



SBA Counseling and Training Fact Sheet

CARES Act Funding:

The CARES Act contained robust funding to expand the counseling and training capabilities of SBA resource partners. This included \$265 million in funding for SBA resource partners including Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) and Women's Business Centers (WBC) to provide counseling to small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Additionally, \$10 million in funding was included to create Minority Business Development Agency (MBDC) grants to counsel minority-owned small businesses impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Overview:

SBA resource partners, and the associations that represent them, have been provided with additional funding to expand their reach and operations to provide better support to small business owners impacted by COVID-19.

CARES Act funding ensures that **this counseling is always free, and the training is low-cost with these partners.**

The SBA is in the process of creating a joint platform that will consolidate information and resources related to COVID-19. This factsheet will be updated when that platform becomes available.

In the meantime, small business owners can find their local resources partners by visiting <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/find/>

SBA Resource Partners:

Small Business Development Center (SBDC):

SBDCs are a national network of nearly 1,000 centers that are located at universities, colleges, state economic development agencies, and private partners. They provide counseling and training to new and existing businesses.

Each state has a lead center that coordinates services specifically for that state, which you can find by clicking the link above. To find out more about SBDCs, visit <https://americassbdc.org/about-us/>.

Women's Business Center (WBC):

WBCs are a national network of more than 100 centers that offer counseling, training, networking, workshops, technical assistance and mentoring to entrepreneurs on numerous business development topics.

In addition to women, WBCs serve the needs of underserved entrepreneurs, including low-income entrepreneurs. To find out more about WBCs, visit <https://www.awbc.org/>.

SCORE:

SCORE is the nation's largest network of volunteer business mentors. They provide confidential business device for free and deliver most of their services at no cost. To find out more about SCORE, visit <https://www.score.org/frequently-asked-questions-about-score>.

Minority Business Development Agency's Business Centers (MBDCs):

MBDC is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce that promotes the growth of minority owned businesses through the mobilization and advancement of public and private sector programs.

MBDCs are a good option for minority-owned businesses (including those owned by Black, Hispanic, Asian American/Pacific Islander, and American Indian business owners), especially those seeking to penetrate new markets — domestic & global — and grow in size and scale.

For more information, visit <https://www.mbda.gov/>.