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**MBDA Awards \$7.8 Million in Grants to Advance the
Growth of U.S. Minority Businesses**
*Funding will support 27 MBDA Business Centers, including two
new centers in Cleveland and Denver*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 6, 2011) —The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) today announced \$7.8 million in funding for 27 MBDA Business Centers (MBC) located across the country to boost job creation and foster the economic growth of minority firms in the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

MBDA Business Centers assist minority entrepreneurs with access to markets, contracts and capital and offer strategic business consulting services to facilitate 21st century growth in today’s global economy. MBCs interface directly with minority business owners and managers at the local level and provide enhanced assistance through MBDA’s national strategic partners, both within the Federal government and the private sector.

“The MBDA Business Center program has shown remarkable success, and with a renewed focus on job creation in high-growth industries that leverages global business opportunities and teaming arrangements, we’ve raised the performance bar,” said MBDA National Director David Hinson. “MBCs are catalysts for minority business development, and by investing in these centers at the local level, we will see reverberating effects throughout the national economy.”

The newly restructured MBC program extends the cooperative agreements from three to five years and expands the reach of the MBC nationwide network to meet President Obama’s challenge to out-innovate, out-build, and out-educate the rest of the world. Two new centers will serve minority businesses in Cleveland, Ohio, and Denver, Co., and join MBDA’s Business Center network.

“A new MBDA Business Center in Cleveland will not only boost the local minority business community but also create additional economic benefits for the entire region as well,” said Andrew Jackson, operator of the Cleveland MBC.

“We look forward to a operating a MBDA Business Center and building more competitive minority business enterprises both across the state and the country,” said Stan Sena, operator of the Denver MBC.

While each of the 27 centers are strategically located in areas with significant minority business activity, the redesigned program’s broad geographic focus aims to help all minority enterprises, regardless of where they are located.

MBCs will play a particularly important role in helping minority-owned businesses increase their exports. In an increasingly global economy, where opportunities are just as likely to be found overseas as they are around the corner, minority businesses are critical to achieving the goals of President Obama’s National Export Initiative.

“Minority-owned businesses excel at exporting, and with unique language and cultural connections to other countries, they are exporting powerhouses with great potential for growth,” Hinson said.

Minority business owners who are interested in receiving assistance from an MBDA Business Center can find their closest center by visiting www.mbda.gov.

FY 2011 MBDA Business Center grant recipients include:

MBC Location (State, City)	Federal Funding Per Year	Cooperative Agreement Partners
Alabama – Mobile	\$230,000	Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Arizona - Phoenix	\$290,000	Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
California – Los Angeles	\$365,000	University of Southern California
California – San Jose	\$365,000	Asian, Inc.
Colorado – Denver	\$243,359	Rocky Mountain Minority Supplier Development Council
Florida – Miami	\$332,112	M. Gill & Associates, Inc.
Florida – Orlando	\$230,000	Florida Minority Supplier Development Council
Georgia – Atlanta	\$250,000	Georgia Tech Research Corporation
Hawaii – Honolulu	\$295,500	University of Hawaii
Illinois – Chicago	\$590,400	Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council
Indiana – Indianapolis	\$225,000	Indiana Business Diversity Council
Michigan – Detroit	\$290,000	Michigan Minority Business Development Council
Mississippi – Biloxi	\$250,000	Mississippi Development Authority
Nevada – Las Vegas	\$270,000	New Ventures Capital Development Company
New Mexico – Albuquerque	\$237,957	NEDA Business Consultants, Inc.
New York – Manhattan	\$500,000	National Community Reinvestment Coalition, Inc.
New York – Williamsburg	\$291,000	ODA Community Development Corporation
North Carolina – Raleigh	\$250,000	North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development

Ohio – Cleveland	\$225,000	Economic Growth Foundation
Pennsylvania – Philadelphia	\$275,000	The Enterprise Center
Puerto Rico – San Juan	\$241,000	Asociación Productos de Puerto Rico
South Carolina – Columbia	\$250,000	DESA, Inc.
Texas – Dallas	\$295,238	Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Supplier Development Council
Texas – El Paso	\$228,378	El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Texas – San Antonio	\$242,490	University of Texas at San Antonio
Washington – Seattle	\$270,000	Seattle Business Assistance Center
Washington, District of Columbia	\$301,000	National Community Reinvestment Coalition, Inc.

About the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

MBDA, www.mbda.gov, an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, promotes the growth and global competitiveness of the minority business community, making them better equipped to create jobs, impact local economies and compete successfully in domestic and global marketplaces. With a nationwide network of more than 40 business centers and strategic partners, MBDA assists minority entrepreneurs and business owners with consulting services, contract and financing opportunities, bonding and certification services, building business-to-business alliances and executive training.

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