
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative
*Connecting the Workforce Investment System to Small and
Emerging Business*



Grant amount: \$150,000

Leveraged Amount: none

Grantee: RISEbusiness

Key Partners: Center for Women's Business Research, Council of Growing Companies, Inc. Business Resources, Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, The Edward Lowe Foundation, National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, National Minority Business Council, National Small Business United

Grant Activities will take place at RISEbusiness' headquarters in Reston, VA, with the results of the study expected to impact the nationwide workforce system.

Challenge

Even though the small business sector represents more than half of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product, employs the majority of the workforce, and creates most of the net new jobs in the economy, there is a lack of available or easily-accessible information relating to this sector. In many cases, even when some information is available, there is little high-quality information based on the emerging study of "human capital," despite the shift in the U.S. economy from manufacturing to services-based. Over the next two decades, smaller businesses will need to be sensitive to the changing labor force in order to remain competitive. To do so, they will need to work closely with the public workforce system.

Addressing the Challenge

RISEbusiness, in cooperation with its strategic partners, will act as an intermediary between the public workforce system and small business by researching and publicizing the key issues affecting small and emerging businesses. RISEbusiness aims to research the following topics in order to increase small business' support for, access to, and utility of the workforce system: reviewing existing literature; define and refine research questions; launch a research effort; and, refine the research methodology; collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data; disseminate the findings and implications to the workforce system. A final report will be distributed to the state and local workforce system.

Projected Outcomes

- Monthly status reports that include updates on the research findings;
- Final research report
- The dissemination of the final report through presentations to the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB), the Workforce Innovations Conference, DOL/ETA regional meetings, and others as appropriate

