



Assistance for Small Businesses with Military Reservists or National Guard Members

If you are a member of the National Guard or Reserves and either own a small business or are employed by one, your business may be eligible for help from the U.S. Small Business Administration. As part of an overall strategy to ensure business continuity, planning is the key to working successfully through any potential disruption that may result from a federal call-up to active duty of a small business owner or key employees.

SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) is coordinating the outreach to and policy recommendations for SBA assistance to members of the Reserve and National Guard. (www.sba.gov/vets)

Planning Assistance

Through local district offices and SBA's resource partners, you can receive business planning, counseling and training to help your business prepare for a call to active duty. After you or your employees return, the SBA can help with marketing and other plans to re-establish and grow your business. For more information, visit our website at www.sba.gov/starting/indexcounseling.html.

The SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives) and BIC (Business Information Center) programs have chapters and locations throughout the USA that can provide one-on-one counseling for recalled veterans. SCORE Chapters near military installations (San Diego, CA.; Norfolk, VA.; San Antonio, TX; and Fort Bragg, NC) are currently conducting military workshops and seminars for recalled military personnel. SCORE's web site www.score.org.

The Office of Women's Business Ownership has developed a relationship with the Navy to provide small business training to military spouses.

ONLINE TRAINING

The SBA's E-Business Institute (www.sba.gov/training) is a customer-focused online training environment designed to enrich, educate and enable small businesses. It is a virtual campus offering online courses, workshops, information resources, learning tools and direct access to electronic counseling and other forms of technical assistance.

Financing Options

Small businesses may need financing as a result of the owner or key employees being called away to serve the country or returning veterans may need financing to expand an existing business or start a new one. The SBA's loan programs can help provide veterans with small business financing that may not be available through other channels. More information can be found at www.sba.gov/loans or ask your local, participating lender about SBA-guaranteed loans.

Military Reservist Disaster Economic Injury Disaster Loans (MREIDL):

For eligible small businesses facing financial needs because an owner or an essential employee was called to active duty, the SBA can offer loans tailored to those needs. Small businesses may apply for the loan after the employee(s) receive his/her orders to report for active duty. They also

have 90 days after the employee's discharge to apply. Loans up to \$1.5 million for a maximum of 30 years are available at an interest rate not to exceed 4 percent. The loan application can be downloaded from the Web site at www.sba.gov/reservists/disloan.html.

Community Express: Veterans interested in conventional SBA financing for business start-up/expansion are targeted under SBA's Community Express program. This program provides streamlined and expedited loans up to \$250,000 and includes management and technical assistance. For information and lenders on this and the following loan programs, contact your local SBA office.

SBA 7(a) Loans: Operates through private-sector lenders that provide loans guaranteed by the SBA – the Agency has no funds for direct lending (other than MREIDL) or grants. The maximum loan amount available is \$2 million, although the maximum dollar amount the SBA can guarantee is generally \$1 million.

504 Certified Development Company (CDC) Program: The CDC Program provides growing businesses with long-term, fixed-rate financing for major fixed assets, such as land, buildings, or major equipment. A CDC is a nonprofit corporation set up to contribute to the economic development of its local community. CDCs work with the SBA and private-sector lenders to provide financing otherwise unavailable to small businesses.

Microloan Program: The Microloan Program provides very small loans to start-up, newly established, or growing small business concerns. SBA makes funds available to nonprofit community based lenders (intermediaries) which, in turn, make loans to eligible borrowers in amounts up to a maximum of \$35,000. The average loan size is about \$10,500.

Debt Relief: If your small business currently has an SBA direct or guaranteed loan, you can ask for repayment deferrals, interest-rate reduction and other assistance.

Firms Participating in Government Contracting 8(a) / Small and Disadvantaged Business (SDB): If a call to duty requires that the day-to-day management of the company must be transferred to an individual other than the one on whom the original certification was granted, the transfer will not disqualify the firm from program participation.

Small Business Innovations Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR): If a call to duty results in a firm not being able to complete a grant's objectives within the original timeline, that timeline can be extended.

HUBZone: Individuals who are employed by HUBZone firms and are called for military service will continue to be counted as employees when calculating the 35% HUBZone residency requirement or determining the firm's principal office, assuming they continue to be employed by the firm.

For More Information: Contact us at 1-800-U ASK SBA, visit our Web site at www.sba.gov/reservists, or call our Office of Veterans Business Development at 202-205-6773.