



Small Business Development Centers
Helping businesses start, grow, and prosper.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania SBDC Secures Grant to Transition Unemployed Workers to Entrepreneurs in the Pittsburgh Region

SBDC Locations

- Bucknell University
- Clarion University
- Duquesne University
- Gannon University
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
- Lehigh University
- Lock Haven University
- Penn State University
- Saint Francis University
- Saint Vincent College
- Shippensburg University
- Temple University
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Scranton
- The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
- Widener University
- Wilkes University

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The [Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers](#) (SBDC) has received funds from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)’s Portable Assistance Project for FY 2013 to develop *Transitioning Employees to Entrepreneurs in Motion (TEEM): Opportunities for Southwestern Pennsylvanians to Pursue business Ownership in the Changing Economy*, a program in which the SBDC will consult with unemployed workers and provide training to assist them in pursuing entrepreneurship. The project will be delivered by the Duquesne University SBDC in its service area of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence Counties.

“This grant will provide critical resources to enable us to develop services to help people who have lost their job in the Pittsburgh region transition from being an employee to being a potential employer,” explains Christian Conroy, Pennsylvania SBDC State Director.

TEEM aims to provide technical assistance to public and private sector workers who have been negatively affected due to the structural economic transitions that have occurred in the government, education, information, and transportation sectors in the Pittsburgh metro area over the past two years.

“The displaced workers in our region need assistance to successfully transition into self-employment and business ownership,” said Duquesne University SBDC Director Mary McKinney. “People who are out of work and want to start a business should contact us – we can help.”

The SBA awards SBDC Portable Assistance Project grants to provide services and/or assistance to increase small business success and viability in communities suffering economic hardship attributable to the impact of a major disaster or economic downturn in their service area.

According to Western Pennsylvania SBA District Director Carl Knoblock, transitional employees may find that a skill set can successfully be transferred to small business ownership.

(MORE)

“I travel throughout the region and meet with entrepreneurs on a daily basis,” he stated. “Not only do entrepreneurs need the services provided by our small business development centers, but, I believe they have to be passionate about their craft to actively pursue opportunities.”

Unemployed individuals in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties who are in transition and would like to be considered for the TEEM entrepreneurship program should contact the Duquesne University SBDC at (412) 396-1633 or duqsbdc@duq.edu. For more information on the Duquesne University SBDC services and programs, please visit www.sbdc.duq.edu.

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About Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)

The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) supports the economic development of Pennsylvania by providing entrepreneurs and small businesses with individual consultation, comprehensive education and information necessary to help their businesses start, grow, and prosper. SBDCs deliver consulting services and educational programs through a network of [18 locations](#) across Pennsylvania. SBDC consultants work with small business owners and entrepreneurs in confidential, individualized sessions to help them with issues including new business development, shaping a business plan, investigating funding opportunities, and much more. For more information on the Pennsylvania SBDC services and impact, please visit www.pasbdc.org.