



THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER AT
Community First Fund™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Stephanie N. Kessler
Senior Associate, Marketing
Phone: 717-393-2351, ext. 112
Fax: 717-393-1757
skessler@commfirstfund.org

Press Release: June 5, 2008

COMMUNITY FIRST FUND TO HOST COURSE ON FEDERAL CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

(Lancaster...) Community First Fund and its Women's Business Center will host the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Federal Procurement course on Monday, June 16th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. The course will be held at Community First Fund's Lancaster office located at 30 West Orange Street. The free seminar offers an overview of SBA programs and resources available for small, women-owned, and minority businesses. Specifically the course describes the procurement process and programs available to help small businesses work with the federal government and describes the appropriate marketing steps required to work with government agencies for procurement contracts.

In order to encourage the utilization of small businesses, each federal agency is required to earmark 23% of its annual spending for small businesses contracts. The SBA currently offers three certification programs to encourage and assist small businesses in obtaining federal contracts. While certification is a requirement of certain programs, not all federal procurement opportunities require certification. For women in particular, the SBA encourages self-certification as a women-owned-small business (WOSB) so that they may participate in the Central Contracting Registry, a database widely used by federal agencies and large contractors seeking small businesses.

"I would strongly encourage all small business owners to attend this informative course. The process can be confusing and this course offers detailed explanations and time for questions and answers on procurement opportunities," says Miriam Soto, Director of Training for the Women's Business Center at Community First Fund.

The Women's Business Center at Community First Fund has a Women's Business Loan Fund providing loan capital to start-up and existing women-owned businesses. Funding and technical assistance support for the Center is partially provided by the U.S. SBA. Community First Fund has offices in Harrisburg, Reading, York, Exton, and Lancaster and serves these cities and surrounding counties.

The course is free, however pre-registration is required. Please call or email Jamie Frey at 717-393-2351 or jfrey@commfirstfund.org. For more information on Community First Fund and its Women's Business Center, visit www.commfirstfund.org. For more information on the SBA and procurement programs visit www.sba.gov.

###