



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

August 30, 2012

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Ms. Martha Montgomery regarding her request for financial assistance to purchase commercial space where she can operate her business, Catonsville Wellness Center (CWC).

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides guaranteed financial assistance through 7(a) participant lenders and certified development companies (CDC) across the nation to support small businesses and economic development. The SBA sets the guidelines for the loans we guarantee, which are actually made by our lender partners. The Agency reduces some of the risk to these lenders by providing a partial guarantee that these loans will be repaid. When a business applies for an SBA loan, it applies to a lender partner for a commercial loan, who then requests an SBA guaranty. The Agency has no record of a request for guaranty for a loan to Ms. Montgomery or CWC from either a 7(a) lender or CDC. On receipt, a request will be given every consideration. For more information on our financial assistance programs, Ms. Montgomery may contact Mr. Ed Knox of the SBA Baltimore District Office at (410) 962-6195, extension 309. Mr. Knox can work with Ms. Montgomery to determine the SBA financial assistance program that may best meet her financing needs.

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

Sincerely,

Grady B. Hedgespeth
Director
Office of Financial Assistance