

**CDBG-R
FY-08 SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT**

MICROENTERPRISE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Project Description;

The Microenterprise Assistance Program will target and assist low-moderate income persons seeking to create a small business and owners of existing small businesses seeking to strengthen and expand creating new jobs for low to moderate income persons through business training, low-interest loans and technical assistance.

The program will be publicly advertised in local newspapers and outreach will be conducted through local service agencies, Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce, Plymouth Office of Economic Development, Plymouth Office of Community Development and Cape Cod Score. Registration and application forms will be available at all of the above referenced agencies locations and also on their individual websites. The program begins with a 7-week small business management course conducted by Score Cape Cod to Plymouth residents. This course acts as a practical guide for business survival, covering start-ups, advertising, marketing, business plans, bank loans, bookkeeping, e-commerce and much more. Registration for three planned courses up to 60 participants each was made available on April 1, 2009. The program also provides participants with one on one counseling by business consultants with professional expertise in business planning. Plymouth residents completing the course will be eligible to apply for low interest microenterprise loans up to \$35,000 (immediately after the receipt of grant funds) for businesses located in Plymouth through the Plymouth Office of Community Development.

Eligibility Category: (A) Preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery.

(B) Assisting those most impacted by the recession.

National Objective: Benefit to low and moderate income persons.

CDBG – R project cost:	\$106,390.
CDBG – R delivery cost:	00.
Total CDBG-R cost;	\$106,390.
Total Project Cost:	\$106,390.

Project Need:

The current unemployment rate for the state is 7.8%; the unemployment rate for the Town of Plymouth is currently at 9.6% as compared to a year ago at 5.8%. Small local Main Street businesses are struggling to remain open in this current severe recession. Business owners are seeking ways to increase their sales

through diversification and better management so as to be able to remain operating. Job opportunities are limited and locally unemployed residents are seeking assistance in their efforts to become self-employed.

Outcome Measures:

Outcome Statement: An estimated 7 small businesses will be able to maintain and expand their services, retain their existing employees and create additional job openings.

Outcome Indicator: approximately 7 business owners who would not otherwise be able to do so will have an opportunity to obtain loans for their businesses.

Methodology: In comparing the number of applicants anticipated (180) and the amount of grant monies available for loans, we anticipate being able to assist 7 or more businesses in FY-09.

Jobs Created: Full Time: 9 Part Time: 16

Jobs Retained: Full Time: 30 Part Time: 15