

MEDIA RELEASE

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**** Photos attached, additional available upon request****



Strategic Alliance between SBA and HBIF renewed in Orlando

Strategic partnership will allow the two agencies to collaborate to support small businesses in Florida

(ORLANDO, FL) January 29, 2015 – The Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida (HBIF) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) signed a Strategic Alliance Memorandum (SAM) during an HBIF client event in Orlando.

The agreement will allow the federal government agency and the statewide nonprofit organization to collaborate and leverage resources to help establish, maintain and expand small businesses across the State of Florida. Hispanic small business owners from various industries attended the event and witnessed the signing of the strategic agreement.

SBA representatives from North and South Districts of Florida participate in the event and formally confirmed the agreement with HBIF. The memorandum of the strategic alliance signed will allow both entities to work together to support the development of small businesses across the state.

"We are putting this partnership in writing to ensure that we can continue the longstanding collaboration between SBA and HBIF and work together to serve Hispanic business owners in Florida," said Wilfredo Gonzalez, District Director of the SBA for North Florida. "The purpose of this memorandum is to confirm and continue the long-time collaboration between SBA and HBIF to strengthen and develop small businesses throughout Florida," added SBA South Florida District Deputy Director Jonel Hein. "When we collaborate and complement each other's services and resources, we can better support small businesses in Florida."

"This alliance with the SBA allows HBIF to offer better training and additional information to Hispanic entrepreneurs through our individual consulting and business seminars," said Augusto Sanabria, HBIF president and CEO. "It also helps our consultants to refer clients to additional resources and receive referrals of entrepreneurs who could benefit from HBIF programs to succeed in business."

About SBA

The U.S. Small Business Administration was created in 1953 as an independent agency from the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business by providing financial, contractual and business development assistance and advocating on their behalf within the government. SBA district offices deliver SBA programs and services to the public. Each Party has separate services and resources which, when delivered in coordination with each other, will provide maximum benefits to the small business communities served. For more information, visit www.sba.gov.

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. Since 1991, HBIF has promoted the Hispanic entrepreneur, offering programs and creating partnerships to advance economic development and foster job creation. HBIF is headquartered in Central Florida and has offices in the West Coast and South Florida. For more information, visit www.HBIFFlorida.org.

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