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FRI MAR 23, 2012

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Partnership to Help More than 400 MWBEs Grow

BY: ESTHER CHO

03/22/2012

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In an effort to create a program to empower minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs), Citi and the [Foundation for Small Business Development](#) joined Karen G. Mills, administrator of the [Small Business Association](#), to launch the Partnership for Small Business Development.



The partnership is a national training and certification program that will prepare enrollees to become certified minority and women owned small businesses.

"This is the first time the nation's largest small business support network has joined forces with the country's two main third party certifiers of MWBEs to provide comprehensive assistance to entrepreneurs looking to grow their companies," said Charles Rowe, chairman of the Foundation for Small Business Development.

The program is projected to help more than 400 businesses who who are currently subcontractors for [Safeguard Properties](#), and will provide certification to enable those businesses to compete successfully for additional contracting opportunities.

"The partnership will provide small businesses with additional tools and know-how to compete for more contracts from government and the private sector," said Bob Annibale, Citi's global director for community development. "The result will be increased revenues and the creation of new jobs in the communities that need them the most."

Between 2002 and 2007, minority business growth outpaced that of non-minority firms in terms of total revenue, employment, and number of firms, according to research from Minority-Owned Business Growth and Global Reach.

The Women's Business Enterprise National Council along with other local and national certifying organizations will participate to ensure businesses receive certification by the end of 2012.

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