



U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

July 13, 2013

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your recent inquiry to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in regards to the Thurston Economic Development Council (EDC). We are aware that the Thurston EDC is seeking funding to become an SBA Women's Business Center (WBC).

The SBA currently has an open funding opportunity to establish an SBAWBC in the state of Washington. This funding opportunity closes on July 31, 2013. Once this funding opportunity closes, my staff will conduct a thorough review of all applications submitted. Because of the limited funding available to open new centers, we are anticipating making one award within the State of Washington. We will notify all applicants of our decision on their individual application. We will also be pleased to notify your office once a center has been selected.

We appreciate your support of SBA and the Washington small business community. If you and your staff have additional questions, please contact the SBA Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-6700.

Sincerely,

Bruce D. Purdy
(A) Assistant Administrator
Office of Women's Business Ownership