

Publishers Page

Start Your Own Business

The Inner-City

Entrepreneurial Training Program

invites you to make an application for training to

Start Your Own Business

The training program will teach you to:

Become financially independent

Provide security for your loved ones

Discover your own business idea

Develop a business plan

Receive a start-up plan

and

Make Money

Learn from the professionals
Scholarships are available
Call now for an application



Black Dollar Days Task Force
116 - 21st Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98122

(206) 323-0534

Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Tell them you found it in the African American
Business & Employment Journal

The Department of Trade and Economic Development

"... In short, the Department is the focal point for creating innovative and effective economic development policies, and delivering services to make economic development happen."

Business Assistance Hotline

206 664-9501 Olympia
206 586-4840 TDD
1-800-237-1233 Within Washington

A professional business information counselor is available to answer business related questions and refer callers to appropriate contacts for additional assistance. This statewide information and referral service provides valuable business information and guidance.

Hearing impaired individuals can contact the Hotline directly for business information or assistance by calling the BAC's Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) service in Olympia.

Small Business Development Center Specialists

Earl True, Business Specialist
206 586-4854 Olympia

The BAC also supports the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) through Washington State University. Expert business advisors provide one-on-one counseling in technical and business management assistance, training and research at 20 statewide SBDC locations. They advise on such matters as the purchase or sale of a business, policies and procedures, cash flow analysis, business plan development, or plant layout and work flow analysis. (See SBDC listings on page 16.)

Community Economic Revitalization Board

Donna Batch, CERB Director
206 464-6282 Seattle

The Washington Community Economic Revitalization Board seeks to promote economic development throughout Washington State. CERB's purpose is to encourage the expansion and retention of business and industry that will provide stability in income and employment.

Low interest loans and occasional grants are provided to cities, counties, ports and special utility districts to improve infrastructure necessary for private development. Special assistance is available in timber-dependent areas of the state.

Small Business Finance Unit

1-800-237-1233
For general finance questions

The BAC Finance Unit provides technical assistance and referrals to business owners who are seeking to find out what finance programs are available on the state and local level. The BAC administers finance programs designed to increase the access to capital for small businesses. Program managers also provide technical expertise to other divisions of the Department of Trade and various state agencies or organizations.

Small Business Ombudsman

Paula Baker, Ombudsman
206 586-3022 Olympia

The BAC's business Ombudsman serves as an advocate on behalf of small businesses and helps settle disputes between a business and state or local government agencies. The Ombudsman is available to explain to small businesses state and local legislation and regulations.

Minority and Women's Business Assistance Program

Kathy Norwood, Program Manager
206 399-2562 Seattle

The Minority and Women's Business Assistance Program helps women and minorities access existing business assistance services in order to improve their competitiveness in the business arena. The program provides assistance through conferences, workshops, or one-on-one counseling, guiding women- or minority-owned firms in the appropriate direction whether it be writing a business plan, financing, OMWBE certification process, or referral to highway construction projects for disadvantaged business enterprises.

Business & Job Retention

Ginger Rich, Program Manager
206 464-6282 Seattle
206 464-7660 Seattle

The Business and Job Retention Program was established by the Legislature in June 1987. The program provides technical assistance to manufacturing and processing companies where there is a risk of plant closure, mass layoffs and/or business failure.

Business and Job Retention acts as liaison with other state agencies in tax, labor and compensation problems. It works with management to identify problems and proposes solutions. The goal is to help managers and owners solve problems before the closures result in layoffs.

Training

Maury Forman, Program Manager
206 464-6282 Seattle

In a major effort to communicate its commitment to economic development professionals, the Legislature and the Department of Trade and Economic Development established a training unit in the local economic development assistance section. The goals of the unit were to provide background theory and practical application of industrial development techniques and to provide a forum for practitioners for the interchange of ideas on principles, practices and ethics in industrial development.

Charlie James

African American Man's Christmas

For the first time, since slavery put the entire race in jail, there are more African Americans in prison than whites. We have had a higher percentage in prison for some time but now, we actually have more people incarcerated, and for Christmas of 1995 over 700,000 are in prison and virtually 25% of the African male population are in now or recently got out. **By the year 2000 75% of us, between the ages of 18-34, will be in prison.**

Prison is where those who cannot fit into the larger society end up but for African American men it's where we put those without a stake in the great American dream. For the last ten years the unemployment numbers have made it clear that African American teenage and adult men were not being hired. We could not be found in college or vocational educational classrooms in large numbers and the jobs we once held were being exported to third world countries.

As the steel mills and iron foundries closed down and inner city communities were left with boarded up businesses and dilapidated homes the drug culture moved in. The way television dramatized the violence around the drug trade made it impossible for anyone to feel comfortable or safe around an African American man.



So many of them go from the street to prison, back to the street and back to prison, finally getting three strikes and do life. African American women are left without husbands, children are left without fathers and potential role models are modeling prison wear. We spend \$50,000.00 a year to keep a brother behind bars and that's far more than he would make on the streets and we wonder why America has a financial crisis.

In the State of Washington more African American men are going to prison than in any state in the nation. Because America has the highest incarceration rate in the world, the State of Washington and Seattle are number one in the world for locking up African men. It is higher than any place in south Africa before apartheid ended.

So it seems only fitting that Seattle and Washington State find a way to reverse this trend here and become the leader in training and employing rather than incarcerating. But it cuts to ways: those who need training and employment must look for it and be willing to follow through when the opportunity presents itself.

As our African American business community grows we must use those entry level jobs to hire and train our own. It's easy to go and get someone from another community that already have the skills you need and in some cases, you don't have a choice. But in most cases you do have a choice, and the choice is not to deny someone else, it is to give first consideration to those around you.

African American have problems that are totally different than any other race. We did not ask to come here, jump in a boat on perilous seas or get political refugee status. We came in chains and stayed in them for nearly 400 years so the things we must do to change our situation may look exclusionary to some but the nation benefits in the long run.

So this Christmas my thoughts are on those behind bars and the lack of opportunity for those who want to have a different life. This Christmas I think of husbandless African American women, fatherless children, mothers and fathers in pain because they believe they could have done something different.

My Christmas prayer: Father give us the wisdom to figure out how to bring home our men, the strength and integrity to do it and the will to build communities where all are nurtured and none are neglected. Amen