

Restaurant Revitalization Fund Training

Don't Know When You are Available on Tuesday, May 4th for a Virtual Training on the Restaurant Revitalization Fund?

Pick any Time that Works Best for You!

Each SBA District Office located across the Southeast Region will host a presentation and Q & A on the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF). These informational sessions are designed to get you prepared to apply for this new "grant" fund prior to the application going live. You are invited to select any timeframe that works best for your schedule.

The links below will be your access to the event. Please note, the link for Georgia takes you to a registration page. The other times, please click on the link at the time of the event.

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

Training Schedule- All are open to the public, *closed press*

12pm ET/11pm CT South Florida District: [click here to join the Teams event](#)

1pm ET/12pmCT North Florida District: [click here to join the Teams event](#)

For any questions regarding this training, please contact lola.kress@sba.gov.

North Florida District Office

Jon Malcolm Richards, District Director

The North Florida District Office has started meeting with Hispanic Organizations located throughout the district through monthly round table discussions. The initiative has been met with enthusiasm among Hispanic leaders. The latest meeting was attended by executive committee members of Hispanic Chambers from Central and North Florida, as well as a few other organizations involved in economic development targeted to Hispanic businesses. The group will continue to meet monthly to discuss best practices for helping Hispanic small business owners, as well as the challenges they face in starting/growing their businesses. Additionally, the group will connect Hispanic business owners with information about SBA's programs and services; SBA's network of resource partners; and offer opportunities for the individual groups to collaborate with one another. The effort is being led by Ana Grogan, SBA Outreach and Marketing Specialist; Ed Ramos, SBA Orlando Senior Area Manager; and Carmen Gonzalez, SBA North Florida Business Development Specialist.

Hispanic Organizations represented in the initiative include: The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando; The Puerto Rican Chamber of Central Florida; First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Kissimmee - Ocoola Chamber of Commerce; Puerto Rican Hispanic Chamber of Jacksonville; Volusia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Mexican American Chamber of Commerce of Jacksonville; Prospera-USA; Hispanic Professional and Business Women Association (HAPWA) of Central Florida; and Cultura Latina Magazine.



Other groups interested in participating in the initiative should contact the North Florida District Office contact: Jose.ramos@sba.gov or carmen.gonzalez@sba.gov



South Florida District Office

Jonel Hein, Acting District Director

Tampa-based 8(a), Woman-Owned Business Secures PPP loan with Bank of Charlestown

Lindsey Britt, CEO of Castalia Systems, LLC

Lindsey Britt founded Castalia in 2011 and has grown it to an expected annual revenue of \$20M in 2020. As the CEO of the Tampa-based company, she is responsible for aspects of the company ranging from identifying opportunities to pursue, executing on awarded contracts, and the requirements and duties to support these efforts. The company encompasses a management team totaling more than 60 years of experience in supporting Military, Intelligence, and Federal C4ISR needs and a staff of 125 employees.



Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, around 10 percent of Lindsey's staff worked remotely; however, the need to expand that to cover her remaining employees initially proved a bit of a challenge. Through the ease of technology and various virtual meeting platforms, Lindsey knew equipping her

entire staff with mobile computers along with out-of-the-box management styles would help meet her company's employee management continuity planning needs.

"We felt very blessed that the PPP loan program came out when it did - it was vital to keeping my business afloat and being able to continue to support my employees," said Lindsey, who stressed the importance of preparing her business for a seamless application process.

On April 3, 2020, Lindsey applied for a PPP loan through her primary lender only to find out they were not accepting applications at that time. After entering the marketplace that same day, she applied with the Bank of Charlestown in West Virginia, another participating SBA lender, received approval for \$2.4M four days later, and was funded on April 16, 2020.

Lindsey encouraged other entrepreneurs to not only remain positive but "make sure that you're diligent in your attention to detail and stay up-to-date on information. Continue to focus on your mission and why you started this business."