

If requested within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice, the Department will determine whether antidumping duties have been absorbed by an exporter or producer subject to any of these reviews if the subject merchandise is sold in the United States through an importer which is affiliated with such exporter or producer.

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective orders in accordance with 19 C.F.R. 353.34(b) and 355.34(b).

These initiations and this notice are in accordance with section 751(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)) and 19 CFR 353.22(c)(1) and 355.22(c)(1).

Dated: April 18, 1997.

**Joseph A. Spetrini,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Group III.*

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BILLING CODE 3510-DS-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Minority Business Development Agency

#### Business Development Center Application: Puerto Rico "Islandwide"

**AGENCY:** Minority Business Development Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. 1512, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting competitive applications under its Minority Business Development Center (MBDC) program to operate the Puerto Rico "Islandwide" Minority Business Development Center (MBDC) for approximately a 3-year period, subject to agency priorities, recipient performance and the availability of funds.

By consolidating the BDCs under an islandwide concept, we save Federal funds while continuing to offer quality service to eligible clients in Puerto Rico. This action also allows for coverage of both the metropolitan and rural areas of Puerto Rico. The main office of the "Islandwide" MBDC will be located in San Juan. The largest areas of minority business concentration are San Juan, Ponce and Mayaguez. Satellite offices will be put in place to cover the Ponce and Mayaguez areas. The award number for this MBDC will be 02-10-97006-01.

**DATES:** The closing date for applications is May 30, 1997. Applications Must be received in the MBDA Headquarters' Executive Secretariat on or before May

30, 1997. A pre-application conference to assist all interested applicants will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 1997. For further information concerning time and location, please contact the Atlanta Regional Office at 404/730-3300.

**ADDRESSES:** Completed application packages should be submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency, Executive Secretariat, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 5073, Washington, D.C. 20230, Telephone Number (202) 482-3763.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION PACKAGE, CONTACT:** Robert Henderson, Regional Director, Atlanta Regional Office, (404) 730-3300.

Proper identification is required for entrance into any Federal Building.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first budget period (13 months) from September 1, 1997 to September 30, 1998, is estimated at \$599,187. A 30-day start-up period will be added to the first budget period, making it a 13-month award. The application must include a minimum cost-share of \$89,878, (15%) of the total project cost, through non-Federal contributions. The Federal share, to be in the amount of \$509,308, includes \$12,733 for an annual audit fee. Cost-sharing may be in the form of cash contributions, client fees, in-kind contributions or combinations thereof.

The funding instrument for this project will be a cooperative agreement. Competition is open to individuals, non-profit and for-profit organizations, state and local governments, American Indian tribes and educational institutions.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria: the experience and capabilities of the firm and its staff in addressing the needs of the business community in general and, specifically, the special needs of minority businesses, individuals and organizations (45 points); the resources available to the firm in providing both rural and urban business development services (10 points); the firm's approach (techniques and methodologies) to performing the work requirements included in the application (25 points); and the firm's estimated cost for providing such assistance (20 points). An application must receive at least 70% of the points assigned to each evaluation criteria category to be considered programmatically acceptable and responsive. Those applications determined to be acceptable and responsive will then be evaluated by the

Director of MBDA. Final award selections will be based on the number of points received, the demonstrated responsibility of the applicant, and the determination of those most likely to further the purpose of the MBDC program. Negative audit findings and recommendations and unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for award. The applicant with the highest point score will not necessarily receive the award.

The "Islandwide" MBDC shall be required to contribute at least 15% of the total project cost through non-Federal contributions. To assist in this effort, the "Islandwide" MBDC may charge client fees for management and technical assistance (M&TA) rendered. Fees may range from \$10 to \$60 per hour based on the gross receipts of the client's business.

If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding beyond the initial award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of DOC. Awards under this program shall be subject to all Federal laws, Federal and Departmental regulations, policies and procedures applicable to Federal assistance awards.

Quarterly reviews culminating in year-to-date evaluations will be conducted to determine if funding for the project should continue. Continued funding will be at the total discretion of MBDA based on such factors as the "Islandwide" MBDC's performance, the availability of funds and Agency priorities.

Anticipated processing time of this award is 120 days. Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs", is not applicable to this program. The collection of information requirements for this project have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned OMB control number 0640-0006.

**Pre-Award Costs**—Applicants are hereby notified that if they incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal assurance that an applicant may have received, there is no obligation on the part of the Department of Commerce to cover pre-award costs.

**Outstanding Account Receivable**—No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either the delinquent account is paid in full, or a repayment schedule is established and

at least one payment is received, or other arrangements satisfactory to the Department of Commerce are made.

**Name Check Policy**—All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal whether any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

**Award Termination**—The Departmental Grants Officer may terminate any grant/cooperative agreement in whole or in part at any time before the date of completion whenever it is determined that the award recipient has failed to comply with the conditions of the grant/cooperative agreement. Examples of some of the conditions which can cause termination are failure to meet cost-sharing requirements; unsatisfactory performance of the MBDC work requirements; and reporting inaccurate or inflated claims of client assistance. Such inaccurate or inflated claims may be deemed illegal and punishable by law.

**False Statements**—A false statement on an application for Federal financial assistance is grounds for denial or termination of funds, and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

**Primary Applicant Certifications**—All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying."

**Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension**—Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 26.105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies.

**Drug Free Workplace**—Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 26.605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies.

**Anti-Lobbying**—Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 28.105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section

of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000 or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected programs, whichever is greater.

**Anti-Lobbying Disclosures**—Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.

**Lower Tier Certifications**—Recipients shall require applications/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to DOC. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

**Buy American-made Equipment or Products**—Applicants are hereby notified that they are encouraged, to the extent feasible, to purchase American-made equipment and products with funding provided under this program in accordance with Congressional intent as set forth in the resolution contained in Pub L. 103-121, Sections 606(a) and (b).

#### 11.800 Minority Business

##### Development Center

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance).

Dated: April 18, 1997.

**Frances B. Douglas,**

*Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,  
Minority Business Development Agency.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Minority Business Development Agency

#### Solicitation of Business Development Center Applications for Houston and Dallas/Ft. Worth/Arlington

**AGENCY:** Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Executive Order 11625 15 U.S.C. 1512, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting competitive

applications from organizations to operate the Minority Business Development Centers (MBDC) listed in this document.

The purpose of the MBDC Program is to provide business development assistance to persons who are members of groups determined by MBDA to be socially or economically disadvantaged, and to business concerns owned and controlled by such individuals. To this end, MBDA funds organizations to identify and coordinate public and private sector resources on behalf of minority individuals and firms; to offer a full range of client services to minority entrepreneurs; and to serve as a conduit of information and assistance regarding minority business.

In accordance with the Interim Final Policy published in the **Federal Register** on May 31, 1996, the cost-share requirement for the MBDCs listed in this notice has been increased to 40%. The Department of Commerce will fund up to 60% of the total cost of operating an MBDC on an annual basis. The MBDC operator is required to contribute at least 40% of the total project cost (the "cost-share requirement"). Cost-sharing contributions may be in the form of cash, client fees, third party in-kind contributions, non-cash applicant contributions or combinations thereof. In addition to the traditional sources of an MBDC's cost-share contribution, the 40% may be contributed by local, state and private sector organizations. It is anticipated that some organizations may apply jointly for an award to operate the center. For administrative purposes, one organization must be designated as the recipient organization.

**DATES:** The closing date for applications for each MBDC is May 30, 1997.

**PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE:** Pre-application conferences will be held. For the exact date, time and location, contact the Dallas Regional Office at (214) 767-8001. Proper identification is required for entrance into any Federal building.

**ADDRESSES:** Completed application packages should be submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency, MBDA Executive Secretariat, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 5073, Washington, DC 20230.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following are MBDCs for which applications are solicited:

1. **MBDC Application:** Houston.  
*Metropolitan Area Served:* Houston, Texas.

*Award Number:* 06-10-97005-01.