

ACTION ALERT

Dear NJSBDC Success Awardees / NJSBDC Clients and Partners:

Once again, the NJSBDC has run into obstacles with the Governor's office. As a client who received assistance from us and who has benefited from our services, can you help us by calling **Senator Frank Lautenberg (202) 224-3224** and **Senator Robert Menendez (202) 224-4744**? It is of a very timely nature since the Governor's office is proposing a new budget for FY 2010 on next Tuesday. Calls today and Monday are important.

You can also call the **Governor's office** at **(609) 777-0503**. This is the Office of Economic Growth.

E-mail addresses: menendez.senate.gov & lautenberg.senate.gov

Talking Points for Phone Calls to Senator Frank Lautenberg & Senator Bob Menendez:

1. New Jersey's small business owners will lose small business assistance services as a result of any potential federal funding being lost if Governor Corzine cuts state funding for NJSBDC. There is a dollar for dollar matching requirement.
2. Governor Corzine (through the NJ Economic Development Authority) notified NJSBDC recently that they are cutting the \$250,000 of the \$500,000 in state funds restored in June of 2008 and available through June 30, 2009. This will result in a federal funding loss of \$500,000 for small business assistance delivered by the NJSBDC network.
3. During this economic crisis, we need to help small business owners and those being downsized out of corporate jobs so they can survive. The NJSBDC helped my business.
4. Please make Governor Corzine aware of these facts and prevent federal dollars being lost for this program. If federal dollars are lost, they will only be distributed to other states. NJ already ranks 50th in terms of tax dollars being returned to New Jersey.
5. If services are lost or reduced, more jobs will be lost. NJ's unemployment rate reached 7.4% in January. NJSBDC helps small businesses create and save jobs.
6. Please make sure there are no federal / state funding cuts for this program in FY 2010. State funding cuts will result in federal funding loss.

Deborah Smarth
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NJSBDC