



News Release

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT OFFICE

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U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, CITY OF WOONSOCKET, SIGN AGREEMENT TRAIN WOONSOCKET SMALL BUSINESSES

(WOONSOCKET, R.I.) – The U.S. Small Business Administration is partnering with the City of Woonsocket to provide free counseling and training to small businesses in the city. Co-sponsors to the agreement are the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce, BankRI, SCORE, and the Center for Women & Enterprise. The agreement was signed today during a ceremony in the city council chambers.

“SBA is pleased to assist with economic development in Woonsocket through this co-sponsorship,” said Mark S. Hayward, director of the SBA Rhode Island District Office. “The training and counseling available to Woonsocket small businesses will help them grow and succeed.”

Under the agreement, SBA and its resource partners SCORE and the Center for Women & Enterprise will provide counseling and training programs to small business owners and would-be entrepreneurs in the city.

“SBA is always looking for more tools to help small businesses succeed,” said SBA New England Regional Administrator Seth Goodall. “This co-sponsorship will enable us to deliver relevant training events to meet the needs of start-up businesses, businesses poised for growth or businesses that may be struggling and need expert guidance.”

The business topics to be presented will include accounting for non-accountants, how to write a business plan, marketing plan development, how to rebuild your credit score, determining a legal structure for your business, and how to explore government contracting opportunities. The workshops are open to the public and are offered free of charge.

“I commend the SBA for their partnership with the City of Woonsocket to provide counseling and training programs to our small businesses,” said Mayor Baldelli-Hunt. “Writing business plans, marketing, rebuilding credit scores, selecting the right business structure and securing government contracts are invaluable skills that can only enhance the effectiveness of our small business community.”

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The agreement was signed by Seth A. Goodall, SBA New England regional administrator, Woonsocket Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt, John C. Gregory, president and CEO of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce, William C. Tsonos, senior vice president of BankRI, George Hemond, chair of the Rhode Island SCORE chapter, and Carmen Diaz-Jusino, program manager of the Center for Women & Enterprise.

“The Chamber is pleased to be a partner with the City of Woonsocket, the SBA, SCORE, CWE and BankRI,” said John C. Gregory, president and CEO of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce. “This is yet another example of our commitment to collaborative efforts that have a positive impact on small business.”

The workshop sessions will be held at locations around the city. The schedule is being developed and will be announced soon. The first workshop will be held in late April.

For more information about SBA programs and services, contact the SBA Rhode Island District Office at (401) 528-4561, or e-mail providence.ri@sba.gov.