

A Partnership...

A Partnership between the Florida Small Business Development Center Network and the United States Department of Labor

The Partnership: The Florida Small Business Development Center (Florida SBDC) Network and the United States Department of Labor (DOL), through the Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP), are partnering to provide business owners and managers with on-site, one-stop compliance assistance for the laws and regulations the Department administers. Jerry Cartwright, State Director, Florida SBDC, located in Pensacola, Florida, is working with DOL OSBP staff to respond to specific inquiries, coordinate training programs with DOL regulatory enforcement agencies, and to provide other compliance assistance, including seminars, conferences and individual counseling. This partnership initiative, the Coordinated Compliance Assistance for Business Program (Cross-cut), is implemented by OSBP with the participation of the Department's five major enforcement agencies: the Employment Standards Administration's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and Wage and Hour Division; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration; and the Office of the Solicitor.

The Cross-cut initiative is designed to provide coordinated outreach targeted to small and medium sized businesses, but is available to all employers, to enhance their awareness of and their ability to comply with the various laws and regulations the U.S. Department of Labor administers. The Cross-cut addresses the needs of businesses for timely, accurate and clear information on regulatory requirements at early stages of their interaction with the Department. The focus is on voluntary compliance to help prevent violations by new, growing and established businesses.

Background: As a result of the 1995 White House Conference on Small Business delegates working together through a bipartisan government and private sector partnership, Congress enacted the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA). The intent of the law was to make the regulatory enforcement and compliance environment fairer and friendlier for the small business community. This legislation responded to the expressed frustration of businesses about the many sources from which they had to seek information on how to comply with federal laws and regulations, including those of the Department of Labor.

For additional information on the laws and regulations administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, please feel free to contact:

Thomas Hicks or
Letizia Marcial-Nieves

U.S. Department of Labor
c/o Florida SBDC Network
UWF Downtown Center
19 West Garden Street, Suite 300
Pensacola, Florida 32501

850-595-6060 ext. 222

Fax 850-595-6070

or

Toll free 1-888-9SBREFA

hicks-thomas@dol.gov

marcial-nieves-letizia@dol.gov