

ACTION ALERT – HELP RESTORE STATE FUNDING FOR SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE: Call or Write Your Legislator

- Despite the fact that the Governor’s economic growth strategy makes small business a strategic priority, the proposed State budget slashes the entire \$1 million appropriation for small business assistance services through the NJ Small Business Development Centers (NJSBDC), which also provides technology commercialization assistance and services;
- The Legislature, over the past three fiscal years, doubled the State’s investment in NJSBDC from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 because the rate of return on investment for the taxpayer is at minimum \$2.59 for every \$1 of state funding and the program creates and saves jobs;
- NJSBDC has been an official partner of the State’s Commerce agency, delivering comprehensive small business services for at least two decades; the program is part of a national program founded by Congress in the 1970s.
- This non-profit entity leverages federal, state, and other private funding to provide one to one counseling, training, loan packaging and other forms of technical assistance for small business to develop and grow their operations.
- Leveraged funding allows this network to maximize resources to the small business sector and further stretches the impact of State funding;
- Eleven walk-in (NJSBDC) centers, hosted at higher educational institutions around the State including a private college, serve small businesses in all 21 counties. The NJSBDC has served small business for 30 years.
- If State funding is not restored, almost \$1 million in federal funds would be lost and other host contributions may be reduced, thereby, resulting in a much lower level of business assistance services to small business, possibly a reduction of half or more of the current service level.
- NJSBDC assists many members of various business membership groups at both the state, regional and local level.
- In 2007, the NJSBDC assisted almost 22,000 entrepreneurs and small business owners through counseling and training activities. Its economic impact is as follows:
 - Helped small business clients create almost 1,000 new jobs; and helped retain more than 11,000 jobs.
 - 861 small business clients started a new business;
 - Facilitated \$36.5 million in capital financing and equity investment;
 - Facilitated \$64.48 million in State, Federal, and private/commercial procurement contracts.
 - Helped its clients conservatively generate a half billion dollars in sales revenues which returned more than \$30 million in sales tax revenues to the State, notwithstanding other additional business and income tax revenues.