



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

September 6, 2012

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

Dear Senator Cardin:

Administrator Mills asked me to respond to your recent letter of support for the Regional Innovation Clusters contract proposal submitted by Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation.

The Regional Innovation Clusters contract solicitation, # SBAHQ-12-R-0013, is a funding opportunity offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to support the growth and development of existing clusters across the country. The SBA believes that investing in regional innovation clusters will increase opportunities for small businesses and lead to job creation and economic growth.

The contract proposals have been received, and the review and selection process has begun. Successful contractors should expect to receive awards within approximately 45 days from the solicitation closing date. Notification for all contract awards will be posted at FedBizOpps.Gov and on the SBA's website at <http://www.sba.gov/clusters>.

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

Sincerely,

Michael A. Chodos
Associate Administrator
Office of Entrepreneurial Development