

August 16, 2012

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator
1919 Smith Street, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Senator Hutchison:

Thank you for your recent inquiry on behalf of Mr. Gilbert Cruz concerning his job application with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Disaster Assistance.

Mr. Cruz applied for a Construction Analyst position. The announcement stated that all applicants are required to obtain and maintain a Federal government issued credit card.

Mr. Cruz was made a tentative job offer, subject to a pre-employment check. After reviewing his pre-employment forms, they were deemed unsatisfactory. His credit report revealed a credit score below 500 Fair Isaac Corporation, including current delinquencies. Due to requirements set forth in OMB Circular A-123, all agencies are required to assess the credit worthiness of all new credit card applicants prior to issuing a government credit card. As part of the SBA's internal controls and consistent with the OMB Circular A-123, the SBA has determined that applicants with credit scores lower than 500 are unacceptable credit risks to obtain a Federal government issued credit card.

On July 12, 2012, Mr. Cruz told us that his credit had been corrected and he requested we rerun his score. However, when the score was rerun, it was still below the required 500. We responded to Mr. Cruz with the new score. We informed him that the Construction Analyst position is an intermittent position with our agency and would be announced again in the future, and he was encouraged to reapply when his financial situation was cleared.

On August 7, 2012, Mr. Cruz again asked us to pull his report stating that all issues had been cleared. At this point his credit score was above 500, and based on this new score, we will be extending a job offer to Mr. Cruz.

We appreciate your support of the SBA Disaster Assistance Program in Texas. If you and your staff have any additional questions, please contact the SBA Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-6700.

Sincerely,

James E. Rivera
Associate Administrator
for Disaster Assistance