



NEWS RELEASE

MAINE DISTRICT OFFICE

Release Date: October 16, 2008
Release Number: ME- 08-38
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/me

Contact: Pat Knowles
207-622-8376
patricia.knowles@sba.gov

MAINE SBA'S DISTRICT OFFICE LAUNCHES SMALL BUSINESS HOTLINE

AUGUSTA, ME – The U. S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Maine District Office has launched a Small Business Hotline to address the Maine small business community's concerns during the current economic climate and credit crunch. The hotline was installed in response to numerous calls received from small businesses expressing concern about the impact that current economic conditions are having on their business. The tightening of credit and the drop in consumer spending has had a negative impact on many Maine small businesses.

The Small Business Hotline will provide business owners with a single number to call with business-related questions. The phone number is: 207-622-8553. We will be available during normal business hours to answer calls, provide information, and arrange for a no-charge confidential counseling session. Small businesses calling the hotline can expect to receive a response within 24 hours.

“Many small business owners are concerned about the challenges facing them and the economy and the SBA is taking steps to address their concerns,” said Maurice Dubé, District Director of the Maine SBA District Office. “This hotline will be dedicated to assisting small business owners with counseling from the SBA and our resource partners,” added Dubé. These partners include SCORE: Counselors to America's Small Business, the Maine Small Business Development Centers (MSBDC) and the Women's Business Center (WBC).

There are seven SCORE chapters in Maine that offer free counseling, advice and in formation on starting a business.

The Maine Small Business Development Centers provide management assistance to current and prospective small business owners and have offices throughout the state.

The Women's Business Center has two specialized programs – one targeting rural Maine and the other for central and southern Maine. The Centers can help women start, maintain, or grow a business in Maine.

The SBA is committed to provide assistance to Maine's small businesses that need expert advice in the time of economic crisis.

###