

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, May 2, 2016

CONTACT: Matt Orlins (DCRA) 202.442.8945; matt.ornins@dc.gov

DCRA Initiatives Assisted Over 1,000 Small Businesses in 2016

Agency Provided Financial Support and Resources to DC Businesses this year

Washington, D.C. –In honor of Small Business Week, the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) highlighted the success of small business initiatives in 2016. The initiatives include providing technical assistance to hundreds of small businesses and offering financial assistance to enable more than 1,000 businesses to resume licensed business activity.

“Small businesses play a pivotal role in creating and nurturing a thriving local economy,” said DCRA Director Melinda Bolling. “The agency strives to provide meaningful assistance to the District’s small businesses, and I’m pleased with our progress thus far in 2016.”

DCRA kicked off the year by offering an amnesty program in January and February that waived late fees and delinquent filing fees for business licenses, corporate registrations, and weights and measures device registrations. The program allowed businesses to get a fresh start in the new year by becoming compliant with District law.

As a result, entities that allowed a license or registration to lapse due to financial hardship were able to resume business for the same cost as a brand-new business. More than 1,000 businesses participated in the program.

“There’s nothing easy about operating a successful small business,” said Bolling. “In recognition of that, DCRA offered much-deserved second chances to businesses across the District through our amnesty program.”

The agency also continued to provide free technical assistance to small businesses through its Small Business Resource Center (SBRC). SBRC organizes free workshops and symposiums where industry experts offer advice on how to access capital and write a business plan, legal assistance, and thoughts on market trends and opportunities. In February, SBRC’s Build It In DC event connected more than 300 attendees with industry leaders and government subject matter experts in the construction field.

Aspiring and current entrepreneurs can also sign up for one-on-one counseling with a SBRC staff member to discuss more individualized needs. To date in 2016, SBRC has provided 198 one-on-one counseling sessions and 25 workshops and symposiums. During 2015, SBRC conducted nearly 700 one-on-one counseling sessions and offered more than 70 workshops and symposiums, which reflects a 65% increase over previous years.

DCRA’s Small Business Resource Center is hosting [events](#) throughout Small Business Week, including a senior entrepreneurship workshop and business speed coaching. Entrepreneurs can register for the events [online](#).

###

Follow DCRA on Twitter!

Follow DCRA on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/DCRA>