



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

September 28, 2012

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wilson:

Administrator Mills has asked me to respond to your recent inquiry addressing the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Small Business Development Centers' (OSBDC) Program in Florida, specifically services offered in the Miami-Dade area.

Our OSBDC Program manager for the Florida SBDC network recognized earlier this year that the Miami area was an underserved area and has been working with the SBDC Lead Center to remedy that situation. I am truly pleased that we have been able to address this deficiency. Effective January 1, 2013, the Florida SBDC network will include the University of Miami as one of its service delivery centers.

In preparation for becoming a service center, the University of Miami and the Florida SBDC network have been giving the business counselors and service center director professional development training. This training will continue during the next 3 months to ensure that the small businesses in this area will have access to the best possible services.

The Florida SBDC Lead Center is committed to developing a robust service center in the Miami area. To that end, it has dedicated funds to a Latino initiative, in conjunction with the State Department, to be implemented by the University of Miami SBDC service center. The SBAO SBDC will continue to work diligently to employ the funds entrusted to us in the most effective manner so that our SBDC networks can meet the challenges and the needs of existing and prospective small business concerns.

We appreciate your support of the SBA and the Florida 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,

B. Ann Bradbury
Acting Associate Administrator
Office of Small Business Development Centers

