

August 2006

Dear Small Business Owner,

It has been one year since Hurricane Katrina and the flood that followed, which produced untold disruptions to the small business activity that is critical to culture and economy of the City of New Orleans. Seedco Financial Services and its parent company Seedco, as well as its partners, Xavier University of Louisiana and the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce recognize the importance of clear, up-to-date information regarding the availability of resources for small businesses and their employees. In response, we have developed the *New Orleans Small Business Resource Guide*, a list of financial and technical assistance resources available in the wake of the hurricanes. We hope this guide will help you identify resources that address your business needs.

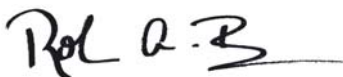
Disaster recovery information is continuously changing, and this guide remains a work in progress. Please check our website: www.nolabusinessresourceguide.org for weekly updates, and please contact the organizations and programs providing the resources described in this document directly for a complete and up-to-date explanation of all services and eligibility requirements.

The Resource Guide is being offered as part of the New Orleans Small Business and Employee Retention Strategy (NOSBERS), a new program of financial, technical and employee assistance being offered by Seedco and Seedco Financial Services. The details of this program can be found inside the guide. If you have questions about the program or the Resource Guide, please send an email to gulfcoast@seedco.org, or call (504) 520-5729.

We are grateful to our funders, the Ceres Foundation, the Prudential Foundation, Louisiana Economic Development, Deutsche Bank, the Share Our Strength Foundation, the Bowery Residence Committee and an anonymous donor for making it possible to provide important assistance to small businesses in New Orleans. We would also like to thank the staff at the Xavier Triangle CDC, the Office of Community Programs at Xavier and the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce for their assistance in compiling and printing the Guide.

Please let us know how we can make this guide more useful to you.


Sincerely,



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