

Many More Hispanics Starting Businesses

By Allen Thomas

Each year from September 15 to October 15, Americans celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the Hispanic and Latino communities across the United States. The Biden-Harris Administration's Small Business Boom is being driven in large part by Hispanic founders, business owners, and innovators. During Hispanic Heritage Month, the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) is shining a spotlight on the incredible entrepreneurial spirit of this diverse community, while also highlighting the SBA's historic work to help more Hispanics than ever realize their American dream of business ownership.

The Hispanic community is one of the most entrepreneurial-spirited groups in the nation. In the past three years, our nation has seen the fastest creation rate of Latino-owned small businesses in over a decade. According to recent studies, more than seventy-three percent of small business owners say their business has grown in the last

year, with an even higher percentage of Latino owners (eighty percent) saying the same.

As the highest-ranking Latina in the president's cabinet, United States SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman is committed to the success of Hispanic communities. More Hispanics than ever before are seizing the opportunity to create new businesses, which also improves their cities and neighborhoods. Last year, the SBA backed a record \$3 billion in small business loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs and assisted Latino businesses in accessing nearly \$10 billion in federal contracts.

In the Southeastern Region, over \$813 million in SBA lending was approved for Hispanic-owned small businesses last year. These loans were responsible for the creation of over fifteen thousand jobs. Across my eight-state region, the SBA regularly engages Latino organizations including Hispanic chambers of commerce, minority supplier councils, workforce development boards, and community-based groups that support Hispanic business advocacy and outreach.

Early on, President Biden directed the development of an ambitious, government-wide



interagency plan to advance equity, justice, and opportunities for minority, veteran, women, and rural communities. The SBA established four equity goals that focus on direct assistance including increased access to capital for underserved communities;

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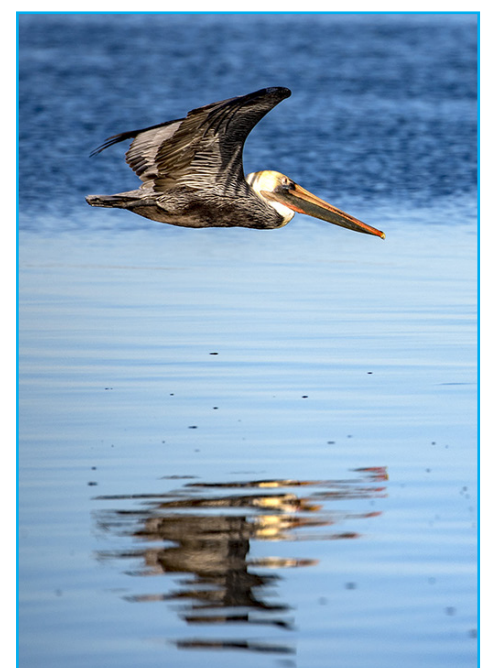
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SOUTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS 2024

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 1:00 pm–2:30 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Welcome to the WOSB webinar series! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions will include an overview of the self-certification process, as well as a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register for this free webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-853224426227>

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar
Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, October 24, 2024, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

CERTIFICATION

Small Business Exchange, Inc. is DBE certified by the Louisiana UCP.

