



Fact Sheet

Helping Businesses Grow & Succeed for Over 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, no-cost confidential business development consulting
- ★ Entrepreneurial, business and management development training
- ★ Business information and research

Specialized Services

- ★ International Trade
- ★ Growth Acceleration
- ★ Capital Access
- ★ Government Contracting
- ★ Business Continuation
- ★ Cybersecurity

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 50 outreach locations utilizing resource partners such as chambers of commerce, economic development councils, local government, and banks.

Accomplishments

- ★ State Designated as Florida's Principal Provider of Small Business Assistance [Fla Stat 288.001]
- ★ Nationally accredited by the Association of America's SBDC Network
- ★ President's "E" Award Winner for Export Service

Headquarters

Florida SBDC Network

University of West Florida, 220 West Garden Street, Suite 301, Pensacola, FL 32502-5617
850.898.3479

Leadership

- ★ Cheryl Z. Kirby, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer (interim)
- ★ Jane Dowgwillo, Executive Director, Strategic Programs
- ★ Beverly Byerts, Executive Director, Business Continuity and Strategic Partnerships
- ★ Fawnn Harnage, Executive Director, Finance

→ FloridaSBDC.org

A statewide partnership program nationally accredited by the Association of America's SBDCs and funded in part by the U.S. Small Business Administration, Defense Logistics Agency, State of Florida, and other private and public partners, with the University of West Florida serving as the network's headquarters. Florida SBDC services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Language assistance services are available for individuals with limited English proficiency.

