

MICROENTERPRISE PROGRAM

1. Purpose - The purpose of the program is to provide entrepreneurs with the knowledge, resources and capital that are needed to start and/or expand their business.
2. Description – The US Small Business Administration estimates that small businesses account for 99% of all employers and roughly half of the country's workforce in the private sector. These are firms typically defined as having 500 or fewer employees. But there are businesses that are smaller than small – microbusinesses – typically defined as enterprises with five or fewer employees and capital needs of less than \$35,000. Creators of these tiny or as yet-unborn operations have no capital, no business track record and no formal business plan anywhere except in their head.

Adams County Office of Community Development (OCD) began the Adams County Microenterprise Program in 2005. This was a new program offered by the County using CDBG monies. Contracting originally with Westminster Small Business Development Corporation and now with MicroBusiness Development Corporation (MBD), the program offered workshops in Brighton, Commerce City, Westminster, and Federal Heights. Program services included specialized workshops, one-on-one consultations, business assessments, ongoing training, access to capital and access to markets. Training was provided to 255 individuals that led to the creation of 16 new businesses, 24 new jobs and over \$181,000 in new capital.

MBD is a 13 year old award winning Denver-based, non-profit, all-in-one center for individuals to start their own businesses. MBD's Resource program specializes in providing entrepreneurs with customized skill development, business consultation, access to state-of-the-art technology, quality business referrals, and an entrepreneur resource library. MBD offers six loans programs, lending from as little as \$500 to as much as \$60,000. Eighty percent of clients who receive loans from MBD are still in business after three years. MBD will work with anyone with a business idea who needs help, but the target population for the services is low-to-moderate income individuals.

OCD's program will continue to offer free workshops for 2007. One of MBD's goals for 2007 is to expand the workshops into all the communities in Adams County. We have the opportunity to get on the schedule for 2007 and begin to offer workshops here in Northglenn. The result of doing so could be very beneficial for the city. With capital and technical assistance, microentrepreneurs can start and grow their business, increase their personal income and support economic revitalization by providing new jobs and commerce.

The only resource the city needs to provide is meeting space. The classes are held in the evening, Monday – Thursday, from 6 – 8 p.m. Class size is typically about 15 individuals.



Community Development

Building Stronger Communities

A Division of the Community & Economic Opportunity Department



Adams County Small Business Initiative

The Adams County SBI is working to provide every entrepreneur with the knowledge, resources and capital that businesses need to succeed.

Services Include:

- Ongoing Training
- Specialized Workshops
- One-on-One Consultations
- Business Assessments
- Access to Capital
- Access to Markets

Where:
County-Wide

Who:
Anyone interested in starting or expanding their business



No matter what stage of the process you are in, we can help you along your way! Come learn all the basics about starting and sustaining your very own business.

Learn Today What Makes a Better Tomorrow!

- How to manage your business' money
- How to get your business registered and ready to go
- How to get the Money you need for your business

Contact Benjamin Weeda at (303) 308-8121 for more info

www.microbusiness.org for more information on MBD
www.co.adams.co.us for more information on Adams County

BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

W. R. "Skip" Fischer
DISTRICT ONE

Alice J. Nichol
DISTRICT TWO

Larry W. Pace
DISTRICT THREE