

U.S. Small Business Administration



News Release

477 Michigan Avenue, Room 515, Detroit, Michigan 48226; P (313) 226-6075

Release No: 2429
Date: April 16, 2008

Media Contact: Catherine Gase, (313) 226-6075 x223
e-mail, catherine.gase@sba.gov

SBA Signs Strategic Alliance Memorandum with the Women's Economic Resource Center in Manistee

Detroit, Michigan – The U. S. Small Business Administration will enter into a strategic partnership with the Women's Economic Resource Center in Manistee on May 5, 2008. The two organizations will officially recognize the WERC as an affiliate SBA Women's Business Center during an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony beginning at 3 pm at the new home of the WERC, located at 50 Filer Street, Suite 106. The alliance between the SBA and WERC will provide women in Manistee County with the resources to start and grow businesses.

"We're proud to partner with the Women's Economic Resource Center to help women business owners create economic opportunities within their community," said Richard Temkin, SBA Michigan District Director. "We celebrate the diversity that women entrepreneurs bring to the marketplace and applaud the risk taking of those who choose entrepreneurship."

By designating the WERC as an affiliate Women's Business Center, the SBA will provide publications on starting and growing a business, training on financing and the SBA loan guaranty programs, and recognition of the WERC in SBA publications. In addition, the SBA will assist WERC in promoting its programs and connecting the organization to SBA's resource partners. Catherine Gase, SBA Women Business Owner Representative for Michigan, will represent SBA at the event. She will conduct an SBA Financing Roundtable later that day to help women understand the criteria for SBA guaranteed loans.

"WERC is pleased to have the opportunity to create this alliance with the SBA and bring additional resources to women in our region," said Judy Crockett, President of the Women's Economic Resource Center. "This affiliation will help WERC to continue to support businesses and help to rebuild Michigan's economy."

--More--

The SBA helps people start, build and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U. S. Virgin Islands and Guam. Please contact the SBA at michigan@sba.gov or visit www.sba.gov/mi.

The mission of WERC is to actively cultivate and support the professional development and leadership of women and girls in Manistee County and the surrounding area. Please contact the WERC at manisteewomen@yahoo.com or visit their website at www.manisteeperc.org.

###