



Fact Sheet

Helping Florida's Businesses Grow & Succeed for Nearly 40 Years

History

Funded in 1976 by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Florida SBDC Network, one of eight original SBDC pilot programs in the country, successfully links the state's education system with community outreach to aid in the development and education of the state's entrepreneurs and small business community. Since its inception, the network has nourished a statewide partnership between higher education and economic development to provide emerging and established business owners with management and technical assistance, enabling overall growth, increased profitability, and economic prosperity for the state.

Mission

Providing businesses the expertise and resources to succeed

Vision

Creating a better Florida for all by helping businesses grow

Core Services

The Florida SBDC Network serves the complex and diverse needs of small businesses throughout every stage of growth, by providing:

- ★ One-on-one, confidential business development consulting
- ★ Entrepreneurial, business and management development training
- ★ Business information and research
- ★ International Trade
- ★ Government Contracting
- ★ Growth Acceleration
- ★ Business Continuation

Specialized Services

Coverage

Starting with only two service centers in the first year of operation, the Network has grown to a statewide partnership of more than 40 centers involving universities, colleges, and other economic development organizations. Additional outreach is provided at approximately 70 outreach locations utilizing resource partners such as chambers of commerce, economic development councils, local government, and banks.

Accomplishments

- ★ Designated as Florida's Principal Provider of Small Business Assistance [288.001, FS]
- ★ Nationally accredited by the Association of SBDCs

Headquarters

Florida SBDC Network

University of West Florida, Center for Research & Economic Opportunity
220 West Garden Street, Suite 301, Pensacola, FL 32502-5617
850.898.3479

Leadership

- ★ Michael W. Myhre, CEO & Network State Director
- ★ David Weeks, Chief Operating & Financial Officer
- ★ Cheryl Kirby, Ph.D., Chief Strategy & Branding Officer

→ FloridaSBDC.org

The Florida SBDC Network is a statewide service network funded in part through cooperative agreements with the U.S. SBA, Defense Logistics Agency, State of Florida, and other private and public partners; hosted by the University of West Florida; and nationally accredited by the Association of SBDCs.

