



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

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Friends:

In President Bush's remarks at a Faith Based and Community Initiative (FBCI) Summit in Washington, D.C. on March 1, 2005, he highlighted the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) unique role in carrying out his FBCI by saying "SBA, is helping to make sure the entrepreneurial spirit and entrepreneurial know-how reaches every corner of America."

The SBA is extending its reach to faith-based and community groups and forging important alliances, in an effort to affect as many Americans as possible. Examples of such collaboration include:

- SBA's District Office in Cleveland will soon be sending representatives into local Catholic high schools to help students understand both the opportunities and challenges involved in being self-employed.
- SBA's District Office in Alabama has participated in events sponsored by the National Black Church Family Council designed to promote SBA's Community Express Loan Program.
- SBA's New York District Office will soon hold a "Faith-Based Initiatives Summit" to reach faith-based and other community groups in the New York Metropolitan area.
- SBA sent out a Memoranda of Understanding to community groups such as the Urban League to help publicize programs and services for small businesses.

Special programs, like these, have not gone unnoticed. The President praised the SBA's efforts to promote his initiatives; which also captured the interest of the press. To cite just one example, the March 14 issue of Crain's Detroit Business reported that "The U.S. Small Business Administration is hoping that a higher power may help it tap into the next generation of entrepreneurs...The new wave of SBA outreach is based on President Bush's focus on FBCI and is being done by the SBA nationwide."

SBA is just beginning to explore its potential, despite our immediate progress with the FBCI. As I mentioned in my previous letter sent to you in September 2004, I am requesting you to consider and explore ways SBA and your organization can cooperate to assist potential entrepreneurs and existing small businesses. Cooperation with organizations such as yours will not only expand the breath of our Initiative, but will enable you to help identify, train, and finance entrepreneurs whose businesses will bring jobs and hope to economically distressed areas.

SBA has hosted or participated in over 150 workshops and events similar to those outlined above. For more information about how your organization can become a part of this Initiative; or about programs and services being offered by SBA, please contact SBA District Director Pancho Marrero of the South Florida District Office at (305) 536-5521 ext 118. You may also visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov or our web link dedicated to SBA's Center for FBCI at www.sba.gov/fbcj. Lastly, if you have any questions, please contact our Center for FBCI in Washington, D.C. at (202) 205-9037.

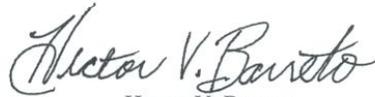
Page 2

I am convinced that in countless communities all across our great Nation, there are men and women who have the drive, ability, and skill to start their own small business, and make a real contribution to their neighborhoods and communities, but don't know where to begin. So I am asking you to cooperate with SBA and give those potential entrepreneurs the helping hand they need to start realizing the American dream.

I have personally directed SBA's field representatives to develop workshops, training sessions, and open houses designed specifically to educate faith-based and community organizations about SBA's programs and services. With 10 regional offices and 68 district offices, SBA has a presence in virtually every community in the country. Our representatives are uniquely qualified to meet with members of your organization and jointly explore ways in which we can cooperate for the good of your community.

I thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hector V. Barreto". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

Hector V. Barreto
Administrator