



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

July 18, 2013

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

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

SBA currently has an open funding opportunity to establish an SBAWBC in the state of Maryland. This funding opportunity closes on July 31, 2013. My staff have already been in contact with Lori Gillen, Managing Director of the Maryland WBC and responded to her questions about the application process.

Once this funding opportunity closes on July 31, 2013, 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 Maryland. 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 Maryland 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