

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## FREE SMALL BUSINESS SEMINARS AND CONSULTING FOR HISPANICS

*First-time Business Development Opportunity for Northwest Florida Entrepreneurs*

**(Fort Walton Beach, FL) January 31, 2014** – On February 27 and 28 Hispanic entrepreneurs in the Northwest region of Florida will have the opportunity to participate in small business seminars and receive individual consulting for free. A committee of Emerald Coast Hispanic leaders recruited the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida (HBIF) to provide guidance and support to current and potential small business owners in the region. The events will take place each day from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce.

"Thanks to HBIF we are bringing to our region something that our Hispanic community is lacking—especially among those who are not fully fluent in English," commented David Triana, member of the Hispanic leadership group and Chair of United for a Good Cause from Navarre. "It is just a short-term solution but we believe it can make a difference among those who seek resources, training and expert support to improve their businesses."

"I was thrilled to meet Augusto Sanabria in Leadership Florida last year," said Fort Walton Beach City Councilmember Joyce Gossom. "We have looked for an opportunity like this for a long time and appreciate HBIF for partnering with our community leaders."

Orlando-based HBIF is a statewide economic development organization specialized in providing free bilingual assistance to Hispanic entrepreneurs trying to establish or expand their businesses. The 22-year-old nonprofit organization has offices in South, Central and the West Coast of Florida. Its services are all free of cost to entrepreneurs thanks to funds received from corporate donors as well as city, county and state government. HBIF programs include educational seminars, individual technical assistance and consulting, subcontracted professional projects and access to loans designed to meet the specific needs of Hispanic entrepreneurs.

"We are looking forward to this unique, first-time opportunity," said Augusto Sanabria, President and CEO of HBIF. "While HBIF doesn't have offices in the Northwest Florida region, this partnership is a great opportunity to initially assess the local demand for HBIF services, and establish initial contact with Hispanic entrepreneurs whom we can continue to serve from other parts of the state using today's technology, such as videoconferencing and Skype."

The two-day event includes a full schedule of one-on-one consulting meetings in the mornings and business seminars in the afternoons, including HBIF's "Successful Strategies for New Businesses," an orientation specifically for entrepreneurs in the initial stages of business. Topics covered during this seminar include licenses and permits, state regulations, financing options, and business development services offered by HBIF. The seminars will be presented in Spanish, and consulting will be available in both English and Spanish.

To participate in this event, Hispanic entrepreneurs can visit [www.hbiflorida.org](http://www.hbiflorida.org), call 1-866-525-4243, (850) 226-7066 or send an email to [myabrudy@hbiflorida.org](mailto:myabrudy@hbiflorida.org).

### About HBIF

The Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida, Inc. (HBIF) is the leading Hispanic nonprofit economic development organization in Florida specializing in providing free and bilingual business development to entrepreneurs trying to establish or expand their business. For more than 20 years HBIF has promoted the Hispanic entrepreneur, offering programs and creating partnerships to advance economic development and foster job creation. HBIF is headquartered in Orlando and has offices in Miami, Tampa and Kissimmee. For more information, visit [www.HBIFFlorida.org](http://www.HBIFFlorida.org).

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