



## LOWER MANHATTAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*in partnership with*

EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT

*and*

NEW YORK CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### Partial Action Plan

for

### New York Business Recovery and Economic Revitalization

The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) has prepared the following Partial Action Plan with respect to the \$2 billion federal appropriation to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for use by LMDC. This plan details LMDC's proposed expenditure of \$350 million to supplement three business recovery and economic revitalization programs initiated and administered by Empire State Development (ESD), New York State's economic development agency, in cooperation with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

The LMDC is a subsidiary of ESD created by Governor George Pataki and then Mayor of New York Rudolph Giuliani in December 2001 to manage the rebuilding and revitalization efforts in Lower Manhattan (defined by LMDC as the area South of Houston Street). LMDC is funded by a \$2 billion federal appropriation for the World Trade Center disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. LMDC anticipates additional funding by a recent \$783 million federal appropriation to HUD for damaged properties and businesses (including the restoration of utility infrastructure) as well as economic revitalization related to the terrorist attacks. On June 7, 2002, HUD approved LMDC's Partial Action Plan for the expenditure of approximately \$306 million for four programs; namely, the Residential Grant Program, the Job Training Program, the Interim Memorial Program, and Planning and Administration. That Partial Action Plan is attached as an appendix and a version with public comments and responses thereto is available on the LMDC web site: [www.renewnyc.com](http://www.renewnyc.com).

An amended This Partial Action Plan approved by HUD on November 22, 2002 allocates allocated \$350 million of the remaining \$1.694 billion to fund business recovery and

revitalization programs administered by ESD. This Partial Action Plan reduces spending for the Small Firm Attraction and Retention Grant Program by \$21,000,000 and reduces spending in the PAP to \$329,000,000.

<i>Action Plan Categories</i>	<b>Original Allocation from \$2 billion</b>	<b>Amended Allocation</b>
<i>WTC Business Recovery Grant Program</i>	<i>\$150,000,000</i>	<i>\$150,000,000</i>
<i>Small Firm Attraction and Retention Grant Program</i>	<i>\$50,000,000</i>	<i>\$29,000,000</i>
<i>Job Creation and Retention Program</i>	<i>\$150,000,000</i>	<i>\$150,000,000</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$350,000,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$329,000,000</i></b>

Future partial action plans will detail the projected expenditure of the remainder of funds from the \$2 billion appropriation and will be subject to a public comment period with later submission to HUD.

Any change greater than 5% in the funding committed to a particular activity (a.k.a. program) identified in this Partial Action Plan, the addition or deletion of any activity, or change in the planned beneficiaries of an activity will constitute a substantial amendment and such amendment will be made available for public comment and approval by HUD.

### **National Objective**

The activities contained in this Partial Action Plan have been designed to meet community development needs following September 11<sup>th</sup> having particular urgency because LMDC has determined that existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the City of New York and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

### **ESD Action Plan History**

#### Business Recovery Programs Established by ESD

Congress appropriated an initial \$700 million to New York State for economic recovery and revitalization efforts through HUD's Community Development Block Grant Program. This fund is managed by ESD in cooperation with EDC in accordance with a Final Action Plan and an Amended Action Plan accepted and approved by HUD. The Final Action Plan describes all of the business recovery and revitalization programs. (See Spending Allocation Chart, page 3.) The Amended Action Plan modifies three programs: (1) the Small Firm Attraction & Retention Grant Program, (2) the WTC Business Recovery Loan Fund, and (3) the Infrastructure Rebuilding Program. Both ESD's Final Action Plan and Amended Action Plan are available on the ESD web site: [www.empire.state.ny.us](http://www.empire.state.ny.us).

Additional Business Recovery Funding from LMDC

Both ESD's Final Action Plan and Amended Action Plan recognized that more than \$700 million would be needed to fully fund the business recovery and revitalization programs as described. When an initial \$2 billion was appropriated to LMDC, Congress intended that some portion would be directed to the business recovery and revitalization effort administered by ESD. In fact, \$500 million of the initial appropriations (the \$700 million and the \$2.0 billion) is required to be made available to small businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and individuals to compensate them for economic losses.

LMDC is publishing this Partial Action Plan to allocate \$350 million of the \$2 billion fund to three business recovery programs administered by ESD as described in ESD's Final Action Plan and Amended Action Plan referred to above.

**Projected Spending Allocation of \$350 million to ESD Business Recovery Programs**

Spending Categories	ESD Amended Plan 6/07/02	LMDC \$350 Million Plan Approved 11/22/02	Proposed Amendment	Total
<b>Small Business Assistance</b>				
• Bridge Loan Program	\$15,000,000			\$15,000,000
• WTC Business Recovery Loan Fund	50,000,000			50,000,000
• <i>WTC Business Recovery Grant Program Compensation for Economic Losses</i>	<i>331,000,000</i>	<i>\$150,000,000</i>		<i>481,000,000</i>
• <i>Small Firm Attraction and Retention Grants</i>	<i>105,000,000</i>	<i>50,000,000</i>	<i>(21,000,000)*</i>	<i>134,000,000</i>
• Grants to Technical Assistance Service Providers for Lower Manhattan	5,000,000			5,000,000
<b>Small Business Assistance Total:</b>	<b>506,000,000</b>	<b>\$200,000,000</b>	<b>(21,000,000)</b>	<b>685,000,000</b>
<b>Assistance to Larger Firms</b>				
• <i>Job Creation and Retention Program</i>	<i>170,000,000</i>	<i>150,000,000</i>		<i>320,000,000</i>
• Compensation for Economic Losses to Other Businesses	5,000,000			5,000,000
<b>Larger Firm Assistance Total:</b>	<b>175,000,000</b>	<b>150,000,000</b>		<b>325,000,000</b>
<b>Business Information</b>				
• Business Information	5,000,000			5,000,000

<b>Infrastructure Rebuilding</b>				
• Initial Planning and Design	0			0
<b>Administration</b>	14,000,000			14,000,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$700,000,000</b>	<b>\$350,000,000</b>	<b>(21,000,000)</b>	<b>\$1,029,000,000</b>

\* An additional reduction of up to \$5,000,000 may be made in the next year upon full implementation of the program.

ESD plans to administer the \$350,000,000 as summarized in the chart above and business recovery programs based on the general criteria set forth below. The amounts listed for the programs below reflect the 2002 PAP amendment and the original allocations, with a proposed reduction for the SFARG program.

**WTC Business Recovery Grant (BRG) Program -- \$150,000,000**  
(total program fund \$481,000,000)

1. Overview. The WTC BRG program provides grants to businesses (including not-for-profit organizations) with fewer than 500 employees, located in Manhattan south of 14<sup>th</sup> Street, to compensate them for economic losses resulting from the disaster. Compensation is calculated based on days of lost gross revenue, with the maximum number of days and amounts determined by business location.
2. Objective. The program is intended to provide compensation for economic losses at affected firms, thereby assisting in the retention of 225,000 jobs at assisted businesses and up to an additional 150,000 jobs at businesses indirectly affected by the activities of assisted businesses. Note that businesses assisted by this program will also be eligible for assistance from other ESD programs. Consequently, job impacts across programs are not additive.
3. Integration with Preexisting Programs. Benefits from the program will be integrated with the previously offered WTC Disaster Retail Recovery Grant Program. That program offered compensation equal to three days lost business revenue, capped at \$10,000, to retail and personal service firms with fewer than 500 employees located in Manhattan south of Houston Street on September 11, and continuing in business in New York City.

Benefits from the program will also be integrated with the previously offered Lower Manhattan Grant Program administered by the EDC. That program provided grants, capped at \$10,000, to small non-retail businesses located in the restricted area of Lower Manhattan, and grants to other non-retail businesses located south of Houston Street tied to application and approval of SBA loans.

4. Eligibility Criteria and Maximum Award Levels. Applicants for assistance through the WTC BRG program must show a business lease, deed or permit that was in effect on September 11<sup>th</sup> in the areas described below, as well as a new business lease, deed or permit, if relocated, that confirms the on-going viability of the enterprise.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Street – Houston Area: Businesses on or south of 14<sup>th</sup> Street, but not in one of the areas described below, will be eligible for compensation up to a maximum of \$50,000.
  - Houston – Canal Area: Businesses on the south side of a line running east from the western end of Clarkson Street, south of the centerline of Clarkson Street to the intersection with Washington Street, then west of the centerline of Washington Street to the intersection with West Houston Street, then south of the centerline of West Houston Street to the intersection of the Avenue of the Americas, then south of the centerline of East Houston Street to the bank of the East River, but not in the areas described below, will be eligible for compensation up to a maximum award of \$100,000.
  - South of Canal Area: Businesses in the area on the south side of the line beginning at the intersection of the Hudson River with the Holland Tunnel, and running thence east to Canal Street, then running along the centerline of Canal Street, to the intersection with Rutgers Street, and then running along the centerline of Rutgers Street to the East River, but not in the area described below, will be eligible for compensation up to a maximum award of \$150,000.
  - Restricted Zone: Businesses in the Restricted Zone within which all pedestrian and vehicular traffic was prohibited on September 19<sup>th</sup> (the area bounded by the area south of the centerline of Chambers Street from the Hudson River to Broadway, then the area west of the centerline of Broadway running south to Rector Street and the area north of the centerline on Rector Street running west to the Hudson River) will be eligible for compensation up to a maximum of \$300,000.
5. Duplication of Benefits. Assistance received from other Federal Government sources and insurance payments for the purpose of providing compensation for economic losses arising from the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> will be deducted from grants provided through this program.
6. Projected Total Cost of Program. ESD anticipates making 19,600 awards through the program and a total program cost will be approximately \$481,000,000. ESD has allocated \$331 million to the program. An additional \$150 million is being allocated to this program by LMDC through this Partial Action Plan, bringing the total program fund to \$481 million. LMDC has made an additional allocation of funds to this program in Partial Action Plan 4.

*Small Firm Attraction & Retention Grant (SFARG) Program -- ~~\$50,000,000~~ \$29,000,000 (with the potential for an additional \$5,000,000 reduction if funds are not needed by the program)*  
*Total program fund ~~\$155,000,000~~ \$134,000,000 (or \$129,000,000 with the additional reduction)*

1. Overview. ESD and EDC modified the SFARG program to expand eligibility to (a) include firms employing fewer than ten people and eliminated the previous requirement of a minimum of ten employees, and (b) ease lease commitment requirements for those firms

located in the area designated as the October 23 Zone. Firms that were eligible for SFARG under the terms published in ESD's Final Action Plan remain eligible without any reduction in previously described benefits. The program modifications respond to community requests for greater assistance to small businesses.

2. Objective. The program is intended to help retain and create 65,000 jobs through the SFARG program at assisted firms. Assisted firms will have an indirect impact upon businesses employing an additional 30,000 individuals. Note that firms assisted by this program will also be eligible for assistance from other ESD programs. Consequently, job impacts across programs are not additive.
3. General Conditions. Attraction and retention of small business establishments is an important, but difficult to achieve, objective of any successful recovery plan. Because there are thousands of small establishments operated by small and large businesses in the lower Manhattan area that will make decisions about whether to remain in the area, it is administratively impractical to provide assistance on a discretionary or case-by-case basis. Thus, ESD and EDC will offer grants to businesses on the following general conditions:
  - For firms operating in the Eligible Area as defined in paragraph 6, the current lease must expire on or prior to December 31, 2004, and the company must sign a new lease, or renew an existing lease for a minimum of five years beyond the current commitment.
  - For firms newly locating within the eligible area, the company must sign a new lease for a minimum of five years.
  - If the firm is located within a section of the Restricted Zone referred to as the October 23rd Zone (the area bounded by the centerlines of Chambers Street, Greenwich Street, Park Place, Broadway, Rector Street, West Street, Albany Street, South End Avenue World Financial Center Esplanade, Murray Street and North End Avenue), the company must sign a new lease, or renew an existing or reaffirm an existing lease. In each case, the new, renewed or reaffirmed lease must expire on or after September 11, 2006 for premises within the October 23rd Zone.
4. New Lease. The new lease must be signed not earlier than September 11, 2001 and not later than December 31, 2004. ESD and EDC may extend availability of assistance if funding remains at the end of the period.
5. Size of Company. Upon application, the firm must employ not more than 200 employees in an establishment in the eligible area.
6. Eligible Area for Location of Lease Space. The new lease or lease amendment is for space located in the area on the south side of the line beginning at the intersection of the Hudson River with the Holland Tunnel, and running thence east to Canal Street, then running along the centerline of Canal Street, to the intersection with Rutgers Street, and thence running along the Centerline of Rutgers Street to the East River.

7. Payments. Except as provided in paragraph 8, ESD/EDC will make two payments of \$1,750 per employee to assisted small firms as follows:
- The first payment will be made upon approval of the application for assistance.
  - The second payment will be made 18 months later based on the company's employment at that time, up to a maximum of 250 employees.
- However, firms with 3 or less employees will be eligible to receive one payment of \$3,500 per employee upon approval of application, in lieu of the two payments indicated above.
8. Firms in Restricted Zone. Firms operating in the Restricted Zone -- the area bounded by the area south of the centerline of Chambers Street from the Hudson River to Broadway, then the area west of the centerline of Broadway running south to Rector Street and the area north of the centerline on Rector Street running west to the Hudson River -- on September 11, 2001 that sign, renew or reaffirm a lease for space in New York City within the Eligible Area defined in paragraph 6, will be eligible for assistance in the same manner as firms described in that paragraph, except that ESD/EDC will make two payments of \$2,500 per employee (or one payment of \$5,000 if three or less employees). In the event that firms located prior to September 11<sup>th</sup> in the Restricted Zone relocate outside the Eligible Area, as defined in paragraph 6 above, but within New York City, on or prior to December 31, 2002, ESD/EDC will provide two payments of \$1,750 per employee or one payment of \$3,500 per employee in the same manner as described in paragraph 7.
9. Projected Total Cost of Program. ESD's Amended Action Plan allocates \$105 million for the SFARG program. The increase of \$25 million over the original allocation of \$80 million, recognizes the additional cost of expanding eligibility criteria to include firms with fewer than ten employees. An additional \$50 million ~~is being~~ was allocated to the SFARG program by LMDC through ~~this an amended~~ Partial Action Plan, bringing the total program fund to \$155 million. This amendment reduces the SFARG allocation by \$21,000,000 to \$29,000,000 (and total program funds to \$134,000,000). Under the program guidelines these funds will not be needed for payments to grantees. The program cost may be further reduced by up to \$5,000,000 in the next year upon full implementation of the program. LMDC's Final Action Plan will address the reallocation of the \$21,000,000 savings and any additional amounts up to \$5,000,000.

***WTC Job Creation and Retention Program -- \$150,000,000  
(total program fund-- \$320,000,000)***

1. Overview. The WTC Job Creation and Retention program offers grants, loan guarantees and low cost loans to assist firms with 200 or more employees that were displaced from their workspace for at least one month, as well as other affected firms, and firms willing to create new jobs in the downtown area.
2. Objective. The program is intended to help retain or create 80,000 jobs at assisted businesses and up to an additional 175,000 jobs at businesses indirectly affected by the activities of

assisted businesses. Note that businesses assisted by this program will also be eligible for assistance from other ESD programs. Consequently, job impacts across programs are not additive.

3. General Conditions. The program will provide assistance to businesses in the following situations:
  - (a) Businesses located South of Canal Street at the time of the disaster that have remained within lower Manhattan.
  - (b) Businesses located South of Canal Street at the time of the disaster that have temporarily relocated elsewhere because of the disaster.
  - (c) New York City businesses that suffered significant economic dislocation because substantial numbers of their major customers were businesses south of Canal Street.
  - (d) Businesses seeking to locate new operations and create new jobs in lower Manhattan. Assistance will enhance the cost-competitiveness of lower Manhattan location decisions, but will not be used to pirate employment from other states.
4. Number of Employees. Assistance will be offered to firms employing 200 or more.
5. Date of Commitment. Assistance may be made available to businesses that made commitments after September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and not later than December 31, 2004. ESD and EDC may extend the period of availability if funding is available at the end of the period.
6. Period of Commitment. Assisted companies will be required to maintain jobs in New York City for a minimum of seven years.
7. Assistance. Decisions as to whether to provide assistance and how much to offer will be evaluated on an individual case basis based upon an assessment of the economic value of the project to New York City, risk, location and size of workforce. In addition, there will be assistance for projects for the adaptive reuse of available space to meet the needs of firms with specialized requirements in industries offering substantial job creation potential to the area south of Canal Street.
8. Additional Assistance. Additional assistance will be offered to firms that relocate in lower Manhattan and contribute to the rebuilding of the business community there.
9. Projected Total Cost of Program. ESD's Action Plans allocate \$170 million to the WTC Job Creation and Retention program. An additional \$150 million is being allocated to the program by LMDC through this Partial Action Plan, bringing the total program fund to \$320 million.

### **Public Notice and Comment**

A draft of this proposed Partial Action Plan was made available to the public for a 15-day comment period starting on August 28, 2002 and ending on September 13, 2002. LMDC placed



advertisements inviting public comment on the draft plan in all major New York City English, Spanish, and Chinese-language daily newspapers. In addition, the text of the draft plan was made available at LMDC's offices, on LMDC's web site ([www.renewnyc.com](http://www.renewnyc.com)), and at ESD's offices as well as nine other offices around New York City.

Written comments were accepted via mail, e-mail, and in person. LMDC received 117 comments by e-mail and postal mail during the official public comment period. After thorough review of the public comments, LMDC and ESDC staff prepared formal responses and have incorporated them into the next section of this proposed Partial Action Plan.

### **Responses to Public Comments**

The 117 comments received are summarized below in boldface italic, with the response immediately following.

*Sixty-eight commenters were former tenants of the World Trade Center complex, who stressed the need for a grant program directed solely to the needs of businesses that had been housed in the World Trade complex. Most of the comments consisted of a form letter that called for the creation of a World Trade Center complex zone, entitling former tenants to grants equal to 50 days or 20% of 2000 revenues. The form letter also called for an increase in the maximum allowable award under the program from the current \$300,000 to \$500,000. In addition, the letter called for SBA loans to be excluded from calculations of compensation received.*

ESD and EDC recently increased loss compensation benefits offered through the WTC Business Recovery Grant program. Businesses located in the Restricted Zone area (which includes the former World Trade Center complex) are now entitled to receive up to 25 days lost revenue. Loss compensation benefits in the 14<sup>th</sup> Street to Houston, Houston to Canal, and South of Canal Zones were also increased to 3, 5 and 7 days lost revenue respectively. ESD anticipates that the \$481 million allocated to the WTC Business Recovery Grant program will be fully expended at the new benefit levels.

Congress established an overall cap of \$500,000 for small business losses not compensated elsewhere. For the WTC Business Recovery Grant program, ESD instituted a program cap of \$300,000 per award to ensure that the limited resources of the fund were equitably shared among all eligible businesses with uncompensated losses, and not just apportioned to the larger firms. Setting this program cap at \$300,000 allows businesses to receive compensation from additional programs or sources without exceeding the overall cap established by Congress.

ESD concurs that SBA loans should not be counted at full value as equivalent forms of loss compensation. We have been working with HUD and SBA to resolve this issue favorably for small businesses.

*Thirty-nine form letter comments were made by small business owners near the World Trade Center site. The letter asked that small business owners be compensated at the rate of 250% of*

*lost revenue for the days they were closed. The letter also asked that the Small Business Attraction and Retention Grant Program ease its commercial lease renewal requirement to include small business owners who live and work in the same space.*

WTC Business Recovery Grants are based on days of lost revenue. ESD cannot compensate firms in excess of 100% of loss per day. As noted above, ESD has increased compensation to 25 days lost revenue in the Restricted Zone, with proportionate increases in the other three zones. ESD anticipates that the \$481 million allocated to the WTC Business Recovery Grant Program will be fully expended at the new benefit levels.

The Small Firm Attraction & Retention Grant (SFARG) Program provides an incentive to attract and retain small businesses in Lower Manhattan. To fulfill this objective, participation in SFARG is restricted to firms that sign and renew commercial leases. Home-based businesses are, however, eligible to receive economic compensation grants via the WTC Business Recovery Grant Program. In addition, LMDC administers a separate program to attract and retain residents in Lower Manhattan and provides grants for residential lease commitments. A home-based business owner can therefore receive assistance through the LMDC Residential Grant Program, and should not be eligible for duplicate benefits through SFARG, which is appropriately restricted to commercial space.

*Four commenters were critical of SBA lending requirements. They asked that SBA drop its demands for collateral when offering loans to September 11 victims, and that the SBA also drop its demand that anyone who receives business recovery grants must immediately use such grants to repay their SBA loans.*

SBA lending practices, including their loan collateral requirements are outside the scope of this Action Plan and beyond ESD control. ESD concurs that Business Recovery Grants and SBA loans should not be regarded as duplicative benefits necessitating the pay-down of SBA loans with BRG awards. The BRG grants are made from CDGB funds, administered by the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). ESD has been working with HUD to achieve a resolution to this issue.

*One commenter was disappointed that she was not eligible for supplemental grants because her company received the maximum \$300,000 grant from the Business Recovery program. The commenter said that the supplemental grants should be available to any company. Another commenter thought that the grants were too small, suggesting a \$750,000 cap.*

Congress established \$500,000 as the maximum loss compensation award that any small business could receive. ESD cannot exceed that directive. As noted above, ESD has established a BRG program cap of \$300,000 in order to ensure that funds will be available to every eligible firm that applies to the program.

*One commenter asked that a sliding scale arrangement be applied to the Small Firm Attraction & Retention Grant Program (SFARG), offering benefits to businesses north of Canal Street as well.*

ESD interprets this comment to mean that while the SFARG program requires a five-year lease, firms able to obtain only a two- or three-year lease should be eligible for 2/5<sup>th</sup> or 3/5<sup>th</sup> of the SFARG benefits, rather than considered ineligible to participate in the program. The SFARG program was designed to provide incentives structured to attract and retain significant business commitments in Lower Manhattan. ESD maintains that five years is a reasonable commitment in exchange for the incentive benefits offered, and necessary to achieve the business revitalization objective of this program.

However, in response to many comments and requests regarding the program ESD and EDC will make the following modification to SFARG:

- Firms with three or fewer employees currently receive the full value of the SFARG incentive at the time of approval of their application. Firms with four or more employees receive the incentive benefits in two payments. The first payment, made upon approval of the application, represents half the allowable benefit based on employment. The second payment, made 18 months later, is adjusted to reflect any increase or decrease in employment.
- Small firms with three or fewer employees may now elect to receive their benefits either in one full payment at the time of application, or in two installments over an 18-month period as above, in order to receive the added benefit of employment growth.

*One commenter asked that public resources not be used to recoup financial losses incurred on September 11.*

Congress appropriated funds to help New York City recover from a disaster of unprecedented proportion, recognizing that private funds alone were insufficient to accomplish the recovery and revitalization of the third largest central business district in the nation and the financial capital of the world.

*The Tribeca Organization made several recommendations: that Business Recovery Grants be increased to a total of 12.5 days for businesses below Canal Street; that a tax penalty and interest amnesty be created for downtown businesses; that consortia be formed to offer various forms of business services (e.g., health insurance) at a group rate; that low-cost loans from providers such as SEEDCO, ACCION, and the SBA be converted to grants; that a "safety net fund" be created for a variety of uses; that businesses with leases expiring after 1/1/04 be eligible for retention grants; that a public relations campaign be implemented to promote the area; that ombudsman services be made available; that funding be made available to non-profits; and that the SBA grant preferred vendor status to downtown businesses.*

*One commenter, Senator Martin Connor, also asked that businesses in Tribeca be allowed cash assistance for 12.5 days of lost revenue.*

As noted above, ESD has extended Business Recovery Grant benefits to 25 days in the Restricted Zone and 7, 5, and 3 days respectively in the South of Canal, Houston to Canal, and 14<sup>th</sup> Street to Houston Zones. ESD anticipates that the \$481 million allocated to the Business Recovery Grant program will be fully expended at the new benefit levels.

Tax amnesty is outside the scope of this action plan and the arena of the economic recovery and revitalization programs managed by ESD and LMDC. On behalf of small businesses, both ESD and EDC have requested that the federal Administration consider the Business Recovery Grants for loss compensation as non-taxable income.

SEEDCO and ACCION are independently operating business assistance organizations not subject to ESD and LMDC direction. SBA practices also fall outside ESD and LMDC purview.

ESD has already awarded a \$200,000 grant to the TriBeCa Organization specifically to provide marketing services for businesses in the area. This grant was made under the Technical Services to Small Businesses program. The TriBeCa Organization was one of 23 business service organizations that received matching fund grants to provide a variety of services to small firms in Lower Manhattan. A majority of the Technical Service Providers funded assist small business owners to access the numerous grant and loan programs that exist.

*The NYC Comptroller made the following suggestions: that the SFARG program should allow businesses facing hardship to request grants on an expedited basis; that grants be made for small business job creation; that LMDC disclose its spending plans for the Large Firm Job Creation and Retention Program; that incentives be industry-targeted; and that there be ongoing evaluation and review of all programs.*

Firms with three or fewer employees are entitled to receive the expedited payment of the entire Small Firm Attraction & Retention Grant (SFARG) award upon approval of application. Firms with four or more employees will continue to receive the incentive benefits in two installments at an 18-month interval, upon verification of their current employment levels. ESD is required by HUD to provide this level of monitoring and verification of employment levels for the SFARG program.

Incentive benefits for small business job creation are structured into the SFARG program. Benefits are calculated by employment, with greater benefits for firms with greater employment level. Firms that create new jobs prior to the 18-month second payment are entitled to increased benefits that directly reward job creation.

ESD has met all program monitoring and auditing requirements established and reviewed by HUD, and we fulfill quarterly reporting requirements to HUD for all federal CDGB funds.