



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **PRESS OFFICE**

---

**Release Date:** November 15, 2000

**Contact:** Nancy Singer (202) 205-6740

**Release Number:** 00-101

**Internet Address:**

[www.sba.gov/news/indexheadline.html](http://www.sba.gov/news/indexheadline.html)

## ***SBA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR NEW WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS***

**WASHINGTON** - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is accepting applications from private, nonprofit organizations that can provide business assistance services to women entrepreneurs under the Women's Business Center (WBC) program, the agency announced today.

**"The Women's Business Center program is a valuable resource available to women entrepreneurs,"** SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez said. **"The program has been a tremendous success in providing services to thousands of women business owners across the country. We need additional centers to widen access to this important resource."**

Last year alone, the WBC program served over 24,000 clients nationwide. The SBA funded eight new women's business centers earlier this year, bringing the total network of centers to 71.

The WBC program provides funding through an initial five-year term. The centers provide business training, counseling, and other assistance to women entrepreneurs who want to start or grow a business.

Interested private, nonprofit organizations should apply under program announcement number OWBO-2001-15. The opening date of the application period is October 24, 2000 and the closing date is December 7, 2000. The project start date will be July 1, 2001. The award selection is competitive. Application materials can be accessed at [www.onlinewbc.org](http://www.onlinewbc.org).

WBCs address the unique needs of women entrepreneurs by providing long-term training and counseling. Each center tailors its services to its community and targets clients who are socially or economically disadvantaged. For more information on the WBCs or other services offered by the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership, visit the Web site at [www.sba.gov/womeninbusiness](http://www.sba.gov/womeninbusiness).

---

*For more information on all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1 800 U ASK SBA, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*

###