



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA HELPS SMALL BUSINESSES FIGHT COSTS OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL IN THE WORKPLACE

WASHINGTON – Citing as unacceptable the \$100 billion annual price tag for drug and alcohol abuse in our nation’s workplaces, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Deputy Administrator Fred Hochberg said the agency’s efforts to reverse the problem are showing results.

“That \$100 billion is a huge waste,” Hochberg said Tuesday night in Washington, DC. **“We all pay for this added cost of doing business in the products and services American consumers buy. And that doesn’t include the human cost to the families of those suffering from drug and alcohol abuse.”**

Hochberg’s comments came in welcoming remarks to about 80 people from around the country who attended the first Drug-Free Workplace Program Training Conference in Washington. The attendees are staff and program managers from more than two dozen employee assistance and drug treatment centers and Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) that received funding to conduct drug-free training programs for small businesses.

The Drug-Free Workplace Act was approved by Congress in 1998, putting the SBA in charge of a Drug-Free Workplace Demonstration Program. The program is administered by the SBA in cooperation with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Labor.

Through this program small businesses have received training on preparing written drug-free workplace policies. These include employee drug and alcohol abuse training, workplace drug testing programs, and creation of employee assistance programs.

“During the short existence of the program, nearly 800 small businesses have already implemented full or partial drug-free workplace programs,” said Hochberg. **“We are going to continue to do our best to squeeze drug problems out of the workplace, along with the associated costs of absenteeism, workplace accidents, disciplinary actions, stolen inventory and lost productivity.”**

“In a small business, everything is closer to home,” said Hochberg. **“This means drug problems are more than just business problems, they’re personal.”**

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Attached is a complete list of all the intermediaries and SBDCs in the country that participated in the demonstration program.

Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available at SBA's Web site: <http://www.sba.gov> or by calling the SBA's Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA.

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Drug-Free Workplace Grantees

Arizonans for a Drug-Free Workplace
Tucson, AZ

The Walsh Group
Bethesda, MD

Bay Health Systems
Bay City, MI

Centura Health – Profile EAP
Colorado Springs, CO

Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse of
Northwest Louisiana
Shreveport, LA

Drug Free America Foundation
St. Petersburg, FL

Drugs Don't Work – CT
Hartford, CT

Drugs Don't Work in Arizona
Phoenix, AZ

Florida Drug Screening
Palm Bay, FL

Lowell Medical Center
Lowell, AR

National Safety Alliance
Nashville, TN

Occupational Safety Systems, Inc.
Corpus Christi, TX

River Region Human Services
Jacksonville, FL

Straub Clinic & Hospital
Honolulu, HI

TEAM Fort Collins
Fort Collins, CO

Arkansas SBDC
Little Rock, AR

Arizona SBDC
Tempe, AZ

Georgia SBDC
Athens, GA

Illinois SBDC
Springfield, IL

Maryland SBDC
College Park, MD

Michigan SBDC
Detroit, MI

North Texas SBDC
Dallas, TX

Puerto Rico SBDC

Hato Rey, PR

Rhode Island SBDC
Smithfield, RI

South Dakota SBDC
Vermillion, SD

South Texas SBDC
Houston, TX

South Texas-Border SBDC
San Antonio, TX

West Virginia SBDC
Charleston, WV

Wisconsin SBDC
Madison, WI