

AGENCY: U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The U.S. Small Business Administration is an independent Federal agency that was created by Congress in 1953 to assist, counsel, and champion the millions of American small businesses which are the essence and backbone of this country's competitive free-enterprise economy. In close coordination with other Federal agencies and financial, education, professional, and trade institutions and associations in the private sector, the Agency provides prospective, new, and established members of the small business community with financial assistance, management training and counseling, and help in getting a fair share of Government contracts through over 100 offices in all parts of the nation. The Pittsburgh District Office, which services 27 counties in Western Pennsylvania, actively works with over 100 lending institutions, has a loan portfolio of approximately 2,100 loans and aids small business through eight Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) Chapters and eight Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) at area colleges and universities.

**SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE:** Small Business assistance is available through:

- (1). Business Financing - through the SBA guaranteed lending programs, which provides financial assistance to small business owners;
- (2). Entrepreneurial Development - the management assistance and training programs offered by SBA resource partners, which blanket the western Pennsylvania area, as well as the Business Information Center and the publications and written materials of the agency;
- (3). Procurement assistance programs - which assist small business owners in selling their products and services to the federal government;
- (4). Minority assistance programs - available to socially and economically disadvantaged business owners;
- (5). Disaster assistance - providing low-cost financing to persons and small businesses adversely impacted because of a natural disaster;
- (6). Innovation and research program - assisting small advanced technology research and development businesses, and finally
- (7). Advocacy - assisting small business owners and organizations in getting their message to the public and to Congress

**LARGE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE:** Assistance to large business owners is not provided. Owners of large businesses are encouraged to use small and disadvantaged businesses as suppliers and providers of services and sub-contracts. Large businesses are also encouraged to nominate small business owners and advocates for the various SBA and Minority small business awards competitions.

**ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY:**

The SBA provides speakers and workshops for various groups, such as entrepreneurial groups, governmental agencies, libraries and business lending and assistance entities. The staff teaches classes for young entrepreneurs as well as adults.

The counselors in the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) are volunteers who provide workshops and one-on-one counseling to entrepreneurs who are starting or growing a business.

The Business Information Center Manager volunteers his time to do a radio program for veterans on Saturday mornings.