

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Minority Business Development Agency****Business Development Center Applications: Orlando, FL**

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency; Commerce.

ACTION: Cancellation.

SUMMARY: The Minority Business Development Agency is canceling the announcement to solicit competitive applications under its Minority Business Development Center (MBDC) program to operate the Orlando MBDC. The solicitation was originally published in the **Federal Register** on Tuesday, December 17, 1996, Vol. 61, No. 243, Page 66261.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.800 Minority Business Development Center.)

Dated: September 25, 1997.

Donald L. Powers,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, Minority Business Development Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Minority Business Development Agency****Business Development Center Application: Atlanta, GA**

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 from organizations to operate its Atlanta, Georgia Minority Business Development Center (MBDC).

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. The MBDC will provide service in the Atlanta, Georgia geographic service area. The award

number of the MBDC will be 04-10-98001-01.

DATES: The closing date for applications is *October 31, 1997*. Applications must be received in the MBDA Headquarters' Executive Secretariat on or before *October 31, 1997*. A pre-application conference will be held on *October 15, 1997*, at 9:00 a.m., at the following address: U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency, 401 West Peachtree Street, N.W., Room 1715, Atlanta, Georgia 30308-3516.

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, N.W., Room 5073, Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION PACKAGE, CONTACT: Robert Henderson, Regional Director, at (404) 730-3300. Proper identification is required for entrance into any Federal building.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the program guidelines, 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"). Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first budget period (13 months) from February 1, 1998 to February 28, 1999, is estimated at \$283,156. The total Federal amount is \$283,156 and is composed of \$276,250 plus the Audit Fee amount of \$6,906. The application must include a minimum cost share of 40%, \$188,771 in non-federal (cost-sharing) contributions for a total project cost of \$471,927. 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.

The funding instrument for this project will be a cooperative agreement. If the recommended applicant is the current incumbent organization, the award will be for 12 months. For those applicants who are not incumbent organizations or who are incumbents that have experienced closure due to a break in service, a 30-day start-up period will be added to their first budget

period, making it a 13-month award. 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 knowledge, background and/or 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 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). The scoring system will be revised to add ten (10) bonus points to the application of community-based organizations. Each qualifying application will receive the full ten points. Community-based applicant organizations are those organizations whose headquarters and/or principal place of business within the last five years have been located within the geographic service area designated in the solicitation for the award. 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 shall 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 MBDA 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. Periodic 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 MBDC's performance, the availability of funds and Agency priorities.

The MBDC shall be required to contribute at least 40% of the total project cost through non-federal contributions. To assist in this effort, the MBDC may charge client fees for services rendered. Fees may range from \$10 to \$60 per hour based on the gross receipts of the client's business.