



News Release

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SBA and the National Urban League Join to Promote Entrepreneurship

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the National Urban League (NUL) have entered a new partnership, SBA Administrator Hector Barreto has announced. This collaboration is prompted by and part of the Urban Entrepreneur Partnership (UEP), an innovative public-private initiative announced by President George W. Bush on July 23, 2004 in Detroit.

“The President’s small business agenda seeks to expand business ownership and entrepreneurship among minorities,” SBA Administrator Hector Barreto said. “The Administration will undertake a unique association with the NUL to create an entrepreneurship network that will include one-stop centers for business training, counseling, financing, and contracting in historically neglected and economically underserved urban areas. We want to extend prosperity to all parts of America.”

President Bush unveiled the UEP after nearly a year of development led by the White House, involving the National Urban League, the Business Roundtable, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, SBA, and the Minority Business Development Agency. The White House also consulted with Democratic and Republican Congressional leaders, a broad nonpartisan group of business owners, experts, community leaders, and other supporters of minority entrepreneurship across the country. Since the President’s July announcement, the UEP was established with support of many groups, firms, government agencies, and individuals. NUL President Marc Morial agreed to chair the Partnership.

“SBA will play an important part in the UEP,” said Barreto at an October 15th National Press Club announcement of the five pilot cities. Business sessions, executed through a cosponsorship between the SBA and the NUL, will take place at each of the five NUL locations around the country which are the centers for the UEP. An estimated 10,500 small businesses are expected to be assisted over the course of the Partnership, which can be expanded throughout the NUL’s 105 local affiliates.

“This year, the SBA set all time records in loans and federal procurement to minorities. We are looking to build on our success, and I believe this Partnership will be a very useful tool,” Barreto said. “We are implementing the President’s plan for ‘practical ways to help people realize their dreams’, as he said in July.”

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The SBA will provide technical assistance, counseling and education at these business sessions and will help to promote them through local SBA district offices and the Web. The agreement will remain in effect through September 30, 2006.

More information about the UEP is available on

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/minority/minority2.html>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/07/20040723-8.html>

<http://www.nul.org/news/2004/entrepreneurrel36.html>

<http://www.kauffman.org/pages/440.cfm>

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