

Board of County Commissioners

Julia W. Gouge, President
Dean L. Minnich, Vice President
Michael D. Zimmer, Secretary



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
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News Release

*For more information, contact: Beth Woodring,
Carroll County Small Business Development Center, 410-386-2317*

For Immediate Release

Small Business Development Center 24/7 Virtual Business Advisor launched

March 04, 2008 – The Carroll County Department of Economic Development broadens its supports for developing small businesses by providing a new website portal dedicated to serve entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Launched as a joint venture with the Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the Carroll County SBDC network is an interactive online small business resource site. Accessed via the Economic Development website at www.carrollbiz.org/sbdc, the site includes training and business information for new and existing businesses.

SmartSTART, an information-gathering assessment used to identify business strengths and weaknesses, is recommended on the site as a “first step” in planning a new business. Once completed, SmartSTART provides important guidance, suggestions, and resources direct to business owners.

A [Virtual Classroom](#) featuring business training on 26 topics from business planning to finance and marketing can now be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All that is required is completion of a short registration form and you are on your way to learning productive new business practices.

-more-

ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: The Americans With Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please contact Jolene Sullivan, the Carroll County Government Americans With Disabilities Act Coordinator, 410-386-3600 or 1-888-302-8978, or TT (410) 848-9747. The mailing address is: 10 Distillery Drive, First Floor, Suite 101, Westminster, MD 21157.

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“In addition to the Small Business Training Network, this new website portal initiative demonstrates our ongoing commitment to small business which is a vital part of our growing economy”, stated Lawrence Twele, Director of Carroll County Economic Development.

“Our department works to create a positive business climate and provide the necessary resources to promote the development of new and resident businesses thereby adding new jobs and increasing the local tax base”, Twele further stated.

SBDC is dedicated to assisting business enterprises by providing consulting and training services and is a program of the University of Maryland Center for Applied Policy Studies, the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED). This Cooperative Agreement is partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. SBA's funding is not an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services. All SBA funded programs are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

The Carroll County Small Business Development Center, staffed by SBDC Counselor Beth Woodring, is located in the Carroll County Department of Economic Development office at 225 N. Center Street, Suite 101, in Westminster.

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