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*Associate Administrator for Investment.*

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## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### Federal Assistance Grant to Fund Women's Business Center Projects to Provide Financial Counseling and Other Technical Assistance to Women

**AGENCY:** Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Program Announcement No. OWBO-2004-021.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) plans to issue program announcement No. OWBO-2004-021 to invite applications from eligible nonprofit organizations to conduct Women's Business Center (WBC) projects. The successful applicant will receive a grant to provide counseling, training and other technical assistance to women in nascent and existing businesses. The authorizing legislation is the Small Business Act, Section 2(h) and 29, 15 U.S.C. 631(h) and 656.

A Women's Business Center is a 5-year community-based project that is funded by the SBA through a grant that requires matching funds. The project is a planned scope of activities that provide business services targeted to women. The project must operate as a distinct unit of the recipient's organization having its own budget for facilities, equipment and resources to carry out project activities. The WBC services must include long-term training and counseling to benefit small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

SBA Headquarters must receive applications/proposals by 4 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on the closing date of May 6, 2004. SBA will select successful applicants using a competitive technical evaluation process.

Service and assistance areas must include financial, management, marketing, eCommerce, government procurement and training on the business uses of the Internet. Applicants must plan to include women who are socially and economically disadvantaged in the target group. The applicant may propose specialized services that will assist women in Empowerment Zones, agribusiness, rural or urban areas, etc. The applicant may propose to serve women who are veterans and women with home-based

businesses, women with disabilities, etc. SBA will request award recipients to provide content and support activities to the SBA Online Women's Business Center, at <http://www.onlinewbc.gov>.

The applicants' technical proposal must contain information about its current status and past performance. Also, the applicant must provide a 5-year plan for service delivery, fund-raising, training and technical assistance activities. The grant will be issued annually through a 5-year term without re-competition. The non-Federal match requirement is one non-Federal dollar for each two Federal dollars in years 1 and 2; and one non-Federal dollar for each Federal dollar in years 3, 4, and 5. Up to one-half of the non-Federal match funds may be in the form of in-kind contributions (*i.e.*, 50% of match must be in cash).

**DATES:** The opening date of the application period April 1, 2004 and the closing date is May 6, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Interested parties may access Program Announcement No. OWBO-2004-021 and application materials on the application opening date of April 1, 2004 at <http://www.onlinewbc.gov/grants.html>. If necessary, contact Sally Murrell, WBC Program Manager at (202) 205-6673.

**Sally Murrell,**

*Director, WBC Program, SBA/Office of Women's Business Ownership.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4679]

### Bureau of Political-Military Affairs; Statutory Debarment Under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations

**AGENCY:** Department of State.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Department of State has imposed statutory debarment pursuant to section 127.7(c) of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations ("ITAR") (22 CFR 120 to 130) on persons convicted of violating or conspiring to violate section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act ("AECA") (22 U.S.C. 2778).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Date of conviction as specified for each person.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Trimble, Director, Office of Defense Trade Controls Compliance,

Directorate of Defense Trade Controls, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, (202) 663-2700.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 38(g)(4) of the AECA, 22 U.S.C. 2778, prohibits licenses and other approvals for the export of defense articles or defense services to be issued to a persons, or any party to the export, who has been convicted of violating certain statutes, including the AECA.

In implementing this section of the AECA, the Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs is authorized by section 127.7 of the ITAR to prohibit any person who has been convicted of violating or conspiring to violate the AECA from participating directly or indirectly in the export of defense articles, including technical data or in the furnishing of defense services for which a license or approval is required. This prohibition is referred to as "statutory debarment".

Statutory debarment is based solely upon conviction in a criminal proceeding, conducted by a United States court, and as such the administrative debarment proceedings outlined in part 128 of the ITAR are not applicable.

The period for debarment will be determined by the Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs based on the underlying nature of the violations, but will generally be three years from the date of conviction. At the end of the debarment period, licensing privileges may be reinstated only at the request of the debarred person following the necessary interagency consultations, after a thorough review of the circumstances surrounding the conviction, and a finding that appropriate steps have been taken to mitigate any law enforcement concerns, as required by section 38(g)(4) of the ITAR. It should be noted, however, that unless licensing privileges are reinstated, the person/entity will remain debarred.

Department of State policy permits debarred persons to apply to the Director of Defense Trade Controls Compliance for an exception from the period of debarment beginning one year after the date of the debarment, in accordance with section 38(g)(4) of the AECA and section 127.11(b) of the ITAR. Any decision to grant an exception can be made only after the statutory requirements under section 38(g)(4) of the AECA have been satisfied. If the exception is granted, the debarment will be suspended.

Debarred persons are generally ineligible to participate in activity regulated under the ITAR (see *e.g.*,