



UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

*Attachments in
file*

February 17, 2009

Good Evening, Madame Chair/Mr. Chair, Senator Harp, and Representative Geragosian:

Thank you for the opportunity to share out testimony with the members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Jean Blake-Jackson, Director of The Entrepreneurial Center and U.S. SBA Women's Business Center of the University of Hartford. We would like to thank the Governor for retaining the funds under the Department of Economic and Community Development. We are asking the Committee to keep it there, and these are the reasons why:

- 1) In our last annual report to the Department of Economic and Community Development, The Entrepreneurial Center served 283 individuals and 109 businesses, provided 455 counseling sessions and 450 training hours. As a result of the 283 individuals, 50 of them started businesses, and 26 of them were in their first three years of business. In addition to the 109 self-employed business owners, 192 jobs were created.
- 2) The Center provided technical assistance in loan applications in the amount of \$1,230,000.00, which includes SBA-7A loan guarantees.

In closing, many people who have been outplaced choose self-employment as their best option to be gainfully re-employed. Given all the indicators thus far, small businesses are our new employers to move the current economy forward. Allow us to do what we do best as we get ready to celebrate our 25th year of educating and providing technical assistance. Although we know we are not the only Entrepreneurial Center seeking funding, we ask this Committee to keep the monies designated by the Governor as a line item in the State budget.

Thank you for your time this evening.

January 29, 2009.

Ms. Jean Blake-Jackson, Director
University of Hartford Entrepreneurial Center
50 Elizabeth Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2280

Dear Jean:

On behalf of the Connecticut Development Authority, this letter is written in support of funding for the University of Hartford Entrepreneurial Center.

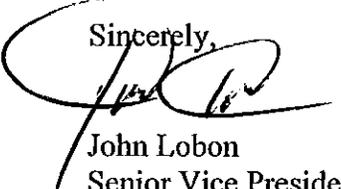
The Entrepreneurial Center has over its 24 year history provided training and technical assistance to prospective and existing small business owners. The mission of the Entrepreneurial Center is to facilitate the start-up and growth of small business, particularly in low-income communities, women owned businesses and employed professionals, and continues to be a great success.

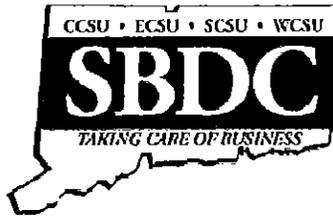
The Entrepreneurial Center and its SBA Women's Business Center's willingness to maintain and expand its level of services to the micro business community in New Haven and New London is a real commitment to support small business enterprises.

The Entrepreneurial Center's new approach is to deliver services with The Kauffman Foundation's FastTrac First Step, New Venture and Growth Venture addressing the various steps a potential business owner must achieve before launching a business.

The Connecticut Development Authority recommends without reservation the necessary support for the future growth of small business owners throughout the state.

Sincerely,


John Lobon
Senior Vice President



Connecticut Small Business Development Center

Hosted by....



EASTERN
CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY



WESTERN
CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. J. Chancy Lyford
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of Women's Business Ownership
409 Third Street S.W.
Washington, D.C., 20416

February 4, 2009

Reference: Women's Business Center Renewal Grant, September 30, 2009 – September 29, 2010

Dear Mr. Lyford,

This letter will serve to support the application of The Entrepreneurial Center's Women's Business Center (WBC) at the University of Hartford. The purpose of the application is to continue the funding that WBC has received from SBA for the last ten years.

The Connecticut Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has collaborated with WBC as a community partner and supports its application for renewal, in anticipation of our continued partnership.

As the WBC enters its 25th year of providing technical assistance in the areas of finance, management and marketing to socially and economically disadvantaged women entrepreneurs, the SBDC will continue to support the WBC's contribution to sustaining commerce in Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Ginne-Rae Clay
State Director
Connecticut Small Business Development Center

Cc: Bernard Sweeney, SBA District Director, Connecticut
Sandford Blitz, SBA Regional Administrator, Region I

HEDCo



GHBC

January 29, 2009

Jean Blake-Jackson, Director
The Entrepreneurial Center
Of The University of Hartford
1265 Asylum Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105

Dear Jean:

I am writing to confirm the support of the Hartford Economic Development Corporation (HEDCo) in your efforts to secure funding for the delivery of your services. The plans to provide financial literacy in the LMI areas you describe in your proposal merit consideration from those making the decision on your request. HEDCo will continue its longstanding partnership with your entity.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance to you. Good luck to you in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel C. Hamilton".

Samuel C. Hamilton
Executive Director

/plf



Mayor John DeStefano, Jr.

Clayton M. Williams, Jr.
Small Business Development Officer
City of New Haven
Office of Economic Development
165 Church Street, 6th Floor
New Haven, CT 06510
Phone #: (203) 946-7093
Fax #: (203) 946-7808

Re: DECD RFP
Section 32-290A CT General Statutes
FY 2008-09
\$135,000.00

To Whom It May Concern;

I am please to provide this Letter of Support on behalf of The Entrepreneurial Center ("EC") and its request for funding to allow EC to continue its important entrepreneurial programs.

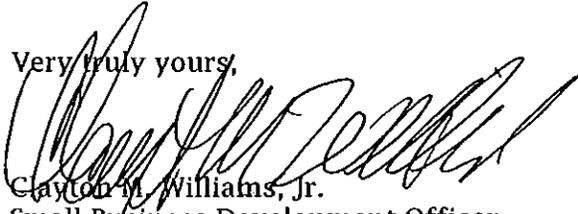
As discussed in the funding request, EC is seeking to expand its level of services to the micro community in New Haven and other communities. The challenges in today's economy have dictated that EC retire its former 16-week training program in favor of targeted programs such as the FastTrac First Step, New Venture and Growth Venture Programs. These are programs that are better targeted to today's entrepreneur and to the typical growth stages experienced by today's businesses. They are also the type of programs that are much requested by both new and experienced entrepreneurs in the New Haven area.

I, personally, have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Blake-Jackson and her staff for over ten years. I have seen how her programs have developed successful entrepreneurs throughout the State of Connecticut. The success of these entrepreneurs has provided many jobs for individuals and has provided both economic resources and tax revenue for the community from which they operate.

I strongly urge you to consider funding for EC's programs, particularly as they seek to train many of those recently who have been casualties of today's economy. They should certainly be considered an important part of the state's Economic Stimulus programs.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clayton M. Williams, Jr.", written over the typed name.

Clayton M. Williams, Jr.
Small Business Development Officer
City of New Haven
Office of Economic Development



Office of the President

January 29, 2009

Department of Economic
And Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Support letter for The University of Hartford Entrepreneurial Center's DECD
Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

Three Rivers Community College has been involved in numerous conversations over the past year with representatives from the University of Hartford's Entrepreneurial Center regarding the possibility of expanding its Small Business Association's Womens' Business Center to the micro business community in southeastern CT. Currently, individuals interested in the training services provided by the Entrepreneurial Center travel to the Hartford Office. This has significantly hindered potential new and existing entrepreneurs from accessing this vital training, which not only provides support services to the clients but also supports economic development efforts in the state.

Three Rivers Community College is interested in collaborating with The University of Hartford to bring these services to New London and Norwich to serve potential and existing small businesses in southeastern CT. The College has just completed a consolidation of its campus, which includes new classrooms, library and learning technologies. In conclusion, Three Rivers Community College supports the University of Hartford's proposal for \$135,000 from the Department of Economic and Community Development to expand these essential services to New Haven, Norwich and New London. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Marjorie Valentin, 860-886-2319.

Sincerely,

Grace S. Jones
President

Cc: Marjorie Valentin