

Appendix D—Business Resources

Contents:

1. Sample list of outside agencies and resources for businesses impacted by transportation construction projects

Small Business Resources

There are a large number of public and private organizations that offer technical, financial, and marketing assistance to small businesses. For a comprehensive list of organizations that assist businesses see the “Resource Directory” section of *A Guide to Starting a Business in Minnesota*, published by the **Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)**.

http://www.deed.state.mn.us/publications/PDFs/A_Guide_To_STARTING_A_BUSINESS_IN_MINNESOTA_27th_Ed.pdf

DEED can assist businesses and Mn/DOT staff with identifying the most appropriate resources for specific challenges that may arise during a construction project. Contact Madeline Harris, Business Advisor at Madeline.Harris@state.mn.us, 651-259-7474.

A sampling of organizations that offer business financing and technical assistance is provided later in this appendix. Other organizations that may be particularly useful to businesses working through a construction project are summarized below.

Transportation Management Organizations (TMO) are non-profit, member-controlled organizations that provide a forum for employers, developers, business owners, residents, government representatives and others to work together to establish policies, programs and services to address their district’s particular transportation issues. Since they are typically public-private partnerships, TMOs can improve the level of communication between the sectors to ensure that community goals are promoted in the most flexible and creative way throughout a transportation improvement project.

The **Minnesota Small Business Assistance Office (MnSBAO)** provides information and assistance in all areas of start-up, operation or expansion. For example, if a business has a transactional question (“what do I need” or “where do I get it?”), this would be a good office to contact. This office has a number of publications that deal with starting a business, business structure issues, tax issues or employment/labor related issues that might arise in the course of construction and would be a good choice for businesses trying to understand and overcome the challenges of running a business. Services of the office are provided on a one-to-one basis without charge to the business. The MnSBAO maintains a database of service resources in the state.

Minnesota Small Business Development Centers (MnSBDC) offer confidential one-on-one business counseling that primarily focuses on assisting existing and growing businesses in the areas of business planning, marketing, E-commerce technology, financial analysis, and loan packaging. Directly and through collaboration with other resource organizations, the MnSBDC program also offers assistance and referrals in areas like regulatory compliance assistance, information technology, exporting, government procurement, and federal research and development opportunities. Counseling is customized to meet the needs of the client, and most of the services are provided without charge. A contact list of MnSBDCs is provided later in this appendix.

The **SCORE** Association is a volunteer business counseling service partnering with the SBA and provides counseling on various topics like business plans, sales and marketing and understanding SBA lending.

1-22-09

Twin Cities area business financing and technical assistance organizations*

ADC

African Development Center

1808 Riverside Avenue, #200
Minneapolis, MN 55454
612/333-4772
www.adcmnnesota.org

LEDC

Latino Economic Development Center

1516 East Lake Street, #201
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-724-5332
www.ledc-mn.org

MEDA

Metropolitan Economic. Development Association.

250 South Second Ave.
Minneapolis MN 55401
612/332-6332
www.meda.net

MCCD

Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers

3137 Chicago Ave. S.
Minneapolis MN 55407
612/789-7337
www.mccdmn.org

NDC

Neighborhood Development Center

663 University Avenue #200
St. Paul MN 55104
651/291-2480
www.ndc-mn.org

WomenVenture

2324 University Ave.
St. Paul MN 55104
651/646-3808
www.womenventure.org

*Individual organizations may target certain client groups and geographical areas.

1-22-09

Greater Minnesota Business Finance and Technical Assistance Organizations

Northwest Minnesota Foundation
4225 Technology Drive NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
800-659-7859
218-759-2057
www.nwmf.org

Northland Foundation
202 West Superior Street, Suite 610
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
(218) 723-4040
www.northlandfdn.org

Northeast Entrepreneur Fund,
8355 Unity Drive, Suite 100
Virginia, MN 55792
218-749-4191
www.entrepreneurfund.org

West Central Initiative
1000 Western Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-739-2239
www.wcifa.org

Initiative Foundation
405 First Street SE
Little Falls, MN 56345
877-632-9255
www.ifound.org

Southwest Initiative Foundation
15 3rd Avenue NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
320- 587-4848
www.swifoundation.org

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
525 Florence Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-455-3215
www.smifoundation.org

Listing of 9 MnSBDC regional offices, and the U.S. Small Business Administration office

Northwest MnSBDC Program
ATTN: Jorge Prince, Regional Director
Bemidji State University
Center for Research and Innovation
3801 Bemidji Avenue North
Bemidji, MN 56601

Central MnSBDC Program
ATTN: Barry Kirchoff, Regional Director
St Cloud State University
616 Roosevelt Road, Suite 100
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Twin Cities Metro Area MnSBDC Program
ATTN: Mike Ryan, Regional Director
University of St. Thomas
Schulze Hall 103
46 South 11th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Southeast MnSBDC Program
ATTN: Michelle Pyfferoen, Regional Director
Rochester Comm. & Tech College
Heintz Center
1926 College View Road
Rochester, MN 55904

Southwest MnSBDC Program
ATTN: Elizabeth Struve, Regional Director
Southwest Minnesota State University
1501 State Street- *ST 201*
Marshall, MN 56258

West Central MnSBDC Program
ATTN: Leonard Sliwoski, Regional Director
Minnesota State University
Moorhead
1104 7th Ave. S.
Moorhead, MN 56563

South Central MnSBDC Program
ATTN: Robert Klanderud, Regional Director
Region Nine Development Commission
1961 Premier Drive
Suite 268
Mankato, MN 56001

Northeast MnSBDC Program
ATTN: Elaine Hansen, Regional Director
University of Minnesota Duluth
Center for Economic Development
Duluth Technology Village
11 East Superior St. STE 210
Duluth, MN 55802

North Central MnSBDC Program
ATTN: Greg Bergman, Regional Director
Central Lakes College
Business & Industry Center
501 West College Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401

Mr. Andy Amoroso
SBDC Project Officer
U.S. Small Business Administration
Minnesota District Office
100 N. 6th Street
Suite 210-C Butler Square
Minneapolis, MN 55403