



The National Business Information Clearinghouse (BIC) is a non-profit organization that is committed to creating wealth in communities by providing key information on topics critical to the success of small business: Money, Markets, Management and Technology. The BIC supports the startup and growth of small and minority-owned businesses by enabling access to timely business information, online training and best practices, resulting in a more vibrant business community.

The BIC is a free web portal that provides critical business information to support the startup and growth of small businesses, stimulating economic development at a regional and national level. The BIC is a collection of business-related articles, videos, local resources, demographics and tools that help entrepreneurs successfully start and run a business.

As BIC's primary corporate sponsor, Western Union has, to date, invested \$2 million through its "Our World, Our Family" global economic opportunities program. BIC is also funded by a \$3.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The BIC site is a free, bilingual online service for new and existing entrepreneurs, offering business solutions in the following areas:

- **Technology.** A new technology section that includes content from Microsoft, providing software solutions and technology tips for Hispanic entrepreneurs
- **Business articles.** A vast collection of articles on the most pressing issues for small- business owners: money, markets and management
- **Business training videos, templates, tools and resources.** Created through the Entrepreneurial Development Center Inc.'s Web site
- **Local assistance resources.** With localized listings of organizations that can help entrepreneurs start their business
- **Small-business search engine.** Provides access to hundreds of hand-picked small-business Web sites
- **Demographic reports.** Includes demographic information about the residents and businesses within a specific city or region
- **Geographically based content.** Constantly updated, including links to local community resources

The BIC has also been customized to reach the Hispanic community through the National Hispanic Business Information Clearinghouse (www.hispanicbic.org), and is currently being tailored to target small and minority-owned businesses across the country and around the world.

For Immediate Release

National Hispanic Business Information Clearinghouse Launches Website To Help Minorities Start Own Businesses

Denver, CO – Sept. 14, 2007 – The National Hispanic Business Information Clearinghouse (NHBIC) launched a website today to help minority entrepreneurs start their own businesses. The site, www.nhbic.org, will provide information on how to finance, manage and market a new or existing business. NHBIC, which introduced its online business resource at an event hosted by the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, also announced that the website is bilingual in English and Spanish and will grow to include other languages and ethnic groups.

“The NHBIC website focuses on the ‘Three M’s of Business: Money, Markets & Management.’ It empowers aspiring business owners by providing critical information on financing a business, selling products and services and running a company,” said NHBIC Program Project Director Salvador Gomez, president and CEO of Source One Management, Inc. “As a bilingual resource, it will be especially useful for those who have traditionally been underserved because English is not their first language.”

According to Gomez, the NHBIC will be the first in a series of online portals providing people of color with the basic tools for starting a business. Additional clearinghouses will be launched in coming years for African-American, Asian and Native-American audiences. All websites will feature business basics plus information on legal requirements, licensing, permitting, accounting, managing employees, paying taxes, marketing, sales and government contracting.

The user-friendly NHBIC website features professionally pre-screened and categorized business-related content; a highly specialized and business-specific search engine; personalized user features; localized, culture-specific community resources; and updated news related to minority small businesses.

“The launch and operation of the National Hispanic Business Information Clearinghouse will have a tremendous ripple effect in Latino communities across the United States and the country as a whole,” noted Hector Barreto, former administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration. “Small businesses are the engine of our nation’s economy, and this program encourages and supports entrepreneurial success and is to be commended.”

Funded by a \$3.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and with start-up capital from Denver-based Western Union, NHBIC will be available to any individual nationwide who has access to a computer with Internet capability. Western Union will also assist in publicizing the program to hundreds of thousands of small business owners and merchants through its network of some 50,000 U.S. agent locations.

The Latino Coalition and other national, state and local groups, as well as community and faith-based organizations, have also committed to promoting NHBIC to their members.

Fred Niehaus, senior vice president of public affairs for Western Union, said his company's interest in supporting NHBIC and later minority clearinghouses stems from Western Union's "ethic of empowering our consumers to achieve sustainable economic stability. These BICs, when available in multiple languages, will reach millions of immigrants and minorities with information to start, grow and maintain successful businesses in the U. S. The rewards will be felt nationwide."

For more information, visit <http://www.nhbic.org>

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

New York City Mayor Bloomberg Names Hispanic BIC Web Site Integral Part of City's Five Hispanic Business Initiatives

Hispanic BIC Provides Free Bilingual Business Information To Help Hispanic Entrepreneurs Start or Grow a Business

NEW YORK, June 18 /PRNewswire-HISPANIC PR WIRE/ -- Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced New York City is implementing five initiatives to aid Hispanic business owners and help strengthen the city's economy. He announced the initiatives at a press conference June 17, 2009 at the Audubon Partnership for Economic Development. The five initiatives are:

-- Promoting the National Hispanic Business Information Clearinghouse, a free bilingual business resource web site, <http://www.hispanicbic.org>

-- NYC Business Solutions Financing Fair

-- A New NYC Business Solutions Satellite Office in Washington Heights

-- Greater Access to Pro Bono Legal Assistance
Seminar to Inform Hispanic Businesses about Services from City Agencies

"Strengthening and providing the tools businesses need in order to thrive are crucial to our Five-Borough Economic Opportunity Plan for spurring New York's recovery from the national economic recession," said Mayor Bloomberg. "New York has led the nation in the rate of growth for Hispanic-owned businesses, and it's important to our economy to help even more of these businesses succeed."

New York City has one of the largest and most diverse Hispanic markets in the country, with numerous U.S.-born Hispanic entrepreneurs as well as many first-generation immigrant businesses owned by people from all over Latin America.

"The Hispanic BIC is uniquely situated to assist this growing business community as we provide critical business resources to facilitate strong businesses, economic development and job creation," said Sal Gomez, Chairman and Founder of the Hispanic BIC. "We're proud to partner with Mayor Bloomberg, Commissioner Linares and Commissioner Walsh to be one of the five Hispanic Business Initiatives that will help build a strong Hispanic business community in New York City."

"There are over 200,000 Hispanic-owned businesses in New York City and their success is important to the Hispanic community and the economic revitalization of New York City and our country," said Hispanic BIC President Michael Barrera. "We look forward to working with city agencies, non-profits and Hispanic leaders to promote all five initiatives including a discussion of the initiatives at a Hispanic Business Forum scheduled



August 6 at Casa Puebla in New York City."

The National Hispanic Business Information Clearinghouse (Hispanic BIC) is a non-profit organization that provides a free, bilingual web site featuring critical information on MONEY, MARKETS, MANAGEMENT, TECHNOLOGY and PROCUREMENT to support the creation and growth of Hispanic-owned businesses. The Hispanic BIC website offers business-related articles, training videos, local city resources, demographic information, a small-business search engine and other tools to help Hispanic entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a successful business.

The Hispanic BIC is supported by founding sponsors, Western Union and the U.S. Department of Labor, and two platinum sponsors, Microsoft and U.S. Army.

SOURCE National Hispanic Business Information Clearinghouse

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