YWCA program changes.

Alabama

2 Central Alabama Women's Business Center

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Birmingham, AL 35203

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Email: Ecsfdn@aol.com

Web site: www.cawbc.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2001

SBA Region: 4

Population: Urban

We provide entrepreneurial counseling and training to women at any stage of small business ownership. We use the FastTrac curriculum for training as well as experienced speakers from the communities we serve on a variety of topics. Monthly and quarterly mentoring groups are in the formative stage and there are quarterly networking programs. A circuit-rider concept is developing for the rural counties. We have a computer training lab room at our location in Birmingham where monthly training is held on a variety of topics specific to Microsoft Office programs. Specific workshops will include a four-hour course on Developing Your Selling Skills and a three-hour program on Running Your Home Based Business that is held quarterly. Check out our website for the current program calendar. Continual followup and mentoring provides opportunities for successful

Alabama

3 Women's Business Center of Southern Alabama

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Web site: www.wbac-inc.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2001

SBA Region: 4

Population: Urban

The women's Business Center of Southern Alabama (WBCSAL) is a non-profit microenterprise organization that specializes in helping women achieve economic empowerment through entrepreneurship. This is done by providing business education, skills training, business counseling and networking opportunities for practicing and potential business owners.

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Arkansas

4 Good and Faith Fund ARWBDC

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Web site: www.goodfaithfund.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2004
SBA Region:	6
Population:	Urban/Suburban

The ARWBDC is located in Pine Bluff, "the Gateway to the Delta." The program was funded in September 1999 to provide education, training, technical assistance to women-owned businesses, focusing mainly on those owned by minorities. From 1988 to 1998, over 30 percent of the participants in the Good Faith Fund's entrepreneurship programs were on some form of public assistance. Arkansas has the lowest per capita income in the U.S., and the poverty rate in the Delta is 118 percent above the national average. Business training programs include FastTrac entrepreneurial training, a women's business mentoring program that provides advanced business training for women who have been in business for at least 1 year and helps in developing relationships with mentors, a specialized business training module for childcare providers due to the high demand for childcare in the Delta. Other services include technical assistance, help with business plan writing, business counseling, and special workshops, which include Internet training and money-management seminars. The Center currently serves two cities; Forrest City and Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

American Samoa

5 American Samoa Women's Business Center

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Web site:

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2005
SBA Region:	0
Population:	Rural/Island

The American Samoa WBC provides comprehensive training programs to fit the specific needs of Native American Samoan women who are socially and economically disadvantaged. Specialized training in agribusiness and village-based business is provided to develop entrepreneurial skills and help women market and export their products. Assistance and training focus on childcare and care for the elderly. Other programs include a 12-session course "Starting Your Own Business".

Arizona

6 Self-Employment Loan Fund, Inc.

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Web site: www.selfloanfund.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2002
SBA Region:	9
Population:	Urban/Suburban

The mission of Self-Employment Loan Fund, Inc. (SELF) is to promote the self-sufficiency of low-income individuals, especially women and minorities, by encouraging the growth of microenterprise through training, technical assistance, and access to credit. SELF's community programs are designed to alleviate poverty and increase household income throughout Maricopa County, Arizona. SELF is a Women's Business Center and provides a 'one-stop shop' for women looking to better their economic situation through self-employment opportunities.

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Arizona

7 Tucson-Pima County Women's Business Center

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Web site: www.acec-az.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**
First Year Funding: S-2005
SBA Region: 9
Population: Urban/Suburban

The Microbusiness Advancement Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to the economic growth of Southern Arizona and the individual professional development of its clients by providing training, resources, referrals, support and advocacy to those seeking to create, sustain, or grow microbusinesses. MAC offers a variety of programs and services both in English and Spanish, which are designed to assist the small business owner in reaching their entrepreneurial goals: business plan writing, consulting, procurement, informational seminars, microlending, and loan packaging. Although by no means exclusively, MAC targets populations in the southern Arizona markets which are traditional underserved, minority and women entrepreneurs.

California

8 Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program

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Status: **Currently Funded Center**
First Year Funding: R-2004
SBA Region: 9
Population:

California

9 CHARO Community Development Corporation

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Los Angeles, CA 90032
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dvaldez@charocorp.com; camador@charocorp.com; jpuentes@charocorp.com; sruiz@charocorp.com
Web site: www.Charocorp.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**
First Year Funding: R-2003
SBA Region: 9
Population: Urban

Specializing in providing bilingual/bicultural business services, the CHARO SBA Women's Center provides all services in both English and Spanish to both start-up and existing women-owned enterprises. The Center's mission is to harness resources, provide access to capital, and provide economic opportunities that create wealth and generate jobs. Services include: Entrepreneur Training, Loan Packaging Services, Business and Technical Assistance, Financial Literacy Training, Business Incubator, Small Business Contract Procurement Center and access to the Computer Resource Lab.

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California

10 Inland Empire Women's Business Center

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Web site: www.iewbc.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2003

SBA Region: 9

Population: Urban

The Inland Empire WBC is a program of the Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship at California State University San Bernardino. The Center's target area is Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, which is 70 miles inland from the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The two counties served by the IEWBC have a population that is among the fastest growing in the nation serving approximately 3.25 million people and is ranked 11th nationwide in the growth of women-owned firms, employment, and sales from 1987 to 1996. The primary full time office location for the WBC is in partnership with Arrowhead Credit Union (the largest credit union in the County of San Bernardino) and is located in the heart of the business district. Inland Empire WBC provides mentoring, advising, long and short-term training in all areas of business development to existing and aspiring women owned businesses. Services are available in English and Spanish. The WBC targets women in the fields of construction, trades, general contracting and technology.

California

11 Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center

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Web site: www.rencenter.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2004

SBA Region: 9

Population: Urban

Since 1985, Renaissance has been helping economically and socially diverse entrepreneurs, throughout the Bay Area, to start and grow small businesses. Renaissance offers comprehensive small business training and support services for businesses in all stages of development and all industries. Programs and services include: Training Classes (Start Your Own Business, Business Planning and BusinessAction Planning), a Business Incubator, a Financing Resource Center program providing loan packaging and consultation, Topic Specific Workshops, Access to Markets and Computer and Internet Training. Renaissance has created a dynamic network of entrepreneurs; 60% of Renaissance graduates report doing business with each other.

California

12 Women's Business Center of California

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Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2003

SBA Region: 9

Population: Urban

The National University WBC reaches out to women in the San Diego community which includes many nationalities--Hispanic, European, Asian, Middle Eastern, Native American and African American. The WBC reaches out to military veterans, spouses of active military personnel, immigrants working in the farming, child-care providers, persons in the landscaping industry, and San Diego's 18 Indian reservations. The National University WBC offers five areas of support to its clients: 1) training through classes and seminars; 2) counseling and mentoring on a one-to-one basis; 3) networking with its Advisory Board, San Diego businesses, NU's students, faculty and other clients; 4) providing access to resources and information; and 5) helping clients to access training and assistance in obtaining financial resources.

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California

13 Women's Economic Venture of Santa Barbara

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Web site: www.wevonline.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2003

SBA Region: 9

Population: Urban

Established in 1991, Women's Economic Ventures or WEV (pronounced "weave") provides training, technical assistance, mentoring, Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and loans of up to \$100,000 to woman-owned businesses in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties in the Central Coast region of California. WEV's 14-week "Self-Employment Training" course prepares clients to launch or grow a business enterprise. WEV provides ongoing support for growing businesses through Mastermind Groups, W! (a membership networking organization), workshops, individual business counseling, and Micromentor, an online mentoring project. WEV licenses its training curriculum to organizations locally and throughout the United States. WEV has offices in Santa Barbara, Camarillo and Santa Maria, California. All services are provided in English and Spanish.

California

14 PACE

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Web site: www.PACELA.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 9

Population:

California

15 Valley Economic Development Center

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Fax: 661-255-3399

Email:

Web site: www.trivalleywbc.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 9

Population:

The Women's Business Center of the Valley Economic Development Center does one on one consulting at no cost to client, provides workshops, in-depth consulting and conferences, provides access to SBA loans and other types of financing and is an information hub for women entrepreneurs.

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California

16 Anew America Community Corporation

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Web site: www.anewamerica.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2004
SBA Region:	9
Population:	

Colorado

17 Mi Casa Resource Center for Women, Inc.

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Web site: www.micasadenvr.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2004
SBA Region:	8
Population:	Suburban

Founded in 1976, Mi Casa Resource Center for Women provides quality employment and education services that promote economic independence for low-income, predominantly Latina women and youth. Services include educational counseling, job-readiness and job-search training, life-skills development, job placement, and non-traditional and computer-skills training. Mi Casa's belief that self-employment was a viable way for a woman to achieve self-sufficiency. Entrepreneurial training is provided through "Day and Evening Entrepreneurial Training Program". An entrepreneurial training course, "Mi Negocio," is offered in Spanish. Workbooks were developed for the courses, in English and Spanish. Mi Casa offers train-the-trainer opportunities, financial literacy classes are conducted and procurement training and technical assistance to other microenterprise organizations. In all the courses, individuals learn how to start a business and develop a business plan, with microloans available to program graduates. The Business Development Program Financial Resources Project offers Individual Development Accounts for business start-up or expansion. The center is an SBA Pre-Qual Lender and has an exclusive opportunity for clients in offering SBA Community Express Loans. The on-line business directory, "Let's Shop" is featured on the Mi Casa website.

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Connecticut

18 SBA's (OWBO-CT) The Entrepreneurial Ctr. At Hartford Colg. for Women of the U of Hartford

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Email: blakejack@hartford.edu; entrectr@hartford.edu; scahill@hartford.edu

Web site: www.entrepreneurialctr.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2004

SBA Region: 1

Population: Urban/Suburban

This program serves potential startup and established business owners throughout Connecticut, with special emphasis on women. The Center works in collaboration with the Connecticut Development Authority. Each spring and fall, The Entrepreneurial Center offers a series of 2-part Self-Assessment Workshops and conducts a 16-week Comprehensive Small Business Training Program. The Connecticut Development Authority provides assistance in accessing capital through their statewide URBANK Entrepreneurial Loan Program. By collaborating with statewide economic development organizations, The Center provides technical assistance throughout the life cycles of their businesses for all individuals who have received their Certificate of Completion of the Comprehensive Small Business Training Program. This program is the first of its kind in the nation, linking a state agency, a private entity (i.e., university) and a nonprofit in a formal partnership.

Connecticut

19 Women's Business Development Center (WBDC)-Stamford

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Web site: www.ctwbdc.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2004

SBA Region: 1

Population: Suburban

The Women's Business Development Center is a not-for-profit organization, established in 1998, that promotes economic development through entrepreneurship. The WBDC offers comprehensive business education and increased access to financial resources as essential business tools to economic independence. The WBDC offers myriad programs to meet the needs of aspiring, emerging and established entrepreneurs. One-to-one counseling, long-term training, workshops and symposiums are offered on virtually every aspect of establishing and growing a small business.

District of Columbia

20 Women's Business Center, Inc.

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Washington, DC 20036

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Fax: 202-785-4110

Email: ppompei@womensbusinesscenter.org

Web site: www.womensbusinesscenter.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2001

SBA Region: 3

Population: Urban

The Women's Business Center of the Captial Area is located in downtown, DC. The center offers the following menu of programs: "Introduction to Business Ownership," "Up and Running," "Managing a Business with Accountability," "Doing Business with the Government," "The Business Council," "The Roundtable," "The Business Laboratory," and "The Bottom Line." Through active mentoring programs, the center reaches a diverse population at all levels of business ownership.

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Florida

21 Alliance Women's Business Center

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Email: aleonwbc@allianceflorida.com

Web site: www.allianceflorida.com

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 4

Population:

Dedicated to offering training and technical assistance to new and nascent women entrepreneurs. The program places particular emphasis on reaching out to socially and economically disadvantaged populations. Located on the second level of the Alliance Business Center in a women-friendly environment and in partnership with Women's Business organizations throughout Central Florida. Services provided: Credit & Financial Literacy for Women, Small office/Home Office Business Opportunities, Micro Enterprise Development, Entrepreneur Development for Women, Online Business Counseling, Monthly Women's Business Roundtable and Networking, Mentoring and Business Counseling, Technical Assistance, Women's Business Conferences,

Florida

22 Florida Women's Business Center

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Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 4

Population:

The Florida Women's Business Center provides training, resources, referrals, support and advocacy to those seeking to create, sustain, or grow micro businesses. Training is provided on a variety of business topics and includes workshops and seminars on business topics such as how to start a business, business plan development, securing loans, marketing, and financial management. One-on-one counseling sessions are available with experienced business consultants and cover specific areas ranging from start-up assistance, strategic analysis, business feasibility and business planning. The FWBC also offers business incubation services to women seeking affordable office space to house their business. This program provides access to the multi-tenant facility and includes a client assessment, strategic plan, implementation plan and evaluation of performance. Clients of the FWBC also have access to state-of-the-art computer technology and internet access. Workstations with DSL Internet service provide access to Internet research for business planning and the ability to training clients on various business software products. Regular networking opportunities by the FWBC provide women business owners with a place to gather and network for mutual support and access to business resources.

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Florida

23 Jacksonville Women's Business Center a program of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce

Sandy Bartow, Executive Director

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Jacksonville, FL 32208

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Fax: 904-765-8966

Email: Sandy.Bartow@myjaxchamber.com

Web site: www.JaxWbc.com

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 4

Population:

The Jacksonville Women's Business Center (JWBC), a program of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, provides services to advance the success of women entrepreneurs. As the business organization of influence, the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce leads regional economic development, fosters a positive business climate and leverages essential resources that create, enhance and expand First Coast businesses. The goal of the JWBC is to positively impact the economy, helping women-led companies grow their revenues and add employees, as well as help aspiring women business owners to successfully start their businesses. The JWBC will provide access to entrepreneurial education, access to capital, and access to resources and networks necessary to grow successful ventures. The JWBC provides mentoring, training, consulting and networking opportunities to current and aspiring women business owners in a six-county area in the Jacksonville and surrounding area in NE Florida. Our center assists these entrepreneurs in acquiring and enhancing business knowledge and skills in business financing, marketing, management, technology and procurement. We are one of 105 women's business centers in the United States. As a public-private partnership the JWBC is partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Georgia

24 WEDA/Metropolitan Atlanta Women's Business Center

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Atlanta, GA 30312

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Web site: www.weda-atlanta.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2004

SBA Region: 4

Population:

The WEDA/ Metropolitan Atlanta Women's Business Center (MAWHC) provides business development, management and technical assistance to emerging, intermediate and advanced-stage women entrepreneurs throughout the twenty-two county metropolitan Atlanta areas. The centerpiece of the WEDA / MAWBC is the Atlanta Microenterprise Initiative, a comprehensive, fourteen-week workshop that helps emerging and new entrepreneurs learn how to start and manage a successful business, as well as how to determine funding needs and write a detailed business plan. Through support from the Internal Revenue Service the WEDA / MAWBC also offers Impuestos Ahora! (Taxes Now!), a Spanish-language-only workshop that helps Latino entrepreneurs understand their business taxpayer rights and responsibilities. Other seminars include the Non-Profit Workshop, the Patents and Trademarks Workshop and Demystifying the Business Financing Process, which are designed for owners of non-profit businesses, those with intellectual and similar business property and those seeking information on business funding options, respectively. The WEDA / MAWBC is also a SBA Technical Assistance Provider and originates and packages SBA-guaranteed Community Express microloans of up to \$25,000. Women's Economic Development Agency, Inc. (WEDA) is a bilingual organization and all MAWBC programs (With the exception of Impuestos Ahora!) are available in both English and Spanish.

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Georgia

25 Cobb Microenterprise Center at Kennesaw State University

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Web site: www.cobbmicro.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 4

Population:

The Women's Business Center of the Greater Metropolitan Atlanta Area, a program of The Cobb Microenterprise Center, will meet the needs of all Atlanta Area microenterprise training programs' alumni and Atlanta Area women entrepreneurs seeking assistance for the first time. The WBC offers a 6-week Business and Technical Assistance Training Program and one-on-one business consultation services for entrepreneurs seeking to launch, grow, or sustain a business; technology training through the Internet Marketing and E-Commerce Program, Intro to Business Information Systems, and Computers for Microentrepreneurs Program; and ongoing classes delivered throughout Metro Atlanta by the WBC's Business Institute which includes classes in sales and marketing, operations, financial management issues, legal issues, procurement opportunities, human resource issues, access to capital and SBA loan pre-qualification workshops. In 2005, the WBC services will also offer the use of The Enterprise Center, a new business incubator in Kennesaw, Georgia. The Women's Business Center of the Greater Metropolitan Atlanta Area targets low-to moderate-income women, women with disabilities and minorities.

Hawaii

26 Hawaii Women's Business Center

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Web site: www.HWBC.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2004

SBA Region: 9

Population: Urban/Island

If you are looking to become economically self-sufficient through entrepreneurship, you have come to the right place! The Hawaii Women's Business Center (HWBC) was created to support women interested in starting and growing their business and to assist in the economic development and diversification of Hawaii. HWBC provides technical assistance and support for women in business through one-on-one counseling, business management training, networking, Business Brown Bag Lunch Series, and quarterly women business owner evening roundtable events. Start your tour into the business world through our website at www.HWBC.org. Explore the wide variety of workshops and programs that can help you sharpen your business skills, sign up for our evening orientation session and receive an overview of all the business resources available to you through HWBC. Our center is located within the Small Business Resource Center (SBRC), along with SBA's Business Information Counseling Center (BICC). Within the center, a small computer lab is available to clients to facilitate the development of your business plan with the use of Business Plan Pro software, Research through the internet and develop new technology skills. The center also offers other print resource materials, entrepreneurial guides and periodicals. Visit our center and join other women business owners who are changing and growing Hawaii's economy.

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

Women's Business Centers (WBCs) represent a national network of more than 100 educational resource centers designed to assist women start and grow small businesses. WBCs operate with the mission to level the playing field for women entrepreneurs, who still face unique obstacles in the world of business.

(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Iowa

27 Iowa Women Enterprise Center

Debra Carr, Director of Microenterprise

910 23rd Avenue

Coralville, IA 52241

Telephone: 319-338-2331

Fax: 319-338-5824

Email: dcarr@ised.org

Web site: www.ised.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2003

SBA Region: 7

Population: Rural

The Iowa Women's Business Center is part of a consortium of all the major business-development organizations in Iowa and serves every level of woman business owner across the state in a unified and intensive way. The consortium, which has locations in six cities plus 15 SBDC sub-centers and a Web site, is led by the nonprofit ISED, which has a long history of providing self-employment training programs, especially to the socially and economically disadvantaged.

Illinois

28 WBDC, Chicago

Janice Lopez, Project Director

8 South Michigan Avenue

Chicago, IL 60603

Telephone: 312-853-3477 x36

Fax: 312-853-0145

Email: jlopez@wbdc.org

Web site: www.wbdc.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2003

SBA Region: 5

Population: Urban

Founded in 1986, the Women's Business Development Center serves women business owners in the greater Chicago area, and advocates for women business owners nationwide. The WBDC has helped establish women's business centers since 1989 in Illinois, Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. The WBDC provides a variety of entrepreneurial training courses and seminars: one-to-one counseling; financial assistance and loan packaging for microloans; the SBA Loan Prequalification Program, and other SBA and government loan programs, technology, e-business and equity finance programs; WBE certification, and private- and public-sector procurement; an annual conference and Women's Buyers Mart; and extensive advocacy and policy development for women's economic and business-development issues. A strategic alliance with private and public partners will extend WBDC's reach to the most needy communities. The WBDC also provides services through a local bank's "Wheels of Business" van, which travels to low-income neighborhoods and offers training and counseling.

Illinois

29 EDGE

Holly Hanson, Executive Director

605 Fulton Avenue

Rockford, IL 61103

Telephone: 815-316-6366

Fax: 815-316-6345

Email: hhanson@edge-ni.org

Web site: www.edge-ni.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 5

Population:

EDGE provides business education, counseling, mentoring and networking for entrepreneurs and small businesses. Our mission is to help build financially sound businesses across each stage of business development--start-up, management, expansion and continuous improvement. Our offerings include professional seminars, one-on-one counseling, and peer focus groups. We help clients identify appropriate funding sources for their business; become certified as minority-owned, women-owned or disadvantaged businesses; and complete documents needed for financing and certification programs. We also match interested clients with business coaches or subject-matter experts in relevant fields. Throughout, we work with other local business assistance groups to provide a full range of services without duplicating existing quality programs.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Indiana

30 Women's Enterprise, A Program of the Fort Wayne's Women's Bureau

Leslie Alford, Director

3521 Lake Ave., Suite 1

Fort Wayne, IN 46805-5533

Telephone: 260-424-7977

Fax: 260-426-7576

Email: info@womensenterprise.org

Web site: www.womensenterprise.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2004

SBA Region: 5

Population: Urban/Suburban

Women's Enterprise is the first Women's Business Center in the State of Indiana. Our mission is to promote economic development and independence through entrepreneurial assistance and advocacy for women. Our vision is to be recognized statewide as an organization that provides women, including those who are economically or socially disadvantaged, the tools necessary for economic independence, through programs and resources that accelerate business success, growth and profitability. Counseling, mentoring and training is offered in the following areas: General Business, Marketing and advertising, Market Research & Analysis, Financing/Lending, Accounting/Budgeting, Legal, Internet/E-Commerce, Insurance, Credit Counseling, Starting a Not-For-Profit Business, Bookkeeping/Payroll, Commercial Real Estate, Business Plan Creation, Human Resources/Personnel, and Financial Planning. Women's Enterprise offers business development services designed specifically to reach Northeast Indiana's growing minority populations. An aggressive effort to made to find materials and mentors who can work our community's diverse cultures.

Indiana

31 Neighborhood Self-Employment Initiative and The Central Indiana WBC

Sharon Odonoghue, Executive Director

615 N. Alabama, Suite 216

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Telephone: 317 917 3266

Fax: 317 916-8921

Email: sodonoghue@nsibiz.org

Web site: www.nsibiz.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 5

Population:

The Central Indiana Women's Business Center is a program of the Neighborhood Self-Employment Initiative. The Center provides services to emerging and existing business owners in the 10 county Indianapolis metropolitan area. The 10-county area includes Marion, Hamilton, Hancock, Shelby, Johnson, Brown, Morgan, Hendricks, Putnam and Boone counties. Some of the Center's assistance is provided in Spanish. The Center's services include business training classes and workshops, one-on-one business counseling, mentoring and Internet related training. Business training includes the 20-hour Business Beginnings course that covers major topics related to starting and operating a business. While the Center's services are available to anyone, we heavily target our efforts toward people who are not in the economic mainstream. This includes the working poor, immigrants, female heads of households, minorities, under-and unemployed and others who experience barriers to full participation in the mainstream economy. For many in our target group, starting a small business may make the difference between poverty and self-sufficiency.

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Kansas

32 Kansas Women's Business Center

Sherry Turner, President

8527 Bluejacket Street

Lenexa, KS 66214

Telephone: 913-592-5922

Fax: 913-888-6928

Email: sturner@kansaswbc.com

Web site: www.kansaswbc.com

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2005

SBA Region: 7

Population: Urban/Rural

The Kansas Women's Business Center (KWBC) provides services to advance the success of women business owners, resulting in a stronger entrepreneurial economy. Serving clients statewide, the KWBC provides access to capital, education, and resources to women entrepreneurs at every stage of business development through business counseling, seminars, classes, & workshops, networking and mentoring. As a program of the Enterprise Center of Johnson County, which itself operates as a business incubator in the high business growth area of Johnson County, Kansas, the KWBC offers a host of services designed to enhance a client's entrepreneurial and general business knowledge. Training and assistance is available in areas such as finance, marketing, business management, technology and government procurement. While services are open to everyone, scholarships target socially and economically disadvantaged women. Mentoring roundtables meet monthly for peer to peer and expert counseling in various business functions. KWBC training programs include FastTrac NewVenture, FastTrac Planning, STARTing a Profitable Small Business, Listening to Your Business, Out of Your Head and Into Business, and Fast Forward Strategic Planning. The center also hosts a weekly radio show, Enterprising Women, presenting creative ways to help entrepreneurs start and grow their companies.

Louisiana

33 ULGNO Women's Business Resource Center

Patrice A. Williams-Smith, Executive Director

2322 Canal Street, Suite 100 New Orleans

New Orleans, LA 70119

Telephone: 504-620-9650

Fax: 504-620-9659

Email: paw_s@bellsouth.net

Web site:

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2001

SBA Region: 6

Population: Urban

The New Orleans metropolitan area, the target area of the WBC, is home to 24% single-female headed households, 62% African American and 53% of households are described as low income. Among the services they will provide are: the organization of at least one trade association of home-based women entrepreneurs, i.e., childcare providers, to maximize their profitability and management capabilities; development of a micro-business loan fund with the participation of at least one bank; seminars with such topics as "So You Think You Can Cook---Try Catering," "e-commerce From Your Home," and "Getting Government Contracts." Long-term training will use the NxLevel curriculum. Basic etiquette, dining out, gift giving, accepting invitations, saying thank you will also be a part of their training.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Massachusetts

34 Center for Women & Enterprise

Jolene Jennings, Program Manager

50 Elm Street, 2nd Floor

Worcester, MA 01609

Telephone: 508-453-9202

Fax: 508-363-2323

Email: jjennings@cweonline.org

Web site: www.cweonline.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2001

SBA Region: 1

Population: Urban

CWE offers assistance to women business owners in several formations: -Destination Success, which concentrates workshops into a half day long event, allowing business owners to choose from specific workshops on relevant topics in a single day. - Information sessions on subjects such as pros and cons of owning your business, e-commerce and internet marketing, finance Q&A, procurement and others as determined by client demand. - Facilitated long-term groups that help women with start up (First Step Fast Trac, Community Entrepreneurs Program and Business Plan Workshop) or growth and stabilization (WNET-roundtable mentoring) of their businesses. One-on-one counseling through CWE staff and resource partners that focuses on loan packaging, procurement, and finance issues as well as a range of marketing and management issues as needed.

Maryland

35 Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore, Inc. (WEB)

Amanda Zinn, Chief Executive Officer

1118 Light Street, Suite 202

Baltimore, MD 21230

Telephone: 410 727 4921 x16

Fax: 410 727 4989

Email: aczinn@webinc.org

Web site: www.webinc.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2002

SBA Region: 3

Population: Urban

Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore, a non-profit organization, is an entrepreneurial training program designed to help economically disadvantaged women become self-sufficient through business development. The main components of the WEB Program include: an intensive, three-month business-skills training course; mentoring; financing strategy development; community networking; resource sharing; professional business consultation; Internet training; and government certification and procurement, and information and referral services.

Michigan

36 Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women

Rita VanderVen, Executive Director

25 Sheldon Street, SE Suite 210

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Telephone: 616-458-3404

Fax: 616-458-6557

Email: rvanderven@growbusiness.org

Web site: www.growbusiness.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2001

SBA Region: 5

Population: Suburban/Rural

GROW offers Business Readiness, Start-Up, and Business Plan classes and Economic self-sufficiency training and asset building through its Matched Savings program plus counseling, workshop and networking opportunities. GROW is actively involved in providing training for home-based day-care providers in business management and setting up financial management systems. Established businesses participate in the Upclose seminars on topics such as certification, procurement and networking,

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Michigan

37 Cornerstone Alliance

Margaret Adams, Project Director

38 West Wall Street

Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Telephone: 269 925 6100

Fax:

Email: madams@cstonealliance.org

Web site: www.cstonealliance.org/wbc

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 5

Population:

The WBC at Cornerstone Alliance provides the entrepreneurial training needed to start a small business, as well as the follow-up services needed to sustain and expand a business. We've tailored the programs to fit the needs of our constituency. Programs and counseling are offered in at least two languages (English and Spanish). Since starting a business often affects all aspects of a woman's life, the WBC at Cornerstone Alliance has four components: personal readiness assessment, business readiness assessment, entrepreneurial training/business plan development, and follow-up services. Follow-up services include one-on-one business counseling, seminars, a microloan fund, technical assistance, and networking opportunities. Our entrepreneurial training/business plan development class includes, but are not limited to Core Four Business Planning Course; Internet Training; Women's Network for Entrepreneur Training (WNET)/Roundtable and Mentoring Program; Economic Literacy; Certification Institute (the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential is awarded to qualified caregivers who have been trained to provide quality care for children); Workshops (our workshops zero in on specific topics of interest to small business owners and give participants the benefit of straight talk from people in the field); and Networking and Volunteerism.

Michigan

38 Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute, Inc.

Monique Maddox, Vice President of Operations

455 W. Fort Street, 4th Floor

Detroit, MI 48226

Telephone: 313-877-9060

Fax: 313-961-8831

Email: hakiema@msn.com; deibus@aol.com;

cmcclelland@deibus.org

Web site: www.deibus.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: S-2005

SBA Region: 5

Population: Urban

Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute, Inc. serves businesses owned by individuals with low-to-moderate incomes and others who are seeking self-sufficiency through entrepreneurship. DEI offers two long-term (11-week) classes for current or potential business owners. The Self-Employment Initiative is open to individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families through the Michigan Family Independence Agency, and the Enterprise Development Initiative is open to low-to-moderate income individuals, dislocated workers, individuals with disabilities and others. DEI offers a business computer center, business reference library, graphics & print department, employment specialist and personal development consultant. Through the Women's Enterprise Center (WEC), DEI is able to further provide Internet training, economic-literacy classes, industry-specific consultants, mentorships and networking, and conference opportunities to women who are current or potential business owners and have successfully completed one of the DEI business-skills training programs. The WEC also offers Internet training and economic-literacy training to all women business owners in Southeastern Michigan.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Minnesota

39 Northeast Entrepreneur Fund in Minnesota

Annie Fahrenkrug, Program Director
8355 Unity Drive, Ste. 100
Virginia, MN 55792
Telephone: 218-726-4791
Fax: 218-749-5213
Email: annief@entrepreneurfund.org
Web site: www.entrepreneurfund.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2004
SBA Region:	5
Population:	

The Northeast Entrepreneur Fund Women's Business Center serves potential and existing women entrepreneurs in a 9-county region of northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. We help women start, stabilize, or expand small businesses in our region through training, business counseling, and financing. We also offer opportunities through mentorship and formal networking events. The Northeast Entrepreneur Fund Women's Business Center intends to raise public awareness of women entrepreneurs through presentations to various organizations, clubs, and agencies; placing articles in the media; and being an advocate for women on local, state, and national levels. Business planning workshops and classes are offered regularly at several locations throughout our region, as well as online. Our business development and training staff consists of experienced entrepreneurs who provide both individual consulting and group training. Loans are available to individuals who may be unable to receive financing from a bank or other traditional source; we offer loans of up to \$35,000 to start-up business or up to \$100,000 to existing businesses and experienced entrepreneurs. For more information on our programs and services, visit the Northeast Entrepreneur Fund website at www.entrepreneurfund.org.

Minnesota

40 WomenVenture

Heidi Pliam, Business Development Director
2324 University Avenue West, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55114
Telephone: 651-251-0672
Fax: 651-641-7223
Email: wbc@womenventure.org
Web site: www.womenventure.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2005
SBA Region:	5
Population:	Urban

WomenVenture's mission is to assist women in securing their own economic success and prosperity. This empowerment occurs through consulting and training in a variety of areas: business development, career transitioning, training for women to enter non-traditional occupations (which provide better lifetime earnings) and education and mentoring of young women around economic issues. The WomenVenture Business Center provides technical assistance to women entrepreneurs through one-on-one consulting, business-planning seminars and workshops plus advanced business training through the College of St. Catherine distance learning modules. The Center is an intermediary for the SBA Loan Prequalification and Microloan programs, providing microloans from \$200 to \$25,000. Please visit the WomenVenture Web site.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Missouri

41 Grace Hill's Women's Business Center

Kendra Martin, Project Director
2324 N Florissant Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63106

Telephone: 314-539-9663

Fax: 314- 539-9666

Email: KendraM@GraceHill.org; carlab@gracehill.org;

Web site: www.gracehill.org/wbc

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2004

SBA Region:	7
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Population:	Urban
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The Grace Hill Women's Business Center (GHWBC) is located in the city of St. Louis. The project's comprehensive regional scope includes St. Louis City and three counties. The WBC strives to be a centralized service stop for women, mainly African-American, to start or expand their small businesses. Long-term training for start-up and business expansion is provided in cooperation with the local Small Business Development Center (SBDC). In addition, the Grace Hill WBC offers one-on-one counseling, marketing and procurement assistance, computer training, loan packaging and micro-lending. A focal part of the center is outreach and marketing primarily to low and moderate income women who are socially and/or economically disadvantaged. Grace Hill Women's Business Center is housed within a business incubator and provides direct support for the incubator patrons. The center's staff is committed to partnering the assets and expertise of Grace Hill's WBC and the Small Business Administration to positively impact women in our community.

Missouri

42 Missouri Women's Business Center (WBC at GO Connection, Inc.)

Lori Kravets, Project Director

4747 Troost Avenue

Kansas City, MO 64110

Telephone: 816-235-6146

Fax: 816-235-6177

Email: lkravets@missouriwbc.com

Web site: www.goconnection.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2005

SBA Region:	7
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Population:	Urban
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The Western Missouri Women's Business Center is located in the heart of Kansas City, Missouri, and serves the Missouri side of the Kansas City Metro as well as western Missouri. The Center's mission is to provide women entrepreneurs with the training, education, advising, and access to funding they need to build financially sound businesses---at every stage of development. The Center provides long-term training workshops, one-on-one advising, access to capital (through our Microloan program), mentoring programs, outreach seminars, and networking opportunities for our clients. The Center has as its goal, to create an equal opportunity for the success of all women entrepreneurs by providing special services for low- to moderate-income women and women who are socially and economically disadvantaged. This includes the "First Step FastTrac" training program offered three times a year, in addition to a Family Child Care Entrepreneurial program. Computers are available for training sessions as well as website and e-commerce tips. The Center's staff is dedicated to providing the highest quality of service to its clients and the community in order to enhance economic growth and personal achievement.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Mississippi

43 MACE Women's Business Center

William Brown, Project Director
119 South Theobald Street
Greenville, MS 38701
Telephone: 662 335 3523
Fax: 662-334-2939
Email: macetop@bellsouth.net
Web site: www.deltamac.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2002
SBA Region:	4
Population:	Rural

Mississippi Action for Community Education Inc. (MACE) administers the Mississippi Women's Business Center. MACE has been in the forefront of economic-development in the Delta for the past thirty-five years. Its target customers are disadvantaged persons and under-served communities in one of the most economically depressed areas in the country. The goal of the MACE Women's Business Center is consistent with the organization's mission: "Helping people to help themselves." The WBC educates women on all aspects of business development, including principles of business management, social responsibility and how to build wealth consistent with the cultural dynamics of the delta. We offer small business training, on-going technical assistance, one-on-one counseling to start-up and existing business owners. The WBC utilizes MACE's teleconferencing centers to extend our services to rural/isolated communities that are otherwise unable to access training and technical assistance.

Montana

44 Blackfeet Women's Business Center

Ray Montoya, Project Director
Quarters 108 Government Square
Browning, MT 59417
Telephone: 406-338-7406
Fax: 406 338 7530/7206
Email: Ray.Montoya@blackfeetplanning.org
Web site:

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2004
SBA Region:	8
Population:	

Montana

45 Business Resource Center

Joe Bower, Director
347 North Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
Telephone: 406.443.0800 ex.39
Fax: 406-442-2745
Email: jbower@ctibrc.org
Web site: www.ctibrc.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2001
SBA Region:	8
Population:	Rural

The mission of the Business Resource Center is to provide financial, management, marketing, and technical training assistance to small business owners with a focus on women and minorities. The Business Resource Center serves start-up and growing businesses in Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater and Meagher counties. Confidential business counseling is available for help in writing business plans, cash flow projections or other business matters. The Business Resource Center offers classes each quarter on topics of interest to the small business owner, creating a stronger, better informed business community. The ultimate Goal of the Business Resource Center and its Host agency the Career Training Institute is to partner the workforce and business

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

North Carolina

46 The Clark Jones Group

Verona P. Edmond, Director
114 West Parrish Street, 4th Floor; P.O. Box 1331
Durham, NC 27701
Telephone: 919-956-8889
Fax: 919-688-4358
Email: vedmond@ncimed.com
Web site: www.ncimed.com

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2005
SBA Region:	4
Population:	Urban

The North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development targets both urban and rural women seeking business assistance within the state of North Carolina. The center provides orientation, short- and long-term training, mentoring and networking. Classes range from business start ups to financing and ongoing management assistance.

North Carolina

47 Mountain Microenterprise Fund

Sharon Oxendine, Director
29- 1/2 Page Ave.
Ashville, NC 28801
Telephone: 828-253-2834 ex.28
Fax: 828-255-7953
Email: sharon@mtnmicro.org
Web site: www.mtnmicro.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2003
SBA Region:	4
Population:	Rural

The Mountain Microenterprise Fund Women's Business Center, serving current and potential women business owners in the 12 county area of Western North Carolina, delivers knowledge and resources so that women from underserved communities can develop their own businesses and achieve their goals and dreams. The Women's Business Center offers a variety of services including an 8-week business planning course, one-on-one technical assistance, monthly training and networking seminars and access to loans. MMF works toward the fulfillment of its mission through five specific programs that form a comprehensive network of services and support for start-up and growing businesses. AEO has learned that comprehensive microenterprise development programming consists of four key elements. These are: Training and Technical Assistance, Credit and Access to

North Carolina

48 The Women's Center of Fayetteville

Judi Superak, Director
230 Hay Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Telephone: 910-323-3377
Fax: 910-323-8828
Email: jsuperak@wcof.org; sray@wcof.org
Web site: www.wcof.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2003
SBA Region:	4
Population:	Urban

The mission of the North Carolina Center for Women Business Owners is to assist members of the community to achieve lifetime economic stability for themselves and their families through business ownership. It provides entrepreneurial training through one-on-one counseling, classes, and workshops. The programs of the center maintain high local credibility and are enhanced through strong community partnerships. The center serves a diverse population in Cumberland County and surrounding areas to

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

North Dakota

49 Women & Technology

Tara Holt, Director
1022 East Divide Avenue, PO Box 2535 (58502)
Bismarck, ND 58501
Telephone: 701-223-0707
Fax: 701-223-2507
Email: holt@trainingnd.com
Web site: www.techwomen.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2004
SBA Region:	8
Population:	Urban/Rural

Through partnerships with SBA resources, colleges and universities, the North Dakota Department of Commerce, the Center for Technology and Business/Women and Technology Program provides simplified computer training business-development and technical assistance to clients throughout North Dakota. The center has developed a simplified curriculum to teach rural and reservation-based folks how to use a computer with Microsoft programs in just 12 hours. They have published five books: Introductory, Intermediate, Windows Management, Power Up with Projects, and Web Page Design, plus numerous modules such as PowerPoint, Access, Digital Images for Realtors and rural City Planners. These programs are run through the business information center, tribal business information centers, and economic-development offices throughout the state. During their first

Nebraska

50 Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP)

Glennis McClure, WBC Director
145 Main Street, PO Box 136
Lyons, NE 68038-0136
Telephone: 402-645-3296
Fax: 402-645-3296
Email: reapwbc@diodecom.net
Web site: www.cfra.org/reap

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2001
SBA Region:	7
Population:	Rural

The Women's Business Center in Nebraska is a program of the Center for Rural Affairs' Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP). REAP's WBC is the first and only SBA funded Women's Business Center in the state of Nebraska. REAP is committed to strengthening rural communities through small, self-employed business development assistance. REAP's Women's Business Center project is a center without "walls", using REAP's infrastructure with business specialists located throughout the state to deliver the WBC services to rural small businesses. REAP's Women's Business Center will serve existing and start-up self-employed women across rural Nebraska, improve the accessibility of REAP's basic business training across Nebraska for women, provide Internet training for women in business on a regional basis, participate in an on-line Women's Business Center (OWBC) co-sponsored by SBA, increase REAP's outreach to provide training, technical assistance, networking and lending, targeting socially and economically disadvantaged women through our existing infrastructure.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

New Hampshire

51 Women's Business Center, Inc.

Ellen Fineberg, Executive Director
1555 Lafayette Road, 2nd Floor
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Telephone: 603-430-2892
Fax: 603-430-3706
Email: ellen@womenbiz.org
Web site: www.womenbiz.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2002
SBA Region:	1
Population:	Rural

The Women's Business Center, a New Hampshire-based nonprofit, promotes women's business ownership as a means to maximize personal potential and achieve economic independence. The New Hampshire WBC, established in 1995, supports entrepreneurial women as they begin and grow their businesses. The NH WBC is physically located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire but offers programs and services across the region of southeastern New Hampshire, northern Massachusetts and southern Maine. The WBC accomplishes its mission by providing Educational Programming, Advocacy, Networking, Counseling and Mentorship. The NH WBC programs provide access to information, networking and skill development opportunities. Our intensive course, "Business Development for Women" take potential women business owners through business, financial and marketing planning to establish the knowledge and skills to start or grow their business. Check out the "Program Calendar" section of our website, www.womenbiz.org to see the most recent programs and opportunities. Participation in NH Women's Business Center activities is open to anyone regardless of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, or familial status.

New Jersey

52 NJ Assoc. of Women Business Owners Women's Business Center

Penni Nafus, Project Director
White Horse Commercial Park, 127 US Highway 206, Suite
Hamilton, NJ 08610
Telephone: 609-581-2220
Fax: 609-581-6749
Email: pnafus@njawbo.org; sscocchio@njawbo.org
Web site: www.njawbo.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2004
SBA Region:	2
Population:	Urban/Suburban

NJAWBO's Women's Business Center of New Jersey specializes in entrepreneurial training for women business owners. Classes include "Introduction to Quick Books," "Are You an Entrepreneur?," "Start Right!," "The Power of Good credit for Entrepreneurs", "Profit Savvy," "Marketing Magic," and "Doing Business with the Government." Available throughout the state, WBC classes address the needs of neophytes, as well as seasoned business owners, helping them maximize business growth and profitability, learn management methods, improve business skills, and build support, referral and resource networks. Individual

New Mexico

53 Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST) Corp.

Anthony Urquidez, Regional Manager
200 West First Street, Suite 527
Roswell, NM 88203
Telephone: 505-624-9850
Fax: 505-624-9845
Email: aurquidez@wesst.org; cwilson@wesst.org
Web site: www.wesst.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2004
SBA Region:	6
Population:	Rural

The Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team was incorporated in 1988 to assist low-income and minority women throughout New Mexico. WESST Corp. clients typically need long-term training and technical assistance. The centers serve both startup and expanding businesses, and provide training and counseling in both English and Spanish. Counseling and mentoring are offered through professional volunteers including attorneys, accountants, insurance agents and benefits counselors. Because of the rural nature of the areas it serves, WESST Corp. trainers often travel to clients' businesses. WESST Corp. has the only SBA Microloan Program in New Mexico and is an SBA Loan Prequalification Program intermediary. Under its newest grant, WESST Corp. serves Roswell and the surrounding seven-county area. With the closing of the Levi Strauss plant in the fall of 1997, the area's unemployment rate jumped to one of the highest in southeast New Mexico -- more than 12 percent, with approximately a fourth of the residents living below the poverty line.

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

New Mexico

54 Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST)

Debbie Baca, Project Director

107 South First Street

Gallup, NM 87301

Telephone: 505 241 4758

Fax:

Email: dbaca@wesst.org

Web site: www.wesst.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 6

Population:

The Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team was incorporated in 1988 to assist low-income and minority women throughout New Mexico. WESST Corp. clients typically need long-term training and technical assistance. The centers serve both startup and expanding businesses, and provide training and counseling in both English and Spanish. Counseling and mentoring are offered through professional volunteers including attorneys, accountants, insurance agents and benefits counselors. Because of the rural nature of the areas it serves, WESST Corp. trainers often travel to clients' businesses. WESST Corp. has the only SBA Microloan Program in New Mexico and is an SBA Loan Prequalification Program intermediary. Under its newest grant, WESST Corp. serves Roswell and the surrounding seven-county area. With the closing of the Levi Strauss plant in the fall of 1997, the area's unemployment rate jumped to one of the highest in southeast New Mexico -- more than 12 percent, with approximately a fourth of the residents living below the poverty line.

New Mexico

55 Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST) Corp.

Bette Bradbury, Regional Manager

3900 Paseo de Sol, Suite 322A, Building I

Santa Fe, NM 87505

Telephone: 505-474-6556

Fax: 505-474-6687

Email: daquilina@wesst.org; jcbbrad@aol.com

Web site: www.wesst.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: S-2002

SBA Region: 6

Population: Rural

The Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team was incorporated in 1988 to assist low-income and minority women throughout New Mexico. WESST Corp. clients typically need long-term training and technical assistance. The centers serve both startup and expanding businesses, and provide training and counseling in both English and Spanish. Counseling and mentoring are offered through professional volunteers including attorneys, accountants, insurance agents and benefits counselors. Because of the rural nature of the areas it serves, WESST Corp. trainers often travel to clients' businesses. WESST Corp. has the only SBA Microloan Program in New Mexico and is an SBA Loan Prequalification Program intermediary. Under its newest grant, WESST Corp. serves Roswell and the surrounding seven-county area. With the closing of the Levi Strauss plant in the fall of 1997, the area's unemployment rate jumped to one of the highest in southeast New Mexico -- more than 12 percent, with approximately a fourth of the residents living below the poverty line.

New Mexico

56 Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST) Corp.

Clara Zurawski, Regional Manager

700 4th St SW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Telephone: 505-241-0794

Fax: 505-241-0707

Email: czurawski@wesst.org; bmuno@wesst.org

Web site: www.wesst.org; www.wesstartisans.com

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: S-2001

SBA Region: 6

Population: Urban

The Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team was incorporated in 1988 to assist low-income and minority women throughout New Mexico. WESST Corp. clients typically need long-term training and technical assistance. The centers serve both startup and expanding businesses, and provide training and counseling in both English and Spanish. Counseling and mentoring are offered through professional volunteers including attorneys, accountants, insurance agents and benefits counselors. Because of the rural nature of the areas it serves, WESST Corp. trainers often travel to clients' businesses. WESST Corp. has the only SBA Microloan Program in New Mexico and is an SBA Loan Prequalification Program intermediary. Under its newest grant, WESST Corp. serves Roswell and the surrounding seven-county area. With the closing of the Levi Strauss plant in the fall of 1997, the area's unemployment rate jumped to one of the highest in southeast New Mexico -- more than 12 percent, with approximately a fourth of the residents living below the poverty line.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Nevada

57 Nevada Micro-Enterprise Development Corporation

Anna Siefert, Project Director

1600 E. Desert Inn, Suite 203

Las Vegas, NV 89109

Telephone: 702-734-3555

Fax: 702-734-3530

Email: asiefert@4microbiz.org

Web site: www.4microbiz.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2003

SBA Region: 9

Population:

Our Mission: To enhance the economic self-sufficiency and quality of life of low to moderate-income individuals through entrepreneurial training, technical assistance and access to loans for new and expanding businesses throughout the State of

New York

58 Women's Enterprise Development Center, Inc.

Julie C. Peskoe, Project Director

707 Westchester Ave.

White Plains, NY 10604

Telephone: 914 948 6098

Fax:

Email: Jpeskoe@westchester.org; ajaniak@westchester.org

Web site:

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2003

SBA Region: 2

Population: Urban

The Women's Enterprise Development Center (WEDC) offers assistance in White Plains, NY and reaches to NY Lower Hudson Valley including Northern Westchester County, Putnam County, and Rockland County. WEDC's four target populations are low-income women and women transitioning off public assistance; displaced homemakers; Latinas; and child care providers. WEDC also outreaches to survivors of domestic violence. Among the services they provide are a multi-tiered service delivery model, helping clients gain both business and personal skills needed to manage their businesses and achieve economic self-sufficiency; networking events; comprehensive printed entrepreneurial training curriculum in both English and Spanish; computer-based trainings, to be conducted at various locations throughout southern Westchester County. Each client is offered an opportunity to be paired with a volunteer mentor from the local women's business community.

New York

59 The Women's Business Resource Center (Hunts Point)

Elisa Balabram, President/CEO

866 Hunts Point Avenue

Bronx, NY 10474

Telephone: 718 842 8888

Fax: 718 868 9116

Email: ebalabram@hpwbrc.org; JsInfante@aol.com

Web site: www.huntspointedc.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2001

SBA Region: 2

Population: Urban

All clients will fill out an intake form so they can be assisted with the exact needs of the clients. The Entrepreneurial Assistance Program provides 50 hours of training through a 10-week course. Monthly entrepreneurs clubs will provide ongoing mentoring.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

New York

60 Business Outreach Center Network

Nancy Carin, Project Director
85 South Oxford Street, Suite 2A
Brooklyn, NY 11217
Telephone: 718 624 9115
Fax: 718 246 3272; 718-246-1881
Email: ncarin@bocnet.org
Web site: www.bocnet.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**
First Year Funding: R-2004
SBA Region: 2
Population:

New York

61 Canisius College

Melinda Sanderson, Executive Director
2365 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214
Telephone: 716 888 6650
Fax: 716 888 6654
Email: sandersm@canisius.edu; oconnor5@canisius.edu
Web site: www.canisius.edu/wbc

Status: **Currently Funded Center**
First Year Funding: R-2003
SBA Region: 2
Population: Urban

The Women's Business Center, located in the New York State Empire Zone and banking development district, provides a three-pronged approach to supporting and promoting the success of entrepreneurs and small business owners: Training, Counseling and Mentoring. Training includes the Women's 9-session Leadership Certificate program that meets in the evenings. Additional business workshops are offered throughout the year on campus and at various community locations in collaboration with the SBA and other organizations. Scholarships are available to economically and socially disadvantaged women. Counseling is available from bankers, attorneys, accountants and insurance professionals. Mentors are available through the local chapter of NAWBO (National Association of Women's Business Owners). The Center has computers available to participants with access to

New York

62 Queens Economic Development Corp. - WBC (Borough Hall)

Vivian Chang, Project Director
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Suite 309
Queens, NY 11424
Telephone: 718 263 0546
Fax: 718 263 0594
Email: vchang@queensny.org
Web site: www.queensny.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**
First Year Funding: R-2001
SBA Region: 2
Population: Urban

The WBC will pay particular attention to immigrant women in the neighborhoods with the highest concentration of immigrants in Queens: Flushing, Jackson Heights, Corona, Elmhurst and Rego Park-Forest Hills. In 1999, there were 89,300 residents of Queens receiving public assistance. They are developing the St. Albans Market Place, a neighborhood development project designed to offer economic opportunities for micro-enterprise businesses by providing flexible selling spaces. They will office a youth entrepreneur program in collaboration with existing Queens youth programs. A youth entrepreneur curriculum has been developed for minority youth who have very limited opportunities to learn about entrepreneur concepts and models. The

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

New York

63 Women's Venture Fund, Inc.

Bette Yee, Project Director
545 Eighth Avenue, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10018
Telephone: 212-868-9116
Fax: 212-863-9116
Email: info@wvf-ny.org
Web site: www.womensventurefund.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2002
SBA Region:	2
Population:	Urban

The Women's Venture Fund is based on a radically simple idea: empowering women, particularly low-income women, to create new businesses by making microloans available to them, and then ensuring their success through mentoring and training. The Fund makes microloans to entrepreneurial women who cannot get funding through conventional sources. These women have great ideas but desperately need small loans, business planning, and the support it takes to develop a business into reality. By addressing their credit and training needs, the Fund enhances the ability of women to grow their businesses over time.

New York

64 Community Action Agency of Franklin County, Inc., dba ComLinks

Brenda Mallette-Glennon, Project Director
343 West Main Street
Malone, NY 12953
Telephone: 518- 483-1261
Fax: 518 483 8599
Email: brenda.mallette-glennon@comlinkscaa.org
Web site: www.comlinkscaa.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2004
SBA Region:	2
Population:	

The Northern New York Women's Entrepreneurial Business Center, run by ComLinks, will provide training to encourage and assist the start-up and expansion of small businesses.

Recognizing that a job is the best way out of poverty, much of our planning is based on increasing our involvement in programs that assist low-income women with employment, business, and job skills. Because jobs are hard to come by throughout the Northern New York/Canadian border region, we believe the right focus for our organization is to develop an aggressive, consistent and sustainable program to encourage and assist women in their personal efforts to create, launch and expand their own small businesses.

The new center will provide training in financing, marketing, management, technical assistant, networking and support. A focus on business expansion will be added for successful start-up companies now ready to expand or diversify their companies, along with a basic course to help low-skilled individuals acquire the foundation of business skills and knowledge they need to develop and launch successful business ventures.

The Northern New York WEBC has chosen the Fast Trac Program, developed by the Kaufman Entrepreneurial Program in Kansas City, to serve as one of the core curriculum. It was selected for both the variety of topics covered and the training program's three levels of instruction-"First Step" for low-skilled individuals, "New Venture" for those seeking to start a business, and "Planning" for existing business owners. Additionally, we will provide outside consultants and contractors to provide counseling, training and technical assistance, based upon their areas of expertise in loan packaging, marketing assistance or Internet training.

Together with the SBA's commitment to helping women entrepreneurs and our WEBC organization we will achieve its national objectives of adding more well-trained women entrepreneurs to the work force.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

New York

65 Women's Business Center of New York State

Donna L. Rebisz, President/CEO

200 Genesee Street

Utica, NY 13502

Telephone: 315-733-9848

Fax: 315-733-0247

Email: nywbc@aol.com

Web site: www.nywbc.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2001

SBA Region: 2

Population: Urban/Suburban/Rur

Upstate New York, the target area of the WBC, has both rural and urban areas that are economically distressed. In the city of Utica, where the WBC is located, 82.5% of households are described as below the poverty level. Among the programs are: home-based businesses, disadvantaged youth entrepreneurship for success, choosing your business niche, all aspects of business basics, importing/exporting, franchise, total quality management, doing business on the Internet.

New York

66 The Local Development Corporation of East New York

Ojeda Hall-Phillips, Director

80 Jamaica Avenue, 3rd Fl

Brooklyn, NY 11207

Telephone: 718-385-6700x107

Fax: 718-385-7505

Email: ojedahp@ldceny.org

Web site: www.ldceny.org

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: S-2005

SBA Region: 2

Population: Urban

The Local Development Corporation of East New York provides training, counseling, mentoring, and assistance in the areas of finance, management, marketing, government procurement, loan and loan packaging. The center provides business workshop series, including "Business Ideas," "What's Hot, What's Not" and "Exploring Franchise Opportunities." The center also hosts a Minority Women Business Roundtable.

Ohio

67 Alex Community Development Corporation

Ms. Alexis E. Afzal, CPA, Director

12200 Fairhill Road, 4th Flr.

Cleveland, OH 44120

Telephone: 216 707 0777

Fax:

Email: wbc.alexcdc@sbcglobal.net

Web site:

Status: **Currently Funded Center**

First Year Funding: R-2003

SBA Region: 5

Population: Urban

The Alex Community Development Corporation (Alex CDC) serves the city of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. Alex CDC serves a wide range of small business owners with a special emphasis on women business owners in their early stages and women looking to grow their existing business. Alex CDC provides training courses, counseling and mentoring, technical assistance, and networking events. Additional, outreach programs are held at libraries within the Cuyahoga County Library Network.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Oklahoma

68 Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc.

Barbara Rackley, Coordinator

2912 Enterprise Boulevard

Durant, OK 74701

Telephone: 580-924-5094

Fax: 580-920-2745

Email: barbara@ruralenterprises.com

Web site: www.rei-rwbc.com

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2001

SBA Region: 6

Population: Rural

The Rural Women's Business Center is a cooperative agreement between SBA and Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc. serving women entrepreneurs in the 21 counties of southeastern Oklahoma. The RWBC is committed to assisting rural Oklahoma's enterprising women explore the opportunities of starting a business or expanding and improving an existing business by providing business, technical and financial assistance. REI has the capability to help businesses with finances from \$1500 to \$10 million. Monthly roundtables, the Women's Biz Connection, have been started in several locations in the 21-county area and others are being started monthly. Current and perspective women business owners network and each month a different topic of importance to starting and growing a business is presented by an expert on the issue. Partnering with organizations in the local area and utilizing the resources of REI, the RWBC works to provide assistance needed by women business owners.

Oregon

69 ONABEN - A Native American Business Network

Kristi Burns, Program Director

11825 SW. Greenburg Road, Suite B3

Tigard, OR 97223

Telephone: 503-968-1500

Fax: 503-968-1548

Email:

kristi@onaben.org; tom@onaben.org; roberta@onaben.org

Web site: <http://www.onaben.org>

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2004

SBA Region: 10

Population:

ONABEN is a nonprofit public-benefit corporation created by Northwest Indian tribes to increase the number and profitability of private enterprises owned by Native Americans. ONABEN offers training, individual counseling, assisted access to markets, and facilitated access to capital for its clients. Each of the 10 tribes hosting an ONABEN service center pays annual dues of \$2,500, plus 40 percent of the cost of operating its site. Located on reservations in Oregon, Washington and California, the centers deliver services to all citizens regardless of tribal affiliation; some have up to 40 percent of users coming from the surrounding

Pennsylvania

70 Community First Fund

Joan M. Brodhead, Project Director

30 West Orange Street

Lancaster, PA 17603

Telephone: 717-393-2351

Fax: 717-290-7936

Email: jbrodhead@commfirstfund.org

Web site: www.comfirstfund.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2003

SBA Region: 3

Population: Rural

Community First Fund serves the counties of Lancaster, York, Dauphin, Cumberland, Lebanon, Berks, Perry, Adams, and Franklin. The population in that region is a little more than 2 million people and is both urban and rural. CFF provides one-on-one business counseling, small business long- and short term training, business loan assistance via CFF's resources and

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Puerto Rico

71 Women's Business Institute (WBI)

Pedro Avecado, Acting Director

P. O. Box 12383

San Juan, PR 00914-0383

Telephone: 787-726-7045

Fax: (787) 726-6550

Email: pacevedo@sagrado.edu

Web site: www.wbipr.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2002

SBA Region: 2

Population: Urban/Island

The Women's Business Institute at the University of the Sacred Heart's Center for Women's Entrepreneurial Development offers technical assistance to women interested in establishing businesses. It also provides women business owners a place to launch and share ideas, objectives and experiences. The WBI contributes to the social and economic development of women through training on empowerment and business ownership as a viable way to achieve economic independence.

Rhode Island

72 Center for Women & Enterprise

Carol Malysz, Director

55 Claverick Street, Suite 102

Providence, RI 02903

Telephone: 401-277-0800 x102

Fax: 401-277-1122

Email: cmalysz@cweonline.org

Web site: www.cweonline.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: S-2004

SBA Region: 1

Population: Urban/Rural

The Center for Women & Enterprise Rhode Island is successfully addressing the need for women entrepreneurs to access capital and credit through their national Center of Excellence for Finance. CWE Rhode Island specializes in providing technical assistance on SBA loan programs and directing women business owners to local SBA resource and financial partners. The Center also offers training, mentoring, and one-on-one counseling to help women build their business skills and create a lifetime network of key resources and contacts. Key business training courses at CWE Rhode Island include: Power Up!, GROW (Getting Right On With It Groups), Business Basics, Business Planning, E-Commerce, Launching a Viable Business, Sales Strategies, Pricing Your Product or Service, Interactive Market Research, Keeping the Books, and Financial Management and

South Carolina

73 SCWBC

Haidee Clark Stith, Project Director

817 Calhoun Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Telephone: 803 461 8900 ex.225

Fax: 803-799-7282

Email: hstith@scmep.org

Web site: www.scwbc.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2002

SBA Region: 4

Population: Urban

The South Carolina Women's Business Center is supported through the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP). The SCMEP's mission is to help small to mid-sized manufacturers become more competitive and productive. The WBC, established in 2003, offers business development resources for women entrepreneurs throughout the state. The program serves women entrepreneurs at all phases of their business operation, from start-up through maturation, and offers technical and business services are targeted to support and grow employers, including women-owned and managed manufacturers and professional women who seek training and resources to become more effective and successful. The SCWBC offers a variety of training seminars, workshops and events throughout the state, sponsors chapters of the South Carolina Women's Business Network-a business women's education, training and mentoring organization, and provides business counseling, financial packaging, business assessments, marketing, product development, procurement and contracting support. The WBC's partners include the SC State Chamber of Commerce, the SC Technology Alliance, the Institute for Industrial Manufacturing, the Center for Women in Charleston, SC, the SBDC's, Score the state's technical colleges and universities. Through these partnerships, the Center offers a variety of training, professional development and counseling services to assist women. Annual Expositions and Conferences are held to promote business development.

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

South Dakota

74 Center for Women Business Institute

Rebecca Skroch, Executive Director

1101 W. 22nd Street

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Telephone: 605-331-6697; 866 556 1778

Fax: 605-331-6574

Email:

karen.bangasser@usioxfalls.edu;megan.fischer@usioxfalls.edu

Web site: www.usioxfalls.edu/als/cfw.html

The Center for Women Business Institute focuses on women in South Dakota that are interested in entrepreneurship in any capacity. We provide assessment, career counseling, consultation, referrals, resources and training for current and prospective South Dakota women entrepreneurs at little or no charge. Our focus is primarily on providing services to rural women in South Dakota. The Center maintains a bi-monthly newsletter that can be found on their website with updates and upcoming events.

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2001
SBA Region:	8
Population:	Rural

Tennessee

75 Southeast Women's Business Center

Sandi Brock, Program Director

535 Chestnut Street; PO Box 4757

Chattanooga, TN 37402; 37405

Telephone: 423-424-4246

Fax: (423) 267-7705

Email: sbrock@sedev.org

Web site: sewbc.com (currently under construction)

The WBC is located in the inner-city area of Chattanooga. Outreach is provided throughout the rural communities of Appalachia. The WBC offers traditional business development assistance to women business owners and potential entrepreneurs. The focus in rural areas is home-based businesses. The circuit-rider approach to provide access to services throughout Appalachia allows women who have never had access to such assistance become economically self sufficient through self employment.

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2001
SBA Region:	4
Population:	Urban

Texas

76 Fort Worth Women's Enterprise

Leslie Alford, Program Director

1150 South Freeway

Fort Worth, TX 76104

Telephone: 817-871-6021

Fax: 817-871-6031

Email: lealford@womensenterprise.org

Web site: www.fwbac.com

Since the inception of the Fort Worth Women's Business Center, the sole focus has been, and will continue to be, supporting the success of women and minority-owned business owners through training, mentoring, one-on-one counseling, networking opportunities, and technical services. These services are designed to accelerate and sustain small business ownership. Together with our community partners, the City of Fort Worth, and the Small Business Administration, we provide an encouraging environment in which sound business ideas take root and grow. Most of the services we offer are low or no cost allowing all women equal opportunity to achieve business ownership. Our Center also offers an array of special activities including the annual Entrepreneur Expo, Project NEW; (Network to Empower Entrepreneurial Women) a 10-week series of workshops designed to support the efforts of women starting their business or during their direct year in business, and the ACORN Project; (Able & Confident Owners Rebuilding Neighborhoods) an eight-week free course is designed to re-educate, motivate, and empower low-income or no-income individuals to start their own business.

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2001
SBA Region:	6
Population:	Urban

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Texas

77 Southwest Community Investment Corporation

Nancy Cuellar, Project Director

2507 Buddy Owens

McAllen, TX 78504

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Fax: 956 661 6566

Email:

sofia.hernandez@scictx.org;rosie@scictx.org;hlandez@scict

x.org;cuellarn@scictx.org

Web site: www.scictx.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2004

SBA Region: 6

Population:

The mission of the Southwest Community Investment Corporation Women's Business Center is to empower women entrepreneurs at any stage of the business cycle through management and technical assistance. Recently founded in 2004, the Women's Business Center, or WBC, has established partnerships with area organizations such as the US Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center, Service Corp Of Retired Executives, Minority Business Outreach Center, economic development corporations and local chambers in a collaborative effort to serve more clients and offer a greater menu of services. The SCIC/WBC offers short-term and long-term assistance. Through our short-term programs the WBC offers one-on-one counseling, technical assistance in business plan development and loan structuring. The center also offers basic business workshops that cover various topics such as: business basics, financial management (both personal and business), procurement and marketing techniques and use of e-commerce tools, business planning, accounting, advertising and other topics to benefit small businesses. A mentoring/network program is being established as part of our long-term assistance services. Additionally, our circuit rider program is being developed to assist those living within our service area in rural parts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Texas

78 Women's Business Border Center

Terri Adams-Reed, Project Director

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Web site: www.ephcc.org

Status: Currently Funded Center

First Year Funding: R-2001

SBA Region: 6

Population: Urban

The Women's Business Border Center is managed by the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and currently has 15 full-time staff professionals most of whom are of Hispanic descent and bilingual (English-Spanish) and experienced in providing services to small, women, and minority business owners. The Chamber's staff reflects the seventy-three percent (73%) Hispanic population of the region. A WBBC satellite office is located in El Puente CDC to target the 35,000 displaced workers and other economically disadvantaged residents within the Empowerment and HUB Zone areas. Bilingual business skills and management training is available through the "Financial Literacy Series", also produces bilingual training manuals, including; "So, you want to start a business?", "The Basic Components of a Business Plan", and "Website Marketing". Other services include arranging for local entrepreneurs to provide online mentoring and providing demographic statistics regarding women entrepreneurs along the U.S. Mexico border. "Water Cooler Talks" focuses on the roughly 4,000 SOHO to assess their needs and challenges. Due to large military presence, the Chamber has implemented the Women in the Battlefield program, which assists female veterans transitioning into civilian life. Bilingual assistance is provided for all.

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

Women's Business Centers (WBCs) represent a national network of more than 100 educational resource centers designed to assist women start and grow small businesses. WBCs operate with the mission to level the playing field for women entrepreneurs, who still face unique obstacles in the world of business.

(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Texas

79 Business Invest In Growth, Inc. (BiGAUSTIN)

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Web site: www.bigautin.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2004
SBA Region:	6
Population:	

Business Investment Growth (BiGAUSTIN) is a non-profit CDFI whose mission is to provide training, loans, and other assistance to improve the ability of economically disadvantaged individuals and families to achieve economic self-sufficiency through microenterprise ownership. BiGAUSTIN provides a developmental approach to serving potential entrepreneurs through training, loans, and technical assistance, and is currently the only organization in Austin that provides both an award-winning educational curriculum and access to capital and technical assistance. Our two core offerings are intensive training series to help clients start, strengthen, or expand their businesses. Start Smart, a business planning course for start-up entrepreneurs and Taking Financial Control of Your Business, trains business owners to use financial information. BiGAUSTIN also offers weekly orientation sessions covering various business topics. BiGAUSTIN is a micro-lending organization authorized by SBA to provide micro-lending services in Central Texas. BiGAUSTIN provides loans starting from \$1,000 up to \$15,000 for start-ups and up to \$50,000 for existing small businesses. BiGAUSTIN also provides technical assistance (TA) to training and loan clients and to other small entrepreneurs on a call-in or walk-in basis to support their success on all aspects of starting and growing their small business.

Utah

80 Women's Business Center

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Web site: www.saltlakechamber.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2002
SBA Region:	8
Population:	Urban

The Women's Business Center at the Chamber supports the success of women business owners throughout Utah with counseling, training and loan-packaging assistance. With more than 30 committees and task forces, the Chamber provides unique networking opportunities for clients as well as a full-service export-assistance program. An onsite high-tech center offers access to the Internet and all types of business software. Women business owners can access help with marketing, management, finance and procurement. There is a modest fee for some services, but scholarships and specialized training are available for

Virginia

81 New Visions, New Ventures, Inc.

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Web site: www.nvnv.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2003
SBA Region:	3
Population:	Urban

New Visions, New Ventures, Inc. services target the City of Richmond, VA, counties of Henrico and Chesterfield. These areas are a combination of urban and rural. NVNV reaches African American women and women who are socially and economically disadvantaged. NVNV provides services to women with disabilities, women from limited income neighborhoods, women who live in public housing and women involved in community corrections or programs related to domestic violence and sexual assault. Traditionally, NVNV's clients are low-income women who are either unemployed or in low wage jobs with little opportunity for upward mobility. NVNV provides monthly peer networking groups designed to foster positive reinforcement for clientele, a leadership development program, transportation and childcare.

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Virginia

82 WBC NoVA

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Web site: www.wbcnova.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2005
SBA Region:	3
Population:	Urban

The Women's Business Center of Northern Virginia is a program of the Community Business Partnership, Inc., and enjoys the support of the Fairfax County Office for Women and George Mason University's Mason Enterprise Center. The WBC provides the training, assistance and support needed for women in the Northern Virginia region seeking to start or grow a business. The center hosts monthly networking events; provides training in start-up, management, financing and procurement; and offers free technical assistance, particularly with business and marketing plans. In addition, the Center offers unique programs for Fairfax County's home-based childcare providers; as well as a Hispanic Entrepreneur Project for those who prefer training and counseling conducted in Spanish. For more information, or to register for classes, please visit www.wbcnova.org.

Vermont

83 Vermont's Women's Business Center

Linda Ingold, Project Director
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Web site: www.vwbc.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2004
SBA Region:	1
Population:	Urban/Rural

The Vermont Women's Business Center offers entrepreneurial counseling, technical training and networking opportunities statewide for women of all economic levels. Working with providers throughout the state, resources and referral services are provided for women at all stages of small business development paying particular attention to assistance with writing business plans and on-going support for women already in business.

Washington

84 Northwest Women's Business Center

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yne@seattleccd.com
Web site: www.nwwbc.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2001
SBA Region:	10
Population:	Urban/Rural

The Community Capital Development Program at NW WBC provides assistance to seasoned entrepreneurs (in business three to five years) and to start up business owners (in business three years or less). The center serves six counties; Kitsap, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island, and San Juan, in Northwest Washington State. The center works closely with its many partners in the community, including banks, local economic-development agencies, small business development centers, and other local business support-service agencies. Community Capital Development has its own in-house loan fund as well as being an SBA lender and an intermediary for the SBA Loan Prequalification Program.

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Washington

85 Inland NW Women's Business Center

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Fax:
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Web site: www.inwbc.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2004
SBA Region:	10
Population:	

Washington

86 Women's Business Center

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Web site: www.seattleccd.com

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2003
SBA Region:	10
Population:	Urban

The Community Capital Development Program provides assistance to seasoned entrepreneurs (in business three to five years) and to start up business owners (in business three years or less). Startup business clients include many from the Seattle Housing Authority, and many recent immigrants and immigrant women on welfare. The center works closely with its many partners in the community, including banks, local economic-development agencies, small business development centers, and other local business support-service agencies. Community Capital Development has its own in-house loan fund as well as being an SBA lender and an intermediary for the SBA Loan Prequalification Program.

Wisconsin

87 Western Dairyland Women's Business Center

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Web site: www.successfulbusiness.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2004
SBA Region:	5
Population:	Rural

See Eau Claire, WI. E-Commerce site: www.wisconsincommonmarket.com

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

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(Scroll Down to Find the WBC in Your State)

Wisconsin

88 Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC)

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Web site: www.wwbic.com

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2001
SBA Region:	5
Population:	Urban/Rural

The Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) is a nonprofit economic development corporation providing quality business education, classes, one-on-one assistance and access to capital. Since 1989, WWBIC has served more than 12,000 individuals; directly financed more than 175 business start-ups; supported over 150 business expansions in local communities; and lent more than \$4.3 million to small business owners across Wisconsin. We concentrate our efforts on women, low-income individuals and people of color. Each year, WWBIC provides more than 300 training sessions on a variety of business topics throughout the state. It is the state's largest microlender and a certified CDFI. Unique programs to WWBIC's South Central office include economic literacy education and coordination of the Child Care Business Partnership, a

West Virginia

89 Region 1 WorkForce Women's Business Center

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Web site: www.r1work4wv.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	R-2004
SBA Region:	3
Population:	

The Region 1 WorkForce Women's Business Center nurtures the spirit of women to lead, learn and become the business leaders of tomorrow. Through one to one counseling, peer mentoring, and step-by-step training, the Region 1 WBC prepares women of all socio-economic levels to make educated informed decisions about pursuing the dream of business ownership. Training consists of orientations, first steps, business plan writing course, marketing series, human resource series, and much more. A Women's Conference will be held annually and coordinated statewide to service all West Virginia women. The Region 1 WBC and the Region 1 SBDC are co-located and offer many services in conjunctions thus increasing the opportunities for the clients

Wyoming

90 Wyoming Women's Business Center

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Email: wwbc@uwyo.edu
Web site: www.wyomingwomen.org

Status:	Currently Funded Center
First Year Funding:	S-2004
SBA Region:	8
Population:	Rural

The Wyoming Women's Business Center strives to advance financial self-sufficiency by promoting economic justice and equality throughout Wyoming. With less than 500,000 people scattered over nearly 100,000 square miles, Wyoming is the least-populated state in the country. Great distances between small towns, severe weather, and rugged terrain contribute to a unique, often isolated, rural lifestyle. Employment opportunities are limited, and in the state with the highest gender-based wage disparity in the nation, Wyoming's women often find difficulty supporting themselves and their children. The Wyoming Women's Business Center promotes economic independence through successful business ownership. As Wyoming's only SBA Intermediary lender, the WWBC provides access to capital, training and technical assistance, and statewide networking opportunities to its target population of women, people of color, and low-income individuals. A project of the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, the WWBC also partners with the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Small Business Development Center, the Wyoming Business Council, and the SBA.