

## Small Business Assistance

Assistance to small business is available at the federal and state level. Two federal agencies provide support for small business development-Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), Department of Commerce.

-  
The Small Business Administration (SBA) offers technical, managerial, financial, and procurement assistance and assistance for businesses impacted by disaster. This includes:

- Starting Your

Business - Information on the basics of starting a business, including a free small business startup guide.

- Financing Your

Business - Information on raising money for a business from private sources, obtaining SBA loans, and other financial information.

- Managing

Your Business - Information on management topics such as, marketing and sales, strategic planning, technology, taxes, and leadership.

- Business

Opportunities - Information on the basics and opportunities of federal government contracting and federal acquisition regulations are provided by SBA.

The four Web pages cited above includes a Special Audiences section where information of special interest to women entrepreneurs, veterans, native Americans, and minorities is provided.

### Disaster

Assistance - When a disaster strikes in your area, it is important that one contacts their local SBA Disaster Area Offices, because your office will be best prepared to assist with your specific needs.

For access to over 200 free SBA e-books and publications, articles, sample business plans, and other small business Internet resources, see the SBA Library Web page.

### The Minority Business

Development Agency (MBDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce provides information on access to capital, access to markets, management and technical

assistance, and education and training. A calendar of conferences and meetings of interest to minority enterprises and small businesses is also available.

It is at the state and local levels that businesses function. Each state has a vested interest in helping businesses. Most states offer assistance to both small and minority owned businesses in the areas of financing, taxes, licenses for businesses, procurement opportunities both at the state and federal level and exporting and importing. Provided are contacts from the Council of State Governments' State Directory: Administrative Officials 2006 for your state small and minority business offices.