New South Shore Economic Advancement Center Seeking Participants

From CudahyNow. Submitted By Rachel Mosey

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Applications are now being accepted for the first workshop offered by the new South Shore Center for Economic Advancement (SSEAC).

A consortium including the cities of Cudahy, St. Francis and South Milwaukee and the UW-Milwaukee School of Continuing Education and the UWM Small Business Development Center (SBDC) started the economic advancement center, in an effort to help residents looking for work or hoping to start their own businesses.

The first class entitled “First Steps to Entrepreneurship” will be held Thursday, September 24, 2009 from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the St. Francis Library (4230 S Nicholson Ave). The fee is $29 per participant.

“This fast-paced workshop is a great starting point for anyone considering opening a business,” said SBDC Business Development Manager Laura Schmitz. “Participants will learn how to identify the risks and rewards of starting a business, as well as the various business options and marketing tactics available.”

Attendees will also receive tools to calculate start-up costs, discover the value of a business plan, explore legal considerations and identify resources and next steps for starting a business.

“Bring your questions and concerns and get ready to network with other potential entrepreneurs,” Schmitz said.

Interested applicants can register by visiting www.sce-sbdc.uwm.edu. First click on “Training Programs for Starting a Business” then click on “First Steps to Entrepreneurship Workshop”. The St. Francis Library session can be found at the bottom of the page. Or, call the UWM Small Business Development Center at (414) 227-3240.

SSEAC partners are developing future workshops for small business owners and unemployed residents in Milwaukee’s South Shore communities.

The South Shore Center for Economic Advancement is currently a virtual enterprise, organizing workshops and programs which provide technical assistance and counseling to budding entrepreneurs, non-profit leaders and the unemployed.
But the SSEAC is being considered for a $250,000 capacity building grant through the Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families. If awarded, the funding will be used to open a walk-in resource center in Cudahy.

The center will provide counseling and training, establish regular courses on small business development, create a small business incubator and hold a business plan competition with a start-up grant award.

The ultimate goal is to increase economic activity and grow employment throughout the South Shore region.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development reported in July that the unemployment rate in the metro-Milwaukee area rose to 9.8% in June, up from 9.0% in May.