



# NEWS RELEASE

## PRESS OFFICE

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## SBA Announces Boot Camp Business Training Sessions

**San Antonio, TX** – Small businesses in Texas that are participating in the U.S. Small Business Administration’s contracting programs for disadvantaged businesses will have the opportunity to sign up for a new first-of-its-kind “business boot camp” training session conducted by the SBA and the Alabama A&M University Research Institute..

The 5-day training sessions will be held during the months of November through January. The three locations are El Paso, November 29-December 3, 2004; New Mexico, December 6 – 10, 2004; and Houston, January 24-28, 2005. For additional information, contact Adrian Madrigal at (915) 633-7025 (El Paso); Geraldine Garcia at (505) 346-6753 (New Mexico); and Myriam Gonzalez at (713) 773-6500 (Houston). The business training workshop targets new businesses and will include two days of management and marketing, two days of accounting and financial management, and one-day of legal aspects of owning an SBA 8(a) certified firm for those 8(a) companies that take part in the intensive week-long training.

An executive education program will also be offered to owners and senior officers of 8(a) firms. Participants in the training workshops will also have access to one-on-one counseling and technical assistance relating to the development of a plan tailored to their specific business goals.

“The SBA is pleased to form this alliance with the Research Institute at Alabama A&M University, one of America’s historically black colleges and universities, to help small businesses around the country develop and enhance their entrepreneurial skills,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “Our goal is to better equip these businesses with the tools to benefit from the SBA’s training programs and help put these businesses in a better position to compete effectively in the federal marketplace.”

The free training workshops will take place over six months in a number of states, including New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Georgia, California, Illinois, Alabama and Texas. Firms can register for this training on the Alabama A&M University Research Institute’s Web site at: [http://aamuri.aamu.edu/sba/sba\\_index.htm](http://aamuri.aamu.edu/sba/sba_index.htm). The training is available to SBA 8(a) certified firms, small disadvantaged businesses, businesses operating in areas of high unemployment or low-income or firms owned by low-income individuals. For more information on the program, contact Alexandra Tyler at (202) 619-0374.

The training is offered under the SBA's 7(j) Management and Technical Assistance program. The program helps socially and economically disadvantaged businesses obtain assistance, including financial counseling and assistance, marketing services and feasibility studies. The 7(j) program utilizes qualified service providers who can provide business development assistance to eligible 7(j) participants. However, 7(j) funding is not available to finance a business, purchase a business or to expand a business.

Eligible 7(j) participants include 8(a) certified firms, HUBZone certified firms, firms that are eligible to receive 8(a) contracts, businesses operating in areas of high unemployment or low income, and firms owned by low income individuals.

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