

U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of Women's Business Ownership

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER (WBC)
(INITIAL GRANT)

FY 2014

Program Announcement No. OWBO-2014-01

The purpose of this Program Announcement is to provide funding for up to eleven (11) non-profit organizations to start new, community-based Women's Business Centers in *Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia*. Eligible applicants must be private, non-profit organizations with 501(c) tax exempt status from the U.S. Treasury/Internal Revenue Service. Public non-profit organizations and for-profit businesses are not eligible for these awards.

Opening Date: June 20, 2014

Closing Date: July 30, 2014

Proposals responding to this Program Announcement must be posted to www.grants.gov by 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, **July 30, 2014**. No other methods of submission will be permitted. Proposals submitted after the stipulated deadline will be rejected without being evaluated.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

Paragraph	Subject	Page
1.0	Section I – Funding Opportunity Description	4
1.1	Program Overview	4
1.2	Introduction	5
1.3	Background	5
1.4	Purpose	5
1.5	Leveraging of Resources	6
1.6	SBA Involvement and Oversight	6
1.7	Changes or Cancellation	6
2.0	Section II – Award Information	7
2.1	Estimated Funding	7
2.2	Expected Number of Awards	7
2.3	Period of Performance/Budget Periods	7
2.4	Funding Information	7
2.5	Funding Instrument	7
2.6	Non-Federal Matching Requirement	7
2.7	Non-Federal Match Certification	8
3.0	Section III – Eligibility Information	8
3.1	General	8
3.2	Eligible Applicants	9
3.3	Ineligible Applicants	9
4.0	Section IV – Application and Submission Information	10
4.1	Application Instructions	10

4.2	Submission Instructions	12
4.3	Required Proposal Submission Dates	14
5.0	Section V – Application Review Information	14
5.1	General	14
5.2	Evaluation Criteria	14
5.3	Review and Selection Process	21
6.0	Section VI – Award Administration Information	21
6.1	Award Notification	21
6.2	Administrative and National Policy Requirements	21
6.3	Reporting	21
6.4	Recordkeeping Requirements	22
7.0	Section VII – Agency Contacts	23
7.1	Office of Women’s Business Ownership Point of Contact	23
7.2	Financial/Grants Management Point of Contact	23
7.3	Grants.gov Technical Support	23
8.0	Section VIII – Other Information	23
8.1	Definitions	23
8.2	Additional Resources and Partnerships	28
8.3	Frequently Asked Questions	28
8.4	Instructions for Completing the SF-424 Package	29
8.5	Templates and Charts Milestone Chart Web-Based Self-Assessment Checklist of Required Submissions	35

1.0 Section I – Funding Opportunity Description

1.1 Program Overview

- 1.1.1 Federal Agency Name: U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
- 1.1.2 Funding Opportunity Title: Women's Business Center Program Initial Grant
- 1.1.3 Announcement Type: Initial
- 1.1.4 Funding Opportunity Number: **Program Announcement No. OWBO-2014-01**
- 1.1.5 CDFA Number: 59.043
- 1.1.6 Closing Date for Submissions: **July 30, 2014, 11:59:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time**
- 1.1.7 Authority: Small Business Act, §§2(h) and 29 (15 U.S.C. §§ 631(h) and 656), as amended
- 1.1.8 Duration of Authority: Permanent
- 1.1.9 Funding Instrument: Cooperative Agreement
- 1.1.10 Funding: **Funding is for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 / (Project Year 2014-2015)**
- 1.1.11 Award Amount/Funding Range: A total amount of **\$1,583,558.00** in funding is available for this program in **FY 2014**.

SBA expects to provide funding for up to eleven (11) Initial Phase awards not to exceed **\$143,959.00** each under this Program Announcement for new Women's Business Centers (WBCs) in **Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia**. **Note:** SBA may, at its discretion, fund grants up to the maximum amount allowable of **\$150,000.00**.

For the Initial Phase WBC awards, the Recipient organizations are required to match awarded funds on a 1:2 ratio for the first two years of the grant and a 1:1 ratio for the next three years.

Note: **Renewal Phase WBC award(s) (if any) will not exceed \$125,882.00 under this Program Announcement. The Recipient organization(s) are required to match awarded funds on a 1:1 ratio for each of the three years of the grant.**
- 1.1.12 Project Duration: For the Initial Phase WBC, awards will be made for a base project period of 12 months, with 4 option periods of 12 months each.

For the Renewal Phase WBC (if any), award(s) will be made for a base project period of 12 months, with 2 option periods of 12 months each.

Exercise of options is at SBA's discretion and is subject to continuing program authority, the availability of funds and satisfactory performance by a recipient organization.

1.1.13 Project Starting Date:

September 30, 2014

1.1.14 Proposal Evaluation:

Proposals will be reviewed for sufficiency as detailed in Section 5.0. SBA may ask Applicants for clarification of the technical and cost aspects of their proposals. This must not be construed as a commitment to fund the proposed effort.

1.1.15 Agency Programmatic Point of Contact:

U.S. Office of Women's Business Ownership
Small Business Administration
Tel: (202) 205-6673 | Email: owbo@sba.gov

1.2 Introduction

The Women's Business Center (WBC) Program was established by the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988 (Public Law No. 100-533) as the Women's Business Demonstration Pilot, providing grants to private non-profit organizations to aid and encourage the development and growth of small women-owned businesses through long-term training and counseling. The program was expanded and made permanent in 2007 when the WBC Sustainability Grant Program, established in 1999, was replaced with the WBC Renewal Grant Program.

1.3 Background

Since its inception in 1953, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has served to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small businesses. While SBA is best known for its financial support of small businesses through its many lending programs, the Agency also plays a critical role in providing funding to organizations that deliver technical assistance in the form of counseling and training to small business concerns and nascent entrepreneurs in order to promote growth, expansion, innovation, increased productivity and management improvement.

The mission of the WBC Program is to act as the catalyst for providing in-depth, substantive, outcome-oriented business services to women entrepreneurs, both nascent and established businesses, a representative number of which are socially and economically disadvantaged. This mission is accomplished through the award of financial assistance to private, 501(c)- certified non-profit organizations to enable them to affect substantial economic impact in their communities, as measured by successful business start-ups, job creation and retention, and increased company revenues.

1.4 Purpose

Eligible organizations (as defined in Section 3.2) may apply to SBA for an Initial Phase WBC award (or a Renewal Phase WBC award as described herein) of financial assistance under this Program Announcement to fund a project to start new, community-based women's business centers in **Alaska**,

Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

A WBC provides technical assistance to women entrepreneurs, both nascent and established. A representative number of clients served by a WBC must be socially and economically disadvantaged. A WBC grant recipient must provide assistance to women entrepreneurs in the areas of finance, management, marketing, and other areas as defined in this Program Announcement.

1.5 Leveraging of Resources

The **Applicants** selected for award under this Program Announcement must work collaboratively, with assistance from SBA's District Offices, to coordinate their efforts to expand services and avoid duplication, particularly with other SBA-funded programs such as Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), SCORE, Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs), U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEACs), and Clusters. Where the WBCs are located in communities with these resource partners, the WBCs will coordinate with them in offering training and other forms of assistance to their clients.

WBCs are encouraged to fully employ the resources of other federal, state and local government, academic and private sector programs concerned with aiding small businesses in order to provide seamless business development assistance at every stage of business growth.

1.6 SBA Involvement and Oversight

The WBC Program is managed by the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Women's Business Ownership (OWBO) under the direction of the Associate Administrator for Entrepreneurial Development.

An SBA employee assigned to a District Office located within an award Recipient's service area will be tasked with serving as the District Office Technical Representative (DOTR) and will act as the primary Agency contact and liaison for that award. The DOTR's functions will include conducting site visits, financial and programmatic reviews, coordination of SBA resource partner efforts, and reporting any issues that may arise to OWBO.

A designated Program Manager (PM) located within OWBO at SBA Headquarters will be responsible for the overall monitoring and oversight of the WBC Program award Recipient, including compliance with the terms of the cooperative agreement.

A designated Grants Specialist within OWBO will be responsible for issuing the Notice of Award, making modifications to the award, and processing payments.

1.7 Changes or Cancellation

SBA reserves the right to amend or cancel this Program Announcement, in whole or in part, at the Agency's discretion. Should SBA make material changes to this Program Announcement, the Agency will extend the Closing Date as necessary to afford Applicants sufficient opportunity to address such changes.

2.0 Section II – Award Information

2.1 Estimated Funding

Initial Phase Awards will be made under this Program Announcement in the amount not to exceed **\$143,959.00** and **\$125,882.00** for Renewal Phase Award(s) (if any), subject to available funding. **Note: SBA may, at its discretion, fund grants up to the maximum amount allowable of \$150,000.00.**

2.2 Expected Number of Awards

The SBA expects to provide funding for up to eleven (11) Initial Phase awards not to exceed **\$143,959.00** in Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. **Note: SBA may, at its discretion, fund grants up to the maximum amount allowable of \$150,000.00.**

2.3 Period of Performance/Budget Periods

For the Initial Phase, awards will be made for a 5-year period of performance, consisting of a base period of twelve (12) months from the date of award and four (4) option periods of twelve (12) months each.

For the Renewal Phase, awards (if any) will be made for a 3-year period of performance, consisting of a base period of twelve (12) months from date of award and two (2) option periods of twelve (12) months each.

Exercise of option periods will be solely at SBA's discretion and is subject to continuing program authority, the availability of funds, and a Recipient's continued satisfactory performance and compliance with all the terms and conditions of the award. Each base and option period will constitute a separate and distinct 12-month Budget Period.

2.4 Funding Information

Funds provided under the WBC Program must be used solely for the purposes stipulated in this Program Announcement and the Notice of Award and may not be commingled with any other monies. All costs proposed in an Applicant's budget must meet the tests of allowability, allocability, and reasonableness set forth in the applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cost principles. No more than forty-nine percent (49%) of award funds may be expended on contractor and/or consultant costs.

Indirect costs will be capped at maximum of twenty percent (20%) of the total cost of the budget (to include non-federal match) regardless of the amount stipulated in an Applicant's indirect cost rate agreement.

2.5 Funding Instrument

The funding instrument used will be a Cooperative Agreement.

2.6 Non-Federal Matching Requirement

The WBC grant recipient is required to provide a non-federal match. Non-federal match may consist of cash, in-kind and program income and must be used for approved budgeted items only.

A. Annual match

For the Initial Phase award, the Recipient organization is required to match awarded funds on a 1:2 ratio (\$1 of non-federal funds for every \$2 of federal funds) for the first two years and 1:1 in the three subsequent years.

For the Renewal Phase award (if any), the Recipient organization is required to match awarded funds on 1:1 ratio (\$1 of non-federal funds for every \$1 of federal funds) for each of the three years of the grant.

B. Non-Federal Match

1. Cash

Matching contributions must come from non-federal sources such as state and local public funds; private individuals, corporations and foundations; and program income (income from program services). When permissible under the terms of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, CDBG funds may also be used as match. The matching contribution must be pledged for the WBC activities. At least one half of the non-federal match must be in the form of cash.

2. In-Kind Match

No more than one-half of the non-federal matching assistance may be in the form of in-kind contributions, including but not limited to office equipment and office space.

C. Failure to Obtain Match

The SBA may withhold payment at any time if the required level of non-federal match has not been obtained. Payment will be withheld unless the Recipient has adequately certified that the required amount of non-federal match equal to or greater than the federal funds expended (of which at least half is in the form of cash) has been fully obtained and expended for project activities during each reporting period. Note: Initial Phase WBCs in the first two years of its project must provide non-federal match equal to or greater than 50% of the federal funds expended of which at least half is in the form of cash.

2.7 Non-Federal Match Certification

The Recipient must certify that the non-federal matching share has been obtained and expended on the WBC Project and must maintain records of all cash, in-kind donations, program income and how it was spent. (See: <http://www.sba.gov/content/womens-business-center-grant-opportunities> for the Match Certification Worksheet). Records will be reviewed by the DOTR or other financial examiner during site visits and the mid-year and annual programmatic and financial review. Note: Donations from federal entities may not be claimed as match.

3.0 Section III – Eligibility Information

3.1 General

An organization may submit only one proposal in response to this Program Announcement. Any additional applications from the same organization will automatically be rejected without being evaluated.

3.2 Eligible Applicants

In order to be eligible for this funding opportunity, Applicants must be a private non-profit organization certified under § 501(c)- of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and have been providing technical services to women entrepreneurs.

Applicants must document as part of the narrative proposal that it –

- A. Is located within and will provide services to the population of a state or territory listed in this Program Announcement.

Note: An organization that previously operated an SBA-funded women's business center within the past five years of the application, and previously operated an SBA-funded women's business center within 50 miles of the proposed territory of the application may be eligible to apply, but if awarded, would be awarded as a Renewal Phase Project.;

- B. Continues to be organized and incorporated in the United States, and remains in good standing in the state or territory of incorporation (a copy of this document must be attached to the Applicant's technical proposal);
- C. Is a private not-for-profit or non-profit corporation with an active 501(c)- federal tax-exempt status certification from the United States Department of Treasury/Internal Revenue Service (a copy of this document must be attached to the Applicant's technical proposal);
- D. Provides technical assistance to small business concerns owned and controlled by women;
- E. Has an established organizational infrastructure with an internal financial management system that currently meets the requirements of 2 C.F.R. Parts 215, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Non-Profit Organizations;
- F. Is responsible for hiring, supervising, and employing key staff (including a full-time, (40 hours per week) program director whose time is dedicated 100% to managing the day-to-day operation of the WBC) as well as overseeing all financial aspects of the WBC.

Applicants responding to this Program Announcement may not apply for a new WBC Project within 50 miles of an existing WBC Project without including in its written narrative the number of socially and economically disadvantaged persons within the proposed service area, census data, population, etc. The information provided must clearly justify the necessity for an additional WBC Project within the same area of service as the existing WBC Project. SBA will take the narrative and any supporting documentation into consideration when reviewing, ranking and scoring the Applicant's proposal.

3.3 Ineligible Applicants

The following organizations will automatically be considered ineligible and their applications will be rejected without being evaluated:

- Any organization that owes an outstanding and unresolved financial obligation to the federal government;

- Any organization that is currently suspended, debarred or otherwise prohibited from receiving awards of contracts or grants from the federal government;
- Any organization with an outstanding and unresolved material deficiency reported under the requirements of the Single Audit Act or OMB Circular A-133 within the past three years;
- Any organization that has had a grant or cooperative agreement involuntarily terminated or non-renewed by SBA for cause;
- Any organization that has filed for bankruptcy within the past five years;
- Any organization that proposes to serve as a pass-through and permit another organization to manage the day-to-day operations of the project; and/or
- Any organization that does not propose to hire and employ a full-time (40 hours per week) program director whose time is dedicated 100% to managing the day-to-day operation of the WBC and staff for the purpose of managing the day-to-day operations of the WBC.

4.0 Section IV - Application and Submission Information

4.1 Application Instructions

Applications must consist of the following elements: (i) a cover letter; (ii) a technical proposal; (iii) budget information; (iv) certifications, forms and assurances; and (v) attachments and exhibits.

4.1.1 Cover Letter

The first page of the application must be a cover letter which includes the following information:

- Statement that the application is in response to **Program Announcement No. OWBO-2014-01**;
- Applicant's name and address;
- Applicant's website address (if applicable);
- Name, telephone number, fax number, and email address for the Applicant's designated point of contact; and
- Dollar amount of assistance being requested.

4.1.2 Technical Proposal

The technical proposal pages must be numbered and the narrative portion of the application shall be limited to twenty five (25) pages. Attachments such as position descriptions, résumés, budgets, organization charts and milestone charts are not counted toward the 25 page maximum.

- The Technical Proposal serves as a narrative blueprint for the Applicant's planned project and must include the following information:
- Detailed description of the Applicant's past experience and present capacity to provide technical assistance to women entrepreneurs, both nascent and established. A representative number of

clients served by a WBC must be socially and economically disadvantaged. (see Section 5.2 for further guidance);

- Detailed description of the proposed technical assistance delivery methods, their means of implementation, and the anticipated project outcomes and the manner in which they will be evaluated (see Section 5.2 for further guidance);
- Identification of the project director and all other key and non-key personnel, including key personnel résumés and position descriptions for all staff (or position descriptions for unfilled positions). Résumés must include experience and position descriptions must detail services relevant to this project. Copies of résumés and position descriptions must be included as attachments in accordance with Section 4.1.5 (see Section 5.2.2 for further guidance);
- Identification of contractors and consultants and the manner in which they were selected (i.e., competitively or non-competitively). Note: No more than forty-nine percent (49%) of award funds may be expended on contractor and/or consultant costs. Copies of contracts and consulting agreements (either signed or samples as applicable) must be included as attachments in accordance with Section 4.1.5;
- An organizational chart;
- For the Initial Phase award, a separate timeline of performance milestones for the first 12-month project year as well as each four (4) 12-month option years of the project's 5-year term.
- For the Renewal Phase award, a separate timeline of performance milestones for the first 12-month project year as well as each two (2) 12-month option years of the project's 3-year term.

4.1.3 *Budget Information (Cost/Budget Proposal)*

Budget information must be provided through the submission of the following:

(Note: A SF-424, 424A, 424B, Annual Budget Summary Worksheet (B10-B16), Certification of Cash Match and Program Income and Sources of Match, and Budget Narrative must be submitted for the Base Year and 1 for each option year for a total of five cost proposals for Initial Phase award or for a total of 3 for Renewal Phase award.

- Standard Form SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance;
- SF-424A, Budget Information (Non-Construction Programs);
- SF-424B, Assurances – Non-Construction Programs;
- Annual Budget Summary Worksheet (B10-B16). An Applicant may substitute its own worksheets in place of the Annual Budget Summary provided it includes all the same cost elements/line items covered by the B10-B16;
- Certification of Cash Match and Program Income and Sources of Match; and
- Budget narrative providing a brief, detailed explanation of the components of each cost element listed in the SF-424A and B10–B16;

4.1.4 *Certifications, Forms, and Assurances*

Each Applicant must complete and submit the following forms:

- SBA Form 1623, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters;
- SBA Form 1711, Certification Regarding Lobbying;
- SBA Form 1224, Cost Sharing Proposal
- SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities;
- SF-424B, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs;
- Letter from the Applicant's Auditor, CPA, Treasurer, Comptroller, CFO or similarly qualified individual certifying that the organization's financial management system currently meets the requirements of 2 C.F.R. Part 215, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Non Profit Organizations;

4.1.5 *Attachments and Exhibits*

Along with the items discussed in the Technical Proposal, Budget Information, and Evaluation Criteria sections, Applicants must submit copies of the following with its proposal (as applicable):

- Résumés for key personnel, formal position descriptions for all staff, copies of contracts, consulting agreements, letters of support, pledges of additional funding or in-kind resources, leases, conflict of interest policy;
- Copy of the Applicant's Cost Policy Statement;
- Copy of the Applicant's current, government-wide indirect cost rate agreement (if the Applicant's budget includes indirect costs). If the Applicant does not have such an agreement, it must propose an indirect cost rate in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable cost principles circular. **Note:** Regardless of the Applicant's approved rate, OWBO will cap indirect costs charged to an award made under this Program Announcement at twenty percent (20%) of the total cost of the budget (to include non-federal match) regardless of the amount stipulated in an Applicant's indirect cost rate agreement; and
- Any other documentation the Applicant believes supports its proposal.

4.2 **Submission Instructions**

All proposals (narratives and forms) must be submitted electronically via the government-wide financial assistance portal www.grants.gov. **NO OTHER FORMS OF SUBMISSION WILL BE ACCEPTED.** All required forms are provided in the grants.gov application package for this funding opportunity. Specific instructions for obtaining, completing, and submitting an application via grants.gov, including animated tutorials, may be found at: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-resources.html>

In order to submit an application via grants.gov, an organization is first required to have a DUNS number, be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), and have a grants.gov username and password. The process for meeting these three pre-submission requirements may take several days to complete. Additionally, Applicants may have to download or upgrade their software in order to utilize grants.gov. Applicants should not wait until the closing date to begin the submission process in order to avoid unexpected delays that could result in the rejection of an application.

Information about the grants.gov registration process can be found at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp. Applicants must register as organizations, not as individuals. Please note that organizations already registered with grants.gov do not need to re-register. However, all registered organizations must keep their SAM registration up-to-date. As part of the grants.gov registration process, an Applicant must designate one or more Authorized Organizational Representatives (AORs). AORs are the only individuals who may submit applications to grants.gov on behalf of an organization. If an application is submitted by anyone other than a designated AOR, it will be rejected by grants.gov and cannot be considered for funding.

Once an application is submitted, it undergoes a validation process through which it will be accepted or rejected by the grants.gov system. The validation process may take 24 to 48 hours to complete. Applicants should save and print written proof of an electronic submission made at grants.gov. Applicants can expect to receive multiple emails regarding the status of their submission. The first email will confirm receipt of the application. The second email will indicate that the application has either been successfully validated by the system and assigned an SBA tracking number, or it has been rejected due to errors. An Applicant will receive a third email once SBA has downloaded its application from grants.gov for review in accordance with Section 5.3 below.

If grants.gov notifies an Applicant via email that its application contains an error, the Applicant must correct the noted error(s) before the system will accept and validate the application. Applicants that choose to submit on or close to the closing date are advised they may not receive email notification of an error with their applications until after the submission deadline, and thus will not have an opportunity to correct and resubmit their applications. **APPLICATIONS THAT ARE REJECTED BY GRANTS.GOV WILL NOT BE FORWARDED TO SBA AND CANNOT BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.** It is the Applicant's responsibility to verify that its submission was received and validated successfully at grants.gov. To check on the status of your application and see the date and time it was received, log on to grants.gov and click on the "Track My Application" link from the left-hand menu.

If you experience a technical difficulty with grants.gov (i.e., system problems or glitches with the operation of the grants.gov website itself) that you believe threatens your ability to submit your application, please (i) print any error message received; and (ii) call the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 for immediate assistance. Ensure that you obtain a case number regarding your communications with grants.gov. Note: Problems with an Applicant's own computer system or equipment are **not** considered technical difficulties with grants.gov. Similarly, an Applicant's failure to: (i) obtain a DUNS number or complete the SAM or grants.gov registration process; (ii) ensure that an AOR submits the application; or (iii) take note of and act upon an email from grants.gov rejecting its application due to errors, are **not** considered technical difficulties. A grants.gov technical difficulty is an issue occurring in connection with the operations of grants.gov itself, such as the temporary loss of service by grants.gov due to an unexpected volume of traffic or failure of information technology systems, both of which are rare occurrences.

Applicants should use the following link to obtain assistance in navigating grants.gov and access a list of useful resources: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-resources.html>. If you have a question that is not addressed under the "Applicant FAQs," try consulting the "Applicant User Guide" or contacting grants.gov via email at support@grants.gov or telephone at 1-800-518-4726. The grants.gov Contact Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

4.3 Required Proposal Submission Dates

Each Applicant is required to submit its proposal electronically via www.grants.gov no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **July 30, 2014**. Because of the pre-conditions for submitting applications via grants.gov and the potential for encountering technical difficulties in using that site, Applicants are strongly encouraged to log on to grants.gov and review the submission instructions early. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE CLOSING DATE TO BEGIN THE SUBMISSION PROCESS.** Applicants bear sole responsibility for ensuring their proposals are submitted and received before the closing date.

SBA will consider the date and time stamp on the validation generated by grants.gov as the official submission time. A proposal that is not received by grants.gov before the closing date of this Program Announcement will be rejected without being evaluated, unless the Applicant can clearly demonstrate through documentation obtained from grants.gov that it attempted to submit its proposal in a timely manner but was unable to do so solely because of grants.gov systems issues. Additionally, SBA will not accept any changes, additions, revisions, or deletions to applications made after the closing date.

Applicants should save and print written proof of an electronic submission made at grants.gov. If problems occur while using grants.gov, the Applicant is advised to (i) print any error message received; and (ii) contact grants.gov for immediate assistance. Applicants may obtain advice and assistance with the grants.gov submission process by visiting <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp> or by calling 1-800-518-4726.

5.0 Section V - Application Review Information

5.1 General

Applications will be rejected without being evaluated if they are submitted by ineligible organizations or they are illegible or materially incomplete due to an Applicant's failure to include all required forms and/or provide the required level of detail. The narrative portion of the application shall be limited to twenty five (25) pages. The narrative sections should be labeled and in order of the evaluation criteria. Attachments such as position descriptions, résumés, budgets, organization charts and milestone charts are not counted toward the 25 page maximum.

5.2 Evaluation Criteria

All timely, materially complete applications received from eligible organizations will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria listed below.

5.2.1 *Mission Alignment and Experience (up to 10 Points)*

To maximize the effectiveness of the WBC, its program goals and objectives must align with the mission of its local host and the mission of the national Women's Business Center Program. The proposal shall include the WBC's mission statement and the host's mission statement and describe how the mission of the WBC aligns to its host organization and to the national WBC program. (5)

Describe relevant past experience. The Applicant must demonstrate expertise in long-term and short-term training and counseling programs, and, most specifically, experience in providing targeted business development services to women. (5)

5.2.2 *Organizational Experience and Capacity (up to 10 Points)*

A. Applicants must demonstrate an adequate staffing plan to accomplish the goals and objectives as set forth in its proposal.

Include an organizational chart for the WBC Project, which includes all proposed full-time and part-time program staff, titles, and the amount of time each will devote to the WBC Project. (1)

Include résumés for the program director and all key personnel (i.e., staff members who dedicate 50% or more of their time to the WBC Project and who are vital to its success) and position descriptions for ALL personnel (key and non-key). Must agree with the Budget Detail Worksheet B-10A-B10B, provided at: <http://www.sba.gov/content/womens-business-center-grant-opportunities>

The grant requires a full-time (40 hours per week) program director whose time is dedicated 100% to managing the day-to-day operation of the WBC (this position cannot be shared between two or more employees). The proposed Program Director's résumé will be evaluated for an appropriate level of business experience, supplemental experience in the areas of leadership and management experience in leading other government program initiatives, etc.

- B. The proposed Program Director's résumés will be evaluated for appropriate level of business experience and supplemental experience in the areas of non-profit leadership and management, experience in leading other government program initiatives, etc. (5)
- C. Include a list of board members and each member's phone number and e-mail address, and include skills and experience that each member brings to the board. (1)
- D. State by whom and during what hours the facility or facilities will be staffed. In addition, provide a list of planned closures. (e.g., holidays, etc.) (1)
- E. The WBC is required to have a readily accessible location in the service area with facilities and administrative infrastructure sufficient to operate the WBC project. (1)
- F. The WBC must be open to clients 40 hours per week. The WBC's work week must include weekend and weeknight hours, and a plan for online counseling to serve clients during non-traditional hours. If the WBC operates at more than one location under the same Cooperative Agreement, the 40 hour requirement may be divided between two facilities. However, no more than two locations may share the 40 hours. (1)

5.2.3 *Market Assessment for Services Provided (up to 15 Points)*

- A. Provide a narrative description of the target market to be served—geographic size and area type (urban, rural, or suburban), population numbers and demographics. Use data to support your assertion. (5)
 - 1. Describe plans to reach a representative number of women who are socially and economically disadvantaged.
 - 2. Describe the need for the WBC in the geographic area.
- B. Describe the specific needs and benefits of SBA funding for this WBC. (5)
- C. Describe how the WBC project complements and does not duplicate other public and private projects or services in the market area. (5)

If the SBA determines there is overlap and/or duplication of service area, the Agency reserves the right to decline such an application, regardless of how highly it scores on other evaluation criteria. The SBA also has the discretion to accept such an application after negotiating with the Applicant to amend its proposed scope of services to eliminate any overlap between the Applicant and the existing WBC.

5.2.4 *Project Objectives and Milestones (up to 20 points)*

Services and Activities to be Offered to Small Businesses Owned or Controlled by Women or Women Entrepreneurs and Other Clients. (*Section A is up to 5 points, Section B is up to 5 points, and Section C is up to 10 points.*)

- A. Provide a narrative, 5-year plan (for Initial Phase award) or 3-year plan (for Renewal Phase award) with clear goals, measurable objectives, and time-phased activities that are results-oriented to increase business expansions and new business start-ups among prospective clients. In establishing goals, you should work with the local District Office to determine local market needs. These goals should be set forth in the proposal and may be adjusted by OWBO. New goals will be set in **FY 2015**.
 1. The plan must include a projected number of clients to be counseled and trained in each grant year. Performance goals will be negotiated with the assistance of the local District Office and OWBO annually based on funding levels, market needs and capacity of host.
 2. The plan must include long- and short-term training, counseling and technical assistance, and must provide for serving nascent entrepreneurs as well as start-up and established businesses.
 3. Provide a completed projected milestone chart (see Section 8.5, Other Information, for sample) and a timeline for each of the project years, showing goals, objectives and planned activities. List the types of training and counseling to be offered during the budget period.
- B. Areas of assistance shall include, but not be limited to:
 1. Financial Assistance
 - how to prepare a loan package and secure business credit from all lending sources (WBCs should detail plans to provide loan packaging services with an emphasis on SBA loans);
 - how to prepare and present financial statements;
 - how to manage cash flow, and understand and comply with tax laws, accounting principles and welfare regulations (where appropriate);
 - how to manage the financial operations of a business;

2. Management Assistance

- how to effectively startup and/or manage a business;
- how to engage in strategic business planning;
- how to manage employees, operations and inventory;
- how to evaluate technology;
- legal advisory information; and
- individual or group mentoring by successful business people.

3. Marketing Assistance

- how to increase a business' capacity to prepare and execute marketing plans;
- how to develop pricing, packaging, and distribution strategies;
- how to identify and pursue local and export contract opportunities; and
- how to use effective public relations, networking and advertising techniques as well as use of the Internet for marketing purposes.

4. Export Assistance

In cooperation with SBA's Office of International Trade, the Department of Commerce and other relevant federal agencies –

- a. The WBCs should promote export assistance programs to their clients and the WBC should serve as a resource to refer small businesses to appropriate resources for trade finance, trade promotion, trade adjustment, and trade remedy assistance.
- b. The WBCs should collaborate in trade data collection as identified through the Entrepreneurial Development Management Information System or as identified in their annual work plans.
- c. The WBCs should work with SBA's USEAC personnel to conduct Export Trade Assistance Partnership (E-TAP) programs to help increase small business participation in international trade.
- d. The WBC may provide small business owners with access to a wide variety of export-related information by establishing on-line computer linkages between WBCs, U.S. Export Assistance Centers, the Department of Commerce and their respective informational international trade databases. www.export.gov
- e. The WBCs should identify in their annual work plans all WBC counselors and staff who are certified in providing export assistance as identified in Section 1204 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010.

5. Additional Specialized Assistance

For example, issues may include: home-based businesses, legal matters, accounting, rural business, agribusiness, construction, child care, elder care, manufacturing, procurement, web development, business expansion and franchising, or international trade, business programs helpful to veterans, people seeking to get off welfare, people with disabilities, and other subcategories of women in business.

In addition, up to 5 bonus points may be added to an applicant's project objectives and milestone score if they can demonstrate a track record of Serving Native American populations, or clients located in established Promise Zones.

C. Experience Providing Services to Existing Businesses

The WBC program is designed to help women entrepreneurs not only start new businesses, but also grow existing businesses. Research indicates that while women-owned businesses account for 29% of all U.S. enterprises, they employ only 6% of the country's workforce and contribute just under 4% of business revenues. This presents a tremendous opportunity for WBCs to help women business owners overcome this revenue and employment gap, while spurring local economic development.

Describe the experience providing services to women entrepreneurs who are seeking to expand or grow businesses already under operation. Services should aim to increase women entrepreneurs' access to capital, access to domestic or international markets, productivity, job growth, and/or revenues. Include a plan to reach this specific target.

5.2.5 Plans for Marketing and Collaboration with SBA and Other Community and Small Business Organizations (*up to 10 Points*)

- Demonstrate involvement with SCORE, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), SBA Microloan Program lenders, non-lender technical assistance providers, and other SBA resource partners, such as mainstream financial institutions, state and/or local governments, chambers of commerce, loan funds, community colleges, and women's organizations, through co-sponsorship agreements and memoranda of understanding.
- Explain how the organization interacts and coordinates with the SBA and its resource partners and explain how the collaboration will continue to contribute to the success of the WBC.
- To the extent practicable, provide commitment letters and/or cooperative agreements that state how the organization and its WBC unit will cooperate to leverage resources, including outreach to local media.
- The WBC must maintain a working relationship with the district director and the DOTR in the nearest SBA District Office, and provide support for their outreach efforts to women. Document the organization's plans to:
 1. use the SBA as a resource partner and maintain communication with the DOTR;

2. participate with the SBA in conferences and special programs for women;
 3. include the SBA in outreach activities and events;
 4. promote SBA programs to the WBC's clients;
 5. display SBA brochures and SBA signage (provided by the SBA) in a prominent area at the women's business center location(s).
- The WBC must have email capability to counsel and respond to client technical assistance questions, have access to the Internet for staff and clients.
 1. The WBC must create and support its own website and link to the SBA website at www.sba.gov.
 2. The SBA hosts an on-line training center, the Small Business Learning Center that the WBC may utilize for training purposes at <http://www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center>. The WBC may also contribute training materials, which it has developed, to the site.

5.2.6 Sources and Leverage of other Funds (*up to 5 Points*)

WBCs that are able to leverage other funding sources to support WBC-eligible activities are best positioned for long-term sustainability and growth. Diversification of funding sources provides a broad, solid funding foundation for the program; and signifies a growing strong reputation in the "business services" community, for providing in-depth, value-added services to customers.

The application shall describe the approach the applicant will take to achieve matching sources of funds and include how the and include a discussion on how the applicant will diversify the match funding.

Include the source, amount and duration of funds provided by each organization to the WBC and the purpose for which the funds have been provided. Use the "Cash Match and Program Income Certification Worksheet" located at <http://www.sba.gov/content/womens-business-center-grant-opportunities> for all sources of cash match. Indicate which contributors will or will not be a part of the WBC match funds. **Reminder: federal funds may not be used as match.**

The WBC grant Recipient must maintain an updated list of funding sources and amounts for each source of funds received (including grants, contracts and contributions). In addition, for each source of funds, documentation of the name and phone number of the donor/contractor/grantor, the amount of funding, the intended purpose for use on the WBC project, and any requirements, stipulations or deliverables must be maintained and made available during any financial examination process.

5.2.7 Financial Management Capability and Confirmation of Match *(up to 15 Points)*

The WBC grant Recipient must be able to account separately for award funds to ensure a clear audit trail and to identify the sources and uses of funds (including cash match, in-kind contributions, and program income).

- A. The application must include a copy of its most recent A-133 audit report. If the Applicant is not subject to the requirements of the Single Audit Act, it must instead submit a copy of its most recent audited financial statement. **UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**
- B. The application must include a letter from the Applicant's Auditor, CPA, Treasurer, Comptroller, CFO or similarly qualified individual certifying that the organization's financial management system currently meets the requirements of 2 C.F.R. Part 215, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Non Profit Organizations.
- C. This written statement must be provided in the grant proposal before the federal funds will be disbursed.
- D. Describe the organization's plan to ensure accuracy of its financial recordkeeping and describe its current practices regarding the receipt and expenditure of program funds. Explain how the organization will comply with the requirements that financial records must be accessible to the project director, and that both the project director and chief financial officer must approve WBC expenditures and co-sign financial reports and requests for reimbursement.
- E. Provide a detailed development plan demonstrating how the cash and in-kind match will be raised over the term of the grant. Include letters of support from potential sources of matching funds.
- F. If the organization plans to generate program income, the plan must identify the method and provide tuition rates, if any, for proposed services. All program income must be accounted for within the WBC's official financial statements.

5.2.8 Program Evaluation and Economic Impact *(up to 5 Points)*

Demonstrate the experience the organization has in evaluating programs, including measuring program outcomes. Describe the evaluation process and method the WBC will use for measuring: the outputs and outcomes included in the milestone chart, its program mission objectives, and its compliance with all required financial, performance, customer-satisfaction, and follow-up reporting.

5.2.9 Technological Capabilities (*up to 10 Points*)

The SBA seeks partners who invest resources into their online marketing and service capability. Applicants must address each item on the Technology Self-Assessment (See Section 8.5). Applicants will be scored on the basis of the level of technology capability identified in their response.

Describe how you will utilize these online applications to serve your market. Provide your website address and any instructions, passwords, etc. necessary to preview these products and/or services to SBA upon request.

5.3 Review and Selection Process

Applications that are not rejected by grants.gov or SBA's screening process will be evaluated by teams of reviewers and scored on the basis of how well they meet the criteria outlined above. These reviewers may be SBA employees or employees of other federal agencies. The maximum score any application can receive is 100 points. Prior to evaluating applications received in response to this Program Announcement, SBA will establish a minimum acceptable score. Only those applications that meet or exceed that threshold will be eligible for funding. Applicants are therefore encouraged to design proposals that address each of the scoring criteria listed above as thoroughly as possible.

In the interest of providing Women's Business Center Program services to as broad a segment of the required area as possible as stated in this Program Announcement, SBA will take the geographical dispersion of Applicants' project service areas into account when making award decisions. An application that exceeds the minimum acceptable score and which scores more highly than other acceptable proposals may nevertheless be passed over for funding if that application proposes to serve the same or substantially the same area or market as an existing Women's Business Center Program Recipient or another more highly rated application that was selected for award.

6.0 Section VI - Award Administration Information

6.1 Award Notification

All Applicants selected for awards will receive written notification. Applicants not selected for awards will not be notified. There will be no debriefing process for unsuccessful Applicants.

6.2 Administrative and National Policy Requirements

All successful Applicants will be required to comply with the requirements set forth in the Small Business Act, §§2(h) and 29 (15 U.S.C. §§ 631(h) and 656), as amended; 2 C.F.R. Parts 215, 220, 225, and 230, 13 C.F.R. Part 143, and OMB Circular A-133 (as applicable); Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B); and the terms and conditions set forth in their Notices of Award. In addition, SBA may, from time to time, advise Recipients of awards made under this Announcement of new legal requirements and/or policy initiatives with which they must agree to comply.

6.3 Reporting

All Recipients are required to submit the reports identified below. SBA may withhold payment if reports are not received or are deemed inadequate. Failure to report in a timely manner will also be weighed against future applications for grant funding from the same organization and the exercise of any option periods. The reports provided by Recipients may be made public. In addition, SBA reserves the right to require Recipients to post these reports on their web sites.

6.3.1 *Financial Reports*

The Recipients will be required to submit quarterly financial reports to SBA using the SF-425, Federal Financial Report (FFR) within 30 days of the completion of each quarter.

6.3.2 *Performance Reports*

The Recipients will be required to submit quarterly performance reports to SBA within 30 days of the completion of each quarter.

6.3.3 EDMIS Reports (*Entrepreneurial Development's Management Information System*)

WBCs are required to either manually enter performance data or upload data files to the EDMIS system, the Office of Entrepreneurial Development's (OED) centralized data collection system. EDMIS training is provided by SBA.

6.3.4 *Report Submission*

The Recipient will be required to submit reports as instructed by the Notice of Award.

6.4 Recordkeeping Requirements

A. Activity Records

WBCs are required to maintain complete and accurate records and supporting documentation. Client counseling, training, and other activities must be fully documented on the SBA Form 641 and SBA Form 888.

In addition to the performance and program reports already mentioned in the Reporting Requirements, the WBC must maintain the following records:

1. Counseling Activity Reports

WBCs are required to collect all counseling activities on SBA Form 641 Counseling Information Form (or an equivalent form). Data gathered by this form must meet the minimum requirement as stipulated by OED's EDMIS database. Signed copies of these forms must be retained by the WBC either electronically or in hard copy and be made available for SBA review upon request.

2. Training Activity Reports

WBCs utilize SBA Form 888 Management Training Report (or an equivalent form) to report small business management training activities (see definitions section for training). WBCs may use a computerized version of this form. Hard copies of these forms must be retained by the WBC and be made available for SBA review upon request.

3. WBC Client Evaluation Forms

Evaluations of WBC services or client satisfaction surveys must be collected from clients who receive continuous counseling or attend a WBC training event. Copies of these evaluations must be retained by the WBC and be made available for SBA review upon request.

4. Protection of Client Contact Information

A WBC may not disclose the name, address, or telephone number of any individual or small business concern to which it provides assistance without the consent of that individual or concern, except as authorized by the SBA.

7.0. Section VII - Agency Contacts

7.1 Office of Women's Business Ownership Point of Contact

Questions concerning general information contained in this Program Announcement should be directed to the Office of Women's Business Ownership at 202-205-6673 or OWBO@sba.gov.

7.2 Financial/Grants Management Point of Contact

Questions regarding budgetary matters related to this Program Announcement should be directed to the Office of Women's Business Ownership at 202-205-6673 or OWBO@sba.gov.

7.3 Grants.gov Technical Support

For technical support with filing an electronic application in response to this Program Announcement, contact the Grants.gov help desk at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

8.0. Section VIII - Other Information

8.1. Definitions

The following definitions apply to awards made under this Program Announcement.

8.1.1 **Applicant** – An eligible organization that applies for funding under this Program Announcement.

8.1.2 **Budget Period** – The 12-month period during which expenditure obligations will be incurred by the Recipient of an award under this Announcement. For the purposes of this Program Announcement, the initial budget period will be from September 30 to September 29. Each option year, if exercised, will constitute a separate budget period.

8.1.3 **Client** - The client is the business, if it exists. In the case of a prospective business, the client is the individual.

In-Business: A business that has completed the required registration(s), if applicable, with the local, state, and/or federal governments (e.g., DBA registration, business license, agency-issued tax identifications, etc.).

AND

At least one of the following:

- Has documented a transaction from the sale of a product or professional or personal service for the purpose of gain or profit;
- Has contracted for or compensated an employee(s) or independent contractor(s) to perform essential business functions;
- Has acquired debt or equity capital to pursue business operations (e.g., to purchase inventory, equipment, building, business, etc.); or
- Has incurred business expenses in the operation of a business.

Nascent (Pre-venture) Entrepreneur: An individual who has taken one or more active steps to form a business. This includes individuals seeking assistance from the SBA and/or one of its resource partners.

Start-up: A business that has been in operation up to 12 months.

- 8.1.4 **Closure** - A period of time when the WBC plans to cease operations, such as a national holiday, annual local event or other extended period of time.
- 8.1.5 **Contact hours** - The amount of time spent directly interacting with a business or individual client.
- 8.1.6 **Contributions/donations** - Funds received by the WBC with no conditions and that may be used as match or overmatch in the year expended. Federal funds or amounts reported as match may not be used as contributions to others.
- 8.1.7 **Cooperative Agreement** – A legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the United States government and the Recipient when the principal purpose of the relationship is to transfer a thing of value to the Recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation and substantial involvement is expected between the awarding agency and the Recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated in the agreement.
- 8.1.8 **Cost Policy Statement** – A document describing all accounting policies of an Applicant organization and narrating in detail its proposed cost allocation plan. This plan must stipulate the procedures used to identify, measure, and allocate all costs to each benefitting activity.
- 8.1.9 **Counseling** – Services provided one-on-one to an individual and/or business that are delivered in person (face-to-face), on the telephone, or electronically and which:
- are substantive in nature and concern the formation, management, financing, and/or operation of a small business enterprise; AND
 - are specific to the needs of the business or individual; AND
 - require a signed SBA Form 641 or equivalent form that supports SBA's management information database.

Face-to-face counseling – Meets the definition of “counseling” **and** should be no less than one hour initially (preparation time may be included in this initial calculation) and includes any counseling session thereafter regardless of time.

Long-term counseling – Meets the definition of “counseling” **and** includes 5 or more hours of contact time per individual or business during the federal fiscal year or any prior year.

Online or telephone counseling – Meets the definition of “counseling” **and** the recipient of the counseling must acknowledge, through an SBA Form 641 or an SBA-approved “electronic substitute,” the requirements imposed by accepting counseling assistance from the SBA or its resource partner(s). (In states that accept electronic signatures, it may contain an electronic signature. In states that do not accept electronic signatures, the form must have an original signature.) Online or telephone counseling should be no less than 30 minutes initially (preparation time may be included in the initial consultation and the total time may include several electronic questions and responses that cumulatively add up to 30 minutes).

- 8.1.10 **Distance learning** - The process of connecting learners with remote and multiple resources. Such learning uses communication technologies to stimulate continuous and lifelong learning. The technologies used include video, audio, computer, satellite, audio-graphic and print technologies.
- 8.1.11 **Electronic commerce (eCommerce)** - Electronic commerce refers to all aspects of business and market processes enabled by the Internet and other digital technologies.
- 8.1.12 **Goals and initiatives** – WBC goals are those established in collaboration with OWBO and the SBA District Office.
- 8.1.13 **Grants Management Officer (GMO)** – The SBA official with delegated authority to obligate federal funds by signing the Notice of Award
- 8.1.14 **In-kind contribution** – A non-cash match contribution based on the value of goods and services that are provided to the project.
- 8.1.15 **Key Personnel** – A person who devotes at least 50% of her/his time to the project and who serves in a position/role that is vital to the successful operation of the WBC (e.g., program director, etc.).
- 8.1.16 **Non-Key Personnel** – Any employee who provides services that support the WBC Project but whose role is not vital to the project.
- 8.1.17 **Notice of Award** – The legal document, signed by both SBA and a Recipient, that memorializes the award of funding under a Cooperative Agreement and contains the specific terms and conditions that apply to the award.
- 8.1.18 **Preparation time (hours)** - The amount of time spent preparing and researching information for a business or individual client.
- 8.1.19 **Program Director** - A full-time, (40 hours per week) employee (required by statute) whose time is dedicated 100% to managing the day-to-day operation of the WBC. The Program Director's responsibilities include but are not limited to:
- Ensuring that WBC Project and services are delivered in accordance with the Program Announcement, Notice of Award, regulations, and statute.
 - Ensuring that the WBC is compliant with the Program Announcement, Notice of Award, regulations, statute, and OMB circulars.
 - Ensuring that all communications from the Office of Women's Business Ownership are provided to the appropriate parties of the WBC.
- 8.1.20 **Program funds** - Includes all SBA federal funds and all WBC matching and overmatch expenditures reported on the SF-425 (includes non-cash/in-kind). It does not include other funds under the grant Recipient's umbrella.
- 8.1.21 **Program income** - Gross income earned by the Recipient that is directly generated by an activity supported with project funds or earned as a result of the award. Program income includes, but is not

limited to, income from fees for services performed, the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under federally-funded projects, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under an award, and license fees and royalties on patents and copyrights.

- 8.1.22 ***Project Period*** – The total period of performance for an award made under this Program Announcement, including the base and all option-year Budget Periods.
- 8.1.23 ***Recipient organization*** - An applicant organization for which funding is approved and that enters into a Cooperative Agreement with the SBA. The recipient organization receives the federal funds and is responsible for establishing the WBC as an entity within the organization.
- 8.1.24 ***SBA resource partner*** - Organizations that provide services through SBA funding or through another recognized relationship with the SBA. Resource partners include, but are not limited to, SBDCs, SCORE, veterans business outreach centers (VBOCs), women's business centers, U.S. export assistance centers (USEACs), SBA Microloan Program intermediaries and non-lender technical assistance providers, and SBA co-sponsorship and memorandum-of-understanding partners.
- 8.1.25 ***Socially and Economically Disadvantaged***

A. *Socially Disadvantaged*

Socially disadvantaged individuals are those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias because of their identity as members of a group. Social disadvantage must stem from circumstances beyond their control. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, individuals who are members of the following designated groups are presumed to be socially disadvantaged:

- physically handicapped
- African Americans
- Hispanic Americans
- Native Americans (American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians)
- Asian Pacific Americans (persons with origins from Japan, China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Korea, American Samoa, Guam, U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands [Republic of Palau], Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Laos, Cambodia [Kampuchea], Taiwan; Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Macao, Hong Kong, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, or Nauru; Subcontinent Asian Americans (persons with origins from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, the Maldives Islands or Nepal)

B. *Economically Disadvantaged Individuals – For WBC Project Purposes*

Economically disadvantaged individuals are socially disadvantaged individuals whose ability to compete in the free enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities. Persons whose household income is at or below 80 % of the Area Median Income (AMI)

C. *Economically Disadvantaged Communities – For WBC Project Purposes*

Based on the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program definitions: NMTC program supports activities in eligible Low-Income Communities (LICs), which are defined by statute as population census tracts with a poverty rate of 20% or greater or a median family income at or below 80% of the applicable area median family income.

- 8.1.26 ***Technical assistance*** – Counseling or training services provided to an individual and/or business in accordance with the terms of this Program Announcement and a Recipient's Notice of Award.
- 8.1.27 ***Training*** – a workshop, seminar or similar activity or event which delivers a structured program of knowledge, information or experience on a business-related subject. The training must last for a minimum of one hour and include two or more individuals and/or businesses in attendance.
- A. ***Co-hosted training (collaborative)*** – Meets the definition of “training” and further defined as an activity where each host organization actively participates and contributes substantially to the training.
- B. ***Online Training*** – Online training is a structured program of knowledge, information or experience on an entrepreneurial or business-related subject. It must be of a quality and substantive nature, and must include a registration process as well as an evaluation process (e.g. 1-5 star ranking). The training must be for a minimum of 30 minutes and a course evaluation must be made available. Online training may be synchronous or asynchronous:
- ***Synchronous*** – A group of clients proceed through the training module(s) or program as a group.
 - ***Asynchronous*** – A client individually proceeds through the training module(s) or program individually and is self-paced.
- C. ***Total hours of training*** – The total number of hours the trainer spends teaching the training session.
- 8.1.28 ***Travel hours*** – The amount of time spent traveling to and from a location (separate from assigned post-of-duty) to meet with businesses or individual clients. If meeting with more than one client, travel time is counted only once.
- 8.1.29 ***Women's Business Center*** – A SBA women's business center is a program or project funded, in part, by a grant from the SBA to provide technical assistance, such as training and counseling to women entrepreneurs, both nascent and owners of existing businesses. The WBC may exist within the framework of a larger economic development organization and may make use of the resources provided by that organization, and must be a clearly identifiable separate program or project of that entity.

- A. The WBC clients reported to SBA must be those receiving services from the WBC, not from the larger organization.
- B. The WBC finances must be accounted for separately from the parent organization and from any other WBC operated by the parent organization.
- C. Budgeted WBC funds must only be used for WBC Project purposes.
- D. As a WBC grant recipient the primary client focus must be women; the program or project cannot exclude male clients, but must target women.

8.1.30 **Woman Owned Business** – A small business concern that is not less than 51% owned by one or more women and the management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more women.

8.2 Additional Resources and Partnerships

A. *Business Matchmaking*

WBCs are encouraged to participate in SBA Business Matchmaking events. Business Matchmaking provides a means for small businesses to be matched with procurement representatives from government agencies and major corporations with actual contract opportunities. Business Matchmaking is offered at no cost to its participants—buyers or sellers. The events combine education and counseling by pairing expert small business advisors and topical experts with networking and matchmaking through face-to-face events. There is also an online network at <http://www.businessmatchmaking.com/online.shtml>

B. *Co-Sponsorship Agreements*

If one or more organizations and the SBA are involved with a WBC as co-sponsors of an activity, a co-sponsorship agreement must be executed by the SBA, the WBC, and all other co-sponsors in accordance with the SBA's Co-sponsorship SOP 90 75 2 or revised equivalent.

8.3 Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Is a small business development center (SBDC) eligible to apply for an award under this Program Announcement?

Answer: No. An SBDC is not a legal entity; it is a project funded under a federal grant program. However, the *recipient organization* of the SBDC federal grant is eligible to apply for a WBC grant if it is a private, non-profit organization and meets the WBC eligibility requirements. In addition, host organizations that house service centers as part of an SBDC network may also be eligible for a WBC grant if all eligibility requirements are met.

Question: Are colleges and universities eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes. A college or university may apply if it is a private, non-profit organization and meets all eligible requirements.

Question: May SBDCs provide cash or in-kind match to the WBC Project?

Answer: No. SBDCs are funded with federal monies, which are matched from non-federal sources. Because the WBC recipient may not use federal funds as match, SBDC federal funds may not be used as match. SBDC matching funds, as well as program income derived from an SBA SBDC grant, also may not be used as match. However, the SBDC's *recipient organization* may donate non-federal funds and in-kind donations to the WBC Project as match.

Question: May Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds be used as match?

Answer: Yes. If CDBG Program requirements are met and the funds are used for the WBC grant project.

Question: What are the key aspects of a successful women's business center?

Answer: Success could be defined by the following, but not limited to: having adequate funds; a good financial management system; a strong board of directors with proven fundraising capability; a committed staff with strong entrepreneurial experience; a program that meets the unique needs of the service area's business women; a strong marketing plan; and close ties with the local SBA District Office, its resource partners and the local business community.

Question: Should the Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance (face page), indicate the total amount to be funded for the 5-year period (or 3-year period for a Renewal Grant)?

Answer: No. The estimated funding (block 18) must indicate the proposed amount for each separate budget period.

A Standard Form 424 must be submitted for the first 12 month project period (Base Year) and each of the four Option Years, for a total of five complete SF424 packages for the Initial Phase award and three complete separate packages for the Renewal Phase award. (i.e., five (or 3 for Renewal Phase) complete separate packages including the following: SF-424, 424A, 424B, Annual Budget Summary Worksheets (B10-B16) (or a reasonable facsimile), Certification of Cash Match and Program Income, Sources of Match, and Budget Narrative.)

8.4 Instructions for Completing the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) Package

Applicants must complete a separate SF-424, SF424A, SF424B, and Annual Budget Summary Worksheets (B10-B16) (or a reasonable facsimile) for the first 12 month project period (Base Year) and each of the four Option Years, for a total of five complete SF424 packages for the Initial Phase award and three complete separate packages for the Renewal Phase award. (i.e., five (or 3 for Renewal Phase) complete separate packages including the following: SF-424, 424A, 424B, B10-B16 (or a reasonable facsimile), Certification of Cash Match and Program Income, Sources of Match, and Budget Narrative.)

These documents may be more easily understood by supplementation with the Annual Budget Summary Worksheets (B10-B16).

A. Instructions for completing the Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance located at grants.gov. (*Note: The Base Year (first 12 month period) SF-424 is located at grants.gov and is a part of the mandatory application package.*)

Item 1 Application

Item 2 New

- Item 3 Completed by Grants.gov upon submission
- Items 4 – 7 Leave Blank
- Items 8 – 10 Self-Explanatory
- Item 11 59.043, Women’s Business Ownership Assistance
- Item 12 **OWBO-2014-01, Women’s Business Center – Initial Grant (or Renewal)**
- Item 13 Leave Blank
- Item 14 Required. List all areas affected by your project.
- Item 15 Self-Explanatory
- Item 16 Self-Explanatory
- Item 17 **09/30/2014 09/29/2015**
- Item 18a. Amount entered may not exceed **\$143,959.00** for Initial Phase award or **\$125,882.00** for Renewal Phase award
- Item 18b.-f. Self-Explanatory
Note: Enter the amount(s) that comprise the non-federal match.
Note: Use “e. Other” for In-Kind contributions.
- Item 19 Check “c.” Program is **not** covered by E.O. 12372
- Items 20-21 Self-Explanatory

B. Instructions for completing the Standard Form 424A (Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs) located at grants.gov. (*Note: The Base Year (first 12 month period) SF-424A is located at grants.gov and is a part of the mandatory application package.*)

These documents may be more easily understood by supplementation with the Annual Budget Summary Worksheets (B10–B16).

The budget is the Applicant’s estimate of the total cost of performing the project for which funding is being requested under this Announcement during the applicable Budget Period. The budget is to be based upon the total amount of funds that will be devoted to the project, including federal funds, contributions from non-federal sources, and program income (as applicable). All proposed costs reflected in the budget must be relevant to the conduct of the project and must be reasonable, allowable, and allocable under the applicable OMB Cost Principles and Agency policies.

All costs should be justified and itemized by unit cost on the Annual Budget Summary Worksheets (B10-B16) or reasonable facsimile. All forms contained in the financial application package must be completed accurately and in full.

Section A - Budget Summary

Block 1.

- Column (a) Enter description “Federal Amount”
- Column (b) 59.043
- Column (c) Leave Blank
- Column (d) Leave Blank

Column (e) Enter amount not to exceed the amount offered by this Program
Announcement
Column (f) Leave Blank

Block 2.

Column (a) Enter description "Non-Federal Cash"
Column (b) Leave Blank
Column (c) Leave Blank
Column (d) Leave Blank
Column (e) Leave Blank
Column (f) Enter the total amount of Non-Federal Cash

Block 3.

Column (a) Enter description "In-Kind"
Column (b) Leave Blank
Column (c) Leave Blank
Column (d) Leave Blank
Column (e) Leave Blank
Column (f) Enter the total amount of In-kind

Block 4.

Column (a) Enter description "Program Income" (if none, leave blank)
Column (b) Leave Blank
Column (c) Leave Blank
Column (d) Leave Blank
Column (e) Leave Blank
Column (f) Enter the total amount of Program Income (if none, leave blank)

Section B - Budget Categories

Complete column 6a – 6k, Columns (1) – (4) entering amounts by budget category as follows.

(1) Federal (2) Non-Federal Cash (3) In-Kind (4) Program Income

The itemization must reflect the total requirements for funding from federal and non-federal sources.

Section C - Non-Federal Resources

Refer to instructions on form.

Section D - Forecasted Cash Needs

Refer to instructions on form.

Section E - Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project

Refer to instructions on form.

Section F - Other Budget Information

Direct Charges: Refer to instructions on form.

Indirect Charges: Refer to instructions on form.

C. Instructions for completing the Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance for each Option Year. (*Note: The SF-424 for each option year must be completed, scanned and entered into the*

specified grants.gov attachment button as instructed. This form may be obtained at the SBA, Office of Women's Business Center website: (<http://www.sba.gov/content/womens-business-center-grant-opportunities>):

Item 1	Application
Item 2	New
Item 3	Completed by Grants.gov upon submission
Items 4 – 7	Leave Blank
Items 8 – 10	Self-Explanatory
Item 11	59.043, Women's Business Ownership Assistance
Item 12	OWBO-2014-01, Women's Business Center – Initial Grant (or Renewal)
Item 13	Leave Blank
Item 14	Required. List all areas affected by your project.
Item 15	Self-Explanatory
Item 16	Self-Explanatory
Item 17	09/30/2015 – 09/29/2016, for Option 1 09/30/2016 – 09/29/2017, for Option 2 09/30/2017 – 09/29/2018, for Option 3 09/30/2018 – 09/29/2019, for Option 4

Or for Renewal Phase

09/30/2015 – 09/29/2016, for Option 1
09/30/2016 – 09/29/2017, for Option 2

Item 18a.	Amount entered may not exceed \$143,959.00 for Initial Phase award or \$125,882.00 for Renewal Phase award
Item 18b.-f.	Self-Explanatory Note: Enter the amount(s) that comprise the non-federal match. Note: Use "e. Other" for In-Kind contributions.
Item 19	Check "c." Program is not covered by E.O. 12372
Items 20-21	Self-Explanatory

D. Instructions for completing the Standard Form 424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs for each Option Year. (*Note: The SF-424A for each option year must be completed, scanned and entered into the specified grants.gov attachment button as instructed. This form may be obtained at the SBA, Office of Women's Business Center website: (<http://www.sba.gov/content/womens-business-center-grant-opportunities>):*

These documents may be more easily understood by supplementation with the Annual Budget Summary Worksheets (B10-B16).

The budget is the Applicant's estimate of the total cost of performing the project for which funding is being requested under this Announcement during the applicable Budget Period. The budget is to be based upon the total amount of funds that will be devoted to the project, including federal funds, contributions from non-federal sources, and program income (as applicable). All proposed costs

reflected in the budget must be relevant to the conduct of the project and must be reasonable, allowable, and allocable under the applicable OMB Cost Principles and Agency policies.

All costs should be justified and itemized by unit cost on the Annual Budget Summary Worksheets (B10-B16 or reasonable facsimile). All forms contained in the financial application package must be completed accurately and in full.

Section A - Budget Summary

Block 1.

Column (a)	Enter description "Federal Amount"
Column (b)	59.043
Column (c)	Leave Blank
Column (d)	Leave Blank
Column (e)	Enter amount not to exceed the amount offered by this Program Announcement
Column (f)	Leave Blank

Block 2.

Column (a)	Enter description "Non-Federal Cash"
Column (b)	Leave Blank
Column (c)	Leave Blank
Column (d)	Leave Blank
Column (e)	Leave Blank
Column (f)	Enter the total amount of Non-Federal Cash

Block 3.

Column (a)	Enter description "In-Kind"
Column (b)	Leave Blank
Column (c)	Leave Blank
Column (d)	Leave Blank
Column (e)	Leave Blank
Column (f)	Enter the total amount of In-kind

Block 4.

Column (a)	Enter description "Program Income" (if none, leave blank)
Column (b)	Leave Blank
Column (c)	Leave Blank
Column (d)	Leave Blank
Column (e)	Leave Blank
Column (f)	Enter the total amount of Program Income (if none, leave blank)

Section B - Budget Categories

Complete column 6a – 6k, Columns (1) – (4) entering amounts by budget category as follows.

(1) Federal (2) Non-Federal Cash (3) In-Kind (4) Program Income

The itemization must reflect the total requirements for funding from federal and non-federal sources.

Section C - Non-Federal Resources

Refer to instructions on form.

Section D - Forecasted Cash Needs

Refer to instructions on form.

Section E - Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project

Refer to instructions on form.

Section F - Other Budget Information

Direct Charges: Refer to instructions on form.

Indirect Charges: Refer to instructions on form.

E. Budget Detail Information

Personnel

1. List the name, title, salary for each employee and the estimated amount of time each will be assigned to this project. The Applicant must have a full-time, (40 hours per week) employee (required by statute) whose time is dedicated 100% to managing the day-to-day operation of the WBC. This position may not be shared between two or more employees.
2. Résumés of all key personnel assigned to this effort must be included in the application.
3. Official Position descriptions for ALL personnel (key and non-key) assigned to this effort must be included in the application.
4. Note that fees, expenses, and estimated amount of time for outside consultants should be included in the contractual line item.

F. Fringe Benefits

Leave blank if fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as part of indirect costs in the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (ICRA). If your organization's fringe benefit package is not included in your ICRA, list each component included as a fringe benefit.

G. Indirect Charges

Enter the indirect cost rate, date, and federal agency that issued your ICRA. If your organization does not have an approved ICRA, you must negotiate an ICRA with SBA in accordance with the applicable OMB Cost Principles. **Note:** Indirect costs are limited to 20% of the total award (federal and non-federal) under the WBC project regardless of percentage allowed in approved rate.

H. Justification of Costs

All proposed costs require justification and narrative explanation.

I. Miscellaneous, Contingency or "Etc." Costs

No miscellaneous or contingency costs are allowed.

J. Proposal Costs

SBA will not pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal.

8.5 Templates and Charts

8.5.1 Projected Milestone Chart (Prepare one chart for each year of the 5-year term for Initial Phase project or 3-year term for Renewal Phase project)

Name of Organization _____

State Project Year (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5) _____

TRAINING AND COUNSELING TARGETS

Type of Service	Number of Clients	Number of Hours
Training		
Counseling		
TOTAL		

ECONOMIC IMPACT TARGETS	Number
New Business Starts	
Jobs Created	
Access to Capital*	
Net increase or decrease in profits	

Note: The WBC will also be asked report on gross receipts of clients during the project year.

*** Project the dollar amount of capital that your client's will access as a result of your services.**

PLEASE LIST ALL OTHER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, ETC. THAT YOU PLAN FOR THE WBC IN THE PROJECT YEAR.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

ADD OTHERS IF NECESSARY.

8.5.2 WEB-BASED SELF ASSESSMENT	Mark "X"
WBC SELF-ASSESSMENT OF WEB-BASED ACTIVITIES	
BASIC	
1. Is your WBC accessible to clients via the Internet?	
a. Yes	
b. No	
2. Can clients obtain current information about upcoming events, training, business opportunities, etc. from your WBC website?	
a. Yes	
b. No	
3. Is your WBC website updated monthly to reflect current information and offerings so that the information clients obtain is accurate?	
a. Yes	
b. No	
4. Can clients access SBA's Home Page via a link from your WBC website?	
a. Yes	
b. No	
5. As an enhancement to our technical assistance, can clients directly access specific SBA program areas on the SBA Home Page via a link from your WBC website? (Procurement, SBIR, International Trade, etc.)	
a. Yes	
b. No	
6. Does your website provide client access to online training programs offered by other entities (other SBDCs, score, university sites, etc.)?	
a. Yes	
b. No	
7. Can clients communicate with your WBC via an automatic e-mail link?	
a. Yes	
b. No	
ADVANCED LEVEL I	
8. On your website, can clients:	
a) Download forms and other templates?	
i) Yes	
ii) No	
b) Complete and submit forms and other templates?	
i) Yes	
ii) No	
c) Access a library of business and management resource materials?	
i) Yes	
ii) No	
d) Access information via search or query mechanisms?	
i) Yes	
ii) No	

9. Can clients register, schedule and receive counseling through an automated Internet system?	
a. Yes	
b. No	
10. Can clients register, schedule and receive training through an automated Internet system?	
a. Yes	
b. No	
ADVANCED LEVEL II	
11. Can clients access an automated needs assessment tool, online diagnostic or expert system to identify the type and level of service required?	
a. Yes	
b. No	
12. Does this automated needs assessment tool or online diagnostic automatically refer the client to the targeted level of service?	
a. Yes	
b. No	
13. Can clients obtain assistance from a counselor via:	
a. Online and real time chat?	
i) Yes	
ii) No	
b. E-mail?	
i) Yes	
ii) No	

8.5.3 Checklist of Required Submissions for Program Announcement

Technical Proposal	Cost Proposal
<p>Address and submit each of the following as instructed and outlined in the Program Announcement. Program Information Narrative (Not to exceed 25 pages)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mission Alignment and Experience</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Organization Experience and Capacity</p> <p>Include the following attachments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization Chart (include names and positions for all proposed full- and part-time program staff employees working on the WBC Project) - Résumés (for key personnel) - Official Position Description (for ALL personnel – key & non-key) - List of Board of Directors (include phone number and e-mail address) - WBC Hours & Planned Closures <p><input type="checkbox"/> Market Assessment for Services Provided</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Project Objectives & Milestones Narrative 5- or 3-Year Plan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Plans for Marketing and Collaboration with SBA & Other Community & Small Business Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include commitment letters and/or cooperative agreements. <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sources and Leverages of Funds</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Financial Management Capability & Certification of Match</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include a certification that the financial system to be used for the WBC Project meets 2 C.F.R. Parts 215.21 – 215.28. <p><input type="checkbox"/> Program Evaluation and Economic Impact</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Technology Capability</p> <p>Supporting Documents</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Copy of All Subcontracts and Agreements (may not exceed 49% of total budget)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conflict of Interest policy signed by all current employees, contractors, and instructors (not to include volunteers)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Verification (501(c) Certification from IRS)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SBA Form 1623 (Debarment & Suspension)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SBA Form 1711 (Lobbying)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SF-LLL (Lobbying)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SBA Form 1224 (Cost Sharing Proposal)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Approved Indirect Cost Rate (if applicable)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Most recent audit (or financial statement)</p>	<p>Must include five (5) separate SF-424 Packages One (1) for the Base Year budget AND one (1) for each of the 4 Option Years (for Initial Phase) or 2 Option Years (for Renewal Phase) under the project. SF 424 Packages and Budget Details</p> <p>For Base Year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SF-424</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SF-424A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SF-424B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Annual Budget Summary (B10–B16)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Certification of Cash Match and Program Income Worksheet. Include a list of sources for cash match and detail the activity which will generate program income. <u>Note:</u> In-kind should not be included on this worksheet.</p> <p>For Option Years 1 – 4 - Submit the following:</p> <p>SF-424</p> <p>SF-424A</p> <p>SF-424B</p> <p>Annual Budget Summary (B10–B16)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Option Year 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Option Year 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Option Year 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Option Year 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAKE SURE OF THE FOLLOWING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The SF-424 reflects the correct federal amount and non-federal match of which at least 50% is in the form of cash. <u>Note:</u> Cash match is all non-federal cash and program income; 2. The SF-424A, block 6. a. – k., breaks out the federal share (in column 1); the non-federal cash (in column 2); in-kind (in column 3) & program income (in column 4); and 3. The budget does not include non-expendable equipment. Non-expendable equipment is unallowable under the grant. <p><u>Note:</u> Expendable equipment, (valued at under \$5,000 per piece) is allowable and must be shown under the "Supplies" cost category.</p>