"Your Guiding Light" is the theme for the <u>sixth annual</u> SBDC Day. Recognized on the third Wednesday in March since 2017, the nationwide network of <u>small business development</u> <u>centers</u> (SBDCs) recognize their collective accomplishments in helping America's small businesses succeed. SBDC Day unites the nearly 1,000 SBDCs across the country and the hundreds of thousands of clients they serve by sharing, in real time, the success stories and notable impacts SBDCs have on the small business community at large. Wednesday, March 16, 2022 marks this year's SBDC Day.

With the help of SBDCs across the country, clients generated \$7.6 billion in new sales, secured \$6 billion in financing, and created 71,399 new jobs; that's \$100,000 in sales every 7 minutes, \$100,000 in financing every 8.8 minutes, and a new job every 7.4 minutes. Read more about the <u>real-world impact of SBDCs here</u>.

SBDCs Provide A Guiding Light to Small Business Owners

In 2020, amid the outbreak of a <u>COVID-19</u>, SBDCs promptly began their support to help <u>small</u> <u>businesses adapt</u> to new business norms, begin <u>selling online</u> and facilitate <u>small businesses</u> <u>reopening efforts</u>.

During 2021, as many areas of the country continued their reopening efforts, SBDCs provided support to small businesses across a broad spectrum of <u>industries</u> and communities. The <u>Great Resignation</u> prompted many to start their own ventures as evidenced by the over <u>5</u> million business applications filed in 2021. The global pandemic, social and economic disruptors, and the fast pace of technological change are challenges many entrepreneurs face on a daily basis. Through it all, SBDCs serve as the guiding light to current and prospective small business owners on their journey.

Join the SBDC Day Celebration

Join the celebration on March 16, 2022 by following #SBDCday on your favorite social media channel and join the conversation by sharing your SBDC small business success story. Follow us on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u>. To learn more about what your local SBDC is doing to celebrate, <u>Find Your Local SBDC</u>.

About SBDCs

Small businesses are job creators and innovators. America's SBDCs are the nation's proven, cost-effective and accredited infrastructure focused on small businesses. SBDCs are hosted by leading universities, colleges, state economic development agencies and private partners, and funded in part by the U.S. Congress through a partnership with the <u>U.S. Small Business</u> <u>Administration</u>.

About the SBDC National Blog

The SBDC National Information Clearinghouse (SBDCNet) is the official business research and support program for the national SBDC network. For over 20 years, the SBDCNet has been dedicated to meeting the information and resource needs of the <u>small business</u> community and working in partnership with SBDCs to ensure their clients' success. The <u>SBDC National</u> Blog is a publication of SBDCNet that features small business news, stories and more. If you have a small business resource or SBDC client success story you think would make a great feature, please <u>Contact Us</u>.

Additional Resources

Already in business or thinking about starting your own small business? Check out our various <u>small business resources</u>:

- View our COVID-19 Resources here: <u>COVID-19 Small Business Resources</u> and <u>COVID-19</u> <u>Industry Resources</u>
- View our small business cybersecurity resources here: Cybersecurity
- View our small business help topics here: Small Business Information Center
- View our business reports here: Small Business Snapshots
- View our industry-specific research here: Market Research Links

Remember, you can also receive free professional business advice and free or low-cost business training from your <u>local Small Business Development Center</u>!

Photo credit: Association of Small Business Development Centers