



Urban League of Louisiana

Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

DBE Support Services

REGION B - BRIDGE CITY/NEW ORLEANS & HAMMOND



Urban League of Louisiana
Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation



MONTHLY DIGEST

Issue 15 | May 2021

www.urbanleaguella.org/cei-dbeservices | dbesupport@urbanleaguella.org

Find Projects

LADOTD Project Letting Information

[Link to Construction Letting Information](#)

Register for Trainings

ULLA Upcoming Events and Workshops

[Link to ULLA's Eventbrite Registration Page](#)

Become a DBE

Get LAUCP DBE Certified

[Link to Louisiana Unified Certification Program](#)

Stay Informed

COVID-19 Updates and Resources

[Link to the ULLA COVID-19 Updates Page](#)

DBE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES - REGION B



ULLA provides business support services to DBEs interested in doing business with the LADOTD in Region B. Services include:

- One-on-One Business Counseling
- Capacity-building Coaching
- Contractor-specific and General
- Entrepreneurship Trainings
- Certification Assistance
- Funding and Bonding Assistance
- Access to LADOTD Bid Opportunities

EMAIL US TODAY!

dbesupport@urbanleaguella.org

DBE Outreach and Education Webinar

Leveraging Small Business Certifications for Contractors

Wednesday, May 26 | 10:00am - 12:00pm | [Register Here](#)



Join the Urban League of Louisiana's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation on **Wednesday, May 26, 10:00am-12:00pm**, to learn how to best leverage small business certifications!

There are a number of business certifications that can assist small businesses with gaining access to public and private contracting opportunities. Understanding which certifications are right for your construction firm is essential to leveraging these resources to support your business growth and capacity-building.

During this session, contractors will learn about the various business certifications that are available and gain valuable insights on how they can best be leveraged. Certifications covered include SEBD, WBE, MBE, DBE, LA UCP, SLDBE, WSOB, EDWSOB, VSOB, SDVSOB, SBA 8(a) Program, HubZone, and Hudson Initiative.

There is no cost to attend; however, registration is required. **Register today to reserve your seat!**

Register Today for the May 26th Session!

COVID-19 Funding

TruFund Financial Services Launches the Southern Opportunity and Resilience Fund (SOAR) for Small Businesses in Louisiana

Offering Small Business Loans of Up to \$100,000



The Southern Opportunity and Resilience Fund: A new program to help small businesses and nonprofits across the South get back on their feet.

theSOARFund.org

SOAR
Southern Opportunity and Resilience Fund

TruFund Financial Services, Inc. is a part of a diverse group of local and national community finance organizations launching the Southern Opportunity and Resilience (SOAR) Fund, a program getting small businesses and nonprofits across the South affordable capital and critical business support at a time when they need it the most. TruFund Financial Services, Inc. will make capital available to small businesses in Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and Texas.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated an already uneven recovery coming out of the Great Recession. Southern states had slower economic growth, lower labor force participation, and higher unemployment than the rest of the country, partially driven by the historic lack of corporate, bank and philanthropic investment in the region. The SOAR Fund tackles these issues head-on by providing capital to southern small businesses and nonprofits that need it now.

Nonprofits and small business owners with fewer than 50 full-time employees can apply now for very low interest loans of up to \$100,000 and free business support.

You may be eligible if you:

- Own a small business with 50 or fewer employees in one of the states below
- Have annual revenues under \$5 million
- Meet the program's standard underwriting guidelines (includes experiencing direct economic disruption due to COVID-19)

About the loans:

- Loans are being made through local community lenders who can help you understand the terms and
- determine if a loan is the right option for your business
- Loans range in size, up to \$100,000 and can be used for various business purposes
- Current loan terms include 1) 60-month loan term with a fixed 4% interest rate for businesses and 3% for nonprofits or 2) 72-month loan term with a fixed 4.5% interest rate for businesses and 3.5% for nonprofits

To learn more, or to apply, **click here**. To contact TruFund Financial Services, Inc. in Louisiana,

Learn More about the SOAR Loan Program

Best Practices in Construction: Featured Article **5 Trends Impacting Sales in 2021**

ConstructionBusinessOwner.com | By: Don Lee | April 1, 2021



COVID-19 has accelerated the transition online for many construction companies, which means CEOs need to ensure their sales teams have the digital skills and the tools to win buyers, all without straying from the timeless principles that still apply.

ConstructionBusinessOwner.com

[View Article](#)

DBE Resources

Louisiana Economic Development's Bonding Assistance Program



**LOUISIANA
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Louisiana Economic Development's Bonding Assistance Program provides access to quality bid, payment and performance bonds at reasonable rates from surety companies when bonding capacity is needed on public or private jobs.

- Offers 25% of contract price or \$100,000, whichever is less, in bond guarantee to surety
- Sureties perform all underwriting and offer competitive rates
- LED's Bond guarantees may mitigate some risk to surety company, leading to a positive underwriting decision

The Bonding Assistance Program is open to all certified Small and Emerging Business Development (SEBD) Program (OpportunityLouisiana.com/SEBD) clients that require bid, payment or performance surety bonds. Apply for the Small and Emerging Business Development (SEBD) Program at www.ledsmallbiz.com.

For more information on what a surety bond is, please visit the following [booklet online](#).

For additional information about what is needed to obtain a surety bond please view the following [webinar](#). To learn more, [click here](#).