



March 9, 2022

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Ramiro A. Cavazos
President & CEO

Office of Women's Business Ownership
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6600
Washington, D.C. 20416

RE: OEDWB-22-001

Dear Assistant Administrator Cofield and Deputy Assistant Administrator Smith,

On behalf of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), it is an honor and a matter of pride to support the application being submitted by one of our valued members, the New York Women's Chamber of Commerce (NYWCC), for funding to operate a new and much needed Women's Business Center (WBC) in Manhattan, and especially in the neighborhoods of Harlem, Washington Heights, and Inwood.

The Manhattan WBC will provide training and technical assistance to Latino Women Entrepreneurs and members of socially and economically disadvantaged women owning or aspiring to own a business. The continued growth of all women owned businesses is vital for maintaining a strong, robust, and prospering economy. However, it's also important to recognize the growth in the number of minority women-owned firms, and their role as they steadily outpace the overall growth of U.S. firms.

In the case of NYWCC, the majority of those who benefit from the organization's services and continued support are Latino women and other entrepreneurs in lower-income neighborhoods within the city that should never go underrepresented. Organizations like the NYWCC are the backbone for economic growth within local communities throughout our nation, as well as a springboard for women to become successful entrepreneurs.

For the past twenty years, the NYWCC has been supporting the development and growth of vibrant and critical businesses through which women advance economically, creating pathways for intergenerational wealth.

We are proud of the unique positioning our member, the NYWCC, holds as the only chamber of commerce in the City and State of New York that is dedicated to providing entrepreneurial development services, promoting, and assisting women entrepreneurs in gaining economic independence and achieving success through business ownership. The Women's Chamber fills a significant void in that it is the only organization in Manhattan dedicated to addressing the obstacles disproportionately faced by women—from underserved communities in particular—in achieving success and economic independence through small business ownership, microenterprise, and self-employment.



In full support of the NYWCC being granted the WBC initial phase award, we confirm our continued collaboration as the USHCC to support the operational success of its WBC in Manhattan. Through the Community Navigator Program Grant awarded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, we have partnered with the NYWCC to bring technical innovation and data-driven approaches to providing high-quality, bilingual technical assistance, business counseling, training, and marketing for pandemic relief and recovery efforts that are critical to the revitalization of local Latino-owned businesses in Manhattan. The partnership with NYWCC has also leveraged connections with corporations such as Verizon and Google to bring digital tools and training to Latino owned businesses in the City of New York.

There is a strong need to this type of continued training complemented by technical assistance, and support to disadvantaged entrepreneurs in Harlem, Washington Heights, and other disadvantaged areas in Manhattan so they can grow into sustainable businesses, increase their revenues, and create employment in our communities. The NYWCC through their agile programming has in the past twenty years provided sustained, comprehensive, tailored, culturally and linguistically competent business training and technical assistance to thousands of entrepreneurs. Through our various partnerships, we have witnessed the long-term positive impact made by NYWCC as a result of their contributions to the success of Latina owned businesses.

The USHCC strongly supports NYWCC's application for an SBA Women's Business Center grant and I hope that you give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at RCavazos@ushcc.com.

Respectfully,

Signed,

Ramiro Cavazos
President and CEO
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce