

September 23, 2014

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tonko:

Thank you for your recent correspondence supporting the SEED (Small Enterprise Economic Development) grant funding through the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA), Office of Business Development 7(j) Management and Technical Assistance (7(j) MTA) Program.

Section 7(j) of the Small Business Act (the Act) authorizes SBA to award contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to private organizations to pay all or part of the costs of projects that provide management, technical, and business development assistance to eligible individuals and businesses. One of SBA's major goals is to strengthen the Agency's entrepreneurial education and counseling and training resources to support the needs of existing businesses by successfully focusing on core program resources and ensuring these resources are aligned with the needs of high-growth small business.

On June 20, 2014, SBA issued the FY 2014 Program Announcement Number GCBD-7j-2014-01 for 7(j) Management and Technical Assistance Services, which closed on July 22, 2014. The purpose of this Program Announcement was to invite proposals for innovative projects promoting the development, success, and long-term survival of firms eligible for assistance under the 7(j) MTA Program. The SBA expects to make 6-10 awards ranging from \$150,000.00 - \$250,000.00 and there is no matching fund for this requirement. The SBA has received several grant applications which we are currently reviewing and evaluating. The SBA will notify the selected individuals directly of the grant awards.

We appreciate your continued support of SBA and the New York 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,

Robert Watkins
Acting Associate Administrator
Office of Business Development