



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Women Entrepreneurs Receive Full Funding in Government Spending Bill

Washington, D.C. – The Association of Women’s Business Centers (AWBC) applauds the government’s decision to fully fund the only program dedicated to serving women entrepreneurs. Receiving \$18 million as part of the final government funding legislation, the Women’s Business Center (WBC) Program at the Small Business Administration (SBA) supports a network of more than 150 locations throughout the country where women business owners receive the training and counseling needed to grow their business and create jobs.

Upon the President signing the final budget deal, the Association of Women’s Business Centers Interim President & CEO, Bonnie Nawara, is releasing the following statement:

“The bipartisan budget deal is a positive sign for women entrepreneurs nationwide. Resources for this program guarantee growth of women-owned business, which represent one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy. We are grateful to all our champions in Congress – especially Chair Capito (R-WV) and Ranking Member Coons (D-DE) in the Senate and Representatives Steve Knight (R-CA) and Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) – who insisted on fully funding our program. We look forward to working closely with the SBA to ensure these taxpayer dollars are used to fuel job creation by women entrepreneurs, who today start 5 out of every 6 new businesses.”

The continued funding of the program follows proven results from the public-private partnership. Exceeding its goals in Fiscal Year 2017, the centers received more than 148,000 visits and provided more than 100,000 hours of counseling and training, ultimately leading to the creation of 17,000 new businesses. Each Women’s Business Center matches government funding to increase their impact in their community.

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***About AWBC:** The AWBC (www.awbc.org) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1998 to support the national network of Women’s Business Centers (WBCs) with programming and advocacy. Each year, our members leverage WBC grants to operate more than 150 locations throughout the United States. WBCs have more than 25 years of success in providing business training, counseling, mentoring, and access to capital to women entrepreneurs. The WBC program is a public-private partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration.*