



MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICES CORPORATION

A non-profit community benefit corporation

PRESS RELEASE

San Luis Obispo, California

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\$750,000 GRANTED FOR WOMEN'S BUSINESS PARTNER PROGRAM

Money Will Be Used To Expand Programs At Mission Community Services Corp. To Help Underserved Women Start Their Own Businesses

SAN LUIS OBISPO, September 25, 2006 - Executive Director Andrea Zeller today announced that the Women's Business Partner Program of Mission Community Services Corp. (MCSC) has been awarded a \$750,000 Small Business Administration grant to expand programs to help low-income women start their own businesses in Kern, San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties. Zeller applied for the funding to support the Women's Business Partner programs earlier this year. The \$750,000 will be awarded over five years at \$150,000 each year and requires a matching investment.

"Too many women still face significant barriers in moving their entrepreneurial dreams towards reality," said Zeller. "This federal investment will help Mission Community Services Corp. give women the hands-on experience and training necessary to get their own business ventures off the ground in Central California. We are proud to now be associated with the successful SBA national Women's Business Center program!"

MCSC will use the \$150,000 grant to increase programs for socially and economically disadvantaged women in San Luis Obispo County and expand programs to Kern and Monterey counties throughout Central California. Among the programs offered will be: basic financial literacy, credit repair, business basics, small business cash flow management & financials, small business loans, loan proposal preparation, business earthquake recovery plans, importing and exporting, franchise, women and minority owned business certifications, supplier networks, quality management, doing business on the Internet. and business planning. Classes are offered in both English and Spanish.

The initiative will be led by the Women's Business Partner's "Mentor Circle," a group of seasoned businesswomen, and will involve local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, colleges, universities, economic development corporations, technology partners and other groups.

MCSC was one of 16 WBCs awarded funding recently by the Small Business Administration. The Women's Business Center Program was established by Congress in 1988 and is administered by the SBA.

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Additional information about Mission Community Services is at www.MCSCorp.org.