

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council to Operate
Miami MBDA Business Center to Help Minority Businesses Grow Exponentially**

Center Open House to be held July 7th

MIAMI (June 17, 2016) — The Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council (FSMSDC) is the new operator of the U.S. Department of Commerce Miami Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center, serving southern Florida. On July 7, the Center will host an open house from 5:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. The public is invited to learn more about the Center's services during the open house. The Center's goal is to help minority-owned firms create jobs, develop their businesses and compete in the global economy.

Companies that are 51% owned or controlled by African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Asians and Pacific Islanders, Native Americans (including Alaska Natives, Alaska Native Corporations and Tribal entities), Asian Indian Americans and Hasidic Jewish Americans are eligible for services from the Center. Federal appropriations subsidize the services the Miami MBDA Business Center provides to clients. Client fees, which are based on the service provided and the client's gross sales, will start at \$10 an hour.

The Center will help minority firms grow by providing access to capital, technical expertise, advanced business consulting resources and innovative management services. In addition, the center's Business Resource Lab will offer workshops and seminars, a computer lab and a business library. Annually, the goal of the Miami MBDA Business Center will be to help minority companies garner more than \$111 million in procurement contracts and financial transactions.

Since 2009, MBDA Business Centers across the nation have helped minority firms gain access to more than \$31 billion in capital and contracts, while creating and retaining nearly 142,000 jobs. The Business Centers are integral to fostering greater economic vitality across the U.S.

To register to attend the open house or to learn more about the services of the Miami MBDA Business Center, call (305) 762-6151 or visit www.mbdamiamicenter.com.

About the Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council

The Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council's goal is to increase purchasing from minority businesses by government entities and corporations, while increasing minority businesses' operating capacity through hands-on business assistance, training, and access to technology and capital resources. Founded in 1975 in southern Florida (formerly named the Southern Florida Minority Supplier Development Council – SFMSDC) and expanded to cover all of Florida in January 2016, it is one of 23 regional councils affiliated with the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC). The FSMSDC acts as a liaison between corporate America and Minority Business Enterprises in the state of Florida. To learn more about the FSMSDC, visit fmsdc.org or call (305) 762-6151.

About the MBDA

MBDA (www.mbda.gov) is the only U.S. federal agency dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of U.S. minority-owned businesses. Its programs and services better equip minority-owned firms to create

jobs, build scale and capacity, increase revenues, and expand regionally, nationally and internationally. Services are provided through a network of MBDA Business Centers. Established in 1969, MBDA continues to be a dedicated strategic partner to all U.S. minority-owned businesses, committed to offering programs and services that provide greater access to capital, contracts and markets.

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