



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Minority Business Development Agency
Washington, D.C. 20230

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cantwell:

We are pleased to inform you that the City of Tacoma was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) to operate an MBDA Business Center in Washington. The goal of the MBDA Business Center Program is to create jobs for the American people and contribute to a strong U.S. economy by growing minority-owned businesses to size and scale.

The MBDA Business Center Program grant was awarded after reviewing proposals submitted by for-profit entities, non-profit organizations, state and local government entities, and educational institutions. The City of Tacoma's proposal demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the mission and goals of MBDA and the requirements of the Federal Funding Opportunity. In addition, their application presented a strong business development strategy and evidence of the expertise and community resources necessary to meet these goals.

The City of Tacoma will join our network of MBDA Business Centers and other partners from around the country to help minority-owned businesses access capital and contracts and expand market opportunities at home and abroad. They will be supported by a team of MBDA staff and receive business development and grant management training annually.

The award period for the MBDA Business Center grant will run through June 30, 2026. MBDA will award \$400,000 annually in federal funds over a five-year period (subject to satisfactory performance and congressional appropriations). We look forward to working with you in support of this Center and all minority businesses.

As the only federal agency created to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in the United States, we are committed to promoting the development and global competitiveness of minority-owned enterprises in your community.

If you have any further questions about this grant, the MBDA Business Center program, or about MBDA and how we can work with your office, please have your staff contact Emily Kessel, Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, or Velicia Woods, Chief, Office of Legislative Education & Intergovernmental Affairs. They may be reached at (202) 482-3337 or ekessel@mbda.gov and vwoods@mbda.gov, respectively.

Sincerely,

Edith J. McCloud
Acting National Director

